



## **Guidelines for Cleaning of Sports Balls**

The CDC recommends cleaning of sports equipment, including the balls used in sports. The following link provides common definitions for sterilization, disinfection and cleaning in healthcare facilities, but may be useful for someone attempting to clean a football, volleyball, soccer ball, basketball, baseball and softball – all balls that are composed of materials made of leather, composite or PU leather.

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/disinfection/introduction.html>

Depending on the ball-covering material, circumstances, timing and availability, schools should determine which of the following methods is best to ensure applicable health and safety protocols.

- **Soap and Water Method**
  - Dirt and debris can be removed using a damp cloth with soap and water, using moderate pressure.
  - Be careful not to oversaturate the ball.
  - Allow to air dry.
- **Disinfecting Method**
  - Limited disinfecting may be achieved by using a disinfecting wipe or spray with cloth and moderate pressure to wipe the entire surface of the ball.
  - Be careful not to oversaturate the ball.
  - Allow to air dry.

Bleach- and alcohol-based cleaning products or excessively frequent cleanings should be avoided as they may degrade the ball-covering material and ball markings, and may impact the overall ball performance.

This document will be updated as/if new information and recommendations become available.