

2022 WNBA SEASON MEDIA OUTLINE

The following procedures are in place for media access for the 2022 WNBA season. We will continue to evaluate this policy during the season and adjust as the circumstances around the national health situation dictate.

**** Vaccination Information ** ALL media MUST be fully vaccinated with a booster (if eligible):**

“Fully vaccinated” against COVID-19 means that 14 days have passed since a person received a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine approved or authorized for emergency use by the FDA or WHO. **All media must upload their proof of vaccination/booster via the below link for approval. If you have not done so already for 2022 NBA ALL-STAR or 2022 WNBA DRAFT, please do by April 25, 2022.** However, if you have received any additional doses since (or tested positive), you need to upload any supplemental documentation so that the profile gets updated accordingly.

Please note that it does take 2-3 days for submissions to get reviewed and approved. You will receive a follow-up or confirmation (depending on status) from the league’s partners at IQVIA, accordingly. **Please share the confirmation with Team PR when applying for credentials for the season.**

COVID-19 VACCINATION CARD UPLOAD

Booster Information

In order to satisfy this booster requirement, such individuals must receive a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine approved or authorized for emergency use by the FDA or WHO.

A person is eligible for a booster dose of a vaccine if:

- 5 months have passed since the last dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine was received
- 2 months have passed since the dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was received

- As a limited exception to these rules, any media who can document that they are recently recovered (i.e., within 60 days following the date of their first documented positive or inconclusive test result) may continue to attend in-person media availabilities – even without yet receiving a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine – until they are no longer recently recovered. Documentation of such result will be required.

- Any media member who is not currently eligible for a booster dose, but subsequently becomes eligible, will have 14 days from the date on which they become eligible to elect to receive such dose. If they do not, then following that 14-day period, they may not attend media availability in-person unless and until they receive an additional dose.

- Upon submission to the league office, the NBA may exempt any individual who is eligible for but does not have access to a booster dose (e.g., certain international media depending on their location) from the booster requirement until such dose is available.

MEDIA OUTLINE:

****There will be locker room access post-game only****

****Masks must be worn by media in the locker room****

A. Practice Days (Training Camp AND Regular Season)

- On Monday morning of each week, Team PR will provide to their local media lists and to WNBA Communications a tentative schedule of media availabilities for that particular week.
- Media will be allowed into practice during the last thirty (30) minutes of practice (to be defined as a period of on-going team drills).

- Immediately upon the conclusion of practice all players must remain on the floor for a minimum of 20 minutes up to a maximum of 30 minutes for media interviews. If media are still present and engaging in interviews with players and/or coaches, the session must extend to the full 30 minutes. In such cases where media are present beyond the 20-minute mark, there cannot be the excuse that coaches/trainers/staff want to start a film session/treatment/etc. early; a 30-minute window is to be set in place and the full 30 minutes is to be used in instances such as that outlined above.
- PR directors must make three players available via zoom twice a week, players should be rotated and must include a minimum of 2 starters. *If the team is participating in a league-scheduled zoom media availability for the promotion of a nationally televised game in a given week, the team is not required to conduct a second team-led zoom during practice for that week.*
- During the preseason, each team's head coach must be available for all media via one Zoom session between Friday, April 29 and Wednesday, May 4. WNBA Communications will work with teams to construct a schedule of these availabilities so that there are no overlapping sessions.

B. Game Day Shoot-arounds

- On Monday morning of each week, Team PR will provide to their local media lists and to WNBA Communications a tentative schedule of media availabilities for that particular week.
- Shoot-arounds will be open to media for 15 minutes (either beginning or end) of shootaround.
- All players and coaches must be available for a 15-minute interview session in a designated interview area on the court either immediately prior to or immediately following shoot-around. Should a team not have a shoot-around, it is not required to have a Media "shoot-around" interview session.

