



# MEGA SPORTS CAMP

MINISTRY PLAYBOOK FOR TACKLING COVID-19



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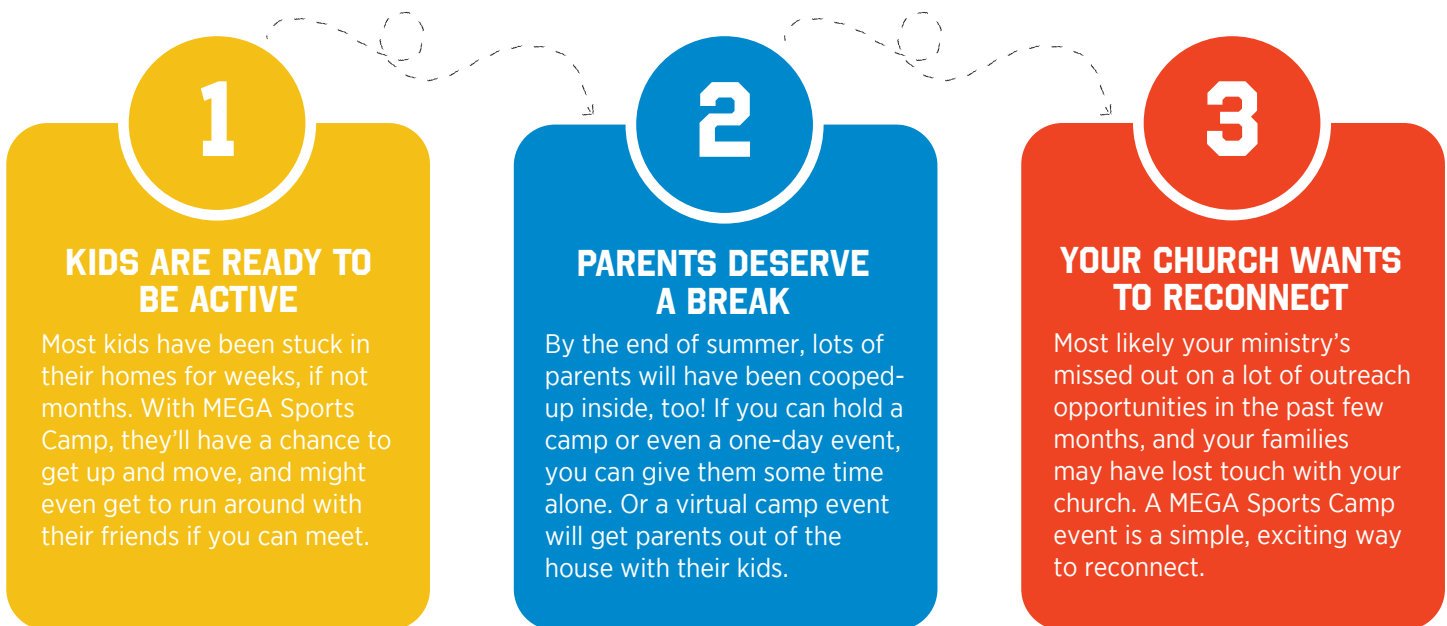
COVID-19 is an opponent like no other. In many cases, the best strategy is to retreat altogether. But what if there's another way?

What if there were a playbook that could help your ministry tackle problems caused by COVID-19?

Even if it's not business as usual at your church, that doesn't mean your outreach efforts have to be sidelined. It's time to rise to this unique challenge and explore creative solutions for reaching families this summer.

This guide for different ways to use MEGA Sport Camp outreach is the playbook you need.

Thanks to its flexible design, a MEGA Sports Camp Starter Kit is still an easy, exciting, and fun option for your ministry this summer—or even fall—for three big reasons:



Because you can repurpose or adapt multiple portions of the kit for small groups, weekly services, or even a virtual camp, you still have the chance to reach your community like never before with this energizing and engaging sports-based event.

Read on to check out some easy ways to fit MEGA Sports Camp outreach to your church's unique needs during this time.

