

**“Capitol Sports Center Volleyball Tournaments”:
“Dennis Lafata Gateway Bid Classic”
&
“President’s Day Classic”**

**AMERICA’S CENTER
COVID-19 GUIDANCE AND PROTOCOLS**

The goal of the protocols outlined in the document is to minimize contact reducing the risk of virus spread among both staff, participants and spectators. The core set of principles that together prevent the spread of infections by respiratory transmission (including COVID-19) include:

- 1) **Practice physical distancing** – maintain required distance between and among employees and guests at all times
- 2) **Monitor employee health** – ensure your employees are in good health and screen employees for illness
- 3) **Use protective equipment** – a fabric or disposable face covering must always be worn by all staff or attendees if required
- 4) **Clean/sanitize/disinfect** – wash and sanitize hands, and wipe down frequently touched surfaces with EPA-approved disinfectant (Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants.)

Capitol Sports Center is hosting back to back weekend volleyball tournaments at America’s Center. The first weekend, the Dennis Lafata Gateway Bid Classic, is open to boys’ teams ages 12 - 18 both club and open divisions. The second weekend will be the President’s Day Classic, which is open to girls’ teams ages 12 – 18 years old and welcomes teams from both club and open divisions.

PROPOSED EVENT: Capitol Sports Center Volleyball Tournaments
 LOCATION: America’s Center
 SPACE: Halls 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Dome, (502,000 sq. ft.)
 DATES: February 5 – 7, 2021 Dennis Lafata Gateway Bid Classic
 February 13 – 15, 2021 President’s Day Classic
 TIMES: 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. each day
 ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE:

Space	# Courts	Estimated Attendance	Standard Maximum Capacity
Building A: Washington West Entrance Washington East Exit Halls 1 & 2 (combined)	12	360	6,000
Building B: Plaza Entrance Courtyard Exit Halls 3, 4 & 5 (combined)	25	750	18,000
Building C: Entrance A B Exit Hall 6 (Dome Floor)	24	720	12,000

No more than 750 will be in Building A, B or C at any one time with each building having its own separate entrance and exit, competition space, lobbies and restrooms.

If COVID-19 metrics are good as the event gets closer, a request will be made to add spectators to the event.

General Overview

Capitol Sports Center intends to hold its volleyball tournaments in St. Louis at the Cervantes Convention Center @ America's Center and the Dome @ America's Center February 5 – 7, 2021 and February 13 – 15, 2021 with move-in beginning on February 2, 2021.

With everyone's safety of the utmost importance, Capitol Sports Center is working with all individuals/organizations necessary, including the Health Department, to put a policy in place to ensure a safe environment and experience for all. Measures will be put in place that will help promote social distancing and a safe event while at the same time having the same well-organized event that their teams have come to expect.

For the 2021 volleyball events, the event plan has been designed to utilize the existing building elements to create 2 separate buildings within the convention center, with the Dome as a third. The three-building approach for the tournament will minimize interactions and air flow between the competitors and competition space. All three buildings will have their own entrances, exits with a natural one-way flow to and from the courts.

Building A (see diagram)

Competitors assigned to Building A will enter and exit using two distinct pathways from the Washington lobby. Courts will be set in Halls 1 and 2 and the Hall 2/3 airwall will be in place to close off the rest of the competition space. Similarly, the first-floor gallery corridor will be closed off with partitions to prevent access to the Convention Plaza lobby.

Building B (see diagram)

Competitors assigned to Building B will enter and exit using two distinct pathways from the Convention Plaza lobby and the courtyard between the convention center and Dome. Courts will be set in Halls 3-5, with the Hall 2/3 airwall in place to close off the access to other competition space. The first-floor gallery will be closed off so that no access is available to the Washington Ave lobby.

Building C (see diagram)

Competitors assigned to Building C, the Dome, will enter and exit using two different Dome entrances. Courts will be set on the Dome floor, and access to the Convention Center from the Dome will be closed off at the Annex, and with locked person doors on the first floor.

