



CYO Basketball Guidelines in an Active COVID-19 World

In order to ensure the highest standard of safety for children, families and coaches as well as meet our new public health obligation, we are implementing physical and procedural changes to CYO. We are currently developing a full COVID-19 operations plan that will incorporate the following guidelines:

1. Adhere to best practices and recommendations from public health officials and those of the public and private schools whose fields/facilities we are using (this should be viewed as a minimum standard to comply with). CYO teams can ONLY play on fields or in facilities of public, private, Catholic schools that have filed their own onsite plan and NYS affirmation of compliance forms with NYS and required regulatory authorities.
2. All CDC, NYSDOH, and local guidelines will be adhered to including best practices with regard to cleaning high touch surfaces..
3. Coaches, players, and officials must stay home if they do not feel well.
4. Coaches, players, and officials will be required to arrive wearing a face covering.
5. Coaches and referees should have a face covering on them at all times in the event that they need to interact closely with players and must wear them if within six feet of players.
6. All coaches, players, parents and officials will be required to undergo a temperature screening prior to practices and games.
7. A weekly screening questionnaire will be administered to all players and their families electronically; with the aforementioned screening questionnaire returned to the coach prior to the weekly practice or games. This can be done via an email that delineates the questions, so that parents can respond to these questions in an expeditious manner.
8. CYO Programs will adhere to the following for games and practices:

Only players, coaches, referees and facility volunteers (score keeper and clock manager) will be able to enter the gym for a game. Parents, guardians will be required to drop their children off at the gym and return to pick-up their children after the game is over. Parents can remain in their cars in the parking lot or visit a nearby coffee shop.

9. Maintain social distancing in stands and on the bench. Players on the bench required to wear face masks.
10. Team schedules will be designed so that no team plays basketball games in the same gym two weeks consecutively.
11. Coaches are responsible for compliance with these protocols at each game amongst themselves, assistant coaches, players and guardians/parents. Failure to comply with these protocols by any coach, player or guardian/parent will result in a forfeit of the game by the team of the non-compliant coach, player or guardian/parent. At the time of non-compliance, the game will be stopped and the gym will be emptied.
12. Home team should have several balls that are clean and are available for rotation into the game.
13. Home gyms should have plenty of hand sanitizer so that the children and participants can maintain proper hygiene. Gyms should be cleaned before every practice and game (and in between practices and games) with high touch surfaces cleaned regularly with a CDC approved disinfectant.
14. Children will be asked to bring their own hand sanitizer and water bottles with their names on them.
15. Emergency supplies of bottled water and masks must be kept by coaching staff.
16. Home teams should have a Facility Coordinator on premise to act as a Social Distancing Ambassador.
17. Allow greater time in between scheduled games so there is less interaction between participants between games. One hour 15 minute time slots will now be one hour 30 minute time slots.
18. Player benches and high contact surfaces should undergo disinfection prior to having another team occupy the same environment for the next scheduled game.
19. Any player, volunteer, coach or referee that has health conditions and/or immuno-deficiencies should use their best judgement and not attend games/practices.
20. There will be an absolute time limit to games so that we remain on schedule and preclude the possibility of teams arriving to games before the prior game is over. For example, a 12 noon game will be declared over at 1:10pm so that the gym can be emptied in time for the 1:30pm game that follows.
21. Games will be run in accordance with CYO Rules and Modifications that were in effect in the 2019-2020 season, with the exception that there will only be 30 second time outs;

the time in between quarters will be curtailed to 2 minutes. Games will end after 70 minutes. In the event of a tie, the first team to score will win the game. Games played in private gyms may have a one hour time slot and therefore those games will end at the end of the one hour rental time.

22. No handshakes before or after the game.
23. Team huddles can only occur if all participants are wearing masks and should be discouraged.
24. Coaches will receive additional training materials in new COVID-19 procedures through the dissemination of printed materials.
25. CYO plans to offer a regular season schedule such as that in existence during the 2019-2020 season with some form of play-offs. Please note that playoff games may be difficult to schedule as Parishes are limiting the use of their gyms to games where their Parish teams are playing.
26. Waiver of liability language should be updated to include risk of exposure to COVID19.
27. If a child becomes exposed to COVID19, then the team will NOT play any games or hold practice for a 7 day period thereafter, and to the best of our ability, the game will be rescheduled. Coaches should inform CYO, their Pastor, parents of their players, and County Health officials of such instances where a child tests positive for COVID.
28. If a game is scheduled at a private facility (due to the number of teams that do not have gym availability) then EACH TEAM must bring sufficient hand sanitizer for your individual teams to maintain appropriate hygiene protocols.
29. Individual players may choose to wear a mask while playing on the court. If so, these players must leave the court after playing for 4 minutes in order to change their masks.
30. **Teams** have the option of wearing masks while playing on the court. Teams that decide to do so must inform the opposing team and the opposing team should wear a mask while playing on the court. A referee time out will take place at the 4 minute mark per quarter so that players can change their masks.
31. There will be NO jump balls. Opening possession will be determined by a flip of the coin and the ball will be taken out at half court.
32. When a shooting foul has been committed and the shooter is on the foul line shooting his first foul shot, NO players will be able to stand for the FIRST FOUL SHOT. For the second free throw, two defensive players and one offensive player should stand for rebounds with all other players standing 6 feet behind the free throw shooter. In summary, for the second free throw shot, there are two defensive players and two offensive players (one being the shooter).

33. Referees will have the full discretion to ask a player NOT to play the game if the referee believes that the player is exhibiting signs of sickness.
34. Referees should wear masks while officiating during the game. A referee time out at 4 minutes into the quarter will provide an opportunity to change masks or provide a moment of rest.

The children in our CYO leagues have been in isolation for several months and need the positive mental and physical health effects of playing sports together again. We have a duty to return our children to the field and to the court so long as we can do it safely. There is an inherent risk in all activities amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic, but we can manage these risks and have developed a systematic and clear way to safely operate our CYO league this year. As pandemic conditions and New York State guidelines change, we will revise and adapt our procedures to constantly provide the safest environment possible for our children, families, coaches and officials.