



## **2021 DESERT CHALLENGE GAMES COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Arizona Disabled Sports is committed to protecting the health and safety of athletes, staff, officials, and volunteers at our 2021 Desert Challenge Games. In collaboration with U.S. Paralympics Track & Field (USPTF) and the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) we have diligently reviewed recommendations regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and have outlined protocols that will be enforced as preventative measures to reduce the risk of acquiring COVID-19 while attending the Desert Challenge Games. We appreciate your cooperation in adhering to these protocols to help us host a safe and successful competition!

### **PRIOR TO ARRIVAL**

Athletes, coaches, guide runners, officials, classifiers, volunteers, and staff travelling domestically must provide one of the following documents prior to arrival at the 2021 Desert Challenge Games:

- A. Proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of arrival to the Phoenix area.
- B. Documentation from a physician that they contracted COVID-19 within 90 days of competition and are currently symptom free.
- C. Proof of being fully vaccinated (per the CDC, people are considered fully vaccinated two (2) weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or two (2) weeks after a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine).

Athletes, coaches, and guide runners travelling internationally must provide one of the following documents prior to arrival at the 2021 Desert Challenge Games:

- A. Proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of arrival to the Phoenix area.
- B. Documentation from a physician that they contracted COVID-19 within 90 days of competition and are currently symptom free.

Proof of a negative COVID-19 test, physician documentation of a positive COVID-19 case now symptom-free, or proof of vaccination must be submitted to [covid@arizonadisabledsports.com](mailto:covid@arizonadisabledsports.com). If you are unsure where to obtain a COVID-19 test locally, Arizona State University (ASU) offers free saliva tests with a 48-hour result turnaround time. More information regarding ASU's test locations can be found by visiting [https://asubioempportal.pointclick.com/login\\_login.aspx](https://asubioempportal.pointclick.com/login_login.aspx)

While it is not required, we encourage anyone who is able to be vaccinated does so within enough time for the vaccine to take full effect before attending the competition. In rare cases, individuals have contracted COVID-19 after being fully vaccinated.

If anyone planning to attend the 2021 Desert Challenge Games feels ill and is showing symptoms of COVID-19 prior to arrival we ask that you not attend the event. The CDC recommends that “staying at home is the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19,” and as we continue to do our best to host a safe competition for all involved, we hope for your cooperation with our health and safety measures. Anyone entering a Desert Challenge Games facility will be required to complete a COVID-19 assessment before being allowed into the venue.

Anyone attending the 2021 Desert Challenge Games should fully review the COVID-19 protocols contained in this document and view our brief COVID-19 educational video to ensure awareness of these safety measures and to prevent non-compliance.

### **AT THE COMPETITION**

As the 2021 Desert Challenge Games will take place in three locations in Mesa, Arizona, we have provided detailed information on what to expect upon arrival and throughout the competition. Please note, all athletes, coaches, guide runners, officials, volunteers, and staff over the age of two (2) years old are required to wear a face mask while in the competition venue and while waiting to access the competition venue. The following are NOT acceptable face coverings based on current guidance from health authorities:

- Neck gaiters
- Open-chin triangle bandanas
- Face coverings containing valves, mesh material or holes of any kind
- Costume masks

Individuals that have trouble breathing or have a health condition where covering the nose and mouth with a face mask poses a safety or security risk will not be required to wear a face mask. Athletes and guide runners do not need to wear a face mask when actively competing. Anyone that is unable to wear a standard face mask must plan to provide a face covering that covers their nose and mouth. If you believe that you fall into this category, please reach out to the Event Director – Taylor Wilson ([taylor@arizonadisabledsports.com](mailto:taylor@arizonadisabledsports.com)) to discuss further.

All athletes, coaches, guide runners, officials, volunteers, and staff must maintain the recommended social distancing of six (6) feet. The following exclusions apply:

- When an athlete requires assistance onto a piece of adaptive equipment

- Those assisting an athlete in this manner must clean their hands with hand sanitizer prior to assisting the athlete
- When an athlete is actively preparing for an event with their coach or guide runner

### **TRACK & FIELD**

*May 28 – 30: Westwood High School – 945 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Mesa, AZ 85201*

It is imperative that all athletes, coaches, guide runners, officials, volunteers, and staff be mindful of the various signage located throughout the event venue to ensure compliance with our COVID-19 measures. Three entrances will be provided to 1) athletes, coaches, and guide runners, 2) officials, volunteers, and staff, and 3) spectators to minimize traffic areas and allow for appropriate time for completion of a verbal COVID-19 assessment. If an individual answers “Yes” to any of the following COVID-19 assessment questions, they will not be permitted to enter the venue:

- In the last 48 hours, have you:
  - Developed a new cough, experienced shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing?
  - Had a fever of 100.4 F or higher?
  - Experienced chills, body aches, a runny nose, congestion, or a sore throat?
  - Lost your sense of taste or smell?
  - Developed gastrointestinal issues such as diarrhea?
- Have you had a positive COVID-19 test in the last 14 days?
- Have you been exposed to anyone with known or suspected COVID-19 infection in the past 14 days?