All of the following changes have been made for the 2021 volleyball events: the distance between volleyball courts has increased from previous years to a minimum of 25' between courts as per USA Volleyball guidelines; the total number of courts has decreased to 61 courts from previously 82 courts, sessions have been shortened in time duration by increasing the number of sessions per day, changes have been made to game practices, spectators (parents and siblings) will not be allowed and live streaming of the tournaments will also now be available for spectators to view the tournament from the comfort of their home.

Halls 1 & 2, 3 – 5 and 6/Dome Floor will be set with volleyball courts. Capitol Sports Center plans to reduce the number of courts in the same amount of space at America’s Center from 82 courts to 61 courts. This allows the courts to be placed farther apart from each other (minimum of 25 ft) thereby allowing for more social distancing in the halls. Since the volleyball courts are not permanently installed at America’s Center, Capitol Sports Center will be able to be set all courts socially distanced, so that all courts will be used during the tournament.

Due to the reduction in the number of courts, the number of teams participating in the tournaments will be reduced from ~656 teams to ~366 teams for each of the Volleyball tournaments.

Each team will have 10 – 12 Athletes.

For 2021, Capitol Sports Center has re-designed the tournaments to have 3 sessions per day instead of 2 sessions per day. By increasing the number of sessions, Capitol Sports Center can reduce the number of people at America’s Center at any one time. There will be ~122 teams per 3 hour and 45-minute session (3 sessions) instead of ~328 teams per 6-hour session (2 sessions per day). This revised format reduces the number of people in each building to 750 or fewer at any one time. If metrics permit at 30 days out, spectators can be added at that time, but this plan has been developed without them.

The number of teams per court will be minimized due to scheduling. Four teams will participate in 2 games each session on a total of 2 courts, essentially 2 teams per court per session. In normal years there would typically have been 4 teams per court per session. Also, standard game practice has been altered so that teams can remain on the same side of the court the entire game. Typically, teams would change sides during a game. This reduces the number of touch points common between teams. There is minimal to no intermingling of teams during play except at the net.

Capitol Sports Center is also increasing the time between sessions. Instead of a 30-minute break between sessions, there will now be a 45-minute break between sessions. The 45-minute breaks will dramatically reduce any intermingling of teams between the sessions and allows Capitol Sports Center more time to clean/disinfect the courts before another session comes in.

The event website will have Capitol Sport Center’s full COVID-19 plan, mitigation procedures, and links to appropriate website resources for all to view.

Emails will also be sent to each team upon registration and to each person who reserves a hotel room within the volleyball hotel room block with the plan that will be put forth. These emails will be continued monthly up until the event and then weekly within the month of the event. Two more emails will be sent the week of the event for “Know Before you Go” information. Coaches will also be given out handouts upon check in to the event to be given to all athletes.

Total Maximum Session Attendance in Building A with Halls 1 & 2:	360
Total Maximum Session Attendance in Building B with Halls 3, 4 & 5:	750
Total Maximum Session Attendance in Building C (the Dome):	720

Plan Overview

This plan was developed in December of 2020 and will be adjusted as guidelines change leading up to the event in February 2021. Capitol Sports Center Volleyball Tournaments will comply with all federal, state and local guidelines. The following outlines the protocols that Capitol Sports Center Volleyball Tournaments will implement so that a safe and successful tournament can be executed. In addition, Capital Sports Center Volleyball Tournaments will refer to “Return to Play Guidelines” from USA Volleyball (attached).

