

NERVA/JVC Best Practices at Mohegan Sun Amid COVID-19

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The purpose of this document is to provide direct information on how NERVA/JVC would operate a convention center volleyball event at the Mohegan Sun Casino within the current infectious disease climate. This document has been developed from the collaboration from some of the industry's largest event directors to benefit to all in attendance.

Many of these recommendations are based upon current guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USAV Volleyball, various youth sport industry leaders and organizations, USOPC and other local and Federal government agencies.

Pre-Event Planning:

- Designate a staff member to monitor state and local government websites for updates and changes to guidelines
- Select an Event Management Team (to include a medical staff member) which has the authority to modify, restrict, postpone or cancel the event.
- Obtain approval for the event from local and state government authorities
- Work closely with county and state public health authorities throughout the event planning process to obtain the most accurate information regarding the local COVID-19 situation.
- Facilitate the sharing of information between the Event Management Team, Medical Team and facility/city public safety health authorities.
 - Ensure coordination of public health resources
 - Make certain proper public health policies and procedures are followed
- Recognize "At risk" categories based on federal and state guidelines DISCOURAGED from attending if not having completed the vaccination process:
 - 65 years of age
 - Moderate to severe asthma
 - Chronic lung disease
 - Serious heart conditions
 - Immunocompromised
 - Severe obesity
 - Diabetes
 - Liver disease
 - Living in a nursing home or long-term care facility

Facility Cleaning & Services:

- Plans for cleaning and care:
 - [CLICK HERE for Mohegan Sun Casino protocols: https://mohegansun.com/content/dam/mohegansun/PDF/Misc/MSCT-safety-operational-plan.pdf](https://mohegansun.com/content/dam/mohegansun/PDF/Misc/MSCT-safety-operational-plan.pdf)
 - Hand sanitizing stations provided at entrances/exits and throughout the facility
 - Additional supplies of soap and towels in restrooms
 - Signage planned throughout the facility
 - Physical distancing rules & Directional traffic
 - Restroom attendants provided for extra cleaning & monitoring
- Create a safe food service platform created with increased space around concession areas for social distancing purposes.
- Execute plan for the facility common space and lobby/concourse areas
 - Proper spacing of number of tables and chairs with required social distance spacing.
 - Physical distancing signage will be posted in various places.
 - Event security and staff will be monitoring spaces to encourage/enforce Facility Rules as posted.

- Establish entrance/exit provisions and plan
 - Entry and exit doors CLEARLY identified with signage
 - Separate entry and exits will be designated at Exhibit Hall for spectators, teams, and event staff/officials.
 - Increased entry and exit locations used to thin out crowds

Medical Team & Plan

- Determine number and type of medical personnel required.
- Clearly define roles and responsibilities for all medical team members.
- Coordinate necessary supplies, designated treatment area, and transport processes to treat illness' with special consideration towards COVID-19
- Work with facility staff, local healthcare providers and the tournament medical staff to identify local healthcare resources (e.g., urgent cares, emergency rooms, ambulance services) and notify them of the event time and location.
- Require a daily health screening entry process for building and tournament staff, administrators, and match officials to include temperature check upon entrance to building.
 - Anyone showing symptoms or signs of sickness, who have risk factors or who have been in contact with known positive cases, should seek medical attention and NOT ATTEND/STAY HOME.
 - Mohegan ATC staff will evaluate an ill/injured player or coach and authorize the players return to play or refer them for outside examination.
 - Mohegan ATC will evaluate any other ill/injured attendee and authorize their return to the Ex Hall or refer them for outside examination.
 - Mohegan ATC will evaluate any ill athlete, coach, staff member, official, or other attendee with possible COVID-19 symptoms and authorize their continued attendance at the event or refer them for outside examination.

Tournament Staff, Administrators & Match Officials

- Any individual cannot work who meets the Medical Teams definition of “symptomatic”
- Enforce safe protocols for staff-to-staff and staff-to-customer interactions
 - All tournament staff, admin & officials are required to wear mask at ALL TIMES, except when eating, and undergo temperature checks/health screening upon arrival each day to be cleared for current day of work.
 - Encourage frequent handwashing with soap and water wherever possible
 - Carry 60% alcohol or higher anti-viral hand sanitizer when possible
 - Use personal drinking containers
- Office space, meeting room and tournament desk layouts set to provide for necessary social distancing
- Minimize/eliminate shared equipment, encourage use of personal equipment
 - Eliminate results computers and officials score entry computers
 - Officials must use personal phones for score entry or TEXT score to Head Official.
 - Assign 2-way radios/headsets and have each individual responsible to disinfect every evening before setting back on shared charging stations
 - No shared staff computers
 - Officials required to use personal handheld whistles or mask over regular whistle

Spectators, Athletes & Coaches (includes college coaches)

- No entry for anyone who meets the Medical Teams definition of “symptomatic”
- Spectators and coaches required to wear masks at all times within the building, unless actively eating or drinking **UNLESS fully vaccinated.**
- Athletes required to wear masks at all times within the building (including during play), unless actively, eating or drinking **UNLESS fully vaccinated.**
- Encourage frequent handwashing with soap and water wherever possible
- Encourage each person to carry 60% alcohol or higher anti-viral hand sanitizer
- Require individuals to dispose of their own drink containers or trash around the facility and courtside
- Spectators encouraged to REMAIN SEATED courtside UNLESS going to restroom, concessions, exit or entry areas.

