



CITY OF LAKE FOREST
Return to Play Guidelines for Youth Sports Organizations
Athletic Field Reservations & Procedures

June 23, 2020

BACKGROUND

The following provides the minimum standards that must be achieved to operate athletic facilities and programs in accordance with current physical distancing and sanitation protocols, and to protect players, families, and the Lake Forest community and slow the spread of COVID-19. This document includes measures City personal and facilities must take, as well as requirements for youth sports organizations returning to play at City facilities.

This document should be treated as a fluid tool which will be updated as state and local health officials release new guidelines. These guidelines are meant to supplement, **not replace**, any state or local health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which youth sports organizations must comply.

On June 15, 2020, the County of Orange issued guidelines for youth sports returning to practice only under the California Department of Health's **COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Day Camps** (Attachment 1). The County of Orange will require all youth sports practices to follow state guidance of physical distancing and safety protocols for small and stable groups without spectators. There is no set time in which the state will re-open sporting events and games with spectators. This document will be updated to reflect new guidance from State and County, as they become available during this fluid situation.

HEALTH AGENCY RESOURCES

This document is meant to supplement, **not replace**, any health and safety laws, rules and regulations with which youth sports facilities and organizations must comply. The City of Lake Forest will follow the guidance of the Orange County Healthcare Agency, the California Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control with respect to the operation of sports facilities and programs. The following links are the most applicable information provided by each agency for youth sports.

Centers for Disease Control

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>

California Department of Public Health

<https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/#top>

Orange County Healthcare Agency

<https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/guidelines>

RECREATION DIVISION STAFF

The City of Lake Forest’s Recreation Division staff have created protocols that allows for the return of athletics in Lake Forest, while keeping players, families and the Lake Forest community safe, and slowing the spread of COVID-19.

According to the guidance from the California Department of Public Health, all facilities must:

1. Perform a detailed risk assessment and implement a site-specific protection plan.
2. Train employees on how to limit the spread the spread of COVID-19, including how to screen themselves for symptoms and stay home if they have them.
3. Implement individual control measures and screenings.
4. Implement disinfecting protocols.
5. Implement physical distancing guidelines.

The following sections address what City staff are doing to address these site-specific guidelines.

ATHLETIC RESERVATION & PERMIT PROCEDURES

The following items are control measures being implemented during the reservation and permit process to protect players, families, and the Lake Forest community, and slow the spread of COVID-19. Recreation Division staff will implement these protocols during the reservation process.

- New permits will only be issued to current Lake Forest sports User Groups that have current accounts and no pre-existing balance on file.
- Permits will only be issued for **youth sports practices only**.
- Each organization is to follow state guidance of physical distancing and safety protocols for small and stable groups **without spectators**.
- Organizations must provide their internal return-to-play safety protocols before permits are issued. These return-to-play safety protocols are covered in the section *Organization Requirements* below. City staff will review organizational protocols to ensure compliance with the “Lake Forest Return to Play Protocols.”
- Each organization must sign and return a City of Lake Forest Liability Waiver.
- Permit dates are subject to change with little notice based on the orders given to City staff.
- The fall allocation for Lake Forest sports organizations will continue with modified scheduling as needed to allow for COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols.
- At this time, auxiliary amenities such as concession stands are not available.
- Each permit will include this document “Lake Forest Return to Play Protocols”, and must be signed and returned.
- Permits will be issued with built in staggered times of at least 15-30 minutes between organizations to allow for social distancing between activities.
- If organizations choose to not return due to concerns over COVID-19, full refunds will be issued and no cancellation fees applied.

ATHLETIC FACILITY PROCEDURES

The following items are control measures being implemented by City staff at athletic facilities to protect players, families, and communities and slow the spread of COVID-19. Each athletic facility will undergo a detailed risk assessment and implement a site-specific protection plan. City staff will monitor ongoing use and current state and county health guidelines and may modify or create new protocols for the use of athletic facilities.

- Signage highlighting COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols will be placed at entrances of athletic facilities.
- A maximum of two teams can play per field. These teams may not intermingle and must remain separated for the duration of their permit. For example: 1 team per side of a soccer field.
- Team bench area and dugouts will be expanded to provide for social distancing. When possible, players and coaches should bring their own seating and avoid using benches.
- At this time, concession stands are not available.
- Loitering of teams will not be allowed. Teams must not arrive earlier than 30 minutes prior to or linger 30 minutes after practices/games.
- Teams must only use permitted space while on-site. Teams are not allowed to switch fields within organizations permitted space, and organizations are not allowed to use space not specifically permitted.
- Restroom doors will be propped open at the Sports Park.

CITY STAFF PROCEDURES FOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES

The following items are control measures being implemented by City staff to protect City staff from COVID-19. These items are specific to the Recreation Division staff and are in addition to City-wide safety measures being taken per guidelines provided by the Orange County Health Agency (OCHA) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

- All staff will receive training on all necessary safety and health protocols found in this document and required by the City of Lake Forest Human Resources Division.
- Prior to each shift, staff will complete and submit a City Health Questionnaire. If, during this process, staff are unable to report to work, immediate notification to a supervisor is required.
- Staff will wear appropriate PPE at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, face masks and gloves.
- Staff will implement measures to ensure physical distancing of at least six feet between workers and patrons.
- Staff will be assigned a utility cart and field equipment for the duration of their shift. No tools, vehicles, or supplies will be shared between staff or permit users during a shift.
- At the conclusion of each shift, staff will sanitize all equipment and vehicle used during their shift.

ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The Lake Forest community has several youth sports organizations using City sports fields. Sport organizations using City facilities for their sports operation must follow local and state guidelines with regard to business operations. This includes performing the following checks for each City field an organization uses:

1. Each organization must perform a detailed risk assessment and implement an internal protocol and site-specific protection plan. This must be submitted to City staff and approved prior to receiving a field use permit.
2. Train coaches, parents, and volunteers on how to limit the spread of COVID-19, including howto screen for symptoms and stay home mandates if necessary.
3. Implement individual control measures and screenings.
4. Implement disinfection protocols.
5. Implement physical distancing guidelines.

The following section provides requirements and guidelines for local organizations to return to Lake Forest athletic facilities. These guidelines are meant to supplement, **not replace**, any state or local health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which youth sports organizations must comply.

RETURN TO PLAY RESOURCES

While the foundation of a Return to Play plan is centered on common guiding principles, there are many different resources that can, and should, be referred to while implementing your plan. Below is an extensive list of resources which is available to guide your organizations with a Return to Play plan.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Considers for Youth Sports

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>

National Council of Youth Sports, PLAY Sports Coalition – Return to Play Considerations

<https://playsportscoalition.org/returntoplay/>

The Aspen Institute Project Play – Coronavirus & Youth Sports

<https://www.aspenprojectplay.org/return-to-play>

US SOCCER – Play On

<https://www.ussoccer.com/playon>

AYSO – Returning to Play

<https://www.aysovolunteers.org/returning-to-play/>

Little League – Season Resumption Guide

<https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/season-resumption-guide/>

ATTACHMENT

1. California Department of Health’s COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Day Camps
2. City of Lake Forest Field Use Waiver & Field Reservation Guidelines