

**NWBA COVID-19 Event Protocols**

2021 NWBA Toyota Adult & Junior Wheelchair Basketball National Championships

Location: Wichita Hoops and the Wichita Sports Forum – Wichita, KS

Host: Visit Wichita

***As of May 20, 2021***

**\*Subject to change – updated version of this document will always be available at www.nwba.org/2021nationals**

**Disclaimer**

The information in this document is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. The NWBA makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this information. Further, you should seek advice from legal professionals, medical professionals, or public health officials if you have specific questions regarding diagnosis, treatment, or general inquiry of COVID-19 related to your personal life.

**Introduction**

The National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of our athletes, coaches, officials, parents, fans, and staff. This document was arranged as an effort to ensure the safety of our 2021 Toyota National Championship Series. The protocols that are going to be practiced during NWBA events rely upon rules and regulations set forth by public health authorities such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and local government authorities in conjunction with where the event is being hosted. This document was carefully crafted with the most current and accurate information available to the NWBA and will be updated as new and valuable information becomes accessible. It is vitally important that all attending any NWBA event follows these obligations to help in our effort of bringing a safe and secure National Championship Series during these unprecedented times.

**\*The protocols below must be followed vigorously, and violations of these protocols will be taken extremely seriously.**

**Vulnerable Populations**

* We suggest that vulnerable populations and people with risk factors such as: above the age of 65, asthma, chronic lung disease, serious heart conditions, immune suppression, sever obesity, diabetes, liver disease, living in a nursing home or long-term care facility, should avoid local, state, and national NWBA events until they’ve been fully vaccinated (and post 14 days of final vaccination dosage).

**Testing**

* Free COVID-19 testing will be available on site for athletes, fans, and staff part of the event. All will have the opportunity to get tested at any point during the event. If you feel any symptoms related to COVID-19 during the event we strongly suggest you use the free testing provided.
* A negative test is not required to enter the facilities, so long as you follow all safety measures provided in this document.
* More information on COVID-19 testing will be provided when available.

**Public Health Authorities Mandates & Protocols**

**Prior to Your Departure for the Event**All event attendees should first adhere to any mandates or protocols in place with the CDC AND their local public health department. This includes but is not limited to: persons experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, close contacts of someone with COVID-19, and persons with COVID-19. To find your public health department, please visit the CDC’s Health Department Directory available at <https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/healthdepartments.html>.

**While in Attendance at the Event (i.e., physically present in Wichita, KS)**

Per Sedgwick County Health Department (SCHD) guidelines (<https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/covid-19/sampling-information/#positive>), if you test positive for COVID-19 during event you will follow the instructions below:

* If someone tests positive for COVID-19, they must remain at home (**in their hotel room at the event**) for 72 hours after the end of symptoms (per KDHE Guidance) or 10 days after symptom onset, whichever is longer.
* They should stay away from other people in their space to avoid spreading the virus to them.
* The SCHD will follow-up with all of their close contacts and ask them to also remain at home per the specified period of time noted below.
* If someone tests positive for COVID-19 in the hospital, they will be isolated in the hospital while they receive treatment.
* If they are well enough to be released, they must remain at home for 72 hours after the end of symptoms (per KDHE Guidance) or 10 days after symptom onset, whichever is longer.
* The SCHD Disease Investigator will help identify all of their close contacts, who will be referred to KDHE for follow-up. This only occurs if the person gives SCHD permission. Close contacts should complete the modified in-home quarantine for the specified period noted below.

If you are deemed a "close contact" of an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 during the event, your next action will be determined based on the information below.

Per Sedgwick Country Public Health guidelines (<https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/covid-19/sampling-information/#positive>), you are a "close contact" if any of the following situations happened while you spent time with a person with COVID-19, even if they didn't have symptoms:

* Were within 6 feet of the person for 10 consecutive minutes or more
* Had contact with the person's respiratory secretions (for example, coughed or sneezed on; kissed; contact with a dirty tissue; shared a drinking glass, food, towels, or other personal items).
* Live with the person or stayed overnight for at least one night in a house with the person.

*7-Day Quarantine - no symptoms and with testing*

* After exposure, monitor yourself for symptoms daily for 14 full days. Infection can still develop through day 14.
* If you have no symptoms by Day 6, get a PCR test using a nasopharyngeal (nose) swab or a saliva sample.
	+ Antigen and antibody tests are NOT allowed for this purpose.
* If the test is negative, and you remain symptom-free, you can leave in-home quarantine after seven full days, which is on Day 8.
* If results are still pending on Day 8, you should remain in-home quarantine until receiving your results.

