MANDATORY DIRECTIVE:

Collegiate and Professional Athletes

Issued October 10, 2020
sccgov.org/coronavirus

Revised and Effective: February 28, 2021
MANDATORY DIRECTIVE FOR COLLEGIATE AND PROFESSIONAL ATHLETICS

*Please confirm that your activity is allowed under the State Order. Where there is a difference between the local County Order and the State Order, the more restrictive order must be followed.*

Information on the State’s Order and State guidance is available at covid19.ca.gov.

Issued: October 10, 2020
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This Directive governs the activities of collegiate and professional athletic programs.

The County requires community college athletic programs to follow the requirements for youth and recreational adult sports in the State’s Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports Guidance, including the limitations on permitted sports and athletic activities set forth in that guidance. Community colleges are not otherwise subject to the restrictions in this Directive. All other collegiate and professional athletics programs must follow the requirements specified below in this Directive.

Additionally, all collegiate and professional programs, including community college athletic programs, must follow any other applicable County Health Officer Directive, the County Health Officer’s Revised Risk Reduction Order issued on October 5, 2020, the applicable restrictions under the State Order and the State’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy (“Blueprint”), the State’s COVID-19 Industry Guidance documents, and any applicable health and safety regulations. When there is a difference between these rules, the most restrictive rule must be followed. This Directive is applicable until superseded, rescinded, or amended.

For additional rules that apply, please see the following COVID-19 Industry Guidance from the State:

- **Sporting Activities at Outdoor Stadiums:** [https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-outdoor-live-professional-sports--en.pdf](https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-outdoor-live-professional-sports--en.pdf)


- **Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports:** [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/outdoor-indoor-recreational-sports.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/outdoor-indoor-recreational-sports.aspx)
This Directive is mandatory, and failure to follow it is a violation of the Health Officer’s Order issued on October 5, 2020 ("Order").

The Order Issued October 5, 2020

The Order imposes several restrictions on all businesses and activities (including institutions of higher education and professional athletic organizations) to ensure that the County stays as safe as possible, including but not limited to the following:

- **The Social Distancing Protocol:** All businesses and governmental entities that have not already done so must fill out and submit a Revised Social Distancing Protocol under the October 5, 2020 Health Officer Order. **Social Distancing Protocols submitted prior to October 11, 2020 are no longer valid.** The Revised Social Distancing Protocol must be filled out using an updated template, which is available [here](#). The Protocol is submitted under penalty of perjury, meaning that everything written on the form must be truthful and accurate to the best of the signer’s knowledge, and submitting false information is a crime. The Protocol must be distributed to all workers, and it must be accessible to all officials who are enforcing the Order.

- **Signage:** All businesses must print (1) an updated COVID-19 PREPARED Sign and (2) a Social Distancing Protocol Visitor Information Sheet, and both must be posted prominently at all facility entrances. These are available for printing after online submission of the Revised Social Distancing Protocol. The Revised Social Distancing Protocol specifies additional signage requirements.

- **Face Coverings:** Everyone must wear face coverings at all times specified in the California Department of Public Health’s mandatory [Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#) ("Face Covering Guidance") and in any specific directives issued by the County Health Officer. Further, even where not required under State or local guidance and orders, face coverings should be worn to the maximum extent possible (1) when indoors and not in one’s own residence and (2) whenever outdoors and within six feet of anyone outside one’s own household. **This Directive sets forth additional face covering requirements specific to collegiate programs and professional athletic organizations.**

- **Capacity Limitation:** All businesses must comply with the capacity limitations established in the [Mandatory Directive on Capacity Limitations](#).
I. Mandatory Requirements for Both Collegiate and Professional Athletics

1. Automatic Cessation Upon Violation

a. Any collegiate athletic program or professional athletics organization that violates the Order or this Directive shall be immediately and automatically suspended from engaging in athletic activities.

b. If a violation occurs, the collegiate athletics program or professional athletics organization must demonstrate that it has fully corrected such violation and obtain the Health Officer’s written approval before reinitiating athletic activities.

2. No Spectators

a. Collegiate athletics programs and professional athletics organizations may not allow spectators to attend any practice, competition, or other athletics event.

