

NYS Rules for COVID-19 Safety

Rand Stone, NYS COVID-19 Safety Officer



Guiding Principles

- The Commonwealth's Executive Office of Energy and Environment Affairs (EEA) uses several criteria to judge the safety of a sport:
 1. Risk of transmission of COVID-19 inherent in the sport;
 2. Level of risk without modifications to play, and;
 3. Whether a sport can “modify play” to reduce risk.
- Based on the EEA's directives, Mass Youth Soccer (MYSA) has determined the need to require specific modifications to play and administration
- Ed Jenkinson, our Director of Coaching, will cover modifications to play separately; this slide deck will address off-field conduct and administration



Safety is Our Goal

- NYS, our coaches, parents, and players **MUST** create a safe environment
- The safety of our players, their families, and the most vulnerable members of our community is paramount to us
 - Some of our rules are stricter than MYSA or other clubs
- We must have **FULL COMPLIANCE** from coaches, parents, and players
- While NYS and our coaches will create a safe environment, parent(s)/guardian(s) are the first line of defense



Before Every Match/Training

CDC statement on COVID-19 in children: “The most common symptoms in children are cough and/or fever.”

Parents/guardians (i.e., not the coach) must ensure that their player is illness-free before each match or training

- Most common symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, new loss of sense of smell or taste, runny nose, GI problems, flu-like achiness or tiredness
- “Fever” is a temperature (please actually measure it!) over 100.4F

If displaying any of these symptoms, the player should not attend!



What Players Must Do

Players have a big role in staying safe:

- Bring sanitary wipes and hand sanitizer to matches and training
- **Wear a mask at all times**
 - **Yes, during matches and training!**
- Keep your equipment bag 6 feet away from anyone else's
- Maintain 6 feet between you and everyone else during breaks
- Don't touch anyone else's equipment with your hands
- Use your hand sanitizer



What Coaches Must Do

Coaches have an enormous role in keeping everyone safe:

- **Be a role model** for mask-wearing and social distancing
- Remind players of the new rules and enforce them
- Meet with parents prior to the season and set out safety related expectations
- Actively recruit a team Safety Coordinator
- Use the MYSA coach checklist that we are providing



We Are Providing Hand Sanitizer to All Coaches



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Rules for Spectators

Spectators at matches are severely restricted:

- Only one person allowed per player
- Spectators must remain physically distanced from one another and must be seated in the designated area
- Spectators must wear face coverings at all times



New Roles to Help You

- NYS Safety Officer
- Team Safety Coordinator



NYS Safety Officer Responsibilities

- Communicates COVID-19 Policy and Return to Soccer Activities Guidelines organization wide
- Assists in assigning each team a COVID-19 Coordinator to oversee compliance at the team level
- Trains and educates all volunteers/staff on return to soccer activities protocols using guidelines and tools from MYSA website
- Develops a relationship and dialogue with local Health Department officials
- Develops a plan to communicate with the local health department in the event of a COVID-19 case within a team



Safety Coordinator Responsibilities

- Can be a Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager, or team parent (must register as an Adult with Mass Youth Soccer)
- Communicates COVID-19 policies with team (masks, balls, hand sanitizer, social distancing)
- Keeps accurate attendance records for practices and games (necessary for contact tracing)
- Monitors sidelines to ensure COVID-19 policies (physical distancing, masks) are being followed.



What if Someone Contracts COVID-19?

- Affected individual or parent should contact the COVID-19 Safety Officer by e-mail and text (safetyofficer@newtonsoccer.org; 917-513-6161)
- Safety Officer will contact the local DPH as well as MYSA
- The DPH will provide the individual with instructions on what to do
- All parties who have had close contact with the individual will be notified
- **The name of the affected individual will NOT be disclosed**



What if Someone Contracts COVID-19? (cont'd)

- All teams and individuals that have come in close contact with the individual will have soccer activities suspended for 14 days
- A **close contact** is someone with whom the affected individual has been within 6 feet of for at least 10-15 minutes while symptomatic or within 48 hours before symptom onset
- A **close contact** can also be someone who had direct contact with the droplets of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing a mask or face coverings



Resources

- The full set of MYSA guidelines can be found here:
[https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/assets/61/6/Return to Soccer Activities Phase 3 Step 1 - August 151.pdf](https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/assets/61/6/Return%20to%20Soccer%20Activities%20Phase%203%20Step%201%20-%20August%20151.pdf)
- CDC's information on mask wearing can be found here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>
- CDC's Considerations for Youth Sports can be found here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>
- A recent review in the Washington Post on kids and transmission can be found here:
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/08/20/children-coronavirus-spread-transmission/>