On-Site Operations

- Minimize or eliminate interactions between event staff and customers and implement state and local government physical distancing guidelines
 - Ticketing will be ONLINE Only on a personal device prior to or during the event. NO SALES allowed onsite.
 - Post physical distancing signage and mark floors for standing in line at Building & Exhibit Hall entry.
 - Tournament Desk
 - Reduce number of staff required to work the desk
 - Have a single person (post) assigned to take questions from customers
 - Mark a clear “info” location at the desks for customers to approach
 - Lost & Found ONLY for valuables at Tournament Desk
 - EXAMPLES: Phones/electronics, jewelry, keys, wallet/purse etc...
 - All other items will be discarded.
 - Encourage participants to bring their own water
 - Entrance/Exits for court locations
 - Clearly identify entry and exit paths with signage
 - Increased number of “queue” lines to space out spectators during entry process
 - Stagger entry times by waves
 - Prop open doors where possible

Courtside Policies

- Spectator Seating Areas
 - Maximum of 80 spectator chairs per court.
 - Eliminate the tradition of spectators switching sides between sets as teams will no longer switch sides during the match.
- New match & court protocol to limit interactions
 - Teams shag their own volleyballs during warmups, NO SHARED volleyball use
 - Official and captains must all stand at social distance for coin toss; NO pre-match handshakes or high-fives to be exchanged
 - Only starters line up on end line, do a pre-match waved to others.
 - When teams are beckoned on the court, athletes should go directly to their position and not meet the opposing team at the net
 - At the conclusion of the set players MUST go directly back to their bench
 - Eliminate the traditional changing of sides between sets unless a distinct disadvantage is evident and indicated by the official prior to the start of the match.

- If changing sides is deemed necessary, players and coaches should avoid direct contact
 - During substitutions players should refrain from contact and stand at social distance from each other, raising a hand to be recognized by the R1
 - Encourage the elimination of celebration traditions that involve player-to-player contact
 - Encourage coaches to keep social distance when possible during time outs when possible, allowing players to stand on the playing surfaces
 - Encourage better court time management by R1 to eliminate delays
- ALL athletes must wear a mask at all times, **INCLUDING DURING PLAY**, except when eating or drinking **UNLESS fully vaccinated.**
- Encourage athletes to use labeled personal drinking containers only - no shared water
- Encourage athletes that towels should be for personal use only
- Limit use of coaches and athletes for work team duties
 - Only scorekeeper, flipper, and line judges provided for each match.
- Event equipment and match support materials
 - Eliminate libero tracking sheet
 - Require R1 to wipe down volleyball after each match with 60% alcohol or higher anti-viral disinfectant wipes or spray or use ultraviolet light.
 - The R1 will wipe down and commonly used equipment before each match with 60% alcohol or higher anti-viral disinfectant wipes
- Personal equipment and property
 - Players warmups, coaches' clipboards etc should be placed inside their backpack when not in use
 - Encourage teams to bring sanitizing and cleaning products for team equipment such as volleyballs and clip boards as this is the responsibility of the team
 - Officials required to use personal handheld whistles or a whistle behind their mask.

After Match Policies

- No touch procedure for award distribution
 - Assign a designated area for coach to pick up awards
 - Pre-packages medals for team
 - Allow only coaches to present medals to athletes
- The Molten Inflatable Volleyball will not be set up as that can be a major congregating point.
- Encourage all participants and spectators to minimize their time in or around the courts when they are not engaged directly in the current match.

Event Format, Courts & Set Up/Tear Down

- Create an alternative tournament flow that limits interactions and reduces facility capacity
 - Allow extra time between waves to minimize contact between waves & reduce overall numbers
 - Stagger match start times within a wave to space out entries
 - Stagger waves by 90 minutes in order to limit overlap between waves.
- Maximum capacity of 20 courts for teams, participants and spectators
 - Minimum distance between courts in bench areas of 5', Ex Hall side to side aisles of 10', front to back aisles of 10'.
 - **Teams are allowed a maximum of 24 spectators per team per day.**
 - "Off" teams and their spectators encouraged to leave the court area when not playing or officiating to reduce the number of people around each court during each match.

- Seats around the court are for spectators of the playing and officiating teams ONLY!
- Teams and spectators not allowed in the hall until 60 minutes before their first scheduled match.
- Establish requirements for court labor
 - Divide volunteers into groups of 6 or less
 - Stagger scheduled set up time for each group to reduce overall numbers in one area
 - Assign specific tasks to each group that reduces or eliminates interaction with each other as well as other groups

Outside Participants & Support Services

- Exhibitors, sponsors and merchandise sales will be kept to a minimum
 - Vendors that provide person-to-person contact services will not be allowed, such as massage booths
 - Prior approval of booth layouts and safety protocol plans to deliver product for each company
- Provide recommendations and requirements for attendance by vendors
 - Require workers to wear masks
 - Limit number of workers based on booth size
 - Do not allow products to be tried on or handled by customers
 - Create ability to offer on-line presales of product with designated pick-up area.
 - Use tables as barriers between sales and customer
 - Mark floor for social distance and create queue lines based on booth sizes
 - Booth locations will be located on Registration level to help with crowd controls & increased spacing