



National Basketball Association

TO: NBA TEAM PRESIDENTS, GENERAL MANAGERS, ARENA GENERAL MANAGERS, TEAM COUNSEL, AND HEADS OF TICKET SALES

**FROM: AMY BROOKS, PRESIDENT, TEAM MARKETING & BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND CHIEF INNOVATION OFFICER
DAVID WEISS, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PLAYER MATTERS**

CC: LEAGUE OFFICE

DATE: NOVEMBER 11, 2020

RE: 2020-21 SEASON PLANNING – PREPARATIONS FOR FANS IN ARENAS

In preparation for the 2020-21 season, and the possibility of some teams beginning to host fans for games, please be advised that the below policy, which is a draft outline that is currently being finalized, is expected to apply to all NBA teams and arenas to begin the season. The purpose of creating these rules is to provide a consistent standard for welcoming fans into arenas in a safe manner that reduces the risk of spread of COVID-19, is consistent with public health goals, and promotes fan confidence in attending NBA games. These draft rules represent uniform leaguewide standards, which teams' arena plans would be required to comply with, and such plans would in turn be subject to approval from any applicable state and local public health authorities.

As discussed on recent calls with the Board of Governors, there are many individual factors and circumstances that could lead a team and its arena to plan for fan attendance in ways that could differ from the policy below. Examples that could potentially justify such an alternate include: local prevalence of the virus, arena configuration differences such as the size or location of suites and clubs, varying HVAC systems, and different approaches to fan testing. As a result of these differences, teams are welcome to present to the league office for approval alternate plans for arena operations and fan attendance that differ from the draft rules below. In addition, because of the rapidly-evolving coronavirus situation, we expect that these rules – once finalized initially in forthcoming arena reset protocols (in the Fan Experience and Basketball Operations sections) – may be modified during the season in order to ensure continued alignment with the current public health situation, scientific knowledge about the virus, and technologies that could enable more fans to safely attend NBA games. The initially finalized rules will also include guidance on submitting an arena plan that differs from the policy below.

If you have any feedback or questions, please contact your NBA Account Manager, Dave Weiss (dweiss@nba.com, 207-713-4455), or me.

2020-21 Season Planning — Recommended Preparations for Fans in Arenas

A. Access Standards

- 1. Symptom and Exposure Survey.** All fans entering the team's arena would be required to complete a pre-arrival or upon-arrival symptom and exposure survey. Sample survey questions will be included in a future section of the arena reset protocols.
- 2. Masks.** All fans over the age of 2 would be required to wear a mask except when actively eating or drinking.
- 3. Physical Distancing.** All fans, regardless of testing status or seat location, would be required to be seated in a physically distant manner from one another (i.e., 6 feet of distance between attendee ticket parties). Fans who are part of the same ticket group/party could be seated together.
- 4. Temperature Checks.** Per evolving medical advice, temperature checks would not be required for fans entering the arena (although teams could perform temperature checks if they were still required by a local health authority or the team otherwise would prefer to continue them).

B. Courtside Configuration

- 1. Bench Configuration.** Subject to league approval, teams would be permitted to determine their own spacing and configuration for team benches. Teams would be advised to set up the benches in as physically distant a manner as possible (i.e., more distant than the traditional configuration), taking into account specific space constraints in their home arenas. It would be recommended that bench seats be a minimum of 3 feet from chair center to center and include approximately 24 seats. Home and away benches would be required to be set up the same way, and seats would be assigned for each game. To assist in setting up individual team configurations, an illustrative team bench demonstrating the proposed set-up is included for reference. Teams would be required to submit their bench configurations to Chris Boghosian (cboghosian@nba.com) for approval by December 1, 2020.
- 2. Scorer's Table.** Only individuals who are essential to operations in that location would be permitted to sit at the scorer's table (maximum of 7 seats), and all such individuals would be required to undergo regular testing. The scorer's table would not require a plexiglass installation surrounding it. Further detail will be provided in the forthcoming 2020-21 season health and safety protocols, arena reset protocols, and related memos.

