



Cornelius Parks & Recreation Department and Davidson Parks & Recreation Departments  
2021-22 Youth Basketball League  
Return to Play Plan

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**Whether you are a new or returning customer, please read this Return to Play Plan carefully as it includes important information associated with COVID-19, program modifications, and your child's participation in the program.**

Dear Parents,

Thank you for entrusting the Cornelius Parks & Recreation Department (CPRD) and Davidson Parks & Recreation Department (DPRD) with your child for another exciting basketball season. We value your participation in our programs and strive to provide a safe and fun experience for every child. CPRD and DPRD plan to offer basketball this year for participants ages 5-14, as long as there are no additional restrictions levied that prohibit participation or alter program plans in a significant manner.

In preparation for youth basketball, staff continues to assess how to conduct sports programs in the safest manner possible in accordance with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' (NCDHHS) [Interim Guidance for Administrators of Youth and Amateur Sports Programs](#) (August 6, 2021), [Mecklenburg County Board of Health Rule](#) (September 12, 2021), and [Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education Policy CFC 9142021](#) (September 14, 2021).

Accordingly, we have some important details to share with you on how the program will be conducted this year. For example, when practices and league games begin, various health and safety measures will be employed to protect players, coaches and families and minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission. **Face coverings will be required by all athletes, spectators, officials, staff and coaches, and/or other participants while indoors AT ALL TIMES. Face coverings will be required when entering any building for the program.** Also, player contact will be limited, when possible. The sport of basketball does, in practice, frequently create person-to-person contact. The goal is to limit the time of exposure, close contact, and the number of players that each individual player comes in contact with.

Our Return to Play Plan outlines important guidelines for participants, coaches, and spectators. This plan was created with the best information available to us at the time of this writing and is subject to change, in whole or in part, as conditions change, or federal, state, or local guidance changes. Changes that impact the operation of the league will be communicated to everyone in a timely manner, and this plan may be amended with a revised issue date.

### **General Health Guidelines for Participants, Coaches, and Spectators**

- At each practice, game, or other league activity, NCDHHS [Know Your 3 W's](#) signage will be posted near the primary entrance(s).
- Parents (for themselves and for their children), coaches, officials, and other spectators must observe the 3 W's, and the NCDHHS directives associated with ANY of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- If there is any reason to believe that a participant, parent, coach, or spectator has exhibited any of the signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or been exposed to COVID-19, they should STOP and NOT ENTER the facility.
- Players will not be permitted to shake hands, high five, etc.
- Handshake lines will not be permitted at the conclusion of games.
- Players should bring their own water bottles to each practice or game, and the bottle should be clearly labeled with the player's name.
- Team snacks or shared snacks will not be permitted inside the gym.

### **Personal Protective Equipment**

- Face coverings will be required when entering any building for the program.
- Due to Mecklenburg County and CMS requirements, all staff, players, coaches, spectators, referees, and/or other participants must wear a mask while indoors during league activities unless a medical or behavioral condition or disability exception applies. Children under age 5 are also exempt.

### **Social Distancing Requirements**

- Players, coaches, officials and staff are expected to maintain 3' social distancing as much as practically possible.
- Program plans are being developed in such a way as to maximize distancing opportunities but to be clear, close contact cannot be eliminated entirely.
- High-traffic areas (sidelines) will include 3' distancing markers.
- Coaches will discourage player congregations and team gatherings as much as possible.
- While it is necessary for coaches to communicate with players while on offense and defense, coaches should modify communication and avoid up close, face-to-face communication.
- If coaches, players, and or parents must gather as a group, whether before or after games or practices, they must meet, and maintain proper distancing at all times.
- The Saturday game schedule will include a 30-minute buffer between games. This buffer is designed to allow players, coaches, spectators, and staff to enter and exit the facility with limited interaction. No one will be allowed in the building until all participants, and spectators from the previous game have exited.
- Players, parents, coaches, and spectators should not get out of their cars or approach the program area any sooner than 10 minutes before their session starts.
- Teams, including coaches and players, should leave the program area promptly after the conclusion of their games or practices to allow adequate time for other teams to enter the program area with limited interaction. Post-game debrief and/or snack breaks can occur outside the building (parking lot or other appropriate common area).

