

# WINCHESTER BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION COVID-19 SAFETY POLICY

The Winchester Basketball Association (“WBA”) is committed to providing a safe environment for our players and coaches. We are carefully monitoring guidelines from both the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) and the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environment Affairs (“EEA”), which has jurisdiction over youth sports guidelines in Massachusetts. The latest EEA guidelines for youth sports during Phase III, Step 1 (effective 12/13/20) can be found [here](#). According to EEA, basketball is designated as a **Higher Risk** sport. Section B of the EEA guidelines allows Higher Risk sports to participate in what is referred to as Level 3 type of play, which includes inter-team games.

The WBA will have a zero-tolerance policy towards non-compliance with the WBA COVID-19 Safety Policy during the 2020-21 season. If you cannot or will not comply with this policy, your child should not participate as a player and, if applicable, you should not participate as a coach.

The WBA requires the following:

1. A parent (or guardian) must take the temperature of their player within 3 hours prior to the start of each basketball event (i.e., practice or game). If the player has a fever of 100.4 or greater, s/he cannot attend and must stay home.
2. Prior to each basketball event, a parent of a player **MUST** complete the TeamSnap Health Check using a mobile device. Each coach must also complete a Health Check on behalf of

herself/himself. The TeamSnap app will generate a red **“Not Cleared”** indicator for anyone who does not meet the Health Check requirements, and **anyone who receives the “Not Cleared” indicator cannot attend and must stay home.**

3. If any player has experienced any flu-like symptoms recently, s/he must be symptom-free for 10 days prior to a basketball event in order to attend, unless s/he tests negative for COVID-19 through a PCR test or is released from quarantine (due to a COVID infection or close contact with a COVID-positive individual) in accordance with health authority guidelines.
4. If a player is not eligible to participate for any of the reasons above, the player’s parent must immediately notify the team’s coaches and WBA’s COVID Manager, Luke McInnis. In the case of a coach who is not eligible to participate for any of the reasons listed above, the coach must notify the team’s other coach(es) and Luke McInnis. [Click to email Luke.](#)
5. If a parent (or guardian) does NOT complete their player's Health Check prior to an event, coaches MUST assume that the proper screenings were not performed. As a consequence, the player will NOT be allowed to participate in the event until their parent completes the player’s Health Check.
6. Through TeamSnap, it is MANDATORY that at least one coach per team takes responsibility for tracking attendance (using “Availability” feature) and completeness of Health Checks of players and coaches at all events. In addition, TeamSnap’s “Availability Note” feature should be used to key in the name(s) of parent(s) and family member(s) in attendance at games.
7. **Players and coaches are required to wear masks at all events--neck gaiters are not allowed. There are no exceptions. If permitted to attend, parents and family members are also required to wear masks and to socially distance at games.**
8. Players are required to bring their own basketball and hand sanitizer to practices. Players and coaches must sanitize their hands before and after practice, and coaches should encourage

use of hand sanitizer during breaks. (Coaches must also bring sanitizer to practices for the team to use.)

9. Players are required to bring their own hand sanitizer to games. Players and coaches are required to sanitize their hands upon entering and exiting the building, and players must sanitize hands upon entering and exiting court during games. Coaches will ensure that sanitizer is available on the scorer's table.
10. Parents and family members of players are not permitted to attend practices.
11. Pre- and post-game handshakes and high fives are suspended at all events.
12. Regarding games, the Metrowest league and The Mill Works, our home gym for regular season games, have provided additional information regarding games and use of basketball facilities. For example, The Mill Works has provided instructions regarding entering/exiting building and sanitization protocols for benches, chairs, and basketballs.
13. **Coaches must sanitize benches, chairs, and scorer's table prior to each game--regardless of whether The Mill Works staff has already done so.**
14. Players must place backpacks/bags, water bottles, and other belongings 6 feet apart at all events to encourage social distancing.
15. Players must keep 6 feet apart during water breaks at practice and during off-court time during games. This means that some players may need to sit in chairs or on the floor if the bench is at capacity. At Mill Works, it appears that the maximum capacity for number players sitting on bench at same time is 2 to 4, depending on the size of the players.
16. Players and coaches should always practice social distancing whenever possible, including walking into gym and while in line during drills.

The protocols above are, of course, subject to change in the event that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Metrowest league, facilities

operators, or another interested party requires further enhancements or restrictions. If a player or coach tests positive for COVID, activities for that particular team will be suspended. The WBA will coordinate with the Winchester Board of Health and the Metrowest league in regard to the timing of the resumption of activities for that team.

If you have any questions about this policy, please do not hesitate to contact Luke McInnis, WBA's COVID Manager. [Click to email Luke.](#)

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