C. Pregame Media Availability

- On Monday morning of each week, Team PR will provide to their local media lists and to WNBA Communications a tentative schedule of media availabilities for that particular week.
- Players will be available in-person on the court during the 90-60-minute window prior to tip-off.
- Head coaches are to be available separately in the press conference room for zoom and in-person media. Head coaches will conduct their availabilities prior to or immediately following, but not during, the 90-60-minute window. Team PR will work with one another to schedule their respective head coach's availability sessions; opposing coaches may not conduct their sessions at the same time and may not overlap one another. In the event that both head coaches request the same time window, priority will be given to the home team's head coach.
- There will be no required zoom sessions for pre-game player availability. Players' pregame media availability will be on-court only and no longer in the locker rooms for pregame. Each player must be available to media for a minimum of 15 minutes during the 90-60 minute window.
 - *Teams must designate in advance the 15 minutes within the 30-minute pregame availability window that each player will be available. Notification of each player's availability is to be posted in the media work room and in each team's Game Notes document.*

D. Postgame Media Availability

- On Monday morning of each week, Team PR will provide to their local media lists and to WNBA Communications a tentative schedule of media availabilities for that particular week.
- Postgame media availability will be a combination of in-person access and zoom access. Home and road teams will utilize two separate press conference rooms that can accommodate in-person media and the zoom component.
- There will be locker room access **allowed postgame only**. Players who are available in the press conference room will not be required to be available in the locker room. Note, however, that bringing a player into the hallway for interviews does *not* eliminate the need to open the locker room.
 - Masks are mandated for media in the locker room.
- Locker rooms will be open for up to 30 minutes, concurrent with the pressers. If, however, after 20 minutes of having opened postgame locker rooms to the media, Team PR (both home and away) determine that ALL media needs have been fulfilled, they may close the locker rooms.

- No later than 10 minutes following the game, the first head coach will be made available and will then be followed by the opposing coach; coaches cannot be available simultaneously. Players will then follow the head coaches and may be available simultaneously provided that the home team has two available rooms that meet all set-up requirements for in-person media and for those media taking part via Zoom.
 - If the home team is unable to provide separate rooms for each team to conduct postgame pressers, Team PR will need to stagger the timings of their players who are taking part in the presser and making use of the one available room.
- A minimum two (2) stars of the game per team are required to be available in person in the press conference room. All interviews in the press conference room will be a combination of in-person access and zoom.
- Home Team PR will issue a note to in-person and virtual media prior to the conclusion of each game indicating the names of the players to be made available the interview room(s).

PHOTOGRAPHERS

General Media photographers and camera operators will resume traditional baseline quadrant procedures and sit up to a minimum of 6 feet from the court and must be fully vaccinated. As a reminder, camera operators and photographers are generally prohibited from entering escape lanes during play, and thus their seating locations may not block escape lanes.

Additionally, rubber lens hoods must be on all lenses for still photographers, broadcasters, and news and entertainment video and film crews who are authorized to shoot WNBA game action. Photographers using telephoto lenses – which are permitted for both near court and far court photography – may store their cameras on their laps when using another camera, but not next to them or in front of them. Media requesting baseline locations must provide agreement that a rubber lens hood will be used.

Each photographer will be permitted to use one monopod – but no tripods – at courtside.

Only metal-less, hiking-type photographer seats (e.g. no rolling seats, no swivels, no legs) will be permitted for photographers or television camera operators seated around the perimeter of the court. All other types of seating must be approved in advance by the WNBA. Additionally, no stand-alone remotes or ancillary equipment and accessories (e.g., batteries, lenses, tapes) are permitted on the court at any time. No laptop computers may be used while a photographer is seated courtside for any purpose (e.g. transmitting game photos).

Any camera mounted to the front game/shot clock (whether 4-sided or transparent) cannot cross the plane of the backboard glass. The number of still cameras permitted to be mounted on backboards shall be limited to two (2) per backboard. One (1) camera position per backboard (2 total) shall be reserved for use by NBA Entertainment. One (1) camera position shall be reserved for a pool feed such that the images will be accessible to all media (and NBA Entertainment will designate for each game one of the wire services to operate such pool feed; and one (1) camera position shall be reserved for a national sports media outlet, if in attendance, in an order of priority to be determined by NBA Entertainment or, if not in attendance, to a media outlet to be determined by the home team.

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