



College Squash Association (CSA) COVID-19 Guidelines – 2021-2022 Season (Updated Jan. 14, 2022)

Shown below are College Squash Association's current guidelines related to COVID-19 mitigation on member institutions' campuses. These guidelines apply to all CSA teams – both varsity and club. In cases where CSA has not stated a requirement, state, local, and institutional policies take precedence, but it is expected that institutions will consult CSA (and US Squash) guidance in squash-specific situations.

When discrepancies arise in COVID-19 policies between two competing teams, the policy of the home team or the host venue/locality will apply. If a policy disagreement threatens the viability of a match and a resolution cannot be reached, teams should alert the CSA League Commissioner.

For full squash participation policies published by the national governing body, US Squash, please visit [this site](#).

Vaccine Requirements

For the 2021-2022 season, the CSA will require all student-athletes, athletics personnel, and match officials to be fully vaccinated with a CDC-authorized COVID-19 vaccine. CSA's definition of "Fully vaccinated" matches the definition [updated by the NCAA](#) on Jan. 6, 2022. This includes the expectation that team players and personnel receive a booster vaccine as soon as they are eligible.

Student-athletes and athletics personnel can apply for an exemption from the vaccination requirement for medical or religious reasons only. A student-athlete's eligibility for such a waiver will be decided by the institution at which they are enrolled.

Athletics Sports Medicine personnel at member institutions are responsible for ensuring that non-vaccinated individuals fully comply with their institution's policy for testing and masking of non-vaccinated individuals. Each institution must attest that all institutional representatives have been either vaccinated or tested in accordance with this policy.

Testing

All *vaccinated* individuals affiliated with CSA teams must participate in the expected testing regimen of their institution. If, for example, only a percentage of vaccinated students are selected for testing at a school each week, CSA student-athletes must be included in the pool of students who could be selected for testing.

Individuals affiliated with CSA teams who are *not fully vaccinated* should participate in a weekly PCR/NAAT testing plan or a three-times-per-week antigen testing regimen. If the non-vaccinated player's team has a competition(s) during a week, the player must have a negative test result in hand before traveling to the site of competition.

- If the negative result came from a PCR test, the test must have been administered within 72 hours (3 days) of the team's first match start time.
- If that result came from a rapid antigen test, the test(s) must be administered via the testing program within 24 hours (1 days) of **each** match start time.

CSA is not currently mandating full test reporting, but the Association does expect that all coaches and student-athletes will act appropriately to protect the health and safety of the college squash community.



If a positive case is detected within a team, CSA expects any other team member or coach who came in contact with that individual to immediately initiate a testing plan and whatever quarantine period that may be required, if any.

CSA Championships Testing Policy: In line with CSA's status as an organization following US Squash regulations, where the CSA Championships are considered accredited national championships, the CSA expects all Championship participants to test prior to their event according to these protocols:

- Every player and coach must submit evidence of a negative COVID test overseen by medical personnel (PCR or rapid antigen) taken within 2 calendar days of the team's time of departure to the tournament. One recommended way to fulfill this requirement would be for every member of the travel party to receive a confirmed negative result via a rapid antigen test administered by an athletic trainer prior to leaving campus for the competition, *OR*
- Participants who tested positive for COVID-19 in the 90 days prior to their event must show documentation of recovery in place of a negative test result.
- If a player or coach tests positive via the aforementioned testing plan directly prior to the championship, they will not be permitted to attend the event. Anyone recently recovering from a positive case must be cleared from isolation by a medical professional before attending.
- If a member of the traveling party feels any COVID-19 symptoms at any point after departing campus, they should immediately isolate and take an approved COVID-19 test as soon as possible.

Protocols for incidents or changes occurring during the Championships will be published closer to the dates of competition.

Masking

All CSA players, coaches, and spectators must wear a mask at all times when they are not on court. Players who are on court for a match may play without a mask if they are fully vaccinated and not still within the window of recovery. Players who are granted a vaccine exemption for medical or religious reasons must wear a mask at all times, whether on or off court. **This masking policy may be superseded by institutional policies or local ordinances.*

CSA will make every effort possible to stage the championship events at venues where masking while playing on court is not required. Depending on the public health conditions at the time, this may be unavoidable.

Competitions

All COVID-19 cases that could impact the viability of CSA competitions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the CSA League Commissioner in consultation with the campus administrators involved and the Chair of the CSA Rules & Regulations Committee.

