

## **Paintball in Massachusetts - Proposed Safeguarding Guidance as a part of Stay at Home 2.0:**

*We are respectfully requesting Governor Charlie Baker and The Governor's Economic Re-Opening Task Force consider allowing paintball fields in Massachusetts to open to residents and members if they operate according to the following guidelines. Much like golf, paintball can provide some much-needed outdoor entertainment to our residents, while encouraging social distancing with friends, family and loved ones. Below we have adapted the guidelines set forth for golf courses to our industry, paintball. Our Guidelines, plus those specific to COVID-19 build on **already established** "best practice" sanitation measures that paintball fields have put in place for decades. Detailed guidelines have been listed below, but several take away points are;*

- 1. Paintball fields are outdoor and similar to golf courses, are spread out over many acres*
- 2. Paintball does not require sharing of gear.*
- 3. No high touch points or areas. i.e. not having to touch the same ball (like a basketball) or touch the same surfaces as others like a gym.*
- 4. The point of the game is to stay away from others.*
- 5. We can offer some much needed recreational relief while not exposing customers or employees to dangers of COVID-19*
- 6. Lots of other states have allowed paintball courses to open under the same guidelines as golf courses. (Indiana, Minnesota, California, Texas, Georgia, Kansas, Florida, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and Connecticut are already open)*

### **Adapted Guidelines (Based on STAY AT HOME 2.0 GOLF)**

#### **Employee Protection:**

1. Follow Universal Guidelines established in Exhibit B.
2. Follow cleaning and disinfecting guidelines contained in this document and CDC's guidance at all times.
3. Provide SERV Safe COVID-19 training to employees as soon as possible.
4. Only a minimum amount of personal gear to be brought to work. i.e. backpacks, lunch items, a change of clothing.

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## **Consumer Protection:**

1. Players must arrive or remain in their car until no more than 15 minutes prior to their scheduled play time, at which time they may check-in and proceed to the playing area; no gathering before or after play is permitted.
2. Pro shop will remain closed, including all indoor check-in and merchandising.
3. Remote and touchless check-in procedures will be utilized (internet or phone).
4. Gear bags will be brought by the player and not handled by anyone except the player.
5. Players will be assigned individual staging areas and general staging will be closed.
6. All Players will adhere to social distancing policies
7. Restroom availability will operate at limited capacity to adhere to social distancing policies.
8. Amenities such as changing rooms, equipment cleaning stations, etc. will remain closed.
9. Signage will be prominently posted throughout the venue to ask customers about any COVID-19 symptoms (see Universal Guidance) OR close contact with a person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 in the prior 14 days. If a person answers yes to any of these questions, customers will be asked to not put employees and other guests at risk and to come back another day when feeling better or off quarantine (due to close contact).
10. Spectators of any kind will not be permitted
11. All customers and staff will be instructed to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others (staff and other customers) at all times while playing and on the grounds. Players are supervised the entire length of their stay. Staff is responsible for bringing players to the playing field for each round of play and will enforce social distancing between players.

## **Business Process Adaptations:**

1. All staff will wear cloth face coverings when in the facility and in public locations or shared staff areas (e.g. break rooms).
2. Employees will be trained on cloth face coverings based on CDC guidance for Use of Cloth Face Coverings. a. People wearing face coverings must not touch their eyes, nose, mouth, or face, or adjust their face mask without first sanitizing hands. After touching face or adjusting mask, hands must be sanitized.
3. Several hand washing stations and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer readily available.
4. All front-of-house surfaces including door handles, screens, phones, pens, keyboards and other areas of hand contact will be sanitized every two hours, at a minimum.
5. Restrooms will be frequently cleaned and disinfected, especially high-touch surfaces.
6. Air fills will be completed by an employee only, no self-service of any kind. Air stations will be sanitized after every use.

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7. Food will be permitted on a “bring your own” basis or be delivered straight to the customer. Employees will wear face coverings and properly disinfect hands between sales.
8. For each playing field at a facility, the number of players allowed on site and on each playing field will be reduced by a minimum of 50% of normal players to accommodate social distancing.
9. Play time will be reserved in morning, mid-day and afternoon sessions to keep the number of players and length of stay for players significantly limited in comparison to normal operations.

### **Additional Consideration:**

Paintball has built a reputation on ensuring the safety of all customers in our care. Many of the now required sanitation measures have been a daily standard for the entire paintball industry and have seen us through decades of cough and cold, as well as flu seasons. Every piece of equipment is disinfected using medical grade cleaning measures that take into account allergies and sterilization.

We are a game and an industry built on making sure players and customers are safe at all times while in our care, and that does not change in the face of the coronavirus or any other threat of illness that would interfere with our ability to provide players with an enjoyable and memorable playing experience.

**THANK YOU** *for all your consideration and we are happy to provide any additional information you might require.*

### **New England Paintball Coalition**

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