

Health and Safety Guidelines for St. Michael Soccer Practices – August 2020

St. Michael is planning to start soccer practices in early August if fields are available through Sharonville. Practice fields and practice times will be spread out as much as possible and multiple field locations including Gower, Berke and Sharonville Elementary may be used. St. Michael will follow the guidance of the Ohio Department of Health and our Governor of Ohio related to contact sport practice and competitions. Currently practices can resume for all sports and SAY soccer is waiting for approval of competitive soccer games before scheduling the season. St. Michael will not practice soccer if the public emergency level for Hamilton or Butler County is at a Level 4 (purple). All families are required to sign and return the SAY Soccer Hold Harmless form before players will be allowed to practice soccer.

Preparing for Practices

1. Stay home when appropriate and do not participate in activities if you have any of the symptoms listed below.
 - COVID exposure in past 14 days
 - Sore throat
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - Fever >100 F
 - Chills
 - Headache
 - Sinus congestion
 - Cough persistent and or productive
 - Joint aches and soreness
 - Vomiting or diarrhea
 - Rash
2. If a child is absent from school, then they are not allowed to attend soccer practice.
3. Players should bring their own equipment and avoid bringing any unnecessary belongings to practice. Required equipment includes soccer shoes, shin guards, a soccer ball and a water bottle.
4. Players should wash their hands before departing for practice.

Practices

1. Face coverings should be worn by coaches as much as possible.
2. Avoid practice activities involving high levels of group interaction (e.g. team huddles).
3. Physical contact is only permitted within the rules of the game. No participants should touch each other before, during or after practice (e.g. hugs, high-fives).
4. Try to maintain social distancing of at least six feet as much as possible.
5. Team talks during practice should only take place in an open space with all participants maintaining social distancing.
6. Throw-ins and handling the ball should be avoided until August 24.
7. Team bibs will not be used. Coaches can ask specific players to wear white shirts and colored shirts for practice.
8. Other than soccer balls, which players only touch with their feet, equipment will not be shared.

Families and Spectators at Practice

1. Limit any nonessential visitors, spectators, volunteers.
2. Avoid close contacts and follow all social distancing guidelines.
3. Accompanying parents and guardians are encouraged to stay in their cars or depart the area while their child is practicing.
4. Parents and guardians should not congregate together.
5. Face coverings should be worn by parents and guardians

St. Michael Soccer is putting these guidelines in place to promote a safe and healthy environment for our boys and girls to practice soccer. These guidelines do not eliminate the risk of exposure to an infectious disease. Each family is responsible for assessing the risk of having a child participate in St. Michael Soccer. Please contact soccer@stmichaelboosters.org if you have any questions.