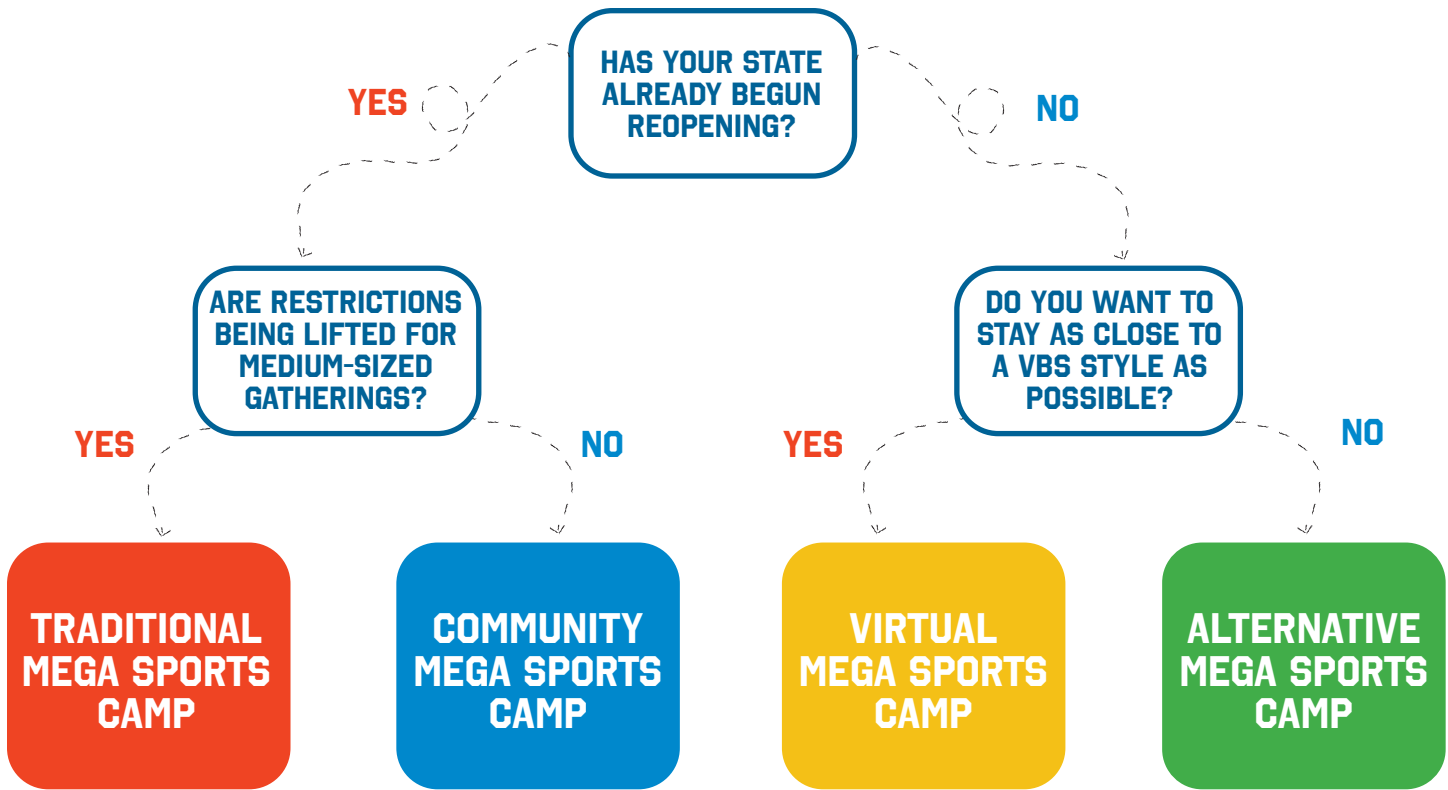
It's time to tackle COVID-19's effect on your ministry head-on. You've got this!

- MEGA Sports Camp Team





# CHOOSING A STRATEGY



When you get creative, you'll see there are lots of ways to safely adapt your VBS program! These four approaches are a great way to start narrowing down the direction that's best for your church.\*\*

## 1. **Traditional MEGA Sports Camp Event**

Great for states with limited restrictions, states that are reopening, or churches whose outreaches that were planned for later in the summer.

## 2. **Community MEGA Sports Camp Event**

Great for states that are opening with caution or still allowing small groups of people to meet together.

## 3. **Virtual MEGA Sports Camp Event**

Great for states or cities that are still under stay-at-home orders that are unlikely to change for the next three months.

## 4. **Alternative MEGA Sports Camp Event**

Great adaptable ideas for churches in lots of different contexts.

**\*\*As you make your plan, always check your state and local health guidelines and consult your church's insurance company to be sure you can minister to your community safely. Safety should be the highest priority. Please take all safety precautions when implementing these ideas and strategies. Take into consideration your church's child protection policy.**



# TRADITIONAL MEGA SPORTS CAMP EVENT

COVID-19 has impacted different places in different ways. Depending upon the rules in your area, you might be able to host a traditional MEGA Sports Camp event, as long as you make some basic adjustments.

Be sure your parents feel comfortable sending their kids to spend time with their friends by considering these aspects:

## **Make safety a priority**

Safety is a top priority every year, but now it's more important than ever to take extra precautions and communicate those clearly to parents. This will go a long way to making parents feel secure. Talk with your camp nurse to get their ideas and feedback. Implementing regular sanitation and cleaning is vital, especially during snack time. Download [Cleaning and Sanitizing Best Practices](#).

