



AGENDA

IRVINE AQUATICS ADVISORY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

MARCH 2, 2021
3:00 PM

WEBEX MEETING

**IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY MESSAGE REGARDING
PARTICIPATION IN IRVINE AQUATICS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS, AND RESULTING ORDERS AND DIRECTION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND THE ORANGE COUNTY HEALTH CARE AGENCY, AS WELL AS THE CITY OF IRVINE EMERGENCY DECLARATION, THE PUBLIC WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PHYSICALLY ATTEND THE IRVINE AQUATICS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING TO WHICH THIS AGENDA APPLIES.

YOU MAY SUBMIT COMMENTS ON ANY AGENDA ITEM OR ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA, IN WRITING VIA EMAIL TO JPRIEST@CITYOFIRVINE.ORG. EMAILS RECEIVED FOR AGENDA ITEMS WILL BE READ INTO THE RECORD AT THE TIME DETERMINED BY THE CHAIRPERSON.

PLEASE NOTE: THE IRVINE AQUATICS ADVISORY BOARD IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO FOLLOW THE SPIRIT AND INTENT OF THE BROWN ACT AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS REGULATING THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC MEETINGS, IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC ACCESS. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF COMMUNICATIONS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA, OR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA, ARE PROVIDED PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING, AT LEAST 24 HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING. SPECIFIC DETAILS ABOUT HOW TO OBSERVE AND PARTICIPATE, WHICH MAY INCLUDE EITHER TELECONFERENCING, VIDEOCONFERENCING, OR ANOTHER EQUIVALENT OPTION, WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE.

Speaker's Card/Request to Speak: If you would like to address the Board on a scheduled agenda item, please complete the Request to Speak Form. Please identify on the card your name, address (optional), and the item on which you would like to speak and return to the Recording Secretary. The Request to Speak Form assists the Chair in ensuring that all persons wishing to address the Board are recognized. Your name will be called at the time the matter is heard by the Board. City policy is to limit public testimony to three minutes per speaker (unless extended by the Chair) which includes the presentation of electronic or audio visual information.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

SCHOOL LIAISON: Ray Wong, Irvine High School
SCHOOL LIAISON: Alex Nieto, Northwood High School
BOARDMEMBER: Nick Baba, Irvine Youth Water Polo*
BOARDMEMBER: Ed Carrera, North Irvine Water Polo*
VICE CHAIR: Lizzie Howard, Irvine Swim League*
CHAIR: Kim Hoesterey, Irvine Novaquatics*
**Voting Member*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public may address the Board on items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction but which are not listed on this agenda during public comments. However, no action may be taken on matters that are not part of the posted agenda. Public comments are scheduled for 30 minutes and are limited to three minutes per person. If you wish to speak, please submit a completed Speaker's Form to the Recording Secretary.

BOARD BUSINESS

1. UPDATES TO YOUTH SPORTS GUIDELINES

ACTION: Receive and implement the updated Youth Sports Guidelines released by the California Department of Public Health on February 19, 2021.

END BOARD BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn to the Irvine Aquatics Advisory Board Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 6:00 PM at the William Woollett Jr. Aquatics Center, Irvine, California.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

At 11:00 p.m., the Irvine Aquatics Advisory Board will determine which of the remaining agenda items can be considered and acted upon prior to 12:00 midnight and will continue all other items on which additional time is required until a future Board meeting. All meetings are scheduled to terminate at 12:00 midnight.

STAFF REPORTS

As a general rule, staff reports or other written documentation have been prepared or organized with respect to each item of business listed on the agenda. Copies of these materials are on file with the Irvine Aquatics Advisory Board liaison and are available for public inspection and copying once the agenda is publicly posted, (at least 72 hours prior to a regular Irvine Aquatics Advisory Board meeting).

If you have any questions regarding any item of business on the agenda for this meeting, or any of the staff reports or other documentation relating to any agenda item, please contact an Irvine Aquatics Advisory Board liaison at 949-724-6720.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL RECEIVED AFTER THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Any supplemental writings or documents distributed to a majority of the Irvine Aquatics Advisory Board regarding any item on this agenda after the posting of the agenda will be available for public review in the Community Services Department, One Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, California, during normal business hours. In addition, such writings or documents will be made available for public review at the respective public meeting.