### *Onsite Rapid Testing*

Athletes scheduled for a classification appointment must receive an onsite COVID-19 rapid test within 24 hours of their classification appointment and an additional COVID-19 rapid test within 24 hours of their competition. **All athletes, coaches, guide runners, officials, and staff participating in the Track & Field competition must receive an onsite COVID-19 rapid test in addition to submitting COVID-19 documentation prior to the competition.** Due to the Track & Field competition serving as a qualifier for the Tokyo Paralympic Games, onsite rapid COVID-19 testing of all athletes, coaches, guide runners, officials, and staff is a requirement. Anyone that tests positive for COVID-19 will not be allowed into the venue and will be asked to immediately go to a healthcare facility for evaluation. A list of local healthcare facilities will be provided. If a test is positive or indeterminate, the test is not automatically regarded as negative. A second test will be performed to obtain a clear positive or negative result. If it is determined that an individual testing positive for COVID-19 needs to quarantine, they must do so at their own expense. Rapid tests will be provided at no cost thanks to the support of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee.

### *Athletes & Guide Runners*

- Athletes and guide runners must wear a mask while not actively competing. Masks may be removed after an athlete or guide runner is at the start line for their track event or prior to throwing at a field event.
- Upon completing their race/event, athletes and guide runners must re-mask before exiting the track/field.
- Social distancing is mandatory throughout the venue.
- No warmup clothing or personal items may be worn or brought to the starting line or throwing pit.

### *Volunteers*

- Volunteers must wear a mask at all times and adhere to social distancing guidelines, with the exception of assisting athletes to the start line or field pit.
  - Volunteers must wash their hands/clean their hands with hand sanitizer prior to assisting.
- Volunteers will be utilized heavily for the retrieval and disinfection of field implements and other event supplies used during competition. Disinfection procedures include:
  - Removing and disinfecting blocks prior to every use on the track
  - Retrieving field implements and disinfecting between athlete use
  - Spraying and wiping down surfaces throughout the venue to prevent potential cross contamination between athletes or others in attendance (jumping mat, tables, chairs, etc.)
- Volunteers assisting with disinfection procedures will wear gloves while conducting those activities.
- Volunteers will assist in enforcing the COVID-19 protocols contained in this document. Should challenges arise with any attendees refusing to adhere to the COVID-19 protocols for the 2021 Desert Challenge Games, volunteers should elevate the issue to the Volunteer Manager, Ashley Helmi, who may provide assistance and, if deemed necessary, may remove the individual from the venue.

### **ARCHERY**

*May 30: Westwood High School – 945 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Mesa, AZ 85201*

A separate entrance will be provided for entry into the Archery Competition. It is imperative that masks be worn and social distancing measures be following while awaiting entry into the facility. Completion of a verbal COVID-19 assessment will be required for all athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and staff entering the Archery Competition. If an individual answers “Yes” to any of the following COVID-19 assessment questions, they will not be permitted to enter the venue:

- In the last 48 hours, have you:
  - Developed a new cough, experiences shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing?

- Had a fever of 100.4 F or higher?
- Experienced chills, body aches, a runny nose, congestion, or a sore throat?
- Lost your sense of taste or smell?
- Developed gastrointestinal issues such as diarrhea?
- Have you had a positive COVID-19 test in the last 14 days?
- Have you been exposed to anyone with known or suspected COVID-19 infection in the past 14 days?

#### *Athletes & Coaches*

- Athletes must wear a face mask at all times, except when at their assigned target.
- Coaches must wear a face mask at all times.
- Athletes and coaches must adhere to social distancing guidelines at all times.
  - All targets will be more than six (6) feet apart to ensure proper adherence to social distancing guidelines.
- It is recommended that athletes bring their own equipment. If bows/arrows are to be shared among athletes, they will be disinfected between use.

#### *Volunteers*

- Volunteers must wear a mask at all times and adhere to social distancing guidelines, with the exception of assisting an athlete to their shooting lane.
  - Volunteers must wash their hands/clean their hands with hand sanitizer prior to assisting.
- Volunteers will be primarily utilized to assist with scoring and retrieve arrows during competition. Gloves must be worn when retrieving arrows.
  - If any equipment is being shared among athletes, volunteers must disinfect equipment between use.
- Volunteers will assist in enforcing the COVID-19 protocols contained in this document. Should challenges arise with any attendees refusing to adhere to the COVID-19 protocols for the 2021 Desert Challenge Games, volunteers should elevate the issue to the Volunteer Manager, Ashley Helmi, who may provide assistance and, if deemed necessary, may remove the individual from the venue.

