



TOWN COUNCIL – AGENDA REQUEST FORM

THIS FORM WILL BECOME PART OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION USED BY THE COUNCIL AND PUBLIC

Please submit Agenda Request Form, **including back up information, 8 days prior** to the requested meeting date. **Public Hearing requests must be submitted 20 days prior to requested meeting date to meet publication deadlines** (exceptions may be authorized by the Town Manager, Chairman/Vice Chair).

MEETING INFORMATION

Date Submitted: July 16, 2020
Submitted by: Matthew Casparius
Department: Parks & Recreation
Speakers: Matthew Casparius

Date of Meeting: July 23, 2020
Time Required: 15 minutes
Background Info. Supplied: Yes: No:

CATEGORY OF BUSINESS (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Appointment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognition/Resignation/Retirement:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Hearing:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Old Business:	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Business:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consent Agenda:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonpublic:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

TITLE OF ITEM

Review of updated COVID-19 guidance for Amateur & Youth Sports

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM

On July 3rd, Governor Sununu issued an update to his COVID-19 guidance document for Amateur & Youth Sports. This Agenda item is to review the changes with the Town Council.

REFERENCE (IF KNOWN)

RSA:	Warrant Article:	_____
Charter Article:	Town Meeting:	_____
Other:	N/A	

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Projector:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant Requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easel:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joint Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Seating:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laptop:	<input type="checkbox"/>	None:	<input type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

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APPROVAL

Town Manager: Yes No: Chair/Vice Chair: Yes No:

Hold for Meeting Date: _____



TOWN OF MERRIMACK

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MEMO

TO: Eileen Cabanel, Town Manager

FROM: Matt Casparius, Director of Parks & Recreation

DATE: July 17, 2020

SUBJECT: Updated Youth & Amateur Sports Guidance 7/3/20

On July 3, 2020; Governor Sununu released an update to the guidance document for Amateur & Youth Sports. There are two items that have changed compared to the previous guidance document which was approved by the Town Council on June 11th, 2020.

1. Players from all New England states are now permitted.
2. The State Guidelines now also allow for contact sports to be held. Masks are still required when 6 feet of social distancing cannot be maintained

I would recommend that the Town Council accept the Governor's updated guidance document for Amateur & Youth Sports dated July 3rd, 2020 for Merrimack's Athletic Fields.

Approved: July 9, 2020

Posted: July 14, 2020

State beaches are now open, which should limit the concern relative to residents of surrounding communities looking for areas to swim if their communities have not opened their pools.

Asked about the planned improvements to the beach area, Town Manager Cabanel stated the work will proceed in the fall. The complicated wetlands permit has just been completed. The funding is budgeted, and can be carried into the following fiscal year.

Councilor Harrington stated support for opening the beach as did Chairman Koenig and Vice Chairman Boyd.

Town Parks - Athletic Fields - Basketball Courts - Volleyball Court - Tennis Courts - Skate Park - Playgrounds

Director Casparius stated the new guidance states outdoor team sporting events and games can occur, but only for low physical contact sports. What a low contact sport is, is not defined. Guidance does mention baseball and softball. The question comes on sports like soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, and basketball. Guidance still talks of maintaining 6' of social distance as much as possible through these activities.

Director Casparius remarked, at this point, he believes baseball and softball could proceed, but the others would remain on hold. Practice sessions could be allowed for the other sports. There is a restriction that states that only teams from New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont are allowed. He commented on the adult softball leagues that have teams that come in from all over for tournaments. Parents and players have to wear face coverings when they cannot be socially distant. If the MYA was allowed to do a summer softball league, they would have to conduct temperature checks on athletes and coaches upon arrival, etc. Director Casparius stated his opinion it could be allowed with the understanding there are extensive guidelines to follow.

Councilor Albert questioned the action of other communities, and was informed a few have started to move in the direction of allowing these activities. Town Manager Cabanel reiterated until today at 3:00 p.m. none of this was recommended by the Governor. We cannot know what others will do.

Councilor Healey asked for clarification of the statement made by the Governor, and was informed the sports specifically outlined in the guidance document (referenced several times) were softball and baseball; "low physical contact sports". Director Casparius remarked he is on the fence in regard to soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse. He believes basketball and football would be off limits as they are all about physical contact. Councilor Healey commented on not all players in baseball and softball being able to remain 6' apart. Director Casparius noted it would be brief periods that players would be in close proximity and those that would, would be forward facing.