SUBMITTAL OF INFORMATION BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR DISSEMINATION OR PRESENTATION AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

Written Materials/handouts:

Any member of the public who desires to submit documentation in hard copy form may do so prior to the meeting or at the time he/she addresses the Irvine Aquatics Advisory Board. Please provide 15 copies of the information to be submitted and file with the Recording Secretary at the time of arrival to the meeting. This information will be disseminated to the Irvine Aquatics Advisory Board at the time testimony is given.

CITY SERVICES TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: It is the intention of the City of Irvine to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, the City of Irvine will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact an Irvine Aquatics Advisory Board liaison at 949-724-6720 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible. Please advise us at the time if you will need accommodations to attend or participate in meetings on a regular basis.

COMMUNICATION DEVICES

To minimize distractions, please be sure all personal communication devices are turned off or on silent mode.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The Irvine Aquatics Advisory Board Agenda is posted in the Police Department. Meeting agendas are kept current on the City website at *cityofirvine.org*.

I hereby certify that the agenda for the Irvine Aquatics Advisory Board meeting was posted at the main entrance of City Hall and in the posting book located in the Public Safety Lobby, One Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, California on March 1, 2021 by 3:00 p.m. as well as on the City's web page.

Athena Martinez

Board Liaison

ITEM 1



REQUEST FOR IRVINE AQUATICS ADVISORY BOARD ACTION

MEETING DATE: MARCH 2, 2021

TITLE: UPDATES TO YOUTH SPORTS GUIDELINES

Community Services Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive and implement the updated Youth Sports Guidelines released by the California Department of Public Health on February 19, 2021.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the State of California, through the California Department of Public Health, has issued and modified Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports guidelines. These guidelines have been updated routinely as COVID-19 case numbers change.

Youth and adult sports are classified by the State Department of Public Health by the level of contact and transmission risk. Local health departments and school districts may have stricter rules and should consult with the State to confirm what activities are allowable.

Classifications apply to competition or training/practice with others but does not apply to conditioning or exercise. In addition, sports classifications, competition, or training and practices are tied to a Countywide Tier System (i.e. Purple, Red, Orange, Yellow), which results in some sports not resuming until Orange County is within its specified tier.

On February 19, 2021, the California Department of Public Health provided an update to the guidelines that allow outdoor high-contact sports to resume in all tiers with limitations, contingent on the County's COVID-19 case rate is at or below 14 per every 100,000. Special limitations apply to high-contact sports, such as water polo, and include weekly testing for all participants age 13 and over until base rates drop to six or below per every 100,000. If more than 50 percent of a team's participants are under the age of 13, the entire team would be exempt from the testing requirement. Coaches, however, will still be required to meet the testing requirement.

ANALYSIS

Beginning in March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State of California, through the California Department of Public Health, has issued and modified Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports guidelines, depending on the severity of the pandemic at any given time. The guidance applies to all organized youth sports including school and community sponsored programs, privately organized clubs and leagues, and adult recreational sports. The guidance does not apply to collegiate or professional sports.

Youth and adult sports are classified by the State Department of Public Health by the level of contact and transmission risk. Local health departments and school districts may have stricter rules and should consult with the State to confirm what an allowable activity is.

Classifications, as outlined below, apply to competition or training/practice with others; they do not apply to individual conditioning or exercise. The California Department of Public Health has further identified a grouping of sports that fall within each classification.

Low-Contact Sports

Individual or small group sports where contact within six feet of other participants can be avoided. Some of these sports have relatively low exertion rates that allow for consistent wearing of face coverings when within six feet of other people.

Moderate-Contact Sports

Team sports that can be played with only incidental or intermittent close contact between participants.

High-Contact Sports

Team sports with frequent or sustained close contact (and in many cases, face-to-face contact) between participants and high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants. Indoor sports are higher risk than outdoor sports due to reduced ventilation.

In addition to the sports classifications, competition or training and practices are also tied to a Countywide Tier System (i.e. Purple, Red, Orange, Yellow), which results in some sports not resuming until Orange County is within its specified tier.

