
SVG[®] COVID-19

SPORTS PRODUCTION

OPERATIONS GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the SVG COVID-19 Sports Production Operations Guide. In early April, SVG held a series of meetings with industry leaders to discuss the return of sports production during the coronavirus pandemic. This guide is a result of those conversations. It is designed to provide guidance for those who may have questions about how to approach some of the challenges that our industry is facing, given the requirements for safety protocols, social distancing, and more. Please note that this guide is simply a starting point for your own organization's internal discussions, as we are well aware that the wide range of sport productions cannot be served by one document. In addition, please stay tuned for additional sections to be added in the coming weeks.

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PART 2: COMPOUND DESIGN

This section is an overview of compound design and covers such topics as spacing between facilities and how a compound needs to be designed differently during the current coronavirus crisis.

2.1 What is the minimum distance between production-truck units, production trailers, and other facilities?

If a compound is located outdoors in a parking lot, it is recommended that trucks be as far apart as functionally possible. Ideally, each truck or production trailer would have at least 8-10 ft. of dedicated space in front of the entrance (outside of the stairs).

Compounds located inside a venue or in a tight on-the-street location may have to be more tightly configured but, if possible, have a minimum 8-10 feet between trailers so that people can move.

2.2 Should every corridor between vehicles be one way, or, if corridors are large enough, can two-way travel be accepted?

Ideally, there would be two lanes within each corridor separating trucks — one for each direction. However, if space is limited, this can be adjusted to reroute people through single-lane corridors in the compound.

Clearly, in a large number of situations, that is simply not possible. In those instances, everyone just needs to be aware of social-distancing guidelines and PPE so that others entering or exiting the unit can do so easily. Everyone also needs to be aware of the belly-bay area and ensure that those who work there are able to work and maintain social distancing.

2.3 If creating a negative pressure inside a production vehicle (exhausting air), where is the safest place to exhaust? Should you create an area cordoned off or blow it under the truck in the wheel-well area?

With the additional air exhaust in hot and humid conditions, the AC units will struggle to keep up with the cooling needs. In the past, the air has been pre-cooled from the outside with external AC units blowing cool air into the mobile unit's intakes.

2.4 Because washing hands is the number-one way to help prevent infection, where should communal hand-washing stations be located in the compound?

Keeping handwashing stations about 10 ft. from the end of stairs is probably the best scenario. In the initial rollout, 6-ft.-distance markings on the ground would be helpful. Crew members must be aware of social distancing and not congregate at hand-wash stations. These stations will be in addition to individual sanitization stations in each room of the truck, enabling crew members to sanitize their individual workstations.

2.5 What are the best procedures for placement of port-o-Johns and restrooms?

Individual working groups should be assigned a dedicated restroom with adequate space for queuing. It also may be worth contacting the venue to see if

any restrooms in the venue can be dedicated for use by the TV-production crew that will work inside the venue.

2.6 Does there need to be an area created for storage of luggage/personal items to limit the personal effects stored within the production areas?

Current guidelines for many productions require people to take their own transportation (rental car, personal car) to the venue. It is recommended that they store as many personal effects as possible (luggage, additional backpacks and cases, additional jackets) in the car to limit crowded storage in the compound/truck.

Individuals who do not have their own vehicle onsite should build additional travel time into their schedule to return to their hotel to pick up their luggage after the show.

2.7 Is more time needed for setup and strike of the compound?

The short answer is, yes, more time needs to be set aside for setup and rigging. Consider adding several additional hours for park/power-up of the compound, checking gear, and sanitization.

Also account for more time during strike to allow all equipment and cables to be re-sanitized. This will make it much easier for the next production team to get to work without having to worry about first cleaning the cables.

Be sure to read the instructions for the cleaning solution, because some of it must be sprayed and then allowed to dry prior to wiping.

In general, working with masks and, potentially, gloves will likely slow down the work process. Social distancing will mean that many more functions need to be performed by just one person.

2.8 What about foul weather or severe weather? Do tents need to be provided to keep crew members at a good distance from each other? If so, should the tents be located in the compound?

No central emergency shelter area is factored into the compound design. All personnel are encouraged to return to their personal vehicles. If they do not have personal vehicles, they should evacuate to the venue's safe-shelter area or return to their hotel.

2.9 For productions deploying both an A unit and a B unit, could there be an overlap of personnel working in both?

If the A and B units are in the same bubble, selected personnel (such as engineering staff who need to support equipment in both) can work in both units. But operators should need to access only the area where they work, relying on intercoms, radios, text, etc., for communicating with staffers in other units. If the units are in separate bubbles, personnel cannot work in both because it will risk exposing more crew members to virus in the event of an issue. This may require additional engineering staffing, so plans should ensure that bubbles have dedicated engineers available to solve issues, problems, and repairs.

If additional engineering personnel (for example, a separate EIC overseeing each

unit) are not available to service multiple bubbles, it is recommended that those crew members be given additional “bubble credentials” so that they can handle emergency repair and technical support.

Another alternative is to create a separate area where the EIC can remotely access and oversee equipment within various mobile units without having to be physically inside the unit.

2.10 If equipment breaks in the stadium and needs to be replaced, is there a DMZ so that the tech inside can enter the compound?

No. Crew members should be isolated in their own areas/bubbles. Individuals from the “outside bubble” can enter the compound, but they cannot enter any trucks or trailers.

2.11 Does a general DMZ space need to be created so that personnel from different groups can meet? How big should it be?

No dedicated space should be created for meetings inside the compound. Large meetings should be held virtually via intercoms/radios/text/phone. If in-person meetings must be held, they can be held in open-air areas within the compound and must respect social distancing and PPE.

2.12 Can any crew positions be located outside of the truck, or do they all need to be in a dedicated space inside a trailer?

The more crew positions located outside the main production trailers — or even out of the compound — the better; the goal is to keep the crew as small as possible. If additional space/trucks cannot be secured onsite and outside workstations/flypacks are absolutely required, they must be set up at socially distanced locations.

2.13 Does there need to be a dedicated medical-testing area in the compound?

If possible and space permits, a dedicated medical-testing area should be located at the compound. The final decision sits with the league/broadcaster/venue.

2.14 What to do with smokers? Should there be a separate smoking area for each working group/bubble?

No smoking area will be provided in the compound. Smokers must plan accordingly.

2.15 Is there a staging area for crews about to start their shift?

No. Everyone stays in their car until they enter the compound. If entry to the compound is staggered, it is recommended that personnel remain in their car until their entry time, to prevent gatherings near the compound entrance.