#### **AIR PISTOL & RIFLE**

*May 27: Broadway Recreation Center – 59 E. Broadway Road, Mesa, AZ 85210*

The Broadway Recreation Center is an indoor facility, which poses a greater threat to spreading and or contracting COVID-19. Therefore, it is imperative to follow the safety measures contained in this document to prevent infection. All athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and staff will utilize a single point of entry into the venue. To increase air-flow throughout the venue, doors will remain open throughout the competition. Masks must be worn while waiting to enter the facility and social distancing of six (6) feet should be maintained. Completion of a verbal COVID-19 assessment will be required for all athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and

staff entering the Air Pistol & Rifle Clinic and Competition. If an individual answers “Yes” to any of the following COVID-19 assessment questions, they will not be permitted to enter the venue:

- In the last 48 hours, have you:
  - Developed a new cough, experiences shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing?
  - Had a fever of 100.4 F or higher?
  - Experienced chills, body aches, a runny nose, congestion, or a sore throat?
  - Lost your sense of taste or smell?
  - Developed gastrointestinal issues such as diarrhea?
- Have you had a positive COVID-19 test in the last 14 days?
- Have you been exposed to anyone with known or suspected COVID-19 infection in the past 14 days?

To increase safety measures, plexiglass barriers will be located between each shooting lane.

#### *Athletes & Coaches*

- Athletes must wear a mask at all times, except while actively shooting. Athletes must re-mask while NOT actively shooting.
- Coaches must wear a mask at all times.

#### *Volunteers*

- Volunteers must wear a face mask at all times.
- Volunteers must follow social distancing measures at all times, with the exception of assisting an athlete to their shooting lane.
  - Volunteers must wash their hands/clean their hands with hand sanitizer prior to assisting.
- Volunteers will disinfect and wipe down all shooting service in between athlete use, including tables, chairs/stools, plexiglass barriers, and any adaptive equipment being utilized by multiple athletes.
- Volunteers will assist in enforcing the COVID-19 protocols contained in this document. Should challenges arise with any attendees refusing to adhere to the COVID-19 protocols for the 2021 Desert Challenge Games, volunteers should elevate the issue to the Volunteer Manager, Ashley Helmi, who may provide assistance and, if deemed necessary, may remove the individual from the venue.

#### **SWIM**

*May 26: Kino Aquatic Center – 848 N. Horne Road, Mesa, AZ 85203*

As with all other competitions being held throughout the 2021 Desert Challenge Games, athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and staff will be required to always wear a face mask, practice social distancing, and complete a verbal COVID-19 assessment. If an individual answers “Yes” to any of the following COVID-19 assessment questions, they will not be permitted to enter the venue:

- In the last 48 hours, have you:
  - Developed a new cough, experiences shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing?
  - Had a fever of 100.4 F or higher?
  - Experienced chills, body aches, a runny nose, congestion, or a sore throat?
  - Lost your sense of taste or smell?
  - Developed gastrointestinal issues such as diarrhea?
- Have you had a positive COVID-19 test in the last 14 days?
- Have you been exposed to anyone with known or suspected COVID-19 infection in the past 14 days?

#### *Athletes & Coaches*

- Athletes must wear a mask at all times, except when at the starting blocks or in the water.
- Coaches must wear a mask at all times and practice social distancing, except when assisting their athlete into the water.
- Athletes should place their face mask in a Ziplock bag (provided at athlete check in) which will be labeled with their name to prevent confusion. A container will be provided on the bulkhead opposite the starting blocks for each athlete to place their sealed Ziplock bag into after they remove their mask.
- There will be a one-way traffic flow of athletes on the pool bulkhead to adhere to the safety measures contained in this document.
- Warm-up clothing or personal items (with the exception of a face mask) will not be permitted on the bulkhead.
- Locker rooms WILL NOT be available. Athletes will need to come to the competition ready to swim.

#### *Volunteers*

- Volunteers must wear a mask at all times.
- Volunteers must practice social distancing at all times, with the exception of assisting an athlete into the water.
  - Volunteers must wash/clean their hands with sanitizer prior to assisting.
- Volunteers will disinfect starting blocks, containers, chairs, and other items after each use.

### **THANK YOU**

We sincerely thank you for your involvement with our 2021 Desert Challenge Games. This event is an incredible opportunity for adaptive athletes to experience competition and continue their adaptive sports journey, potentially to the Tokyo Paralympic Games! While we understand the changing environment COVID-19 presents, we want nothing more than to host a safe competition for everyone involved and appreciate your assistance in helping us do so. Thank you for joining us at our upcoming 2021 Desert Challenge Games!