



# Food Distribution at Youth Sporting Events

## Safe Snack Bars at Youth Sports Events

Youth sports snack bar operations that prepare, sell, and/or distribute food to the public must be inspected and permitted by the San Bernardino County Department, Environmental Health Services (EHS). These operations include soccer leagues, Little League Baseball, pee-wee football, swim teams, school sports, and other organized youth events. Under California Health & Safety Code §113713, EHS is responsible for enforcing food protection laws in the county. Snack bars must meet state requirements to ensure safe food handling practices and protect the health of the community.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Why do youth sporting event snack bars need health permits and inspections?**

The California Health and Safety (H & S) Code §113700 et seq., requires San Bernardino County, Environmental Health Services (EHS) be the local enforcement agency to administer food protection laws and ensure food handling practices are performed safely. This requirement applies to youth sporting event snack bars.

#### **Who will be required to get a health permit?**

Organizations operating youth sporting event snack bars must obtain a permit to sell, prepare, or distribute food.  
**Note:** This applies to all “for-profit and “nonprofit” organizations operating more than three times in 90 days.

#### **What is the difference between “prepackaged food” and “non-prepackaged food”?**

Prepackaged food means any properly labeled processed food, packaged to prevent any direct human contact with the food product. Organizations operating youth sporting event snack bars must obtain a permit to sell, prepare, or distribute food.

#### **Can a youth sporting event snack bar serve food that has been prepared at home?**

No. Food may not be prepared at a home unless the home has been permitted as a Cottage Food Operation. For more information, visit [Cottage Food Operations](#) on our website at [ehs.sbcounty.gov](https://ehs.sbcounty.gov).

#### **The snack bar is used only to raise money for a youth organization. Does it still need a health permit?**

Yes. A health permit is required for all youth sporting event snack bars offering food to the public. Non-profit status does not exempt operators from the requirement to be permitted and inspected.



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### Are there any health permit exemptions?

Yes. If the snack bar only sells or distributes prepackaged, non-potentially hazardous food and the food is displayed in an area that is 25 square feet or less, no permit is required.

### What kind of health permit will be required for youth sporting event snack bars?

The specific type of health permit required for a youth sporting event snack bar depends on the food handling processes and duration of operation. Youth sporting event snack bars can operate under any of the following permits:

1. **Prepackaged Food Snack Bar Permit:** Food sale/distribution is limited to prepackaged, labeled foods such as chips, candy, cookies, and bottled/canned beverages.
  - **Note:** Small-scale operations with a food display area of non-potentially hazardous prepackaged food of 25 square feet or less are exempt from permitting requirements.
2. **Limited Food Preparation Snack Bar Permit:** Snack bars with limited preparation or handling of non-prepackaged foods such as popcorn, hot dogs, cookies, doughnuts, snow cones, churros (and other baked items), coffee, hot chocolate, etc., fall into this category. All non-prepackaged and potentially hazardous foods (foods that will support the growth of bacteria and require time or temperature control to limit pathogenic microorganism growth or toxin formation) must be prepared in the snack bar kitchen.
3. **Food Preparation Snack Bar Permit:** Food preparation for potentially hazardous foods such as hamburgers, tamales, chili and other foods containing meat, dairy (or other ingredients that would typically require heating or refrigeration), will fall into this category. All food preparation must be conducted in the snack bar kitchen.
  - **Note:** A BBQ may be approved for outdoor cooking purposes only.

The permit will be "seasonal" if the youth sporting event snack bar operates for less than six months in a year. An "annual" permit will be required if the youth sporting event snack bar operates six months or longer in a year.

### How can a health permit be obtained?

Submit a permit application by email to [EHS.CustomerService@dph.sbcounty.gov](mailto:EHS.CustomerService@dph.sbcounty.gov) or one of the EHS office locations found on our website. Applicable fees are due upon paper submittal and will be invoiced upon electronic submittal. Organizations with current, valid status as tax-exempt charitable organizations may submit proof of non-profit status (IRS letter 501(c)(3) or FTB equivalent) to be eligible for a fee waiver. After fees have been processed or waived, EHS will review the application and will either issue the appropriate operating permit or will contact the operator to schedule an on-site consultation.



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### **Are food handler cards required for volunteers who work in a youth sporting event snack bar?**

Only permanent employees who handle non-prepackaged food and/or touch food contact surfaces (i.e., plates, cutting boards, utensils, etc.) are required to have a food handler card. Food handler cards can be obtained at: [sbc.statefoodsafety.com](http://sbc.statefoodsafety.com). Volunteers are not required to obtain a food handler card, but are highly encouraged to complete a free food safety training module: [San Bernardino County Modules](#).

### **Where can more information on safe food handling practices be found?**

For additional information, visit the [Food Facilities](#) section of our website at [ehs.sbcounty.gov](http://ehs.sbcounty.gov) or call 800-442-2283.

### **Once obtained, how long is the health permit valid?**

Health permits are valid for one year or one season. Organizations that receive a fee waiver must reapply for health permit and fee waiver on an annual basis.

