



Dear District and Unit Presidents and Tournament Chairs,

As we move closer to August and our first Sectional and Regional tournaments, we wanted to update you on the requirements for face-to-face tournaments. The event approval procedures announced previously will remain in place through 2021, and you may [click here](#) for an accompanying breakdown of information. The **mandatory requirements** have been modified and updated based on current CDC guidance and other health organizations' guidance as of July 1, 2021. The ACBL will continue to monitor and update policies as we navigate the return to face-to-face play and, subsequently, larger mass gatherings. We continue to take the most conservative stance in recognition of the average age of the ACBL membership.

For tournaments that proceed, the following will be MANDATORY:

1. Face masks: All staff, players and volunteers must always wear approved face masks when within the playing area (*see paragraph 2 below). This continues to be recommended for large, indoor group gatherings, especially with the emergence of highly transmissible variants of the coronavirus.
2. Vaccination: All staff, players and volunteers must be fully vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination status **unless legally prohibited**. In states where requiring proof of vaccination status is prohibited, the event sponsor must implement the next best alternative (which may include providing for an opt-in/opt-out process for masks and/or rapid covid testing at players' expense).
3. Exceptions may be made to the vaccination mandate due to qualifying medical conditions or sincerely held religious beliefs. Exceptions to the mask mandate may be made for a qualifying medical condition. These exceptions will be determined by the event sponsor or the ACBL on a case-by-case basis. Accommodations may be made in your discretion if such modifications do not create undue hardship or pose a threat to others in the playing area.
4. Table spacing: Tables must be set at a **minimum of 9 feet centers**(previously this was 11 feet).
5. Food and drink distribution: Follow local health and safety guidance.

Local organizers MUST supply the following:

1. Face masks for those who neglect to bring one (note: you may charge a nominal fee for these)
2. Hand sanitizer available throughout the playing area
3. An "Event Safety Coordinator" who shall be responsible for ensuring all

these measures are met. Please note that this will include coordinating the effort of checking proof of vaccination where legally applicable and monitoring such that players exhibiting signs of illness are not admitted.

Please note that all the above is subject to change at any point during these uncertain times.

Regards,
Greg Coles
Director of Operations

CC: ACBL Board of Directors
