

Bennington Basketball Association: COVID-19 Return to Play Protocol:

The purpose of this document is to provide a framework for how Bennington Basketball Association will respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the players, coaches and parents within our school district during the 2020-2021 school year. This document will continue to evolve as situations change with the COVID-19.

Practices: Practices will be planned ahead of time with specific awareness for player to player contact drills. Coaches will make an effort to reduce the time players are in direct contact with one another. CDC guidelines recommend less than 15 minutes within 6 feet of each other. We will not allow teams to scrimmage against each other in order to reduce the chance of player to player contact from different teams. Each coach will log the players names and coaches names in attendance at each practice and we will submit this log to the school every Saturday morning via a shared Google Doc. (If the school should want more information requested sooner, please advise) Sanitization efforts should be increased during planned periods of contact. During practices, only coaches and players will be allowed in the gyms. Parents are welcome to stay, but must remain in the parking lot.

Screenings: Prior to the start of practice, any player, coach, or volunteer participating that day must be screened for temperature and any symptoms linked to COVID-19. (this will be performed by a parent prior to practice) If a person's temperature is above the standard CDC fever determinate 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or displays multiple symptoms, that person will be asked to leave/not attend the practice(s) and not return until clear of symptoms. If there is a result of a positive COVID-19 test, the BBA will contact the Douglas County Health Department and the Bennington School District, followed by anyone that may have been in contact with this person(s) within the prior 14 days.

Sanitizing: Each team will be provided proper hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray to sanitize all participants and equipment. At the start and end of practice all persons, players and coaches will need to hand sanitize. As well as during structured water breaks and after contact with other persons and equipment. Equipment, such as, but not limited to basketballs, ropes, cones, practice jerseys and shooting machine should be sanitized before and after use or when there is a stoppage in practice. Dividing up responsibilities to disinfect between coaches may help increase the sanitizing. All sanitation products to be provided by the BBA.

Masks: Coaches and staff are required to wear masks, gaitors or face shields during structured practice times and when working closely with the athlete. It should be encouraged that players wear masks when not actively participating in athletic drills. Examples of this would be team meetings or chalk talks. The BBA will provide additional masks for each coach and team during practice times.

Social Distancing: Socially distancing should be practiced whenever possible. During drills, athletes not participating should observe the 6 ft rule in spacing and refrain from physical gestures such as high fives and hugs. To help ensure social distancing and provide proper area for athletes and staff, spectators will not be allowed to loiter or watch the practices inside the gymnasiums. We will advise that all parents, not volunteering to coach, stay out of the schools before, during and after practices. Any questions can be addressed through communication devices to limit the number of individuals in the gymnasiums at one time.

Equipment: The BBA would like to request to remove our stored equipment in order for this to be properly sanitized before the start of the season and after use, daily. As well as, any time during practice such as water breaks, as mentioned above. Coaches should limit the amount of equipment used during practice time to cut down on player to surface exposure. In order to do limit this, the BBA will provide each coach a bag that will include a set number of basketballs, training equipment, proper sanitation and disinfectant spray, as well as additional masks and gloves. This equipment will stay with the coach the entire season.

No personal equipment, such as, but not limited to; water bottles, jerseys, shoes and athletic braces are to be shared between players. Players and families will have to provide their own water containers and extra equipment the player would like to use. It is also requested the family sanitize all extra equipment after completion of the practice and before the next scheduled practice day.

K-4 Mini Badger League

The entire fundamental clinic and league will take into considerations all items as listed above, as well as implement the following other related items related to spectators, volunteer coaches, supervisors and referees.

Spectators – Unless noted otherwise, the only spectators to be permitted during the 8 weeks of fundamentals and games will be the parents or assigned guardians of the player(s) involved. This information is provided on every sign up sheet and can be reviewed each Saturday morning as players enter the buildings. Spectators will have assigned seating to ensure proper social distancing is being enforced during each 1 hour session. If there becomes a maximum capacity limit for the District, the BBA will provide a seating arrangement to not exceed the required number in each gym.

Volunteer Coaches/Supervisors- Every volunteer coach/volunteer will be required to wear masks and provide sanitation for players and equipment in between drills, break time and in between each session. All coaches will have a copy of the approved protocol and will be instructed on proper COVID-19 prevention as instructed by CDC Guidelines. BBA supervisors will make sure all chairs/bleachers are sanitized and all waste will be removed from the school gymnasiums every weekend.

Referees – All referees will be required to wear masks and gloves during the games. After each game is complete, they will make sure all game balls and equipment is properly sanitized prior to the next game beginning. All referees will be required to provide the BBA with proper screening paperwork each Saturday before entering the buildings. This paperwork will also be sent into the school once the games are completed on Saturdays.

If there are items that the District would wish to discuss further with the Bennington Basketball Association in regards to this proposal, please contact Nick Cemer at ncemberba@gmail.com or via phone at (402)830-6232. Thanks for your time and consideration!