**KZONE COVID-19 Guidelines**

The Strike Zone has always shared a consistent message based on the players, parents, staff and everyone associated with our program. With the recent Pandemic affecting our country and those we love; this has become even more true. It is incumbent that we follow CDC, State and Local guidelines for reopening.

We will be following guidelines outlined by the CDC, state and/or local health and medical professionals that are setting the standards for recovery efforts and to safely hold events in the neighborhoods that we play. As we all go through this together, we will make every effort to share CDC, State and Local information in advance and appreciate your flexibility as things continue to change.

The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. All content, including text, links and information, are provided for general informational purposes only. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, The Strike Zone makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this information. Further, you should seek advice from medical professionals and/or public health officials if you have specific questions about your return to training and competition.

**Preparing to Reopen**

• All players, coaches, fans, and officials must adhere to the guidelines from the CDC, state, and/or local authorities.

• The Strike Zone will share recommended guidelines to individual team representatives in advance of an event to share with players, coaches and families.

• Adults 65 years and older and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are strongly encouraged not to attend events at this time.

• Proactively and regularly check their health status (taking temperature and monitoring for any symptoms) as recommended by the CDC, state and/or local authorities prior to attending an event.

• Do not come to event if you or any household member is not feeling well.

• Do not come to event if you or any household member has been exposed to a

person with COVID-19 within the past 14 days.

• Do not attend event if you are not comfortable with measures being taken at a

facility.

• The Strike Zone recommends players, coaches, fans, and officials bring personal hand sanitizer, masks, chairs, and antibacterial wipes to events for personal use.

• The Strike Zone may limit the number of total players/teams and adjust playing formats to

accommodate CDC, state and/or local guidelines.

• Spectators at The Strike Zone may be limited and even excluded except for immediate

family as we all work together during this time.

• Items not allowed into facilities include team coolers (players must have individual

drinks clearly labelled with name), sunflower seeds, chewing gum.

• Items players may not share helmets, bats, gloves, bags, catcher’s gear, towels,

uniforms/clothing, or food/drinks.

• The Strike Zone requires that all staff wear nose and mouth coverings, while in the facility when in close contact with customers. Complimentary disposable face masks will be available at the entry point of the facility. Athletes/coaches may wear masks during games, as long as they feel safe to do so, but are not required. However, we do recommend they be worn while walking within the facility.

• Everyone must follow the recommended social distancing guidelines.

• Wash hands with soap and water. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water not available.

• Cover mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.

• Avoid touching mouth/nose

• Facility will ensure availability of handwashing, alcohol-based hand gel, and/or

hygiene facilities are available at facilities.

• Facility staff will be cleaning all restrooms multiple times per day.

• The Strike Zone recommends players and staff to clean and sanitize cages and bleachers before and after.

• No congregating around batting cages. Must maintain 6-foot social distance.

**Social Distancing**

**Facility Operator Guidance**

* Indoor facilities may be used only by supervised youth sports and summer sports camps for participants under 18. Use of indoor facilities for adult activities or for unsupervised youth sports or activities is not permitted.
* Programs must separate participants into groups of no more than 10, including coaches and staff.
* Scrimmages, organized games and tournaments are not allowed for contact sports in Phase II and activities must be limited to no-contact drills and training exercises. Contact sports are those where ordinary play puts players into contact or close proximity to one another, and include, without limitation, basketball, football, baseball, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, and hockey.
* Games are permitted during Phase II only for no contact sports where ordinary play allows for social distancing (e.g., tennis and other racquet sports), but inter-team games or tournaments are not allowed.
* Locker rooms, weight rooms, and indoor common areas must remain closed.
* Limit any nonessential visitors, spectators, staff, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible. Visitors, spectators, volunteers and staff must wear face coverings. Operators are encouraged to mark off spectator/chaperone viewing sites to allow for social distancing.
* Spectators/chaperones must practice social distancing including wearing face coverings.
* Indoor facilities shall institute one-way entrance and exits while adhering to established fire and building codes.
* Indoor batting cage facilities shall ensure adequate social distancing between each cage, such as limiting use to every other cage. Indoor batting cages are only for supervised youth sports and summer sports camps.
* Access to equipment storage and office space should be limited to employees only. First aid kits should be available at the playing area or court rather than in an office, where possible.
* Facility managers must set, post, and monitor occupancy limits for bathrooms based on the ability to maintain six-foot social distancing.

