

518 Martial Arts 2021 Event Plan & Safety Plan



The 2020 shutdown of In-Person sporting events due to the pandemic resulted in the cancelation of the 518 Martial Arts competition circuit in the capital region. As the leading Martial Arts competition promoter and host in the northeast, 518 Martial Arts aims to be the first to resurrect in-person martial arts competition in the Capital Region, meeting and exceeding all safety requirements and setting the bar high for others to follow, through meticulous planning and organization.

Location/Timing

Where/When

Desired Location:

Albany JCC – Whitehall Rd, Albany NY

Utilizing their 2,800+ sq ft covered pavilion. The pavilion with concrete floor will provide a safe, stable surface for the event activity, allow open air flow, as the pavilion has no walls, and the roof will ensure that even if it rains, the event can proceed.

Being the first event to offer in-person martial arts competition since the pandemic, the idea of an outside event would be ideal to allow a ensured feeling of safety and sense of comfort to those in attendance. The uncertainty of weather conditions would make committing to an outdoor event difficult, however the JCC's covered pavilion allows the safety and comfort of outdoor with the certainty of weather covering with its permanent roof structure.

Desired Date:

518 Martial Art's goal would be to host the event on the first weekend of June. Ensuring a leveling off seasonal

change, and adequate temperatures. Allowing adequate time to promote, organize and prepare for the safety needs, soon enough to market on participants demand to see events return.

Determinations

Martial Arts has been categorized as a High-Risk sport/activity by New York State. Presumably, this is due to the person-to-person contact that would typically occur during various disciplines within the activity, such as sparring (fighting) and self-defense drills and demonstrations.

While bound by NYS definition and determination, those involved with our event (venue, competitors, etc.) should understand that this event will NOT include the High-Risk aspects of martial arts. No sparring or other person-to-person contact events will be offered. Although still officially categorized as a High-Risk sporting event, the event will operate with event offerings more appropriate categorized as Low-Risk, as each event category will be a single athlete performing a routine, alone, with over regulation social distance in place.

Events will include: Open Forms, Open Weapons & Creative Breaking.

People

The total number of people involved with the event will comply with current NYS and CDC guidelines as well as venue requirements. At the time of this plan, NYS guidelines state 10% occupancy or 150 people. Our plan would be to comply with the venue's requirements not exceeding the NYS guidelines.

Staffing would be a static number, while the number of competitors and spectators would fluctuate with registrations. The event would either be capped at the maximum number and limited, or in the case of additional interest and/or need of income toward the budget, the event would be broken into phases, with competitors broken into groups, each phase not exceeding the maximum occupancy, and leaving adequate time between phases for complete dismissal and sanitizing/cleaning routines before the next phase.

Staff

A barebones staff will be utilized, covering just the minimum essential roles to run the event.

No more the **15 people** of the allowed 150 (or less).

Judges: Minimum requirements for judges will be 3 per ring. To alleviate other unneeded staffing, judges will take on the Ring Coordination and Time/Score Keeping responsibilities usually assigned to additional individuals.

Number of rings will be 3, based on the additional ring size needed to maintain social distance. This will equate to 9 Judges needed to run the event.

Event Coordinators: A small event of this size and be ran with a skeleton coordination crew of 3 people.

Logistical Staff: A small event of this size would require 1-2 admission staff (event entry control)

Competitors

Early calculations and estimates show that we do not expect to have enough interest to reach the maximum number of attendees for the event. Using the available number of simultaneous attendees, subtracting those needed for staffing, we could allow a maximum of 135 competitor/spectators at any given time. Needing to allow space for spectators, as each competitor may opt to have no spectators with them, one spectator or two, we would average that we could accommodate approximately 45 competitors.

If interest of competitors exceeds that which is expected thus exceeding the maximum number of attendees allowed, registration will either be closed not allowing the additional competitors, or the analysis and decision will be made to split the day into two halves; each with attendance abiding by the maximum allowable number and with a dismissal and gap time adequate to conduct all necessary cleaning and sanitation protocols before the start of the next group or phase. See further details for the phase plan in the Logistics section.

Spectators

- Following current NYS and CDC guidelines, a maximum of 2 spectators per competitor will be allowed to the point of maximum occupancy.
- All spectators will be pre-registered with the competitor.
- There will be no same-day or walk-up admission.
- In the case of a multiple phased day, spectators will receive color coded admission wrist bands to allow easy determination of proper time slot admission.
- Spectators will be notified to bring their own seating (camping chairs/folding chair) for use around the pavilion in the grass for social distance spreading to the limit that the JCC allows, bearing no rain. In the case of rain, the spectators will be placed social distant under the roof.

Competition Logistics

Due to the unpredictability of the interest in returning to In-Person events, and in turn the unknown expectation in number of competitors, 518 Martial Arts will not be establishing static age and rank divisions for this event. Competitors in the various event categories will be grouped together to form reasonable competitive divisions using the closest variables of age and rank. Every effort will be made to ensure fair divisions; however, they will not be guided by static conditions such as “beginners” or 9-10 year old’s.

Logistics

Phased Day

- As previously called out, if we have a better than anticipated turnout, we will accommodate this, by offering a phased day, ensuring that each phase is compliant with the maximum attendance guidelines.
- Determination would be made at the closing of registration, prior to the day of the event. Unfortunately, it cannot and will not be determined when the event is first publicized.
- Registration material, media and advertising will make note of the potential for this to occur if needed.
- If we enact the Phased approach, all competitors and spectators will be defined into their phase, phases will be defined with specific arrival, start, end and dismals times, all ensuring the venue and

promoters have adequate required time to fully sanitize the venue and competition area prior to the next phase arriving.

- Event staff will ensure no admittance of attendee prior to or at the wrong phase.

Social Distancing Accommodations:

- 518 Martial Arts will work with the venue to ensure appropriate social distancing of spectators, competitors and staff utilizing all available assets of the venue.
- 518 Martial Arts will be utilizing a zone/swim lane floor layout, keeping spectators within bounds away from competition area, in turn distant from the judges and staff who will all be sat socially distant.

For Creative Breaking:

- Holding apparatuses, blocks and stands will be used primarily to minimize and avoid the need for human holders.
- Each competitor will be allowed two human holders.
- If the competitor opts to use human holders, both the holders and the competitor must wear their masks while the breaking routine is occurring. The competitor cannot remove their mask for this event if they bring others inside the ring with them. If they opt to not use human holders and for the length of the routine, reside in the ring along, socially distant from everyone, using just inanimate objects to hold their material, then and only then, may they remove their mask during their competition routine.

Safety

Standard Covid-19 Protocols

- All attendees must wear masks covering the mouth and nose.
 - Competitors may remove their mask, when and only when competing, while in their ring, socially distant from spectators and judges.
- Upon arrival all attendees will have their temperature taken contact-less with a digital laser thermometer.
- Upon arrival all attendees will be screened with standard Covid19 screen questions related to, but not limited to; recent health issues (fever, difficulty breathing), recent contact with infected individuals or travel to current hot spots.
- All attendees will be verified against registration reports to create accurate contact tracing logs.
- All attendees will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon arrival and throughout their stay at the venue.
- Signs will be placed around the competition area stating the safety requirements, including use of mask, social distancing and use of hand sanitizer.
- Pre-event communications, both electronic and hardcopy will include all safety protocol, requirements, and expectations.
- If awards are handed out, delivering, and receiving parties will be asked to use hand sanitizer before and after deployment and receipt, respectively.