Councilor Albert stated agreement with opening of the fields for baseball and softball. He is inclined to agree with opening for soccer and lacrosse as well. Vice Chairman Boyd agreed with opening the fields for soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey in addition to baseball and softball. Basketball and football should remain closed at this time. Councilor Harrington stated agreement with opening up the fields, and with the idea of allowing for practices for soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey.

Councilor Rothhaus spoke of personal responsibility, and questioned at what point the Town picks up liability when the sports organizations let it go. He would rather generally open up the field, and ensure

Approved: July 9, 2020

Posted: July 14, 2020

people understand where the Town stands in regard to the need to be careful, that signs be posted, e.g., if conducting games may be conflicting with State guidance, etc.

Councilor Albert stated his belief organized sports are preparing to deal with this in their own way to cover themselves as well. Chairman Koenig stated agreement with the remarks of Councilor Rothhaus that the fields be opened, and signage be placed recommending the Governor's guidance be followed.

MOTION made by Councilor Albert and seconded by Councilor Healey that the Town open all ball fields, with guidance signage in place, excluding basketball and football activities at this time

ON THE QUESTION

Councilor Rothhaus stated he would support the motion, and reiterated the programs themselves have liability and should be addressing issues related to guidance. He would like to reaffirm the need for signage to be erected to ensure all users are aware, when organizing to utilize those fields, where the Town stands.

Town Manager Cabanel questioned the will of the Council relative to Director Casparius requiring organized sports be provided with a copy of the Governor's guidance/orders and required to signoff indicating they have been read.

Councilor Healey questioned the frequency with which baseball/softball teams play against teams from other states. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated it varies. Councilor Healey was agreeable to teams from other states being provided with a copy of the Governor's orders.

Director Casparius stated the fields are booked mostly by local groups that are organizing, e.g., men's softball tournament. He has already begun sending the update of the latest guidance to them with the understanding he would be following up with what the Council decides.

Current orders state there can be up to 50 people on a field, no sharing of equipment, low-contact sports, promoting social distancing as much as possible, spectators wear masks if cannot be socially distant, teams only from Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

Chairman Koenig remarked it appears we could open all fields stating no contact sports, follow the Governor's guidelines. Councilor Albert stated he would like his motion to continue to state a desire to open all fields to the sports mentioned excluding basketball and football.

AMENDED MOTION made by Councilor Albert and seconded by Councilor Healey that the Town open ball fields to the sports of baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey, with guidance signage in place, and that teams be limited to those from New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont as per the Governor's Guidance

A Roll Call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Councilor Woods, Chairman Koenig, Councilor Harrington, Councilor Rothhaus,
Councilor Albert, Councilor Healey, Vice Chairman Boyd

7



Safer at Home

AMATEUR & YOUTH SPORTS

COVID-19 REOPENING GUIDANCE

GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC REOPENING TASKFORCE



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General Guidance to Protect All Staff, Volunteers and Athletes:

1. Review and follow the [Universal Guidelines](#) for All New Hampshire Employers and Employees.
2. Review and follow CDC [guidance for cleaning and disinfection](#).
3. Review and follow [swimming pool guidance](#).
4. All staff, volunteers, and athletes should bring to sporting events and wear, reusable/washable cloth face coverings over their nose and mouth when around others and not actively engaged in athletics and when social distancing is difficult to maintain.
 - a. Provide training on cloth face coverings based on CDC guidance for [Use of Cloth Face Coverings](#).
 - b. Review the NH DHHS information about [using cloth face coverings](#).
 - c. People wearing face coverings must not touch their eyes, noses, mouths, or faces, or adjust their face coverings without first sanitizing hands. After touching faces or adjusting face coverings, hands must be sanitized.
5. Parents/guardians of minors attending a sporting event should be asked to wear cloth face coverings while around other spectators, staff, volunteers, and athletes when social distancing is not possible.
6. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol must be readily made available to staff, volunteers, and athletes and kept with staff and equipment at all times. Frequent hand hygiene should be required including, but not limited to, hand hygiene upon arrival, before and after meals or snacks, before and after going to the bathroom, before and after touching a person's face or face covering, and prior to leaving the event.
7. Commonly touched surfaces and areas should be frequently cleaned and disinfected according to [CDC guidance](#) at the end of each event. Shared equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between use.
8. Staff, athletes, volunteers, and spectators should be reminded to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others.
9. Assign a dedicated staff member (i.e., a safety officer) to monitor social distancing and compliance with protective actions, and to prompt other staff, volunteers, athletes, and spectators about social distancing, hand hygiene, and the use of cloth face coverings.