**Facility Operator Guidance**

* If any equipment is provided by the operator, operators must minimize equipment sharing, and clean and disinfect shared equipment at the end of a practice session using a product from the list of disinfectants meeting EPA criteria for use against the novel coronavirus.
* Indoor facilities must provide access to handwashing facilities on site, including soap and running water, and allow sufficient break time for staff and participants to wash hands to frequently; alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol may be used as an alternative.
* All facilities must supply employees with adequate cleaning products (e.g., sanitizer, disinfecting wipes).
* Operators must post visible signage throughout the site to remind employees and visitors of hygiene and safety protocols.
* Locker rooms, indoor showers, saunas, hot-tubs and steam rooms must remain closed.
* Operators must close any public water bubblers, fountains or bottle fillers if present on site

**Activity Organizer Guidance**

* Organizers must ensure that participants use their own personal equipment if not provided by the organizer or facility operator. Personal equipment may not be shared and must be dedicated to an individual player throughout the season. Personal equipment includes all gear that is worn by players (e.g., gloves, helmets, masks, skates, footwear, pads, etc.).
* Organizers should minimize sharing of other equipment, and clean and disinfect all equipment at the end of a practice session using a product from the list of disinfectants meeting EPA criteria for use against the novel coronavirus.
* No shared food or drink may be provided during any activities for participants or spectators (e.g., concession stands or team snacks). No use of public water bubblers, fountains or bottle fillers if present on site. Participants and spectators should only drink from their own containers. Organizers must provide individual, dedicated water bottles for children if they do not have their own.
* Participants and coaches must achieve proper hand hygiene at the beginning and end of all activities, either through handwashing with soap and water or by using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
* Organizers should ensure that athletes arrive dressed for practice and leave immediately after practice: no recreational play or loitering is allowed and locker rooms must remain closed.
* Teams completing practice should not stay to watch other practices before or after their practice session.

**Staffing and Operations**

**Operator Guidance**

* All high touch surface areas must be sanitized at the end of each activity.
* Operators should work with organizers to stagger arrival and drop-off times or locations by cohort (group) or put in place other protocols to limit contact between groups and with chaperones as much as possible. This also allows for more time to clean the facility between users. Operators must have daily schedules prepared in advance.
* Operators of indoor facilities shall establish traffic patterns (one-way flow, designated exits and entrances where possible), and limit capacity to maintain social distancing for the facility, including any restrooms. If social distancing cannot be maintained, spectators should be asked to wait outside.
* Operators should log persons (name and phone number or name and email address) who remain on site for a sustained period of time to facilitate contact tracing, including staff, participants, and spectators.
* Operators must post notice to employees, workers, and participants of important health information and relevant safety measures as outlined in government guidelines.

**Organizer Guidance**

* To participate or attend, organizers should ensure that participants, volunteers, coaches and spectators must show no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days. Current list of symptoms is available here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptomstesting/symptoms.html
* If any individual develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the activity, they should promptly inform organizers and must be removed from the activity and instructed to return home.
* Participants, organizers, spectators, volunteers and facility employees in high risk categories should not participate or attend organized sport activities. List of high-risk categories available here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higherrisk.html
* Organizers of activities are responsible for following all guidelines and creating a safe environment for participants.
* Organizers must educate all participants and spectators on the applicable protocols for the relevant activity, protocols for entering/leaving the facility, and any other hygiene requirements.
* Organizers in coordination with operators must ensure that hand sanitizer is available to all players.
* Face Coverings:
	+ Participants may remove face coverings while participating in practice and drills, provided they are able to maintain at least 6 feet of distance from all other persons present.
	+ Face coverings should otherwise be worn by coaches, volunteers, other staff, officials, youth chaperones, and spectators in accordance with MA guidelines to prevent against the transmission of COVID-19 throughout the duration of the activity.

**Cleaning and Disinfecting**

**Operator Guidance**

* Restrooms facilities shall be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with Centers for Disease Control guidance and best practices linked here: EEA COVID-19 Outdoor Recreation Facility Restroom Cleaning Best Practices
* Keep cleaning logs that include date, time, and scope of cleaning.
* Conduct frequent disinfecting of heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, handrails, bathrooms).
* In event of a positive case, shut down site for a deep cleaning and disinfecting of the workplace in accordance with current guidance.

**Organizer Guidance**

* Organizers should assess the cleanliness and disinfection protocols being employed at the facility they are using for athletic activity. If cleanliness is low, or any other concerns arise organizer should immediately stop any ongoing athletic activity until such time as operator can show that conditions have been brought up to the standards outlined in this guidance.
* Organizers should understand the cleaning and disinfection protocols employed at the facility they are using and should raise any issues to the operator or local board of health.