

**OCONEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
COVID-19 WINTER 2021-2022 PROGRAM PROTOCOLS AND BEST PRACTICES**

DEPARTMENT MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND PARTICIPANTS

The health and safety of our participants, parents, spectators, volunteers, officials and staff remain our highest priority. Participation may not allow for proper physical distancing and other safety measures currently recommended; therefore, participation in activities may increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Mitigating these risks is a shared responsibility of all involved. Therefore, Oconee County Parks and Recreation Department requests that parents and participants adhere to the following guidelines to keep everyone safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stay Home when Appropriate

- Players, parents, coaches, spectators and officials should stay home and not attend programs or activities if sick, have fever, tested positive for or are showing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Individuals that have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 (close contact defined as someone within 6 feet of infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over 24-hour period during the infectious period) should not attend programs or activities.
- Individuals should consult state and/or local guidance on recommendations for returning to activities.
- If person develops symptoms during activity, person should be isolated and transported home or to a healthcare facility.
- Players, coaches, parents/guardians and spectators who are high-risk should seek approval from medical professional prior to attending any activity.

Communicate Potential or Confirmed Exposure

- All players, coaches, and officials, are encouraged to self-report to OCPRD Deputy Director if they have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
- In addition, players that start to feel ill during an activity should inform parents and/or coach, isolate from others and go home or to a healthcare facility.

Use Cloth Face Coverings

- Any participant who prefers to wear a cloth face covering during an activity is allowed to do so.

Follow Procedures for When Someone Gets Sick – Parent/Guardian

- Immediately isolate sick person away from others and contact your health care provider for guidance.
- Notify OCPRD who will make notifications to others; and will provide guidance on return to programs.

Follow Procedures for When Someone Gets Sick – Coach/Instructor

- Immediately isolate sick person away from others and advise them to be transported home or to a healthcare facility, depending on the severity of the symptoms.
- Instruct individuals that had direct contact with sick person to go home and follow CDC guidance for community related exposure.
- Immediately notify OCPRD of the sick person; OCPRD will follow up with sick person and make any notifications needed.

Follow Procedures for When Someone Gets Sick –OCPRD

- Immediately isolate sick person away from others and advise them to be transported home or to a healthcare facility, depending on the severity of the symptoms.
- Instruct individuals that had direct contact with sick person to go home and follow CDC guidance for community related exposure.
- Inform persons that they should not return to activities until they have met CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation.
- Notify persons potentially exposed to a known COVID-19 diagnosis and advise those who had close contact to follow CDC guidance.
- Respect the safety and privacy of the COVID-19 individual by not sharing name or personal details on that individual when notifying others of potential exposure.
- Report situation to local health officials.

COACHES/INSTRUCTORS

In addition, coaches are expected to follow safety protocols, such as those listed below.

- Recognize signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and follow safety precautions and guidelines.
- If informed of confirmed COVID-19 case, contact OCPRD and do not share with anyone the individual's name. OCPRD will seek consent from adult participant or parent of a minor participant before considerations given to sharing the individual's name.

OCPRD COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

The Parks and Recreation Department has implemented several strategies to mitigate COVID-19 risks.

- Encourage persons to physically distance a minimum of 6 feet from others not in their household.
- Promote healthy hygiene practices, such as hand washing before and after activities, encouraging persons to cover coughs and sneezes and reminding players to not high five one another.
- Educate coaches, officials, and staff of all safety protocols.
- Adjust playing rules per GHSA guidelines and other governing bodies pertaining to COVID-19 protocols.
- Non-players not allowed to handle any practice or game balls.
- Monitor absenteeism of coaches, officials and staff and ensure supply of back-up personnel.
- Expect any organization that uses park facilities to follow these considerations.
- Identify the Deputy Director as the designated COVID-19 point of contact responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns.
- Inform others with potential direct contact of confirmed COVID-19 person.
- Be prepared and follow procedures if someone in the program gets sick.
- Publicize any park facility closures and/or restrictions related to limiting COVID-19 exposure.

All protocols are subject to change pending patron compliance and any new established guidelines.