

Mizuno Northern Lights Qualifier
May, 2021
COVID-19 Protocols (as of 4-25-21)

To: Club Directors, Parents, & Coaches,

The Mizuno Northern Lights Qualifier will be following a set of protocols that are outlined below. With the COVID-19 situation still being highly fluid and infection rates climbing in many places, these protocols could change at any point in time, up to and including during the event.

Playing Sites Protocols

- Northern Lights will comply with all State and Local directives.
- Face Mask must be worn at all times (players on court see below). This applies to everyone coming into the facility. There are no exceptions.
- Face Shields are not an acceptable alternative for players due to safety concerns. A coach may wear a face shield in addition to their face mask.
- Face Shields may be worn by spectators in addition to a face mask.
- Hand sanitizers will be available at each court score table.
- Hand sanitizers will be available throughout the other public areas of the convention center.

Modified On Court Mask Rules as of 4-29-21:

For the past 10 days we have been tracking the COVID positive test rates in Omaha.

They have declined significantly.

Because of this we are modifying the “On Court” mask rules for players who are actively playing on the court. The new rule is:

- Before the match begins, the coaches for two playing teams and the officiating team should meet and discuss the wearing of masks by the players on the court. If all 3 agree to allow the players to not have a mask on when actively playing on the court, then either or both of the playing teams may play without a mask.
- If any of the three teams involved in the match do not agree to allow the players to play without a mask, then both playing teams are required to wear a mask while playing.
- The officiating team will always wear their mask regardless of the playing teams’ status.
- Players who are not actively on the court must wear their mask while on the bench. The exception is the active Libero who moves on and off the court frequently.

- This rule is for this weekend only. It will be reevaluated again on Thursday before each weekend of the NL Qualifier.

Competition and Social Distancing Protocols:

- No handshaking before or after matches. There will be no Pre-match wave. Post-match all teams will wave Thank you to the other team.
- Teams and Spectators will not rotate sides of the court. They will stay on the same side throughout the entire match.
- Per the 2021 USAV Championship manual the tie breaking procedure will basically be based on Match %, Head to Head, Set %, & Point %. There will be no tie breaking playoff matches at any level.
- Face masks are to be worn at all times. This applies to everyone in the facility. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- Drinking fountains in the facility may be shutdown. We suggest teams/players bring extra water bottles in their bags. The CHI Center prohibits outside coolers being brought into the facility.
- Teams are responsible to provide their own warm-up balls.
- The scorer's table will be equipped with hand sanitizer and wipes.
- Two people will be permitted at the scorer's table. One person to keep the scoresheet, and one person to be the libero tracker and also flip the score.
- The bench area will consist of 5 convention center chairs on each side of the court.
- Officiating teams will provide two score persons at the table, two line judges, one score flipper for the 2nd scoreboard, and one R2 for each match.
- R2 for each match must be an adult on the roster who is wearing a mask. It is preferred that this official have a handheld whistle. This official is responsible for wiping down the table, writing utensils, and flip score.
- Spectators will be allowed at each court where the chairs are placed. The chairs will be spaced apart and should not be moved.
- Spectators may also stand in open areas providing they maintain an acceptable social distance from other spectators.
- Teams who are off or players who are not officiating should leave the court area and find a place in other parts of the building to wait for their next match.
- On Sunday, once your team is done playing in the tournament and your referee assignment has been completed you should leave the playing area. Sunday is our highest occupancy day and we need to minimize the

number of persons in the playing area that day.

- Teams will be limited to one head coach and two assistant coaches per team. NO other adults are allowed on a team bench. The maximum roster size for players on this event is 15.

Spectator Attendance:

The current limitations on the maximum number of people allowed in the playing sites by State & Local Governmental rules is such that based on our normal attendance at these events we currently do not have to limit attendance.

We do however highly recommend that no more than 2 adults per player attend as spectators. To keep our numbers down we are requesting that non-playing children are not brought to this event. Also, in consideration of the COVID-19 situation we recommend that persons not attend if they are considered by the CDC as "high risk".

Spectators must wear a face mask at all times. A face shield alone is not an acceptable alternative. However, a face shield may be worn in addition to a face mask by a spectator or coach.

Being Vaccinated is not a substitute for a wearing a mask.

There are no exceptions to the face mask rules. Persons unable to wear a wear a face mask due to "medical" or other reasons will need to enjoy the tournament at alternate locations by watching the live stream provide by BallerTV. The link to the BallerTV live stream will be posted on the Northern Lights Qualifier website the week prior to the event.