



2021 Triple Crown NIT

February 11-16, 2021

COVID-19 Protocols

Dear Club Directors, Parents, & Coaches,

The current COVID-19 pandemic has altered many daily activities and routines. Our mission to return will be done by taking multiple steps to ensure all programs are in a safe environment to play.

We have been in constant dialogue with Kansas City Convention Center, local health departments, and Visit KC, to ensure the Triple Crown NIT will be a success, and safe for everyone traveling to KC . Our goal is to keep the format the same as previous years but we will limit team numbers to ensure safety. The steps we are outlining are taken proactively and based on current information.

Triple Crown will monitor the COVID 19 pandemic as we get closer to the event dates. The extraordinary measures we are taking will ensure every participant the most successful experience possible. We are taking these measures independently and proactively and the measures/protocols could change prior to the event.

Convention Center Onsite Plan:

- Comply with all State and Local directives.
- Face Mask must be worn at all time: this applies to anyone allowed entrance into the facility.
- Limit the number of people in the facility to comply with local guidance. (We are not going to limit the number of college recruiters, spectators, or roster sizes but limit the team numbers to ensure safety and quality of the event).
- The entrance and exits will be clearly marked for each Hall including walk way signs.
- Create and display signage outlining the event and building COVID-19 guidelines.
- Ample hand sanitizers will be available throughout the event areas.
- Volleyball Courts will be spaced a minimum **of 15 to 25 feet apart.**
- All Entrants will enter through a set of doors and then exit through a completely

different set of doors. Utilizing airwalls between halls so spectators aren't following between courts but utilizing the space in both Lobby 2100 and Lobby 2200.

Social Distancing Guidelines:

- No handshaking before or after matches. All teams will wave and do a cheer with their opponent's club name following the match.
- Teams and Spectators will not rotate sides of the court. They will stay on the same side throughout the entire match.
- Due to the current COVID-19 situation in Kansas City, Triple Crown Volleyball staff have decided to require anyone in the convention center, including players on the court, to wear a mask at all times. We will continue to monitor this situation as we get closer to the event.
- Practice proper hygiene! WASH YOUR HANDS!
- Water Stations will not be provided in 2021. Highly encourage teams to bring extra water bottles in their bags. No large outside coolers will be allowed in the facility.
- Teams are responsible to provide their own warm-up balls in 2021. NO BALL CARTS are allowed in the facility and teams must store balls in their own bag once warmups are completed.
- The officiating team must provide their own writing utensils. The same two people must be at the score table during the entire match. The libero tracker will also flip the score.
- The bench area will consist of 3 convention center chairs on each side of the court.
- Each team must provide a holding box or container for mask when they aren't being used during a match ie for the players that are on the court playing in the match.
- Table and flip score must be wiped down after the match. TC will provide wipes and cleaning solutions.
- Officiating teams will only provide line judges. No flags will be used. Same line judge on each side of the net for the entire match!
- R2 for each match must be an adult on the roster who is wearing a mask. We prefer this official have a hand held whistle. This official is responsible for wiping down the table, flip score, and any game ball entering the game before or after the match. Wearing gloves is recommended.
- Our TC Sanitization Team will be floating between 10 to 12 courts in one area. They will spray down chairs and high touched areas throughout all wave session. They will set up a tournament desk in each hall of the convention center.
- Courts to be cleaned in between AM & PM wave – extra time will be built in on the schedule to allow this time. AM wave will start at 730am and spectators won't be allowed in until 630am. PM teams and spectators will not be allowed to enter the facility until 245pm. PM wave will start at 330pm and ALL spectators must leave once their session is done.
- Game Balls to be wiped after each match. 2 Game Balls to be on each court so if a

is hit away from the court it is wiped down before it can be used in the game.

- Spectator area on each court will be outlined on their side of the court where their team will be playing. The chairs will be spaced 3ft apart and the college coach recruiting area will also be outlined per court with no chairs to sit in.
- Teams who are off or officiating must utilize space in Lobby 2100, 2200, and hallways while waiting for their game. No migrating around the court! Court attendant will text team rep updates on score so they can return to their court to play the next match.
- During Monday bracket play: Once your team is done playing in the tournament and your referee assignment has been completed you are MANDATED TO leave the convention center playing area floor.

Attendance: TC is limiting the number of teams in the event in order follow the protocol/formula's that have been deemed safe to have in the Convention Center during our event. We are keeping the attendance number down so parents, families, and college coaches can attend the event without any limitations.

- All spectators must purchase gate passes online. **No tickets** will be sold on site. NO CASH ON SITE at TC Digs Store. We recommended a maximum of 2 spectators per player on roster. Any spectators that are high risk should consider refraining from attending this event.
- All spectators will receive a certain color wristband that represents what age group they are associated to. They won't be able to enter the convention center until their color wristband is allowed in to watch. For example, if the 18u team is playing in the AM wave the spectator would receive a blue wristband and they could enter the building at 630am but if you are a 15u team spectator you would get an orange wristband and you couldn't enter until 300pm. All blue wristbands must leave the facility at the conclusion of their session.
- We recommend concessions, food trucks and vendors only take credit card transactions.
- TC Digs Store will allow 35 shoppers in the store at one time. TC Digs store could be on show floor or in a conference room in Lobby 2100 or 2200 (TBD).
- All college recruiters must sign up to recruit through Triple Crown Sports.
- Teams will be limited to one head coach and two assistant coaches per team. NO other adults are allowed on a team bench.
- All spectators will be traced through online roster process and gate pass purchase.

Watch Remotely

- MVP Cast Info – One Videographer per team to video each game. Two video stream will be allowed for each game. The Team Manager who is the videographer will be trained on their duties and will receive a complimentary pass to the NIT. More details on this will come out in the coming months.

Usage of airwalls

- Airwalls will be utilized at necessary. Using the airwalls will allow us to properly construct each area that will coincide with the provided guidelines to practice safe social distancing.

Hotel Room Precautions – Stay to Play:

- The hotels contracted through Triple Crown have committed to a thorough cleaning of rooms prior to each guest's arrival. As always, we encourage athletes to share hotel rooms with their parents or close family members only if at all possible.
- Hotel staffs are taking each and every precaution on a daily basis to ensure that they meet the latest guidance on hygiene and cleaning. The contracted hotels' health and safety measures are designed to address a broad spectrum of viruses, including COVID-19, and include everything from hand-washing hygiene and cleaning product specifications to guest room and common area cleaning procedures.

Visit your hotel's website for specific protocols

- Triple Crown NIT is a stay to play event and we have taken extreme caution regarding COVID protocols when contracting hotels and placing teams at those properties.

Transportation to from Airport:

- NIT staff is currently working with Overland Chauffeured Services to provide safe and clean transportation for spectators to use from MCI Airport to the Convention Center on Friday, February 12th and Monday, February 15th. More details on this will come out in the coming months.