

**San Diego FTC Region**

**COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy**

**21-22 Season**

**1/1/22**

Overview

Event staff and attendees participating in this event should recognize that any gathering poses an increased risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread. *FIRST®* believes that the best path toward ending the COVID-19 pandemic — and having a successful season — is through vaccination. We strongly recommend everyone who is eligible and has access to a vaccine consult with their physician and get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible.

More information about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines can be found at [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/safety-of-vaccines.html) and the [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/covid-19-vaccines/explainers) websites.

San Diego FTC Region has developed the following COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy to reduce the risk of coronavirus exposure and spread at this event. Safety recommendations are taken from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Coaches’ and Hosts’ Role

The San Diego FTC Region runs successfully with the help of many volunteers. To create the best possible conditions for this season’s events, we will rely on that network of volunteers once again.

**In particular, the region will rely on the registered team coaches to make best efforts to ensure all people associated with their teams (including volunteers, mentors, members, and spectators) follow the policies described here. Similarly, the region will rely on our event hosts to make best efforts to ensure all people associated with hosting the events (including volunteers and spectators not associated with a team) follow the policies described here.**

**Coaches and hosts will be responsible for:**

* **Viewing vaccination status and/or negative test status (see next page) for their respective event participants**
* **Asking health screening questions the morning of the event before team members enter the event site**
* **Distributing and collecting signed San Diego FTC Waiver and Release and Live Event Contact Tracing Forms and providing the signed forms to the event host and/or a San Diego FTC representative for each event.**
* **Signing and submitting the COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy for San Diego FTC Acknowledgement and Affirmation at live events (one form per live event), and**
* **Requesting and distributing wristbands to individuals who meet the event entrance criteria before or on the day of event.**

Event Entry Requirements

Proof of Vaccination or Negative COVID-19 Test

Prior to entering the event, all event staff and attendees will be required to show proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test taken within 48 hours (24hrs preferred) of the start of the event. For team affiliated persons, a registered mentor/coach for that team will validate this requirement. For event affiliated persons, the host or their delegate will validate. Please be advised that a person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or two weeks after one dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or two weeks after completing another approved vaccine. Please provide one of the following:

* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19, or other government-issued vaccination record card, or photo of card.
* Other official immunization record from within or outside the United States, including from your health care provider. A photo or photocopy of this card is also acceptable.
* Evidence of negative COVID-19 test in the 48 hours (24 hrs preferred) preceding the event. At-home anti-gen tests available over the counter at your local pharmacy are acceptable.

Each person who has completed all event entry requirements and is approved to attend the event will receive a wrist band so they can easily move in and out of the venue. **Coaches will distribute wrist bands to team affiliate persons upon validating the requirements above. Hosts will distribute wrist bands to event affiliated persons upon validating the requirements above.**

Pre-Event

Stay Home if you:

* Have tested positive for COVID-19.
* Are waiting for COVID-19 test results.
* Fall under the [Quarantine or Isolation recommendations from the CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html).  This can be due to a recent exposure or recent infection.  Please see [this guidance](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html) to understand what that means for you.
* Are feeling unwell and/or have any of the following [COVID-19 symptoms](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html).
  + Fever or chills
  + Cough
  + Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  + Fatigue
  + Muscle or body aches
  + Headache
  + New loss of taste or smell
  + Sore throat
  + Congestion or runny nose
  + Nausea or vomiting
  + Diarrhea
* Have had [close contact](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html) (within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with a person who has tested positive for or who has symptoms of COVID-19 within the last 14 days, unless you have been fully vaccinated.

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is key to slowing the spread of COVID-19 and helps protect the community by:

* Letting people know they may have been exposed to COVID-19 and should monitor their health for signs and [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html).
* Helping people who may have been exposed to COVID-19 get tested.
* Asking people to [self-isolate](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html#isolation) if they have COVID-19 or develop symptoms of COVID-19 or to [self-quarantine](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html#quarantine) if they are a [close contact.](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html#quarantine)

Prior to the event, all event staff/volunteers, coaches, and team members should register with *FIRST,* complete a “*FIRST* Consent and Release Form,” and coaches should bring the “Team Roster” to the event. All team members (youth and adults) must be listed on the “Team Roster.” During the registration process they will provide their name, phone number, email, and parent or guardian name, phone number, and email if the team member is a minor. Contact information will be accessible to event organizers via the “Team Roster.”

Event attendees will be required to complete and sign **San Diego FTC Waiver and Release and Live Event Contact Tracing Form** and provide contact information prior to entering the event. The contact tracing information will be destroyed 30 days after the event.

If a person who attended this event tests positive for COVID-19, someone from the health department may call you to discuss important COVID-19 information, such as signs and [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html), [testing,](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/diagnostic-testing.html) and [quarantine.](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html) Discussions with health department staff are confidential. This means that your personal and medical information will be kept private and only shared with those who may need to know, like your health care provider.

Please review the information for [what to expect to happen during contact tracing,](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/Contact-Tracing-Infographic-FINAL.pdf) provided by the CDC.

Behavior Requirements

Face Masks

Face masks are required for all event staff and attendees at all times. Masks may be temporarily removed to accommodate eating and drinking, preferably not in indoor areas.

* All event staff and attendees are required to bring their own masks.
* Masks should [fit well](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/mask-fit-and-filtration.html) and be worn completely over the nose and mouth.
* Masks should meet or exceed CDC guidelines.
* The following mask types are **NOT** approved for use at this event:
  + Cloth masks with exhalation valves or vents since they allow respiratory droplets containing the virus to escape.
  + A face shield used alone without a face mask
  + Bandanas
  + Scarves
  + Ski masks
  + Balaclavas

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Hand hygiene should be practiced and encouraged by all event staff and attendees.

* All event staff and attendees should [wash their hands](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html) frequently (for example, before, during, and after check-in, touching garbage, using the restroom) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
* Event staff and attendees should use hand sanitizer, available at hand sanitizing stations throughout the event, including before and after game play or practice field use or any other time that soap and water are not readily available.
* All event staff and attendees should refrain from singing or shouting, especially indoors. Please use alternate ways to celebrate like clapping, dancing, finger-snapping, etc.

Signs and Messages

Comply with all COVID-19 health and safety signs that are displayed in waiting areas, near restrooms, in seating areas, and used to control traffic patterns and entrance and exit points.

Follow event staff instructions related to COVID-19 safety.

Policy Changes and Non-Compliance

Given the current trajectory of the pandemic, these guidelines may change with little notice up to and including event cancellation based on updates from the CDC and state and local health authority guidelines.

The information contained in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. All content, including text and links, are provided for general informational purposes.

Any person entering this event is required to abide by this COVID-19 health and safety policy and the [*FIRST* Code of Conduct.](https://www.firstinspires.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resource_library/volunteer/volunteer-code-of-conduct.pdf) Non-compliance may result in removal from this event and being barred from future participation in *FIRST* activities.