3. **Fan Testing.** Fans seated within 30 feet of the court (defined as painted baselines and sidelines) would be required to undergo and return a negative coronavirus test that is either (1) a PCR or equivalent test sampled no more than two days prior to the game tip off; or (2) an NBA-approved rapid test (e.g., antigen, LAMP, or isothermal amplification) sampled the day of the game. Additional information regarding testing and verification partnerships is in Section D below.
4. **Fan Distance from the Court.** On all sides of the court, fans would not be permitted on the court apron. A slant ramp would be used from the court to the arena floor.
 - a. **Sideline, Bench Side.** Fans sitting behind the bench could be seated no closer than 15 feet behind the last row of team benches; however, if a team were to install immediately behind the team benches a plexiglass barrier that is at least 8 feet tall, then tested fans could sit directly behind the plexiglass.
 - b. **Sideline, Opposite-Bench Side.** Fans sitting on the side of the court away from the team benches would be required to be seated at least 10 feet from the court.
 - c. **Baselines.** On the baselines, fans could not be seated any closer to the court than each arena's current baseline apron (and in any event fans must be seated at least 10 feet from the court).
5. **Courtside Ingress and Egress.** Fans seated in seats less than 30 feet from the court (who would have been tested) may use the vomitory for entry and exit if their seats typically require entry and exit via the vomitory. Use of the vomitory would be prohibited when players and team staff are using those areas. It would be recommended to teams that they consider installing barriers or enclosures (e.g., plexiglass, vomitory curtains) such that fans cannot come into contact with players in these areas and players have a barrier overhead while walking into a vomitory.

C. Other Fan Seating Locations

1. **Suites/Clubs.** For suites, and clubs that are similar to suites, testing would not be required for fans if the suite/club were filled to 25% capacity or less. Teams would be permitted to increase suite/club capacity to up to 50% if either (i) all fans in the suite/club area were tested (in accordance with Section B.3 above); or (ii) if the local county's COVID-19 7-day average test positivity rate is 3.0% or below and the 7-day average number of new cases

per 100,000 residents is 10 or fewer. It would be recommended that teams have a process to regularly monitor each suite for appropriate fan behavior.

In light of the variation in suite/club spaces across arenas, teams should contact their TMBO NBA Account Manager to (i) discuss whether certain spaces fall under this rule, or (ii) to present a request for an alternate arrangement.

2. **Food & Beverage.** Teams would remain responsible for their food and beverage plans, subject to the following:
 - a. **30-Foot from Court.** Food and beverages could not be consumed in seats that are within 30 feet of the court (ticketholders in such seats would be able to consume food and beverages in club spaces or concourses that are not in the bowl).
 - b. **Concourses.** For indoor concourses, food and beverage consumption would be limited to fixed standing and seated positions and restaurants and other spaces adjacent to concessions would be limited to 25% of capacity. Teams would be required to have staff dedicated to enforcing social distancing measures in these areas.
 - c. **Individual consumption.** In all areas where food and beverage is offered, food should be prepared and served for individual consumption (i.e., self-serve buffets in clubs/suites would not be permitted).

D. Testing and Verification Partnerships

To assist teams with welcoming fans safely into arenas, and to enable compliance with the draft policy above, we are in the process of entering into partnership frameworks with leading testing providers that would provide testing options for teams at agreed-upon prices, inventory levels, turn-around-times, and operational program standards. Interested teams would enter into one or more contract(s) with any of these testing providers. Additional information on these partnerships, including next steps for teams to begin engaging with the testing providers, is expected to be available to teams next week.

Additionally, the league is in the process of finalizing a partnership framework with a leading identity and health verification provider that would provide teams with an option for managing fan health screening and streamlining arena operations via a secure platform at an agreed-upon price. Interested teams would enter into a contract with this provider. Additional information on this partnership is expected to be available to teams next week.

Bench Configuration
(with plexiglass)

