

Case Study: Cap Guard Goes to Court – The Basketball Kind

Cap Guard is a School Solutions partner with AASA, The School Superintendents Association, providing COVID-19 protective resources for students and teachers.



About Cap Guard

Cap Guard and Kid's Cap Guard offer face shield solutions and are part of the strategy to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in the community setting. The innovative and patent pending Cap Guard face shield provides an environmentally hygienic barrier that protects parties engaged in communication while permitting full visibility of facial expressions and lip movement.

Many epidemiologists support the use of face shields as a face covering. [Eli N. Perencevich, M.D., M.S.](#), Professor of Internal Medicine and Epidemiology at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, recently gave an [interview](#) in which he said, "...face shields are both source control and protecting yourself from the droplets (respiratory) landing anywhere on your face." [William Schaffner, M.D.](#), an infectious disease specialist and Professor at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine states, "A face shield provides a barrier for anything going out, but also for things going in." Another supportive observation comes from [Amesh A. Adalja, M.D.](#), an infectious disease expert and senior scholar at the John Hopkins Center for Health Security. Dr. Adalja feels face shields have the potential to be more effective than face masks alone because, "...people are much less likely to touch their face when wearing a face shield. They can also be taken off and cleaned. In many ways, they're a much more attractive option."

Sourced and manufactured in the United States, Cap Guard and Kid's Cap Guard are 100% recyclable, re-usable, and can be easily sanitized by hand washing with antibacterial soap. The optically clear and scratch resistant shield mounts with live hinge clips to caps or visors that can convey a logo, mascot, or imagery. For further information visit www.capguard.com

About Olakunle Ekundare and Prime Time Basketball

Married, the father of two, and well known in youth sports, Olakunle Ekundare attained his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Temple University and his Executive MBA from Drexel University. Still active in adult recreational leagues, Ekundare has coached youth soccer, is currently on the staff at the Auerbach School Basketball Camp (summer), and runs Prime Time Basketball, a large youth recreational basketball program in southern New Jersey. He has been an active coach in youth sports for more than fifteen years and can be frequently heard telling parents that his driving source of motivation is to instill the love of the game in the next generation.

[Prime Time Basketball](#) is a highly recognized youth program which emphasizes conduct on and off the court with the founding principles of discipline, respect, and determination. At its core philosophy is the belief that children will best learn the game of basketball, as part of a diverse team, when the environment afforded by the coaches is both structured and nurturing. Highly successful, Prime Time Basketball contains 5 age divisions with many teams in each division.

Problem posed to Cap Guard's Team

COVID-19 shut down youth sports programs nationwide before spring season 2020 began, and most summer programs remained closed as well. Children have been homebound for months and social distancing and the fear of infection has reduced socialization to immediate family and maybe a neighborhood friend or two.

COVID-19 cases are spiking once again, and children returning to school has become a difficult decision for municipalities and parents alike. Parents of children who have participated in school and recreational organized youth sports leagues are increasingly worried about the risks of virus transmission as a consequence of their child returning to play – more so now than they were earlier in the pandemic.

“It is striking how quickly parents have reevaluated their priorities for their children in youth sport,” said [Dr. Travis Dorsch](#), study director and founding director of the [Families in Sport Lab](#) at Utah State University. *“Although parents held high hopes at the initial stages of the pandemic for a relatively quick return to normal, the extension of youth sport-related restrictions into the summer seems to have parents rethinking the widely accepted model of competitive youth sport in America.”*

[Jon Solomon, Editorial Director, Sports and Society Program at the Aspen Institute](#) recently published a [survey](#) which showed six out of ten parents view their child getting sick as a barrier to resuming sports, and five out of ten worry their child will get them sick.

Prime Time Basketball faces the same medical and emotional impediments as it looks to open registration for the coming fall season. *“We would like to get the kids playing again,”* said Director Ekundare, *“Maybe not games yet that involve other teams, but at least some form of structured practices. Kids need that socialization and most certainly the exercise. My main concern is how do we engage the kids again in the safest environment possible for them, my coaches, and of course, all the families involved.”*

Solution afforded by the Cap Guard Shield

Olakunle Ekundare trialed the Cap Guard face shield on the court. *“Cap Guard piqued my interest as something I could use in the leagues that I play in, but also as something which could be used with the youth in our recreational programs. During this time (COVID-19) I'm looking at options which would keep our players and coaches as safe as possible,”* said Ekundare.

Since the innovative Cap Guard shield attaches with patent pending live hinge clips to any cap or visor brim with an apex several inches from one's face, there is ample room for eyeglasses, *“With my prescription glasses, the Cap Guard still felt very comfortable. In fact, I thought there could be an opportunity to get it closer to my face, but upon further consideration, I find that it is properly placed,”* observed Ekundare.

Masks are found discarded on sidewalks and parking lots, and eventually they will show up around schools and sports facilities. They are potential contact source points for Covid-19, and the re-use of such is not advised per CDC recommendations as efficacy rapidly declines. In addition, all masks are not created equal, and many masks are sold with ventilation ports to reduce facial heat issues rendering them completely useless as a protective viral barrier. The Cap Guard face shield, *the clear choice* alternative as part of an overall strategy to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in the community setting, provides several constants that obvert these issues. *“The re-usability and easy sanitization of the Cap Guard are two factors which make them appealing for youth programs,”* said Ekundare.

Results and Conclusion from implementing the Cap Guard face shield

“After using Cap Guard myself, I think it would be great for non-contact sports and individual agility/workout sessions. I believe these sessions would have to be limited in participants but with leveraging the cap guards it would improve the experience. One of the advantages of the Cap Guard is that it doesn't muffle one's voice and does not feel as constrictive as other face coverings,” observed Ekundare.

“A cap, and maybe specifically a visor, would be great not only for teams but for other organizations leveraging the cap guard,” offered Ekundare when discussing building a sense of team unity. *“Within our youth program, I could see the Cap Guard being utilized during our individual and group workout sessions by the participants and the coaches.”*

“I found the Cap Guard to be secure. In fact, it is still attached to the cap I wore during the workout. I didn't find it to feel unstable,” summarized Ekundare. *“The clear face shield gives a sense of added freedom particularly during a workout. Initially I thought the Cap Guard would limit my ability to do certain things/movements, however it did not get in the way at all. During an individual workout, I find this to be an awesome product.”*

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