



WHGSL/WHYSA
COVID-19 SAFETY
PROTOCOLS
FOR FALL 2020

Introduction

West Hartford Girls Soccer League, Inc. (“WHGSL”) and West Hartford Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (“WHYSA”) (collectively, “West Hartford Soccer”) are Town-sanctioned recreational sports leagues that have fostered a safe, friendly and engaging environment for Town youth to develop integral life skills including leadership, teamwork, and sportsmanship as well as to cultivate interpersonal relationships with teammates from various cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds. At this time – maybe more than ever – West Hartford Soccer is committed to providing a safe outlet for the children in our community as we begin to return to normalcy. And it is with this intention that West Hartford Soccer has adopted these return-to-play Safety Protocols.

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 16, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7D, which significantly reduced recreational gatherings. The continuation of this restriction required WHGSL to cancel its spring 2020 leagues. On or about May 29, 2020, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7TT, amending his earlier order and permitting “large outdoor gatherings” of up to 25 individuals. With this, Governor Lamont issued “Sector Rules for June 17th reopen.” In that document, soccer is categorized as a “moderate risk” sport that, under certain guidelines, can resume on June 17, 2020. On or about June 12, 2020, the West Hartford Executive Policy Committee approved the recommendation to allow youth sports programs to resume June 17.

Shortly thereafter, the WHGSL commenced a travel summer program pursuant to certain safety protocols comprising a battery of health and safety restrictions formulated in review of and accordance with the guidance promulgated by U.S. Youth Soccer, Connecticut Junior Soccer Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the state’s Sector Rules, and after consulting with other local youth sports leagues and our local and state officials. Those protocols, as amended, will govern West Hartford Soccer activities. All players, parents and coaches will be notified of the protocols. West Hartford Soccer will continue to monitor updates from local and state officials regarding youth sports and amend the protocols from time to time as needed, and will disseminate any such changes to players, parents and coaches, as appropriate.

Safety Protocols

❖ Site Precautions

- **Proposed Sites:** All sites permitted by the Town of West Hartford.
- One or more Field Marshals shall be retained to monitor and enforce these Safety Protocols for the West Hartford Soccer travel divisions and may be retained by the recreational divisions. Persistent violation and/or refusal to comply with these Safety Protocols by any coach, player or spectator after reasonable notice of mandatory compliance by a Field Marshal shall be grounds to terminate a game and deem the offending team to have forfeited.
- Use of bleachers, stands, benches and the like are expressly **PROHIBITED**.
- WHGSL coaches will be provided certain signage promoting and reminding people to social distance. Coaches shall be responsible for bringing, assembling and removing such signage at the conclusion of training or a match.
- Use of lavatories is expressly **PROHIBITED**.
- In consideration of the ongoing global pandemic and the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, please give strong consideration to minimizing the number of family members attending games this season.
- Coaches, players and spectators shall bring and wear masks or cloth face coverings when entering and exiting a site. Players are not required to wear a mask or cloth covering while engaged in active play (including warmups and cool downs). At matches, spectators must wear a mask or cloth face covering even if safe social distancing can be achieved.

❖ Practice Requirements / Coaching Responsibilities

- Practice may include up to, but shall not exceed, the number of people permitted under the then-effective Executive Order.
- A coach shall undertake reasonable efforts to ensure his/her team's players, parents, guardians and spectators comply with these Safety Protocols.

- For training and matches, coaches shall stage an area using cones for players' bags and equipment to ensure a minimum of six (6) feet between players.
- Coaches shall conduct a roll call and document in writing the players present and shall provide that documentation within 24 hours of the event.
- Players and coaches shall bring their own water – sharing water and the use of water fountains is **PROHIBITED**.
- The sharing of equipment is **PROHIBITED**.
- During instruction, coaches shall wear masks, and players are required to wear masks when unable to easily, continuously, and measurably keep six (6) feet of physical distance from others
- Training shall be planned around social distancing, utilizing small group and individual exercises, as the circumstances permit.
- Huddles, high-fives and daps of any form are **PROHIBITED**.
- To the extent possible, coaches shall avoid the use of pinnies. To the extent that is impracticable, coaches shall wash all pinnies immediately after practice. No set of pinnies shall be used for more than one practice for one team (use of pinnies for multiple same-day practices for different teams is **PROHIBITED**).
- All cones, balls, flags and other training and match equipment shall be disinfected with anti-bacterial of at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol prior to and at the conclusion of training and matches.

❖ Self-Assessment and Potential Cases

- Any coach, player, parent, referee or spectator who is sick, has a persistent cough, is running a temperature or is displaying any symptoms suggesting that the individual may be ill, (from any contagious malady, including cold, flu, suspected COVID-19 or otherwise) will be prohibited from attending training or games.
- Each coach and player (assisted by parents/guardians) shall self-assess their condition and shall only attend the event if they are not experiencing symptoms then commonly associated with COVID-19. The self-assessment tool that shall be

used can be found at <https://www.mayoclinic.org/covid-19-self-assessment-tool> or the West Hartford Soccer website (wehasoccer.org).

- Any adult attendee displaying any of these symptoms shall be required to leave a site. A minor displaying any of these symptoms shall be safely isolated until an adult responsible for the minor can safely remove the minor from the site.
- If a player or coach contracts COVID-19, all training sessions will be canceled for that team and any additional team associated with that coach for 14 days.
- If a player or coach is sent home with COVID-related symptoms, they can return when they have no fever, symptoms have improved, and they receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart (or as otherwise required per CDC Guidelines)

Prior to engaging in any soccer activities, a parent or guardian of each player will be required to sign the waiver provided with these protocols as Attachment A, which has been mandated by CJSA.

Resource Guide

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/Camps-Decision-Tre_e.pdf

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Covid_Business_Recovery-Phase-2/Sports_FitnessCenters-C4_V1.pdf (English)

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Covid_Business_Recovery-Phase-2/Sports-Clubs--Gym-SPAN.pdf (Spanish)

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/video/return-to-play/>

https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/assets/1/6/usys_rta_notice_051920.pdf

[http://www.cjsa.org/doclib/5_21_20%20CJSA%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.cjsa.org/doclib/5_21_20%20CJSA%20(1).pdf)

<http://www.cjsa.org/coronavirusresources>

[http://www.cjsa.org/doclib/RTP-CJSA%201-10%20-%20Phase%201%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.cjsa.org/doclib/RTP-CJSA%201-10%20-%20Phase%201%20(3).pdf)