

Guidance for Sports Academies

Rev. December 9, 2020

Background

Academic institutions that have fully integrated academic and athletic training programs (such as skiing, snowboarding and hockey), and where all students are only enrolled in said academic institution, are considered “sports academies” for the purpose of this guidance. Sports academies must operate in accordance with the state’s existing education and athletics guidance. This guidance includes the [Agency of Education’s Strong and Healthy Start](#) and, if the institution has residential students, the [Agency of Education’s additional guidance for independent schools with boarding programs](#). Sports academies shall also follow the Agency of Education’s [school-based sports guidance](#). Academic institutions that implement an enhanced safety program for boarding schools, including compliance with all relevant state guidelines, restrictions on cross-state travel, strict COVID-19 mitigation protocols and, in many cases, regular COVID-19 testing may also follow the below guidance that provides additional flexibility for programs that serve students participating in combined academic and athletic education programs. This guidance does not apply to club programs administered by sports academies, recreational sports programs, traditional school-based athletic programs, clubs and athletic training programs that do not offer full-time academic classes, or integrated academic and athletic training programs that have commuter students.

Training

Sports academies may offer physical conditioning and training in accordance with the Agency of Education’s physical education guidelines included in the [A Strong and Healthy Start](#) (please refer to [FAQ 7 – Physical Education](#)). This may include indoor and outdoor physical conditioning, such as running, lifting weights, and skills and drills work focused on an individual’s performance so long as physical distancing can be consistently maintained. This may occur in Step I, Step II or Step III of the AOE guidance. Training does not include multi-person or team-based practice sessions; participants must have no physical contact with other individuals while training.

In addition, Section 8.1 of the [Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development’s \(ACCD\) Work Safe Memo](#) allows private, semi-private and group lessons to occur if physical distancing can be strictly adhered to and interaction between households is eliminated.

Competition in Vermont is currently not allowed. Any Vermont-based athlete or team that chooses to leave the state to participate in a practice or competition must complete a mandatory quarantine before resuming participation in academic and athletic training programs or attending public events.