## **Rethink your sports/skills**

Even in open states, it's wise to choose sports where training can involve less physical contact. For example, choose soccer instead of football. Additionally, it may be beneficial to broaden beyond sports to offer different skills like arts/crafts, biking, drama etc. This can allow group sizes to be smaller and help you use your space better.

## **Find ways to get kids outside**

If weather allows, keeping your camp outside can go a long way to putting parents' minds at ease. Consider having rally and snack times outdoors in the shade. You could also host your MEGA Sports Camp in a local park (with permission from local government).

## **Reimagine your budget**

A lot of churches have found financial challenges in this season, so get your whole church and community involved by asking for equipment and supply donations. Make adjustments and prioritize where necessary with your lead pastor.

## **Recruit and train online**

Since planning and training times have been cut short, find creative ways to connect with your team through email, social media, and video conference programs.

## **Move to online registration**

Make it easy for parents to sign up online with event registration platforms. This will help you reach more families in your community as you can share the information easily online.

## **Modify your schedule**

Talk to your families and get their feedback to find out what dates and times will work best for everyone. It might be worth considering doing a shorter daily schedule. You may also want to rethink the "showcase" with parents at the end of the week, moving it online or modifying how you celebrate your kids through an email or social media announcement.





# COMMUNITY

## MEGA SPORTS CAMP EVENT

If your area still prohibits large group gatherings but will allow smaller get-togethers, try hosting MEGA Sports Camp events in small groups around the community. This would be comparable to a backyard VBS.

Families who trust each other can host a modified camp with their kids, or you could find host families who are comfortable inviting the kids in their neighborhood. This could be a great opportunity for evangelism, especially with kids and families who don't normally attend or are uncomfortable with church. Choose families who have previously or currently served in your kids ministry.

If a community camp works for you, try these ideas:

### **Develop a modified schedule**

To make it easier on the families that are hosting MEGA Sports Camp, it may be more practical to make it a one-day event that could be done on a weekend in as little as two or three hours.

### **Prepare kits with necessary supplies**

You don't need a lot to host a MEGA Sports Camp, so make it even simpler for host families with kits including things like snacks, *Coach Huddle Guides* and schedules. Have these kits ready when you talk with families so that they can see what hosting a camp will be like.

### **Approach families who would be suitable to serve**

Start with families you know or who have already served in the church or children's ministry. Also consider families who live near lots of kids, or have lots of space in their yard. Keep in mind they could also do this in a local park, if allowed in your area. Consider personally leading one group per day. Parents might be more inclined to host those camps.

### **Simplify your approach**

Think through the regular components of your MEGA Sports Camp. Select a handful of activities that would be easy for families to replicate in the home, like these: Rally videos from Coach Jon, the "MEGA Verse Song", Huddle Time, workout warmups, and a sports skill-training session with three or four simple games.

### **Train families online or in a small group**

When every family has a kit, you can do a simple walk-through of the camp with them through a video conference. Keep the training simple and stick to what's important.

### **Manage the budget**

Because MEGA Sports Camp is designed to be adaptable and light on necessary supplies, it should be easy to do more community group events. Calculate the necessary costs for each community camp so you know how many you can plan.

### **Consider ways to connect community groups**

If your community MEGA Sports Camps meet on the same day, then host online conference calls in the evening for kids to connect and have fun together. You could do giveaways and awards during this time. You could also do a rally for all groups to tune in online together at the start of each day of camp.





# VIRTUAL

## MEGA SPORTS CAMP EVENT

In areas still under stay-at-home orders, we recommend an online MEGA Sports Camp that encourages families to grow and play together. This approach can help families navigate this season by giving them the chance to spend quality time together and create lifelong memories.

Check out these tips for a virtual camp.

### Register families online

Build excitement and maintain the feeling of an event by registering families. Consider having people register by joining a Facebook event or group, which has the added benefit of a central communication and content delivery hub. Facebook groups can even be kept private to help create a safer environment for kids.

### Consolidate the camp

Provide four or five components that families can do on their own. For instance, you could do an Opening and Closing Rally, a snack time where kids create a fun snack, a sports-related craft, a workout, and a sports-related game. Check the MEGA Sports Camp Community group on Facebook for more ideas.

### Organize MEGA Sports Camp kits

Pack small kits with all the supplies families would need to complete the entire camp. Keep supplies simple but include snacks, craft supplies, printables, and camp souvenirs, like a Wristband or Water Bottle. Organize a pick-up day shortly before the camp for parents to grab their kits or plan to deliver them to homes. Provide families with a clear schedule so they can follow along easily.