*10-Day Quarantine - no symptoms and no testing*

* After exposure, monitor yourself for symptoms daily for 14 full days. Infection can still develop through day 14.
* If you have no symptoms during the 10 days, you can be released from quarantine without a test on Day 11.
* People who develop symptoms or who wish to be tested while in quarantine can view the testing locator website to find a testing location near you.
* The SCHD recommends that all close contacts test for COVID-19 at day six or seven of quarantine to ensure viral load is high enough to detect the virus.

**\*Any cost associated with quarantine or travel for an individual deemed a "close contact" or who tests positive for COVID-19 during the event will be the responsibility of their own.**

**Infection Mitigation Procedures**

It is confirmed that all associated with the NWBA, LOC, and host venue will comply with all procedures enforced as part of this document to ensure an event where safety is the top priority.

***All of the following procedures must be adhered to by all event attendees, including but not limited to individuals that have received a COVID-19 vaccine.***

1. **Gameplay**
* Teams are advised to arrive at their court no more than 30 minutes prior to their game time. This includes athletes, team staff and spectators.
* Players should refrain from pre-and post-game handshakes and fist bumps. To show sportsmanship, players may offer a wave to each other.
* The game basketball will be sanitized before the game, during every timeout, between quarters and at halftime, or allow the use of a second ball that has been sanitized.
* The field of play will be limited to staff, medical personnel, officials, athletes who are actively competing, courtside volunteers, and coaches.
* Players should not linger around the court after a game.
1. **Masks & Social Distancing**
* Masks required at all times by all individuals at Wichita Hoops.
* Individuals at the Wichita Sports Forum associated with the NWBA must wear a mask, specifically when in the designated “event space” in the facility.
	+ This mask requirement applies to all individuals on-court: athletes competing, officials officiating, and coaches/table officials/staff volunteers.
* The above mask requirement still applies to any who have been fully vaccinated past the 14-day window at the start of the tournament. Due to the fact that everyone attending will not be fully vaccinated, as an abundance of caution masks will be worn by all to reduce exposure for all and further mitigate spread of COVID-19.
* Athletes on benches or sidelines must be wearing masks.
* Officials must be wearing masks while officiating, electronic whistles are recommended but not required.
* Individuals may remove their masks only when eating/drinking and must put them back on immediately after.
* Event spectators, vendors, facilities staff, and all event attendance within the “event space” must adhere to the event mask requirement as well.
* Spectators and athletes should practice social distancing (maintaining 6 feet of distance from those outside of their family unit or team unit) at gates upon entrance and in all situations when inside the facilities.
* Only athletes and staff of a team are allowed to enter the designated “team storage area”. This helps limit unnecessary or unintended contact with others.
* Vendors that are sponsors and partners of the NWBA will be present on-site at Wichita Hoops and will adhere to these protocols.
1. **Meetings and Assembly’s**
* All mask protocols are expected to be followed during any meetings or banquets at all hotels.
* Anyone speaking or presenting to a group must keep their mask on.
* Meeting rooms will be set up to accommodate proper social distancing.
* Hand sanitizer will be available in all meeting rooms.
1. **Responsibilities of Event Attendees**
* Do not share food or utensils.
* Avoid touching face and nose area.
* Avoid physical contact with others.
* Limit shouting, cheering, or singing – find other ways to show support during competition such as clapping.
* Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, proceed to wash hands or use sanitizer immediately after.
* If an individual begins to experience symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19 during the event they should inform the following parties immediately:

1. Team Staff (if applicable)

2. NWBA staff member

* This communication is critical to ensure contact tracing can begin,
* and then immediately go get tested using the resource provided.
1. **Responsibilities of the Host**
* Attempt to provide separate venue access/egress routes for 1. athletes, coaches, event staff, media, volunteers and 2. spectators.
* The NWBA, LOC, and host venues will obtain approval of safety measures from local government authorities and medical personnel.
* Provide hand sanitizer near areas that are used more often (main hallways, doorways, water fountains) with adjacent trash.
* In some areas the facility and host will provide physical guides such as tape on floors to inform guests of how far apart 6 feet is and where they should be standing or sitting.
* Establish frequent cleaning/disinfecting schedules for janitorial staff (courts, restrooms, sitting areas, bleachers, door handles, sink handles, railings).
* Have informational posters around the venues regarding COVID19 infection.
* Athletic trainers will be on site throughout the entirety of the event at both facilities.
* Will provide livestreaming services to help limit the number of individuals attending the event in-person.

**Additional Resources**

* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>
* <https://www.teamusa.org/coronavirus>
* <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
* <https://www.nwba.org/covid19>
* <https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/>

**National Wheelchair Basketball Association**

[**www.nwba.org**](http://www.nwba.org)

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**For questions, please contact those below:**

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