

CONFERENCE CALL AND VIDEO CHAT OPTIONS FOR LEAGUES

CONNECT WITH YOUR LEAGUE DURING COVID-19

COVID-19 may have you stuck in the house, but it doesn't need to keep you away from the rest of your league staff, coaches and parents. We've put together a list of free, easy-to-use services that give you the power to talk or video chat to your constituents and keep your league running smoothly. There are more options than the ones listed here. Do additional research to find the best option for your organization.

FREECONFERENCECALL.COM // Our Pick if You're Starting Fresh

It says it in the name! Create a free account, download the app for your desktop and mobile device and get started. FreeConferenceCall.com allows you to conference call with video or audio and allows unlimited calls with up to 1,000 people on video or audio. It also offers call recording, one-on-one calls, screensharing and custom "meeting rooms" to store information your group may need. It has a pay-what-you-can model if you love it and want to support them.

GOOGLE HANGOUTS // Our Pick if You're Already Using Google Products

The free version allows you to videochat with up to 10 people for as long as you need to. We like Hangouts because it integrates well with the Google Suite – Sheets, Docs, Forms, Slides and other apps that help you collaborate. Stay connected at all times with Gmail, Calendar, Hangout Chats and Meets while storing all files on Google Drive. A free trial of the Business version with more features is currently offered until July 1, 2020. No app or software needed.

FREECONFERENCE.COM

Not to be confused with the above, this service offers many of the same features. It's focused more on calls than video but can do both. The free version lets you have a call with up to 1,000 people on the phone and five via videochat. FreeConference.com lets you video chat, share your screen and has apps for computer or phone. Recently, they've offered a two-month free trial on the Starter package with more features that's typically \$10 per month.

SKYPE

A Microsoft product, Skype offers video chatting for up 10 people for free. You can chat right from a web browser without having to download anything. There is also an app for your phone or computer you can download for free. Skype also offers call recording, screensharing and a fun feature that blurs what's behind you so people can focus more easily on you!

ZOOM

Zoom's free version lets you easily create an account and start connecting with HD video or audio conferencing. Access Zoom on your desktop and mobile and get up to 100 participants in a meeting with a 40-minute limit. You also have the option for unlimited one-on-one meetings, meeting recording and screensharing. Zoom's paid version offers longer meetings and other features. There is also an option to install Zoom with the Chrome or Outlook plug-in.

UBERCONFERENCE

Like many other services on the list, there's a free version and a premium version of UberConference. The free signup should cover all your needs, coming with HD video and HD quality audio, call recording, an app and screensharing. You can chat with up to fifty people for up to five hours at a time. Through the next two months, UberConference has extended its free version to allow for longer calls with larger groups of people.

MICROSOFT TEAMS

Typically a paid service, this is available for free during the COVID-19 pandemic. Just because Microsoft is in the name doesn't mean people with Macs can't use it. It's available on any device for desktop or mobile. Every person can stay connected with video or audio calls with a screenshare and background blurring option. You can even use the chat function to instantly send messages to one person or the whole group. Teams also lets you access to Microsoft 365 (Excel, PowerPoint, Word and OneNote) with a paid account to successfully work together.

BLUEJEANS

BlueJeans has HD video, Dolby voice audio and the ability to screenshare. Unfortunately, there is no free version, but you can get a free 14-day-trial. The trial allows for up to 50 attendees, connection from any computer, Apple or Android device. We'd recommend other options as this doesn't have a long-term free version.

GOTOMEETING

GoToMeeting doesn't have a free version but offers the full version for free for 14 days. The upside is you get access to most of those features without having to give up your credit card number. They allow screensharing plus HD video, conference calls, meeting recording and more. We'd look to other services as this is only a short-term fix.