If a team is unable to field a starting lineup with at least seven (7) of the top 12 players from the team's full ladder, the following steps must take place:

- 1) Team administrators, coaches, and/or team captains must notify the CSA League Commissioner immediately (i.e., as soon as it becomes known that medical conditions could adversely affect the ability of a team to compete).



- 2) If the result of the team's conditions is that a team cannot start at least seven (7) healthy top-12 players, team administrators, coaches, or team captains must submit to the CSA League Commissioner medical documentation signed by a campus health administrator verifying that the team cannot compete due to the medical condition or related impact (for example, quarantine regulations).
 - a. If a full campus is closed or a local authority prevents a team from traveling or competing, formal notice of that closure or prohibition should take the place of the medical documentation.
 - b. If medical documentation is not provided, the team with the outbreak may have to forfeit the contest.
 - c. An institution will be presumed able to field a team for the scheduled contest as long as it has seven (7) healthy rostered players from its top 12 available. CSA will make the final determination if teams disagree about the ability for the match to proceed as scheduled.

- 3) If a match is not playable because too many players are ruled out by the athletic trainer due to COVID-19 implications, team administrators (or their designees) from the involved schools must agree to a rescheduled competition date.
 - a. The decision about the rescheduled contest must be made within three days of the cancellation
 - b. If teams are not able to find a new contest date within the three-day window, the CSA League Commissioner will convene with team administrators to determine a date for the rescheduled match.
 - c. If teams are not able to agree to a new competition date, the CSA League Commissioner will make the final decision about the contest. If a new competition date is not feasible, the match will be deemed a "no contest" without any reflection on the team rankings.

- 4) All competitions – both scheduled and rescheduled – must be played by no later than the Sunday evening prior to the respective team championship events.

For varsity teams, the minimum number of matches required to qualify for the National Collegiate Team Championships remains at 10. The CSA League Commissioner will evaluate situations on a case-by-case basis if a team falls below the minimum number of matches solely due to unexpected constraints like a medical outbreak or restricted travel conditions.

For club teams, the minimum number of matches required to qualify for the Club Team Championships is 6, with at least 4 of those contests coming against different opponents. The same considerations around unexpected constraints may be applied to club teams.

Returning to the Lineup

When a player is ready to return to their team's lineup after recovering from an illness or injury, coaches should refer to the following steps while using their best reasonable and fair judgment to place the player in the lineup appropriately:

- 1) In order to return to a lineup, a player must receive medical clearance from their team's doctor.



- 2) The returning player cannot re-enter the lineup in a position higher on the ladder than when they left, unless there is a documented challenge match which supports that move.
- 3) CSA encourages all players returning to a lineup to play in at least 1 challenge match before the next competition, but we understand that that may not always be feasible.
- 4) If, after exchanging lineups prior to a match, a coach wants to raise a concern about the position of a returning player (or any other player), they should write a quick message to the CSA League Commissioner with details about the concern. Coaches on site should discuss the concern and the rationale for the placement of the player(s). The CSA League Commissioner can help broker the conversation, if necessary, after the coaches' discussion.
- 5) Coaches must be explicit with opposing coaches about how they are using the #10 position on the ladder. If the players at #10 are playing in the correct team order, that match can and should be entered on Club Locker as part of the team score report. However, if one of the players playing in the #10 match is playing out of order for any reason (returning from illness/injury, low roster numbers, etc.), their coach should be clear about that arrangement and the #10 match score should not be entered on Club Locker.

Match Introductions

CSA teams are very strongly discouraged from staging match introductions on court with all participants present in one place, as has traditionally been done. Coaches/Captains are encouraged to be creative and thoughtful about ways to introduce the player matchups while maintaining proper social distancing.

Match Officials

CSA expects all match officials to be fully vaccinated prior to working at a college competition. CSA will not accept vaccination exemption requests from match officials during the 2021-2022 season.

Spectators

The decision to allow spectators to watch an intercollegiate squash match in person will be left to the discretion of the institution which is hosting the contest. CSA member institutions should consider limiting the number of spectators who have access to the squash court area (2 spectators per player is a recommended starting point). Further, if spectators are allowed to attend, CSA recommends that players and spectators remain separated in the facility to the extent that it is possible.

Again, any spectators in attendance should wear masks at all times while in the host facility.

These policies are subject to change based on national, statewide, and local medical conditions, as well as guidance from institutional leaders, US Squash, and the NCAA.