



PETERS TOWNSHIP SOCCER ASSOCIATION

RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES

I. Introduction

The health and safety of our players, coaches, referees, parents, and volunteers is the PTSA's utmost concern. These Return to Play Guidelines set forth the precautions that the PTSA intends to undertake for the resumption of soccer activities throughout the PTSA programs in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. These guidelines are based on recommendations from the CDC, the PA Department of Health, PA West, and the Peters Township Parks & Recreation Department.

Individual decisions as to whether a child should participate in any PTSA soccer activity is solely the decision of that child's parents and the PTSA respects all parents' decisions regarding the health and safety of their children. If anyone is not comfortable returning to play, then they should not participate. To the extent anyone decides to participate in PTSA activities, then, in addition to all applicable state and federal health guidelines and protocols, the PTSA requires compliance by all involved with these guidelines for the health and safety of all of our members and the soccer community in general.

II. General Guidelines

- Wash hands with soap and water frequently
- Do **NOT** attend practice or games if not feeling well
- Cover cough and sneezes
- Wear masks except when playing
- Avoid touching your face
- Social Distance (6 ft) whenever possible
- Familiarize yourself with and follow CDC guidelines as well as those of the local health authorities. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>

III. Coach's Responsibilities

- Conduct a self-health assessment before each practice and game. Do not attend practice or games if you do not feel well, have a cough or fever, or have been in contact with anyone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

- Inquire how the athletes are feeling and whether anyone has been in contact with a person with COVID-19. Send home anyone you believe acts or looks ill or has been in contact with an individual with COVID-19.
- Record attendance of players at each practice and game using Attendance Record Form attached hereto as Appendix A.
- Wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer during breaks in, and after, training and games.
- Wear a mask when at all possible.
- Observe social distancing (6 feet) when possible at all times.
- Have hand sanitizer available at all practices and games. (Hand sanitizer will be provided to each coach for the team by PTSA.)
- Disinfect any team equipment after all practices and games.
- Clean up any team equipment by yourself. Do not have players or parents pick up team cones, nets, balls, etc.
- The use of scrimmage vests, or pinnies, is not recommended at this time.
- No benches or common seating for the team. Players may bring individual chairs if they so choose, but those chairs should not be shared and must be 6 feet apart from each other on the sideline.
- Team huddles should observe social distancing. No team huddles or meetings after practices or games as players and coaches should promptly leave the field.
- No handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, or unnecessary physical contact. No post game handshakes lines. Sportsmanship should be maintained in another manner within the confines of social distancing and these guidelines.
- Direct players to maintain social distancing (6 feet) with belongings (equipment, bags, water bottles, etc.) before, after, and during practice, games, and breaks. Players should have set areas to keep belongings and return to during breaks.
- Strict adherence to schedule. Prompt start and finish to all practices and games as scheduled. Prompt arrival and departure from field before and after each practice and game as well.
- No post game teams snacks or drinks

IV. Player's Responsibilities

- Conduct a self-health assessment before each practice and game. Do not attend practice or game if you do not feel well, have a cough or fever, or have been in contact with anyone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- Wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer during breaks in, and after, training and games.
- Bring your own water bottle labeled with your name to every practice and game. Bring an adequate amount of water for yourself. Do **NOT** share water bottles or drinks.
- Bring hand sanitizer to every practice and game.
- Bring your own soccer ball to each practice and game.
- Observe social distancing (6 feet) when possible at all times.
- Team huddles should observe social distancing.
- No handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, or unnecessary physical contact.
- Promptly leave field after practices and games.
- Shower and wash all clothing and washable items upon returning home after every practice and game.
- Disinfect non-washable equipment (cleats, balls, shin guards, gloves, etc.) after every practice and game.

V. Parents' Responsibilities

- Conduct a health assessment of yourself and your child before each practice and game. Your child should not attend practice or game if they do not feel well, have a cough or fever, or have been in contact with anyone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- If you, your child, or anyone your child has been in contact with is diagnosed with COVID-19, immediately notify your child's coach and the PTSA COVID-19 Points of Contacts (Jim Malloy (president@ptsoccer.org) and Tom Pirosko (travel-girls@ptsoccer.org)).
- Ensure that your player(s) complies with the Player's Responsibilities herein.
- Ensure that your player(s) has their own water bottle with an adequate amount of water, soccer ball, and hand sanitizer for each practice and game.

- Wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before and after taking any players to practices or games or coming in contact with any players or coaches.
- Bring hand sanitizer to each practice and game.
- Promptly drop off and pick up your player(s) from practices and games.
- Avoid carpooling unless necessary.
- Parents and siblings should stay in their cars during the player's practice. No standing on sidelines or inside the field perimeter is permitted unless extenuating circumstances exist. Exceptions may be made for Grasshopper teams and further guidance will be provided.
- Parents and spectators will be permitted for games. Those from the same household may sit together. Anyone from different households must sit 6 feet apart. Spectators should remain in their cars until shortly before kick-off and return to the cars immediately after the final whistle – do not wait for players to come off the field.
- Parents and Spectators must remain in the areas designated for spectators and are not permitted on the same sidelines as the teams and players.
- Bleachers will not be used and everyone must bring their own seating.
- When in possible contact with members outside of your family, please wear masks and observe social distancing (6 feet) when possible at all times.

VI. Referee's Responsibilities

- Conduct a self-health assessment before each game. Do not attend if you do not feel well, have a cough or fever, or have been in contact with anyone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- Wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer during breaks in, and after, training and games.
- Wear a mask when at all possible.
- Observe social distancing (6 feet) when possible at all times.

VII. PTSA Plan For Facilities

- Publish Return to Play Guidelines as approved by PT Parks & Rec Department and PA West.
- PA West and the PTSA require a signed liability waiver for PA West and PTSA regarding any COVID-19 issues (*see Appendix B*).

- Signs will be posted reminding members to practice good hygiene.
- Each player will be required to have hand sanitizer for each game and practice. The PTSA will provide hand sanitizer supplies to each coach for the team as well.
- Start times will be staggered to reduce the number of people entering and exiting each field entrance. Enough time will be provided for those finishing practice or games to clear the field area before the next group arrives.
- Players should not arrive more than 5 minutes early for any scheduled practice or game and should immediately leave the field afterwards. There will be no post-practice or game team huddles or meetings.
- Practice areas between teams will be at least 20 yards apart.
- The PTSA will stagger the use of fields for practices and games to reduce the numbers of players, parents, and spectators in any given area.
- Parents will not be allowed on the field or inside the field perimeter during practice times.
- Bleachers will not be used.
- Spectators will be permitted for games. Those from the same household may sit together. Anyone from different households must sit 6 feet apart. Spectators should remain in their cars until shortly before kick-off and return to the cars immediately after the final whistle – do not wait for players to come off the field.
- PT Parks & Rec Department will clean all restroom facilities once or twice a day.
- PTSA will sanitize all goals at the end of each day when goals are used.
- The Concession Stand will remain closed until the PTSA issues further guidelines for concession stand activities.
- Action/Communication Plan
 - Return to Play Guidelines will be emailed to all PTSA members, posted on the PTSA website (www.ptsoccer.org) and distributed to each coach to send to his/her team. Parents and players will be asked to acknowledge review of, and compliance with, the guidelines during registration.
 - PTSA COVID-19 Points of Contacts: Jim Malloy (president@ptsoccer.org) and Tom Piroosko (travel-girls@ptsoccer.org).
 - Immediately separate any individual with COVID-19 [symptoms](#) (i.e., fever, cough, shortness of breath) at any PTSA activity. Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility, depending on how severe their symptoms

are, and follow [CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others](#) who are sick. Individuals who have had [close contact](#) with a person who has [symptoms](#) will be separated and sent home as well.

- If the PTSA is notified, or becomes aware, of a member with COVID-19, in accordance with state and local privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations, the PTSA will remind the exposed or ill player or parent of the CDC self-isolation instruction and the need to contact their physician.
- Within the bounds of confidentiality and with all due respect to individual's privacy, the PTSA will advise the Parks & Rec Department of a reported case and also advise the members of the team and anyone who had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms, and to follow [CDC guidance](#) if symptoms develop.
- Any individual diagnosed with COVID-19 will not be allowed to return to activity until providing a written clearance from a doctor and have met CDC's [criteria to discontinue home isolation](#).
- Any area used by a sick or infected person will be closed immediately. After 24 hours, the area will be cleaned and disinfected before anyone is permitted to return to the area.