Employee, Volunteer, and Athlete Protection:

1. Athletes, volunteers, and staff (including administrative, coaches, trainers or officials) must be provided education and training around safe practices, games, and competitions as it relates to hygiene, sanitation (cleaning and disinfection policies), and illness policies outlined in the [Universal Guidelines](#) and in this document.
2. Require all staff, volunteers, and athletes to report any symptoms of COVID-19 or close contact to a person with COVID-19 to a coach. Staff, volunteers, and athletes should not attend events if they feel sick. Athletes, volunteers, and staff must be asked to leave the training activity, sporting event, competition, game, and/or



SAFER AT HOME

AMATEUR & YOUTH SPORTS

- practice if the potential of sickness is identified during screening or during the activity.
3. Staff, athletes, and volunteers must be screened on arrival to each competitive sporting event, training session, or practice by having their temperature taken (temperature checks for athletes participating in competitive events is at the discretion of the organizing entity but is not required) and all shall be asked if they:
 - a. Has any symptoms of COVID-19 (see Universal Guidelines for list of potential symptoms) or fever of 100.4 degrees F or higher.
 - b. Has had any close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have had COVID-19 in the past 14 days. (NOTE: Healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment should answer “no” to this question)
 - c. Traveled in the past 14 days either:
 - i. Internationally (outside the U.S.),
 - ii. By cruise ship, or
 - iii. Domestically (within the U.S.) outside of NH, VT, or ME on public transportation (e.g., bus, train, plane, etc.).
 4. Person(s) with any COVID-19 symptoms, those who report that in the past 14 days they have had close contact with someone suspected or confirmed with COVID-19, or report travel risk factors should not be allowed into the sporting event, competition, game, and/or practice, and:
 - a. Symptomatic persons should be instructed to contact their healthcare providers to be tested for COVID-19 and [self-isolate](#) at home following the instructions below.
 - b. Asymptomatic persons reporting that in the past 14 days they have had close contact with someone suspected or confirmed with COVID-19, or who report one of the traveled-related risk factors should [self-quarantine](#) for 14 days from their last exposure or return from travel.
 - c. **NOTE:** Healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment should answer “no” to this question
 5. Person(s) with a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 must stay home until symptom based criteria are met for [discontinuation of isolation which are](#):
 - a. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, AND
 - b. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (“Recovery” is defined as resolution of fever off any fever reducing medications plus improvement in other symptoms).
 6. Staff and volunteers should not transport any athletes that are not immediate family members. In the event that transportation becomes necessary due to an emergency situation, all parties must wear cloth face coverings and space out seating to maintain maximal distance from each other.



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AMATEUR & YOUTH SPORTS

Business Process Adaptations:

These adaptations are applicable but are not limited to the following athletic activities: Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading/Competitive Spirit Squad, Dance, Field Hockey, Football/Flag Football, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Indoor Track, Lacrosse, Rugby, Skiing, Snowboarding, Soccer, Softball, Spirit, Swimming, Diving, Tennis, Track and Field, Cross Country, Volleyball, Water Polo, and Wrestling.

1. Practices, training sessions, competitions, games, and tournaments/jamborees are permitted. When possible or practical, they should be planned and implemented to maintain a minimum of 6 feet of distance between all athletes, volunteers, and staff. In circumstances where closer contact for sustained periods is necessary, staff, volunteers, and athletes must wear cloth face coverings/masks when possible.
2. No teams/groups/athletes other than from New England are allowed at competitive sporting events, training sessions, or practices in New Hampshire.
3. Athletes shall bring their own equipment, including, but not limited to, gloves, helmets, bats, and not share their personal equipment with other athletes.
4. Shared equipment provided by staff or volunteers must be cleaned and disinfected according to [CDC guidance](#) after every use between athletes and at the completion of each practice, training session, or sporting event.
5. Staff and volunteers will carry hand sanitizer with team equipment. Athletes should carry hand sanitizer in personal equipment bag.
6. During practices, training sessions, and competitive sporting events, close-contact, **non-athletic activities** shall be avoided.
7. Adequate breaks for water and sanitization should be provided and are encouraged to occur between changes in activities.
8. Athletes, staff, and volunteers should bring their own water bottles. No sharing or common use water bottles or drinking stations are allowed.
9. Equipment bags and backpacks should be placed 6-feet apart. Athletes should not touch other athletes' bags, equipment, or water bottles. Benches and dugout areas must not be used for storage of personal or group equipment.
10. Centralized areas for congregating, such as benches and dugouts, should be avoided unless there is enough room to allow for at least 6 feet of space between staff, volunteers, and athletes.
11. During sporting events (competitive scrimmages and games for sports), the dugout/bench areas shall be allowed to extend to areas around the dugout in order to provide for 6-foot separation of athletes during time in dugout/bench areas. Areas outside of the dugout/bench shall be protected by a safety fence/barrier from the field of play. Care should be taken when choosing fields for competitive sporting events.
12. An isolation area shall be identified and communicated to all staff, volunteers, and athletes at the beginning of every sporting event, training session, and practice for anyone who develops symptoms during the competitive sporting event, training session, or practice.