A) Tentative Schedule

- ✓ Move-in – Tuesday February 2, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- ✓ Move-in – Wednesday February 3, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- ✓ Move-in – Thursday February 4, 2021 from 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- ✓ Practice – Thursday February 4, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- ✓ Games – Friday February 5, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., games begin at 8:00 a.m.
- ✓ Games – Saturday February 6, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., games begin at 8:00 a.m.
- ✓ Games – Sunday February 7, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., games begin at 8:00 a.m.
- ✓ Change-over – Monday February 8, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- ✓ Change-over – Tuesday February 9, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- ✓ Change-over – Wednesday February 10, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- ✓ Change-over – Thursday February 11, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- ✓ Change-over – Friday February 12, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- ✓ Practice – Friday February 12, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- ✓ Games – Saturday February 13, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., games begin at 8:00 a.m.
- ✓ Games – Sunday February 14, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., games begin at 8:00 a.m.
- ✓ Games – Monday February 15, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., games begin at 8:00 a.m.
- ✓ Move-out – Monday February 15, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- ✓ Move-out – Tuesday February 16, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

There will be three sessions per day. Each session will last 3 hours and 45 minutes with a 45-minute break between sessions. There will be 122 teams per session. Teams will only be allowed to enter the facility 20-25 minutes before the 2nd and 3rd daily sessions start.

B) Prescreening

- ✓ Online information will be implemented with admission and participation.
- ✓ Capitol Spots Center will use their online ticketing system as well as their online team registration system to make sure everyone is aware of requirements to get into the facility. Online registration system will issue QR codes to all attendees that will be scanned at the 3 different building entrances that will only allow the person in the correct building entrance at the correct session time.
- ✓ Players and coaches will utilize an online waiver system that will also ensure that each player and coach has followed these guidelines
 - Temperature has been checked and it is below 100 degrees
 - Agree to wear a mask at all times during the tournament except for eating or exerting physical activity on the court.

- Have been surveyed and answer “No” to the following questions:
 - Do you have any COVID symptoms, including fever, chills, cough, sore throat, congestion, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea?
 - Have you been around anyone who has tested positive for COVID in the last 10 days?
- ✓ In order to get their stickers for the day, the online survey/waivers must be filled out each day. The stickers will allow the team in for each session. These waivers will be checked by staff before the daily stickers will be given for each team.

C) “Capitol Sports Center Volleyball Tournaments” – Staff, Volunteers and Officials

- ✓ There will be a minimum of 3 event organizers on site at all times to oversee the operation. This group has the authority to modify, restrict, postpone or cancel the event based on public health risk or other factors. This team will make the decision if a player can return to play, should be sent to self-quarantine or should be sent for further examination (when COVID-19 related).
- ✓ All Staff will be connected with walkie talkies.
- ✓ All staff, volunteers and officials will be temperature checked and health surveyed upon arrival at facility by tournament directors. Staff, volunteers and officials will complete the same health survey on a daily basis and be logged on to our contract tracing log.
- ✓ All staff, officials and volunteers will be required to wear masks at all times within the facility, unless they are eating or drinking, if required by federal, state or local guidelines at the time of the event.
- ✓ Face shields will be allowed for staff, volunteers and officials with medical conditions that prevent the normal mask.
- ✓ Capitol Sports Center will have a minimum of 3 roamers that will circulate to make sure there is no congregating and that everyone always has a mask on unless they are eating, drinking, or physically exerting themselves on the court.
- ✓ Capitol Sports Center will have trainers spread throughout the convention center and Dome in at least 3 locations. Trainers will assist with any injuries and help to additionally enforce all health and safety measures.
- ✓ Capitol Sports Center will create a medical plan for the event which will identify local healthcare resources and will have a flyer with the names, addresses and contact numbers for local healthcare resources that can be given to all attendees.
- ✓ Capitol Sports Center will make disinfectant wipes or cleaner and towels available to staff and instruct them to wipe down shared surfaces. Sanitizing materials will be provided for scoring tables, official’s stands, etc.

