

NORTH TONAWANDA
Dept. of Youth, Recreation, Parks & Seniors

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Dear Sports & Recreation Participants,

Many parents have reached out over the past weeks questioning why their youth are required to still wear face coverings for outdoor sports, while Governor Cuomo rescinded the outdoor mask mandate for schools and camps.

As we turned to Niagara County Health Department for clarification we have been directed that the lifting of the outdoor mask mandate does not supersede the [Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation](#) that we are expected to follow. In those guidelines it states:

*“Responsible Parties must ensure a distance of at least six feet is maintained among individuals at all times, whether indoor or outdoor, unless safety or the core activity (e.g. practicing, playing) requires a shorter distance. **If a shorter distance is required, individuals must wear acceptable face coverings, unless players are unable to tolerate a face covering for the physical activity (e.g. practicing, playing)”***

It's important to note: Due to the nature of summer sports and activities in the heat of summer, if your child **cannot tolerate** a face covering while participating in the sport, they **are not required to wear one.** (as stated in the guidelines highlighted above) There is no need to provide medical proof or acknowledgment as to why your child is not wearing a mask during the activity. What is required is that your child have a face covering to be worn during non-active moments in the game where social distancing cannot be maintained (i.e. team huddle, close contact instruction, etc).

Hopefully this provides some clarification. Should you have any other questions or concerns feel free to contact our department. As always, if anything changes regarding policies or guidelines, we will be sure to update you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Domaradzki', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alex Domaradzki
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