On February 19, 2021, the California Department of Public Health provided an update to the guidelines that allow outdoor high-contact sports to resume in all tiers with limitations so long as the County's COVID-19 case rate is at or below 14 per every 100,000. Special limitations apply to high-contact sports, such as water polo, and include weekly testing for all participants age 13 and over until base rates drop to six or below per every 100,000. If more than 50 percent of a team's participants are under the age of 13, the entire team would be exempt from the testing requirement. Coaches, however, will still be required to meet the testing requirement.

The updated guidelines also place limitations on competitions such as: between teams located within the same county; one competition, per team, per day maximum; authorization from the local health department for any exceptions to the guidelines.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Irvine Aquatics Advisory Board, upon review of the updated guidelines, may choose to continue to operate all programming at the current levels.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts associated with this recommended action.

REPORT PREPARED BY Cory Hilderbrand, Community Services Manager

ATTACHMENTS

1. California Department of Public Health - Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports Guidelines
2. County of Orange Press Release - Thursday, February 25, 2021



TOMÁS J. ARAGÓN, M.D., Dr.P.H.
State Public Health Officer & Director

State of California—Health and Human
Services Agency
**California Department of
Public Health**



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

February 19, 2021

TO: All Californians

SUBJECT: Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports

Note: The following guidance takes effect on February 26, 2021. See the current guidance in effect until then.

Summary

COVID-19 continues to pose a severe risk to communities and requires all people in California to follow recommended precautions. This guidance provides direction on outdoor and indoor youth and recreational adult sports activities to support a safe environment for these sports. The guidance applies to all **organized** youth sports and recreation— including school- and community-sponsored programs, and privately-organized clubs and leagues — and adult recreational sports (hereafter youth and adult sports). This guidance does not apply to collegiate or professional sports. Additionally, this guidance does not apply to community events, such as marathons, half-marathons, and endurance races.

Inter-team competitions (i.e., between two teams) resumed in California beginning January 25, 2021. **The guidelines outlined in this document shall take effect on February 26, 2021.**

The status of return-to-competition is subject to change at any time given the level of COVID-19 transmission in California.

Sports Risk Profiles

In general, the more people from outside their household with whom a person interacts, the closer the physical interaction is, the greater the physical exertion is, and the longer the interaction lasts, the higher the risk that a person with COVID-19 infection may spread it to others.

Youth and adult sports include varied activities that have different levels of risk for transmission of COVID-19. Outdoor activities present significantly lower risk of transmission relative to comparative indoor activities, based on current scientific evidence. Competition between different teams also increases mixing across groups and outside of communities, which also contributes to the potential for spread of COVID-19 disease.

Youth and adult sports are classified below by their level of contact and transmission risk. This classification applies to competition or training/practice with others. It does not apply to individual conditioning or exercise.

The Tables below are not exhaustive, but provide examples of sports with different levels of contact so that the level of risk can be assessed for other sports.

Low-Contact Sports

Individual or small group sports where contact within six feet of other participants can be avoided. Some of these sports have relatively low exertion rates that allow for consistent wearing of face coverings when within six feet of other people.

Moderate-Contact Sports

Team sports that can be played with only incidental or intermittent close contact between participants.

High-Contact Sports

Team sports with frequent or sustained close contact (and in many cases, face-to-face contact) between participants and high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants.

Factors Affecting the Risk of Transmission

- Risk increases when face coverings are not worn, and physical distancing is not maintained.
- Risk increases with increasing levels of contact between participants; closer contact (particularly face-to-face contact), and the frequency and total duration of close contact, increases the risk that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants.
- Risk increases with greater exertion levels; greater exertion increases the rate of breathing and the quantity of air that is inhaled and exhaled with every breath.
- Risk increases with mixing of cohorts and groups, particularly when from different communities (during or outside of sports play); mixing with more people increases the risk that an infectious person will be present.

General Guidance for Youth and Adult Sports Participants, Coaches, and Support Staff

It should be noted that local health departments and school districts may have stricter rules and should be consulted to confirm what is allowed.