- ✓ Capitol Sports Center to give guidance to all staff if PPE's are required. Staff should know how to:
 - Put on, wear, and remove face coverings appropriately
 - Put on and remove disposable gloves safely
 - Use disinfectants according to manufacturer directions
 - Recognize and report the signs and symptoms of illness
- ✓ Capitols Sports Center to provide training to all staff, volunteers and officials in physical distancing requirements, proper hygiene, the proper wearing and use of face coverings and gloves, and interaction protocols to ensure everyone's safety.
- ✓ "Capitol Sports Center Volleyball Tournaments" staff area will be designed to adhere to physical distancing guidelines.
- ✓ "Capitol Sports Center Volleyball Tournaments" should create a safe environment for staff to work in that includes distancing of work areas, distancing from guest interactions, and additional signage throughout back of house spaces as reminders for safe practices.
- ✓ Require staff, volunteers and officials to stay at home if sick.
- ✓ Staff to sanitize balls after each match.
- ✓ Tournament stages and high touch areas will be sanitized every two hours.
- ✓ Staff to sanitize courts, volleyballs, and all equipment after each session.
- ✓ Boxed medals will be distributed to teams. There will not be photos or awards ceremonies this year at the tournament.
- ✓ Additional hand-sanitizing stations located throughout the court area.
- ✓ Capitol Sports Center to utilize on-line registration system to contact all participants in the venue should an emergency notification (contact tracing) be necessary.
- ✓ Officials to post all scores electronically which eliminates unnecessary face to face contact.
- ✓ Officiating teams will be limited to one R1 per match.
- ✓ Capitol Sports Center continues to emphasize court time management to officials to reduce the instance of courts getting behind schedule which can contribute to teams waiting at the courts.

D) "Capitol Sports Center Volleyball Tournaments" - Athletes and Coaches

- ✓ All coaches will be required to wear masks at all times within the facility, unless they are eating or drinking, if required by federal, state or local guidelines at time of event.
- ✓ If required by federal, state or local guidelines at time of event, all athletes will be required to wear masks at all times within the facility, unless they are eating, drinking, or physically exerting themselves on the court. Subs who are not actively participating in the match, must mask up during this time.
- ✓ Face shields will be allowed for athletes & coaches with medical conditions that prevent the normal mask.
- ✓ Teams will be encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to help with cleaning.
- ✓ Volleyball specific social distancing match protocols, including the elimination of handshakes, high fives, huddles, have been established. The Modified coin toss, warm-up and substitution procedures will be used. The protocol of teams switching sides in indoor play has been suspended. In the event there is a clear and distinct disadvantage then teams will switch sides, observing all social distancing protocols.

E) "Capitol Sports Center Volleyball Tournaments " Experience

- ✓ There will be three separate entrances and exits for the tournament; 1 for each building. The entrance for Building A will be at the Washington Lobby West Exit Doors. The exit for Building A will be at the Washington Lobby East Doors. The entrance for Building B will be at the Convention Plaza Entrance Doors. The exit for Building B will be at the Courtyard Lobby Exit Doors. The entrance for Building C (Dome) will be at Dome Entry A Doors and the exit will be at Dome Exit B Doors.
- ✓ All attendees will have their temperatures checked via thermal cameras upon entry to facility. No one will be allowed into the convention center or Dome unless they are wearing a mask and will be required to keep the mask on at all times unless they are eating, drinking, or physically exerting themselves on the court.
- ✓ Everyone must wear a mask to enter the convention center or Dome if required by federal, state or local guidelines at time of event.
- ✓ Teams will only be allowed to enter the facility 20 to 25 minutes before their wave is to start. Teams will not be allowed to enter for their session until the correct time.
- ✓ Each attendee will have a QR code on their phone that will be scanned at each of the three entrance. The QR code will only allow attendees into the correct building entrance where they are competing for that session.