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AMATEUR & YOUTH SPORTS

13. All mouth-based activities often encountered with sporting events shall not be allowed. This includes, but is not limited to: spitting, chewing gum, licking fingers, and chewing/spitting sunflower seeds.
14. Staff or volunteers shall bring trash bags to each competitive sporting event, training session, or practice and remove all garbage following each competitive sporting event, training session, or practice.
15. During practices, parents/guardians and other spectators are encouraged to remain in their cars in a designated parking area. However, when/if watching from the sidelines or are outside cars in the parking area, they should maintain a safe social distance from others.
16. A limited number of spectators will be allowed at competitive sporting events, and must be limited to close/immediate family of athletes. Competitive sporting events will not be open to the public and should not be advertised publically.
17. During competitive sporting events, parents/guardians and spectators shall remain outside of all "in play" areas and shall maintain physical distancing while watching events. They should be at least 6-feet from anyone from another household.
18. Back-to-back competitive sporting events, training sessions, or practices must be avoided. Sequential competitive sporting events, training sessions, or practices should be scheduled to allow adequate time for cleaning of facilities and to allow for spectators, staff, volunteers, and athletes to exit the area and avoid interaction with other incoming or exiting groups.
19. Teams must be provided a designated area for warm-ups that provides for the necessary social distancing.
20. During competitive sporting events (competitive scrimmages and games), each team shall provide its own game balls to be used while on defense (if applicable).
21. Athletes preparing to play defense should sanitize hands prior to leaving the bench or dugout.
22. In spaces that are able to have a concession stand, employees or volunteers of that concession stand must wear masks and gloves at all times in accordance with the Governors 2.0 [Restaurant/Food Service Guidelines](#). For patrons ordering food, if social distancing cannot be achieved then cloth face coverings/masks shall be required when ordering and picking up the food. Buffet/self-serve food and beverage should be avoided.

Indoor Recreational Facilities:

1. In addition to the guidance herein, review and follow [gym and fitness guidance](#).
2. Food Services will follow [food services guidelines](#).
3. Common areas are closed, and no congregating in lobby.
4. Sneeze guard barriers recommended at check in/out counters. Digital check-in where possible.
5. Where possible, establish one-way flow thru the facility, with separately designated entrances and exits, to facilitate distancing. It is recommended that Staff or volunteers be positioned throughout the venue to address potential congestion points to address crowd control and adhere to social distance guidelines.



SAFER AT HOME

AMATEUR & YOUTH SPORTS

6. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection after every room/facility use
7. Sanitize door handles, faucet handles and all other customer touch-points in common areas and other areas of hand contact every two hours, at a minimum.
8. General public group events and activities (e.g. open public skating) is closed.
9. New England residents or members, registered participants and students only.

Small Group / Staff, Volunteers and Athletes / Personal Training Appointments:

1. Group training activities are encouraged to be limited to small group or team based training activities. Competition sporting events are permitted but shall be limited to two teams per field or designated area of play. Training sessions are encouraged to be non-contact with focus on skills and drills that can be developed while maintaining physical distancing.
2. Group size is to be limited to 50% of the facility. Capacity limits may be exceeded but only to include one parent/guardian per athlete.
3. Multiple groups may practice in one large area but it is encouraged that separate groups do not mix or interact
4. Training sessions should be planned and implemented to maintain the minimum of 6 feet of distance between all athletes and volunteers, and staff. In circumstances where closer contact for brief periods of time is necessary, staff, volunteers and athletes are encouraged wear cloth face coverings as discussed above when possible.

Locker Rooms (including shower and sauna):

1. Locker room facilities can be used for changing clothes, showering, and toileting. Members should preferably practice wear-in/wear-out clothes.
2. Saunas and steam rooms are closed.
3. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be made available at entrances to locker rooms and changing facilities.
4. Members should bring their own locks for lockers. Locks that are provided by the facility for use should be cleaned and disinfected before handing back in.
5. Facility hairdryers stations should be removed or taken out of operation.

