

The following rules and guidelines were adapted from the Hawaii Gay Flag Football League (HIGFFL), with their permission. These rules and regulations will be subject to change or amendment based on current City and County requirements as the 2021 season progresses.

2021 COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

The Hawaii Gay Kickball League (HIGKL) is, first and foremost, a community. Each of us has a responsibility to ensure the physical, mental, and social safety of each other and ourselves. The guidelines below have been created to give our community direction on how to do so, as it relates to COVID-19. Please note that the guidelines are not a suggestion. These are policies put in place to help ensure a successful 2021 season.

1. HIGKL will require all persons to wear a mask/face covering upon arrival and until departure from any practice or playing field. This includes all team conditioning sessions, skills clinics, preseason activities, practices, and games.
2. Masks/face coverings must cover both the nose and mouth.
3. HIGKL will require social distancing leading up to, during, and after play, whenever possible.
4. During play, players must be mindful of the presence of the officiating crew and allow them space to navigate the field and keep the games running smoothly.
5. We encourage participants to bring their own antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer for disinfecting shared playing equipment and sanitizing regularly. The league will provide additional sanitizer.
6. Spectators are not allowed. This includes teams waiting to play while other games are in progress. Teams warming up or waiting may not gather on the sidelines and will be placed in designated zones until their game begins.
7. Players should bring their own, personal cooler instead of using a team cooler. Players should plan on bringing an individual water bottle.
8. All members of the HIGKL community must agree to abide by the policies and rules set forth above. Any members who actively choose not to follow these guidelines may be subject to indefinite removal without refund or credit.

Pre-Game Day Procedures:

Screening Process

If a player is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 prior to arriving at the fields, they are prohibited from playing on that date.

1. Prior to the start of games, all players, referees, and other participants must go through the screening process before being allowed to play.
2. Screenings will be completed and documented by Board Members, team captains, or designated volunteer(s).
3. Screenings will be done on a team-by-team basis to ensure an orderly completion.
4. If someone does not agree to the screening process, they will not be allowed to participate.

5. The screening process will include:
 - a. Temperature checks for all players
 - b. If a player has a temperature over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, that player will not be allowed to participate that day and will be required to produce a negative COVID-19 test result before returning the following week
6. Covid Pre-screening Questions:
 - a. Have you been in contact with anybody that has tested positive for COVID-19?
 - b. Have you experienced any symptoms of COVID-19?
 - c. Have you traveled outside Hawaii in the last 2 weeks?
 - d. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days?

Scheduling & Gameplay

Game times will be scheduled to minimize the number of players at the fields and to allow time for players to clear the fields in between the team switch over

1. Only teams of 10 players max on the field at any given time. Benched players should keep to the sidelines and maintain groups of 10 or less, when possible
2. All players including the fielding team, kickers/runners, base coaches, referees must maintain social distancing, when possible
3. Players will not be allowed on the fields until 5 minutes prior to the start of their game
4. Recommend completion of pre-screening questionnaire off the fields done by the team captain, prior to the start of the first game played
5. After completion of their games, players must vacate the fields promptly in order to allow for the next teams to take the field.
6. All players are required to wear a mask while playing. Masks must cover the nose and mouth the entire time.
7. Referees will be required to wear a mask while officiating a game.
8. Players are encouraged to use hand sanitizer often and as needed. We will provide extra hand sanitizer and masks.
9. Non-Play Contact: No handshake lines at the end of games. Players should refrain from physical contact with teammates, opposing players, captains and referees.
10. Spectators are not permitted to attend our games, for now

Player Suspensions or Disqualifications:

1. Any player not following the protocols will be given 1 warning.
2. After receiving their 1st warning, if the player is still not following the protocols, the player will be asked to leave the fields for the day.
3. Referees are ultimately responsible for providing warnings and removing a player from the field. Any protocol violations should be brought to their attention.
4. The Board reserves the right to disqualify players not following the protocols for the day or for the entire season, without a refund.

For additional information from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/playing-sports.html>