General Requirements for All Sports:

Irrespective of setting (outdoor or indoor) case rate or sport played, the following general guidance requirements must be adhered to at all times:

- Face coverings to be worn when not participating in the activity (e.g., on the sidelines).
- Face coverings to be worn by coaches, support staff and **observers** at all times, and in compliance with the CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings.
- Observers maintain at least 6 feet from non-household members.
- No sharing of drink bottles and other personal items and equipment.
- Mixing with other households prior to and post any practice or competition must strictly adhere to current gathering guidance.
- Limit indoor sports activities (practice, conditioning) to comply with capacity limits (which shall include all athletes, coaches, and observers) indicated in current CDPH Gym & Fitness Center Guidance Capacity.

- Associated indoor activities for the team (e.g., dinners, film study) are prohibited if engaged in competition given evidence that transmission is more likely to occur in these indoor higher risk settings.
- Teams must not participate in out-of-state games and tournaments; several multistate outbreaks have been reported around the nation, including California residents.

Limitations on Observers

- Limit observation of youth sports (age 18 years and under) to immediate household members, and for the strict purpose of age appropriate supervision. This includes observation of practice and competition. Limit number of observers to ensure physical distance can be maintained, reduce potential crowding, and maintain indoor and outdoor capacity limits.
- Consider Video streaming of games so that they can be watched "live" from home
- For adult sports, spectators are not permitted at this time.

Limitations for Inter-Team Competitions and Tournaments

- Inter-team competitions, meets, races, or similar events are permitted to occur only if (a) both teams are located in the same county and the sport is authorized in the Tables below; or (b) teams are located in immediately bordering counties and the sport is authorized in both counties in the Tables below.
 - The county-based authorizations outlined in the Table below apply to the locations/counties in which the teams, schools, clubs, leagues, and similar organizations are functionally based (e.g., where the players reside, where facilities are located, etc.).
 - Local Health Departments to be notified of any cross county competitions within their jurisdiction and reserve the right under their own discretion to deny the competition at any time in their jurisdiction. Teams participating in cross county competitions will follow the more stringent rules if the participating teams are coming from counties that may be at different case rate thresholds.
- Teams adhere to current CDPH Travel Advisory recommendations when determining travel for competition in neighboring counties.
- No tournaments or events that involve more than two teams to occur. Exceptions may be made, with authorization from the local health department where the event is being held and each of the local health departments where teams originate from, for sports where individual competitors from multiple teams are routine such as: track and field; cross-country; golf; skiing/snowboarding; tennis; swimming/diving/surfing; biking and equestrian events.
- Only one competition, per team, per day maximum to be played.

Permitted Youth and Recreational Adult Sports by Case Rate Threshold

- Physical conditioning, practice, skill-building, and training that can be conducted outdoors, with 6 feet of physical distancing, and within stable cohorts are authorized regardless of case rate or sport. Such activities may be conducted indoors consistent with restrictions by Tier in the Gym & Fitness Center Guidance Capacity.

Other General Guidance

Below are other general guidance that are strongly encouraged as part of any participation in sport. Depending on risk level (high or moderate) and county case rates, these general guidance may be **required** for play of outdoor sports in less restrictive tiers, as specified below.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings worn by participants during practice, conditioning and during competition, even during heavy exertion as tolerated. See the American Academy of Pediatrics Interim Guidance on Return to Sports [1] for specific exceptions where the face covering may become a hazard.

Physical Distancing

- Maintain at least six feet of distance between sport participants and others to the maximum extent possible, including when on the sidelines.

- Maintain at least 6 feet of distance between coaches and participants and facilitate physical distancing between participants to the maximum extent possible (e.g., staggered starts instead of mass starts for races).

Informed Consent

- Due to the nature and risk of transmission while participating in Outdoor High-Contact and Moderate-Contact sports, provide information regarding risk to all parents/guardians of minors participating in such sports, and have each parent sign an informed consent indicating their understanding and acknowledgement of the risks indicated herein.

Testing

- Unless required as noted below, regular and postseason antigen or PCR testing of sports participants and coaches weekly while participating in Outdoor High-Contact sports is strongly encouraged. If competing, testing performed with test results made available within 24 hours of play.

Hygiene and Equipment Sanitation

- When equipment is shared during an activity, participants perform hand hygiene (wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer) before play, during breaks, at half time, and after the conclusion of the activity.
 - Balls or other objects or equipment can be touched by multiple players during practice and play if the above hand hygiene practices are followed.

