



Old Dominion Association of Church Schools

ODACS RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR 2020 FALL SPORTS

On August 6, ODACS schools voted to move ahead with the fall volleyball and soccer seasons. In the interest of the safety of our students, coaches, and fans during the ongoing COVID-19 hazard, ODACS encourages each school to consider the following recommendations for each athletic contest. Prior to each contest, the hosts should communicate their own expectations to the guests, and both teams should agree to mitigating procedures with each other and with contest officials.

Waivers

Guest teams are urged to provide home teams with signed waivers of liability prior to each contest. Waivers should be delivered electronically at least one day prior to each contest. A sample waiver is attached to this set of recommendations, but schools are also encouraged to seek legal counsel for the drafting of a waiver.

Screening

Prior to each contest, both teams should screen every player and coach by asking them the following set of question. Traveling teams should complete this screening for each player and coach prior to departure and should be prepared to certify to the host school upon arrival that the screenings have been completed. Any coach or player who answers YES to any question should not participate in the contest.

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| 1. | In the past 24 hours, have you had any of the following symptoms? | YES | NO |
| | a. Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher | | |
| | b. New or persistent cough, not attributable to another health condition | | |
| | c. Sore throat, not attributable to another health condition | | |
| | d. Shortness of breath, not attributable to another health condition | | |
| | e. Loss of smell or taste | | |
| 2. | Have you traveled internationally in the past 14 days? | YES | NO |
| 3. | In the past 14 days, have you had close personal contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19? | YES | NO |

The temperature of each athlete and coach should be taken prior to the warm-up period; ideally, the two coaches and an official should monitor this process. Members of the guest team should have their temperature taken immediately upon arrival at the host facility. Any person whose temperature measures 100.4 degrees or higher may move to the back of the line and rest for a couple of minutes before having his/her temperature taken again. If that person's temperature is still 100.4 or higher, he/she will be disallowed participation in the contest. While isolating that person in a designated quarantine room is a viable option, the best option is for each team to be prepared to be able to transport that individual to his/her home immediately. Traveling teams are urged to take each participant's temperature prior to departure in order to minimize the risk of such an occurrence.

Hosts should post appropriate signage publishing expectations for both contest participants and fans.

During the Contest

Players and coaches should wear face coverings while on the bench, unless they have a health-related exemption. Players will not be required to wear face coverings while on the court or field. A

player may choose to wear a face covering while playing but must be understood to assume all risk associated with doing so. A player coming off the court or field for substitution may be allowed a brief cool-down walk at a distance from the bench before putting the face covering back on.

Fans should wear face coverings inside the building or near the soccer field, unless they have a health-related exemption or are young enough to forego a face covering according to applicable guidelines. To the extent possible, in order to establish social distancing from the field of play, the first row of bleachers should be off limits for volleyball fans, and soccer fans should be removed at least 10 feet from the field of play. Social distancing should be observed by all fans, and applicable occupancy limits should be adhered to.

Teams should refrain from pre-game and post-game hand shaking or other forms of avoidable contact. A good option for the end of the event is for players and coaches to gather on respective sides of the court or field for a closing word of prayer.

When soccer and volleyball games are being played simultaneously at the same host site, and when the soccer game ends before the volleyball match ends, it is recommended that soccer teams not enter the gymnasium to watch the remainder of the volleyball match. The purpose of this recommendation is to help to maintain social distancing inside the gymnasium.

Confirmed Positive Cases, Requirements

When a player or coach is confirmed to have contracted COVID-19, that team must make its opponents aware of the diagnosis and must cancel all games for the next 10 days. The individual who has contracted COVID-19 must refrain from participating in practices and games for the next 14 days.

No Forfeits

Due to the unique nature of the coming fall sports season, ODACS rules regarding forfeiture will be waived for the volleyball and soccer seasons. Consideration will be granted for teams that, through no fault of their own, are unable to reach the minimum number of games established by rule for tournament eligibility.