### Plan and film the components

Set a schedule that structures the day best for parents. You could also film additional welcome or instructional pieces with your phone's camera to post on the Facebook event or group page.

### Following our guidelines when posting online

So that you can host the best event in the easiest way, we've granted permission during the COVID-19 pandemic for ministries like yours to use MEGA Sports Camp digital content online. However, these restrictions apply: Content can only be posted to a Facebook group or event, password restricted on YouTube or used in a livestream. We are asking that users remove all digital content from the curriculum from all platforms within a month of your camp ending. Please let us know you are planning on doing MEGA Sports Camp virtually by emailing us at [rightsandpermissions@myhealthychurch.com](mailto:rightsandpermissions@myhealthychurch.com).





# VIRTUAL

## MEGA SPORTS CAMP EVENT

### **Make your virtual MEGA Sports Camp flexible**

In this model, less is more! Families can often feel overwhelmed at home with work and managing children. Allow flexibility when instructing parents the best way to do a camp with their kids.

### **Online family challenges**

Keep it fun! Find fun ways for families to want to engage every day with simple daily challenges and giveaways. Have parents post pictures and videos in the group. The church must have written permission to post kids photos publicly.

### **Utilize parents as coaches and Huddle Group leaders**

Not everything has to be done by video. Parents can easily lead the basic games and drills, so don't let the pressure of filming camp elements stop you from trying this option.

### **Think of sports families can do together**

Check out the activities listed in the MEGA Sports Camp playbooks and pick one for each day that's easy for families to do together. For instance, on Day 1 the family could take a bike ride and learn bike safety skills. On Day 2, they could do some basic soccer drills or games.

### **Consider charging for supplies**

Depending upon the amount of supplies you will need for each family, you could consider charging a small amount to help offset the cost. Especially with the budget challenges churches are facing, this could help lead pastors make difficult decisions to do a virtual MEGA Sports Camp.





# ALTERNATIVE MEGA SPORTS CAMP EVENT

For whatever reason, you may have cancelled all summer events for your church. Believe it or not, there are still plenty of other ways you could use your MEGA Sports Camp theme kit this year! While MEGA Sports Camp is a full VBS program, at its core it's a five-session curriculum that you can easily modify the curriculum content and theme to fit other contexts.

Here are some other options or strategies to consider with using this year's kit.

## **Back-to-school event**

Many kids will be returning to school in the fall. This could be the perfect back-to-school launch event for your kids! It would be one last week or weekend of fun for kids.

## **Use for Sunday morning curriculum**

This curriculum could easily be used over five Sundays to help make your online or in-person Sunday morning services with kids more fun and interactive! A lot of children's ministries are finding their families have online fatigue. This could help recapture their attention by teaching God's Word in a fun way.

## **Use for Wednesday night curriculum**

In a similar way, it could also be used on Wednesday nights when churches return in the fall. If your church has to remain online for the foreseeable future, then regular programming will be difficult to continue. This could be a great fun midweek option that helps kids get outside and stay active. See the *Director Guide* for different ways to divide the Rally time content.

## **Outreach in the park**

If and when parks are reopened in your area, you could try setting up an outreach there and inviting families to come for an active morning with some spiritual encouragement. A good location with decent shade could create an awesome environment to have some fun and engage the whole community.

## **Family nights or parent night out**

You could host some one-off nights to encourage families or just give parents a break! They could be sports-themed evenings using elements from the MEGA Sports Camp curriculum.

## **After-school program**

If kids return to school in the fall, use your MEGA Sports Camp kit to host an after-school program where kids can enjoy some social time, spiritual encouragement, and sports training.

## **Small groups focused**

You could engage small group leaders and allow different ages of kids to connect together. You could do some of this through online video conferences or in person, depending on the state you are in and its restrictions.







# CONCLUSION

Thank you for your commitment to reaching children with the gospel message, even during this unusual and unprecedented season. We're continually encouraged and energized by the collective response of the Church to maintain and expand ministry efforts, no matter the challenge.

We believe that the hard work and creativity of churches in this season will reap infinitely more than we could ask or imagine for the kingdom of God. You are in our prayers and we are by your side to support you every step of the way!

If this guide and our other resources don't answer all of your questions about how to customize MEGA Sports Camp in this unique season, don't hesitate to email our team at [Coach@MEGASportsCamp.com](mailto:Coach@MEGASportsCamp.com).



**Thank you  
for continuing to invite children  
into a life-changing  
relationship with Jesus!**

**We believe  
the best is yet to come  
for the Church!**

**\*\*As you make your plan, always check your state and local health guidelines and consult your church's insurance company to be sure you can minister to your community safely. Safety should be the highest priority. Please take all safety precautions when implementing these ideas and strategies. Take into consideration your church's child protection policy.**