3. Face Covering Requirements

a. Athletes and officials may remove their face coverings, but only while they are actively engaged in athletic activity.

b. All other persons associated with the program or organization must wear face coverings at all times while at any sports, training, or other facility, whether indoors or outdoors, that is associated with or being used by their athletics program or organization. These persons include, but are not limited to, all athletes, coaches, staff, trainers, volunteers, and officials (such as referees and umpires). Athletes and officials must wear face coverings during practices and competitions whenever they are not actively engaged in athletic activities (for example, while on the sidelines during a competition).

c. Announcers, reporters, videographers, members of the press, and any other persons entering the program’s or organization’s facilities are required to wear face coverings at all times.

d. Face coverings must fully cover both the mouth and nose, and must fit snugly around the face. A face shield is not sufficient to meet this requirement. Further, the following categories of face coverings do not comply with this Directive:

   i. Neck gaiters;

   ii. Single-layer cloth face coverings;
iii. Face coverings with an exhalation valve.

4. COVID-19 Designees

a. Professional athletics organizations must designate a person responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns on the team and for responding to correspondence from the County related to COVID-19 and compliance with the restrictions in this Directive (“COVID-19 Designee”).

b. Collegiate athletic programs must designate a COVID-19 Designee for the college’s overall athletics programs and for each athletic team that is actively training, practicing, and/or competing.

5. Regular Testing Protocols

a. All athletes, coaches, staff, trainers, volunteers, and other persons interacting with athletes (collectively, “Athletes and Personnel”) must receive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing on at least three non-consecutive days per week.

b. Supplemental antigen testing may also be conducted, but must be in addition to, and not in lieu of, PCR testing. Any positive antigen test must be immediately confirmed with a PCR test.

c. COVID-19 Designees must maintain all testing results and ensure that the lab retains all specimens for at least 30 days.

6. Testing Requirements for Competition

a. All Athletes and Personnel for any collegiate athletic program or professional athletics organization based in the County must receive PCR testing within 48 hours prior to any home or away competition if they will be at the facility where the competition takes place on the day of the competition. Both specimen collection and results reporting must occur within this time period. If testing covered under Section I.5.a falls within this time period, Athletes and Personnel are not required to receive additional testing.

b. Any team visiting Santa Clara County for a competition must test and provide results for all Athletes and Personnel who will be traveling to the county within 48 hours prior to the competition. Both specimen collection and results reporting must occur within this time period. Visiting teams must use PCR testing to comply with this provision. Results must be provided to the COVID-19 Designee for the team against which they will be competing.
c. Any person who will be officiating a competition in Santa Clara County must be tested and provide results within 48 hours prior to the competition. Both specimen collection and results reporting must occur within this time period. Officials must be tested using PCR testing to comply with this provision. Results must be provided to the COVID-19 Designee for each team or, if a visiting team does not have a COVID-19 Designee, to a person the visiting team designates to receive these results.

d. The COVID-19 Designee for the team is responsible for collecting and reviewing all results from the visiting team and officials prior to the competition, and taking all action required by the State Guidance and the County Health Officer’s Order in response to any positive tests.

e. The COVID-19 Designee for the team shall notify the visiting team if any Athletes, Personnel, or officials receive a positive test result from a specimen collected within 72 hours of the end of the competition.

7. Reporting

a. All Athletes and Personnel must be trained to immediately report any positive test to COVID-19 Designees.

b. COVID-19 Designees for each collegiate athletic team must report positive tests for Athletes and Personnel associated with the team within 4 hours of receiving notice of any positive test by completing both of the following requirements:

   i. Submit all reports at the County Public Health Department’s Education Case and Contact Reporting Portal, available at: https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/school-guidance.aspx.

   ii. Submit all reports by email to collegepositives@cco.sccgov.org. The email must state the full name of the Athlete or Personnel, college, team, and date of the test.

c. COVID-19 Designees for each professional athletic organization must report positive tests for Athletes and Personnel associated with the team within 4 hours of receiving notice of any positive test by completing both of the following requirements:

   i. Submit all reports to the County Public Health Department at www.sccsafeworkplace.org.
ii. Submit all reports by email to prosportspositives@cco.sccgov.org. The email must state the full name of the Athlete or Personnel, team, and date of the test.

8. **Physical Distancing**

a. Personnel must maintain 6 feet of social distance from all Athletes and other Personnel at all times.

b. Athletes must maintain 6 feet of social distance from all Athletes outside their own household (except as necessary during athletic activities).

c. Trainers who are designated Certified Athletic Trainers may be within 6 feet of Athletes to the extent necessary to provide services to Athletes, but must wear appropriate medical personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times when providing such services.