Limitations on Mixing by Participants

- Limit participation by athletes and coaches during practice and competition to one team, and refrain from participating with more than one team over the same season or time period. For larger teams, limit mixing by establishing stable smaller training groups for drills and conditioning.
- Review practice or game footage virtually, to the greatest extent possible. If not feasible, then it should be conducted outdoors, with all participants wearing face coverings and following appropriate physical distancing measures.

Indoor Venue Capacity Limitations

- Ventilation in indoor venues (gyms or other fitness centers) increased to the maximum extent possible.

Travel Considerations

- Bus/van travel for members of a team may pose a greater risk. To mitigate COVID-19 transmission risk during bus/van travel, employ universal masking, physical distancing and windows to remain open the full duration of the trip unless not feasible.
- Plan for proper communication of all travel rules, protocols and expectations to everyone in the travel party. When feasible, teams should aim to travel and play the same day to avoid overnight stays.
- Travel by private car limited to only those within the immediate household.

Returning to Sports After Infection

- No one with symptoms of COVID-19 or who is in isolation or quarantine for COVID-19 is permitted to attend practices or competitions.
- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should consult their physician for testing and notify their coach, athletic trainer and/or school administrator of their symptoms and test results.
- Youths recovering from COVID-19 will have different paths to return to sports based on the severity of their illness. See the American Academy of Pediatrics Interim Guidance on Return to Sports [1] for additional guidance for more serious infections.

Vaccination of Eligible Households

- Sports participants, including coaches and support staff, are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated once eligible as vaccines will protect residents and reduce the likelihood of transmission from infected persons to others.

Table: Youth and Adult Recreational Sports* Permitted by Current Tier of County

Widespread Tier (Purple)	Substantial Tier (Red)	Moderate Tier (Orange)	Minimal Tier (Yellow)
1	2	3	4
<p>Outdoor low-contact sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archery • Badminton (singles) • Biking • Bocce • Corn hole • Cross country • Dance (no contact) • Disc golf • Equestrian events (including rodeos) that involve only a single rider at a time • Fencing • Golf • Ice and roller skating (no contact) • Lawn bowling • Martial arts (no contact) • Physical training programs (e.g., yoga, Zumba, Tai chi) • Pickleball (singles) • Rowing/crew (with 1 person) • Running • Shuffleboard • Skeet shooting • Skiing and snowboarding • Snowshoeing • Swimming and diving • Tennis (singles) • Track and field • Walking and hiking 	<p>Outdoor moderate-contact sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badminton (doubles) • Baseball • Cheerleading • Dodgeball • Field hockey • Gymnastics • Kickball • Lacrosse (girls/women) • Pickleball (doubles) • Softball • Tennis (doubles) • Volleyball 	<p>Outdoor high-contact sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball • Football • Ice hockey • Lacrosse (boys/men) • Rugby • Rowing/crew (with 2 or more people) • Soccer • Water polo <p>Indoor low-contact sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badminton (singles) • Curling • Dance (no contact) • Gymnastics • Ice skating (individual) • Physical training • Pickleball (singles) • Swimming and diving • Tennis (singles) • Track and field • Bowling 	<p>Indoor moderate-contact sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badminton (doubles) • Cheerleading • Dance (intermittent contact) • Dodgeball • Kickball • Pickleball (doubles) • Racquetball • Squash • Tennis (doubles) • Volleyball <p>Indoor high-contact sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball • Boxing • Ice hockey • Ice skating (pairs) • Martial arts • Roller derby • Soccer • Water polo • Wrestling

***Play in Less Restrictive Tiers: Outdoor High-Contact Sports**

Outdoor high-contact sports (orange tier) can be played in the purple or red tier with an adjusted case rate equal to or less than 14 per 100,000 under the following conditions:

Implement and strictly adhere to the following additional general guidance:

- Informed Consent
- Testing – antigen or PCR (regular and postseason antigen or PCR testing of sports participants and coaches weekly. If competing, testing performed with test results made available within 24 hours of play)

Note: The testing requirement above shall only apply in the following situations:

- For football, rugby and water polo as these are high contact sports that are likely to be played unmasked, with close, face to face contact exceeding 15 minutes.
- When adjusted case rates for the county are between 14-7 per 100,000.
- For sport participants 13 years of age or above as evidence shows that younger children do not seem to be major sources of transmission—either to each other or to adults.
- *If more than 50% of a team's participants are less than the age of 13 (and are not required to test per the above), then the entire team is exempted from the testing requirement. Coaches, however, will still be required to meet the testing requirement.

