



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & YOUTH PROGRAMS

CITY OF SYRACUSE, MAYOR BEN WALSH

Julie LaFave
Commissioner

Adult Recreation
Aquatics
Arts & Crafts
Forestry
Golf/Rinks
Grounds
Planning &
Development
Senior Recreation
Special Events
Youth Recreation

TO: Youth Athletes, Teams & Leagues using Meachem & Sunnycrest
FROM: Julie LaFave, Commissioner
DATE: September 30, 2021
RE: Mask Wearing Policy During Sports

Per the September 22, 2021 memo from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) clarifying the New York State Department of Health Guidance for Classroom Instruction in P-12 Schools during the 2021-2022 Academic Year, the City of Syracuse Parks, Recreation & Youth Programs Department will be enforcing the same guidance with regards to mask wearing during athletic activities.

The full guidance is attached to this memo, but states:

DOH's guidance does make some accommodation for indoor sports where masking is not possible, but with the caveat that individuals must be distanced 6 feet apart, but otherwise participants must wear masks. Masking is not required for outdoor sports. Unlike some prior guidance, CDC's most recent masking guidance does not make an exception for school sports/activities where masking may not be "tolerable" to a participant, unless the participant has an ADA recognized disability. In fact, the CDC guidance recommends masking for activities in the same manner as for regular classroom/in school.

Therefore, if individuals are participating in indoor sports and it is not possible for them to wear masks, they must maintain at least 6 feet physical distancing at all times when unmasked. If it is not possible for them to wear masks and not possible to maintain 6 foot distancing at all times, then that individual should not participate in the event.

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This policy shall also apply to coaches, referees and any individual involved with the athletes during the physical activity on the ice. Thank you for your assistance in ensuring all individuals follow this guidance.

In common areas of the facility, mask wearing is still strongly recommended by all individuals who are vaccinated, and required for those that are not. The only exception to this is where social distance of 6' cannot be maintained between visitors, spectators and staff.

