



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Chief Executives  
Club Presidents  
General Managers  
Head Coaches  
Head Team Physicians  
Head Athletic Trainers  
Club Infection Control Officers  
Club Counsel

**From:** Football Operations  
NFL Management Council  
Player Health & Safety

**Date:** December 3, 2020

**Subject:** COVID-19 Protocol Updates

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As the Commissioner advised in his November 18 memorandum, we have continued to work with our medical experts and the NFLPA to identify additional measures that will limit risk of exposure and permit us to safely and responsibly complete the 2020 season. In keeping with this effort, the following revisions will take effect in and immediately following Week 13: (1) eliminating the 62-player restriction on game day; and (2) limiting access to the club facility and prohibiting all in-person meetings at the club facility for the two days following a club's game day.

### **1. Player Game Day and Travel Maximum**

Effective for Week 13 games, the 62-player limit on the number of players from each club that may travel to/attend each game will be lifted. Clubs may determine the number of players they wish to travel to/attend each game (e.g., clubs are permitted to bring players on Reserve/Injured status and/or players on the practice squad, but they should carefully consider the risks and benefits in doing so). Players on Reserve/COVID may not travel with the club or attend a game. All players that attend the game and are not on the sideline must remain physically distant, wear their Kinexon tracking devices and PPE at all times. Clubs are no longer required to submit a list of the 62 eligible players in advance of each game.

In connection with this change, any and all players (on both the home and visiting teams) who will be located on the sideline or in a designated stadium space with other players/personnel on game day are required to stay at the team hotel the night before the game. Clubs may choose whether to require players not attending the game to stay at the team hotel for home games (for example, a club

may ask players on Reserve/Injured status who will not be attending the game or who have been ruled out of play the following day to remain home rather than at the team hotel).

## **2. Limited Facility Access and Prohibition of In-Person Meetings**

Effective Monday, December 7, with the exception of clubs playing on a short week (e.g., a Sunday game followed by a Thursday game), access to club facilities will be limited to individuals as detailed below on the two days following a game (e.g., Monday and Tuesday after a Sunday game; Tuesday and Wednesday after a Monday game; Friday and Saturday after a Thursday game; Sunday and Monday after a Saturday game). Players and coaches will be permitted to access the facility but only in a way that is consistent with the following restrictions:

- In-Person Meetings (involving 2 or more individuals) will be prohibited. This includes “player-coach,” “coaches-only” and “staff-only” meetings. **Players and/or coaches may only meet virtually during this period. Players may not be in the club facility during virtual meetings.** There are no exceptions to this prohibition; approvals previously received for in-person meetings will not apply on these two days.
- Coaches may access the facility to work independently in their individual offices. No in-person coaches meetings may occur.
- Players may enter the facility for the following reasons only:
  - Medical Treatment: club medical staff should schedule essential player medical treatment to ensure that such treatment may be provided while preventing close contact;
  - Recovery: clubs may schedule players to use the weight room, practice fields and/or field house for recovery/exercise provided that such areas are under video camera surveillance (which is recorded). For the avoidance of doubt, players are not permitted to use weight rooms or practice areas that are not under video surveillance. Players may not work out together. Clubs should schedule use of these facilities to ensure physical distancing and in accordance with the existing rules of the Intensive Protocol (e.g., no more than 10 players may use the weight room at one time).
- A subset of individuals who perform critical functions in the facility from club video, IT, cleaning, grounds crew and equipment personnel should only enter the facility while players and coaches are present if absolutely essential to perform their job functions, and they must leave the facility as soon as their duties are completed.
- Locker rooms and cafeterias must be closed. Clubs may provide “grab-and-go” meal options only and players may not eat at the facility; a limited number of kitchen staff may access the facility to provide this service.
- Tryouts will be permitted on these days, subject to the current rules and testing requirements for tryouts. Essential Football Personnel permitted to attend a tryout under the current rules may do so for the sole purpose of conducting a tryout and subject to all other restrictions above.

As a reminder, clubs may further restrict access and time spent in the facility for any individuals permitted to be in the facility on such days. Every player, coach, and staff member that enters the facility must wear his or her Kinexon tracking device and required PPE in compliance with the Intensive Protocol. Two (2) individuals may be designated as Protocol Compliance Officers and may also enter the club facility on these days to ensure compliance with the Protocols.

Finally, please remind all players and staff that gatherings among players and/or club staff of any number outside of the club facility are prohibited at all times pursuant to the Intensive Protocol.

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As always, please reach out to any member of the Football Operations, Management Council or Health and Safety staff with any questions. We appreciate your continued efforts and dedication to safely completing the 2020 season.