- ✓ All attendees will have limited in/out privileges, but only with the appropriate QR code making sure all of the guidelines have been followed.
- ✓ One-way traffic in the lobbies from the entrance to the competition space in that building and from the competition space to the exit.
- ✓ Teams will not be allowed to “hang out” in the building if they are not competing. Attendees and players must exit the building immediately after each session and are not allowed to gather in the hallways.
- ✓ Event specific signage will be placed at the Washington Entrance, Convention Plaza Entrance and Dome Entry A, inside the entrances to the exhibit halls and in the lobbies asking attendees to practice physical distancing and to wash their hands with soap and water frequently. The facility will provide general health and safety signage throughout the lobbies as well.
- ✓ Floor plan of each building with measurements of court layouts are included. Volleyball courts are 29’6” x 59’. There is a minimum of 25’ between courts per USA Volleyball guidelines
- ✓ Chairs for players will be set at least 10’ from the edge of the court lines.
- ✓ “Capitol Sports Center Volleyball Tournaments” will identify a Safety Officer to oversee and execute special preparation in support of the event. The Safety Officer will assist in the pre-planning of the experience; ensure that standards are established, monitored and enforced according to the safety protocols.
- ✓ “Capitol Sports Center Volleyball Tournaments” will, to the best of their ability, maintain a log of attendees to assist public health officials with contact tracing if necessary.
- ✓ Any area where Attendees are queued will be clearly marked for appropriate physical distancing. This includes but not limited to entrances, seating, registration, or displays.
- ✓ Pro Shop, vendors and championship headquarters will be designed to have more space to allow for further social distancing.

F) Venue

- ✓ “Capitol Sports Center Volleyball Tournaments” will comply with venue, all venue guidelines and protocols that have been approved by local officials.
- ✓ Signage will be placed at the entrances to America’s Center and throughout common areas asking guests to practice physical distancing and wash their hands with soap and water frequently and to wear masks, if required at the time of the event.
- ✓ America’s Center will identify a Safety Officer to oversee and execute special preparation in support of the event. The Safety Officer will assist in the pre-planning of the experience; ensure that standards are established, monitored and enforced according to the safety protocols.

- ✓ America's Center has earned the prestigious GBAC Star Certification for cleanliness and disinfecting standards and will follow all protocols contained within it.
- ✓ America's Center will work to minimize contact with shared objects such as door handles. Guests will enter/exit all interior spaces through doors that are propped open. Restroom doors will be propped open where possible.
- ✓ All drinking fountains have been turned off.
- ✓ Hand sanitizers will be placed at key guest encounter points, such as entrances, restrooms.
- ✓ America's Center has increased air exchange as much as system allows to maximize air quality.
- ✓ All hard and high touch surfaces to be fully cleaned and disinfected with EPA-approved virucidal cleaners on a high-frequency basis. Electrostatic sprayer to be used overnight.
- ✓ The frequency of cleaning and sanitizing has been increased in all public spaces with an emphasis on frequent contact surfaces.
- ✓ Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected regularly using EPA-recommended disinfectants, particularly high-touch surfaces such as faucets, toilets and doorknobs. Restrooms will be fully stocked with supplies for handwashing, including soap and hands-free towel dispensers.
- ✓ Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected between sessions.
- ✓ Based on social distancing requirements, lobby furniture may be rearranged to promote physical distancing.
- ✓ The convention center has replaced all 'handled' exterior entrance doors with automatic sliding 'touchless' doors.

G) Food and Beverage Sales

- ✓ America's Center / Levy restaurants will have limited food and beverage sales. The food and beverage sales plan will be supplied closer to the event for review.

H) Travel Guidelines (if applicable)

✓ CDC guidelines will be shared with all staff and Attendees.

Travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

You can get COVID-19 during your travels. You may feel well and not have any symptoms, but you can still spread COVID-19 to others. You and your travel companions (including children) may spread COVID-19 to other people including your family, friends, and community for 14 days after you were exposed to the virus.

Don't travel if you are sick or if you have been around someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days. Don't travel with someone who is sick.

If You Travel

During your trip, take steps to protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

- Wear a mask to keep your nose and mouth covered when in public settings.
- Avoid close contact by staying at least 6 feet apart (about 2 arms' length) from anyone who is not from your household.
- Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 70% alcohol).
- Avoid contact with anyone who is sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Sample Draft Waiver/Survey

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSds2QzkQDfeSBZZlS51SSLmgtnk7bVCRI_5ZeMUDfOoDhSLng/viewform

Event Floor Plan (3)