9. **Isolation and Quarantine**

a. Athletes, Personnel, and officials who test positive for COVID-19 shall isolate, and shall not have contact with any other person except as necessary to test for COVID-19, seek medical care, or for other emergency services.

   i. Athletes, Personnel, and officials who test positive but do not develop symptoms must remain in isolation for 10 days from the date the specimen was collected for their positive test.

   ii. Athletes, Personnel, and officials who test positive and develop symptoms may end their isolation: (1) 10 days after their symptoms appeared; and (2) after 24 hours has passed without a fever (with no aid of medications); and (3) there has been improvement of all other symptoms.

b. Athletes, Personnel, and officials who are a close contact of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 shall quarantine, and shall not have contact with any other person except as necessary to test for COVID-19, seek medical care, or for other emergency services.

   i. Close contacts without symptoms may end quarantine after day 10 from the last exposure to the person who tested positive, but must continue monitoring for symptoms for a full 14 days.

   ii. Close contacts who develop symptoms before day 10, but who test negative must remain in quarantine for at least 10 days from the last exposure to the person who tested positive and until 24 hours after fever resolution and improvement in other symptoms, whichever is longer.
iii. Close contacts who develop symptoms between days 11 – 14 but who test negative must remain in quarantine until 24 hours after fever resolution and improvement in other symptoms.

c. Athletes, Personnel, and officials shall be deemed a close contact if they were within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes at any time beginning two days before the infected person had symptoms or tested positive. Close contacts include people who had 15 minutes of continuous contact with the infected person, as well as people who had repeated short-duration interactions, including during athletic play, with the infected person.

10. No exemption for vaccinated Athletes and Personnel

a. The vaccination status of Athletes, Personnel, and officials shall have no effect on their obligations to comply with this Directive. Athletes, Personnel, and officials must comply with the requirements in this Directive even if they have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

11. Ventilation at Indoor Facilities

a. Collegiate athletic programs and professional athletic organizations with athletic programs at indoor facilities are strongly encouraged to comply with the Health Officer’s “Guidance for Ventilation and Air Filtration Systems (COVID-19).”

II. Mandatory Requirements for Collegiate Athletics

All collegiate athletic programs must also comply with the following requirements in addition to all requirements in the State’s Specific Interim Guidance for Collegiate Athletics (“State Guidance”):

1. Athlete Households

a. Athletes must live exclusively with other teammates. Alternatively, an Athlete may live alone or with their spouse and children. Households in which Athletes are living with other teammates must be comprised of no more than 12 Athletes. No member of a household may switch from one household to another.

b. Athlete households may not have guests who are not members of that Athlete household.

c. COVID-19 Designees must maintain a list of Athlete household members, the address where each Athlete resides, and the name of each Athlete in each household. Upon request, the COVID-19 Designees shall immediately provide the lists to the County Public Health Department.
d. Except as provided in this section, all Athlete households must live in on-campus or campus-affiliated housing. The college must assign an external monitor who is responsible for ensuring compliance with this Directive and the State Guidance. The monitor may not be an Athlete or Personnel.

e. Colleges may allow Athlete households to live off campus only if both of the following conditions are satisfied:

i. The college identifies an external monitor who is responsible for ensuring compliance with this Directive and the State Guidance at all off-campus Athlete household facilities. The monitor may not be an Athlete or Personnel.

ii. The designated monitor conducts a random, unannounced inspection of each off-campus Athlete household at least two times per week to ensure compliance.

III. Mandatory Requirements for Professional Athletics

1. Protocols

a. Professional athletic organizations that have previously obtained approval of team-specific or facility-specific protocols from the County Health Officer must follow all applicable restrictions in this Directive. These organizations may not follow previously approved protocols in lieu of this Directive.

2. No contact with community

a. When in the county, Athletes must remain either at their place of residence or at facilities used for professional athletic activities, except as necessary to seek medical care or other emergency services.

b. Athletes may engage in necessary travel between their place of residence and facilities used for professional athletic activities.

Stay Informed

For answers to frequently asked questions about this industry and other topics, please see the FAQ page. Please note that this Directive may be updated. For up-to-date information on the Health Officer Order, visit the County Public Health Department’s website at www.sccgov.org/coronavirus.