Additional general guidance that should be implemented to the greatest extent possible and are strongly encouraged

- Face Coverings (during play)
- Physical Distancing (during play)
- Testing – antigen or PCR
- Hygiene and Sanitation
- Limitations on mixing by participants
- Travel Considerations

***Play in Less Restrictive Tiers: Outdoor Moderate-Contact Sports**

Outdoor moderate-contact sports (red tier) can be played in the purple tier with an adjusted case rate equal to or less than 14 per 100,000 under the following conditions:

Implement and strictly adhere to the following additional general guidance:

- Informed Consent

Additional general guidance that should be implemented to the greatest extent possible and are strongly encouraged

- Face Coverings (during play)
- Physical Distancing (during play)
- Hygiene and Sanitation
- Limitations on mixing by participants
- Travel Considerations

If competition for high- and moderate-contact sports is permitted to resume in a county pursuant to this updated guidance, competition is not required to cease if the county's adjusted case rate exceeds the 14 per 100,000 threshold.

[1] American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Interim Guidance: Return to Sports web page
(services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-interim-guidance-return-to-sports)

California Department of Public Health
PO Box, 997377, MS 0500, Sacramento, CA 95899-7377
Department Website (cdph.ca.gov)





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: CEO Communications
CEOCOM@ocgov.com

CORRECTION:

Football, Soccer, Baseball, Cheerleading and Other Outdoor Sport Competitions May Resume with Modifications in Orange County on Friday, February 26th

Santa Ana, Calif. (February 25, 2021) — Based on updated guidance for youth and recreational adult sports issued February 19, 2021 by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), outdoor sports competitions may resume in Orange County (OC) with modifications starting Friday, February 26th.

“Orange County has lowered its COVID-19 case rate of less than 14 per 100,000 thanks to our communities’ diligence in helping slow the spread and the County’s vaccination efforts,” said Chairman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors Andrew Do, who represents the First District. “Per the State’s guidance, this means certain outdoor sport competitions can resume once again. Something that many families have been looking forward to for months now.”

The State’s guidance applies to all organized youth and adult sports, including school and community-sponsored programs, and privately organized clubs and leagues. Outdoor sport competitions may resume in Purple Tier counties including OC with modifications that include testing requirements for certain outdoor high-contact sports. Outdoor moderate-contact sports, such as baseball, cheerleading and softball, can be played in OC without the testing requirement.

“As a strong supporter of youth sports, I’m very happy to see that students can compete in sports again,” said Vice Chairman Doug Chaffee, Fourth District. “Our children deserve to return to a sense of normalcy and allowing youth sports to resume is an important step in achieving that goal.”

Youth and adult sports include varied activities that have different levels of risk for transmission of COVID-19 depending on the physical contact between players. Outdoor activities that allow for consistent wearing of face coverings and physical distancing are lower risk than indoor activities that involve close contact between participants and high exertion that increases spread of exhaled particles.

“I applaud this move; it’s a small and overdue step. Society will be healthier if children can engage in outdoor activities. Competition for our kids is critical to them developing and testing their skills fully, both physical and emotional,” said Supervisor Don Wagner, Third District. “I continue to fight for my constituents getting back to normal. We’ve seen how mental health has taken a hit due to the lockdowns. California is the only state to have such restrictions, and it’s past time to let them play.”

“I am very excited that our youth, who have been anxiously waiting for months to get back to competitive sports, now have the opportunity to compete,” said Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, Fifth District. “I have always been a strong supporter of exploring all options that would allow our youth to safely resume outdoor sporting activities.”

For more information on examples of sports with different levels of contact and risk by tier, please visit <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/outdoor-indoor-recreational-sports.aspx>.

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