

Youth Sports Covid-19 FAQ for Winter 2021

As we reopen youth sports following the Covid-19 cancellations, there will be several changes made in adherence to CDC and AZ Health Department recommendations in an effort to make our leagues as safe as possible for our players, spectators, officials, and staff. Below you will find a rudimentary list of these changes, which may be amended, removed, or added to should the need arise during the course of the season. There will be additional SPECIFIC changes to each sport. As we get closer to the season we will inform parents and coaches of these additional policies and/or rule changes. We at the City of Surprise thank you and all of our participants and their families for working with us to make sure we can continue to offer youth recreation, and the many benefits that come with it, during this unprecedented time. Below you will find an FAQ of the changes being made for the safety of our participants and spectators.

Will there be a limit on how many kids are placed on each team? Yes, Flag Football will have a max of ten players per team. Kickball will have a max of 11 per team.

What will be done to limit exposure? We will be limiting sharable equipment. If equipment is shared coaches will be responsible for sanitizing equipment before the next player uses it. When this is not possible, equipment will be sanitized before and after each game. Staff will be sanitizing high touch areas and equipment before and after each event.

Will we be allowed to use bleachers or can we bring our own chairs? You will be able to use bleachers. However, we recommend bringing your own chairs and sitting 6 feet apart from other spectators, where space permits.

What happens if a child or coach is sick on my team? If you are sick, please stay home. Inform a City staff member if you do not have another coach on your team to assume coaching duties. If any players or their families inform you that they are sick, please ask them to stay home.

Will everyone be required to wear masks? Coaches, parents, and others attending organized youth activities should follow appropriate CDC guidance for physical distancing and are required to wear face masks while attending indoor sports. For outdoor sports, coaches are required to wear mask and spectators are required to wear a mask and/or stay 6 feet from other spectators. Following CDC guidelines, players will not be required to wear masks during physical activity.

Will you be limiting the amount of spectators during an event? At this time, we will limiting the amount of spectators a participant can have. We recommend that those who are at higher risk of severe illness avoid attending or coaching at this time. Each participant may be accompanied by one spectator/guardian.

Will snacks still be allow to be distributed after the games? At this time, we will not be allowing snack to be distributed at the events.

Will there be handshakes or high-fives at the end of each game? No. Players must refrain from giving high fives or hugs to teammates, coaches, or the opposing team. There will not be hand shaking at the end of each game and parent tunnels will not be permitted. Instead we recommend each team comes up with a chant or salute to give their opponents on a job well done to demonstrate their sportsmanship at the end of each game.

How will you control the amount of people entering and exiting the facilities? At the facilities that have the capability, we will have a separate entrance and exit. We ask that all teams show up no earlier than 10 minutes before and stay no longer than 10 minutes after each game to ensure the staff has enough time to clean and sanitize the area until before next group comes in.

Will the City still offer water at each site? No, the City of Surprise will no longer be able to offer water jugs and cups at practices or games. Players must bring their own water bottles, labeled, to each practice and game. Please remind your players not to touch items that do not belong to them.

Will the City do temperature checks before each game and practice? No. We ask the parents to temperature check their children before each practice and game. If they have a fever of 100 degrees or more, we ask that they stay home and report it to the coach or the youth sports division.

How many practices a week will my child have? We are limiting all teams to practicing once a week for one-hour time slots.

Are you requiring handwashing before each practice or game? We ask that each coach be in charge of monitoring to ensure all players either wash their hands (20 seconds) or use hand sanitizer before each practice and game.

For more questions, please contact the Youth Sports Division at 623.222.2000.