### **Protocols for Parents and Spectators**

- In accordance with current federal, state, and local guidelines, it is anticipated that parents and spectators will be permitted to attend practices and games and must adhere to mask requirements, social distancing protocols, and current gathering limits.
- Capacity is currently limited to two (2) spectators per household, whether that be parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, or others, to minimize gathering sizes.
- Practice and game attendance limits for parents and other spectators is subject to change in accordance with program observations and other factors. **Please note:** Possible changes might

include a reduction in the number of spectators permitted per player or even no parents or other spectators permitted in the program area.

- IF at any time spectators are not permitted in the program area, parents would be required to remain onsite while their children participates in league activities.
- Parents must not send players to any league-sanctioned activity if they are showing any signs of illness. Doing so may result in removal from program and forfeiture of refund.
- At the sole discretion of CPRD and DPRD staff, parents and spectators who disregard mask protocols, social distancing standards, and/or other guidelines will be required to leave the program area and either remain in their car or leave the premises.

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

- Sanitized basketballs will be provided to each team prior to every practice. Basketballs will be collected from coaches at the conclusion of each practice and they will be disinfected prior to reuse.
- Sanitized game balls will be issued to league officials prior to each game. Basketballs will be collected from officials at the conclusion of each game, and they will be disinfected prior to re-use.
- A league jersey will be issued to each individual player at the beginning of the season.
- Parents are encouraged to keep uniforms and other equipment in a plastic bag after the conclusion of league activities, and to immediately wash or disinfect all items upon returning home.

### **Monitoring for Symptoms and Communication of COVID-19 Exposure**

- Conducting regular screening for symptoms can help reduce exposure. Coaches, staff, officials and spectators MUST self-monitor for symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or loss of taste and smell. Youth participants MUST be monitored by parents or guardians for these same symptoms. More information on [how to monitor for symptoms](#) is available from the CDC with signage posted at the entrance to gyms during each scheduled activity.
- Participants, coaches, staff, league officials, and spectators who have symptoms when they arrive ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER the facility. If participants, coaches, staff, league officials, or spectators become sick after they arrive and enter the facility, they MUST immediately separate from other participants, coaches, staff, league officials and spectators, and return home.
- Any player, coach, league official, program staff member, or any other person affiliated with the program who has tested positive for COVID-19, is suspected of being positive for COVID-19 or who has been directly exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 is required to report this immediately to David Moore, Athletics Program Manager, CPRD:

David Moore  
[dmoore@cornelius.org](mailto:dmoore@cornelius.org)  
704-892-6031, ext. 161

- In the event that a case of COVID-19 is reported, CPRD & DPRD will assess the situation and follow current guidance provided by the NCDHHS, CDC, and the Mecklenburg County Health Department.
- Any players, coaches, league officials, or program staff members who come into contact with that person will be notified in accordance with Mecklenburg County Health Department guidance and direction.
- Due to privacy issues, the identity of any person who is diagnosed with COVID-19, exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, or who might have come into contact with any person with COVID-19 or with symptoms, will remain anonymous.

## **Frequently Asked Questions-**

### **Does my player need to wear a mask while playing?**

**Athletics and strenuous activity are no longer exceptions to wearing face coverings in Mecklenburg County while indoors.** To reiterate, due to Mecklenburg County and CMS requirements, all staff, players, coaches, spectators, referees, and/or other participants must wear a mask while indoors during league activities unless a medical or behavioral condition or disability exception applies. Children under age 5 are also exempt.

### **Why is there a 30-minute buffer between game and practice sessions?**

The time between sessions will allow us to clear the previous session before players arrive for the next session as well as sanitize any equipment before the next session. This buffering will limit the amount of player interaction between sessions. Participants, parents, coaches, and spectators will be required to exit the program area immediately after their scheduled activities.

### **What bench practices are being observed to keep social distancing standards?**

Player sidelines will be organized by each coach and program staff, with players spaced at a minimum of 6 feet apart. While close contact is inevitable during the game of basketball, our goal is to minimize the frequency and duration of close contact. Teams will not engage in traditional, post-game handshaking, or high-fives, and coaches will be instructed to organize sessions to minimize player congregations – no lines, etc.

### **My player feels fine but is running a slight fever. Should he/she attend practices, games, or other league activities?**

Any player with a fever greater than 100.3, or with any other signs and symptoms of COVID-19, will not be allowed to attend league activities. This is a zero-tolerance policy. Players showing signs of a fever should be checked for other symptoms and monitored – a fever combined with other symptoms and/or a persistent fever should be referred to your primary physician. Fever reducing medication SHOULD NOT be used to allow a player to attend activities.