



Rockaway Township Soccer Association (RTSA) 2020/21 Tryout/ Return to Play Protocol

Introduction:

The purpose of this document is to provide the Rockaway Township Soccer Association (RTSA) coaches, staff, players and their families with information explaining RTSA's plans to meet both state guidelines and New Jersey Youth Soccer (NJYS) guidelines pertaining to Return to Play starting on June 22nd. NJYS has issued very clear requirements for all member organizations within what they are labeling "Stage 3" of Return to Play. "Stage 3" is set to begin on June 22nd as per the allowance granted by Governor Murphy. "Stage 3" reflects the numerous restrictions requiring soccer to only engage in non-contact activities. In addition, NJYS has guidelines for "Stage 4" which begins on July 6th. "Stage 4" reflects the lifting of restrictions as soccer is allowed to resume competition while still maintaining strict guidelines for safety. For now, RTSA will be conducting player evaluations for our Travel Soccer teams on Saturday, June 27th and a date TBD in July in case of cancellation due to inclement weather or as a make-up session for any player that missed the first tryout. The initial section of this document will lay out the plan for just this event to show how they meet the safety guidelines required by NJYS' "Phase 3" and the state Department of Health guidelines. The next section of this document reflects RTSA's action plan going forward as we prepare for our Fall Season. Our Travel and Recreation program will plan to resume play in late August. In addition to this document, we are providing

you with more information directly from NJYS to show that their guidelines are even stricter than the governor's when it comes to player safety.

Part I: Proposal for Player Evaluations (June 27th and July date TBD)

The following list includes the key measures RTSA will take to ensure player and coach/trainer safety for our player evaluation:

1. Paul Nekich (President of RTSA) will be responsible for ensuring that this plan is enacted for the tryout evaluation.
2. The evaluations will be non-contact. Players will be evaluated based on their individual soccer skill set. Players will not be participating in any contact drills or game-like scenarios.
3. All players must sign a waiver to be allowed to participate in the evaluation. All players will be screened before being allowed onto the field, and a record of attendance will be kept. Temperatures will be taken at a screening station. Any player with a temperature 100.4 and above will be asked to leave. In addition, players will be asked a series of questions using a questionnaire created by NJYS. In addition, all coaches/trainers will also go through the same screening process.
4. Only players and coaches/trainers will be allowed onto the field. Parents will be asked to stay in the parking area of Norway Field. Players will be required to wear a cloth mask as they enter the field. As per NJYS guidelines, they will not have to wear a mask during the evaluation. They will be required to put the mask back on as they exit the field to go to their parents.
5. As players enter the field, they will be sent to their own individual area on the sidelines where they will place their belongings. They will remain at these individual areas until given further instruction. The individual areas on the sidelines will be placed at least six feet apart from each other to maintain proper social distancing.
6. For the evaluation, the players will be verbally guided to their own individual practice grid. NJYS recommends a 10 yd x 10 yd area for each individual player with a 2 yd buffer between each player grid. These individual areas will allow us to keep the players socially distant from each other during the evaluation.
7. Once evaluations are complete, players will be individually sent back to their area on the sidelines. They will then be released individually to return to their parents in the parking area.
8. All coaches/trainers will remain six feet from each other and the players to maintain proper social distance throughout the entire evaluation. All coaches/trainers will wear cloth masks throughout the entire evaluation. All equipment will be handled only by

coaches/trainers. After the evaluations are complete, all equipment will be sanitized using sanitizer supplied by RTSA.

9. We plan to set up 1 hour blocks for players to be assigned for evaluation. As per NJYS guidelines, there will be no more than 25 people on the field during each block. This includes both players and coaches/trainers. These 1 hour blocks include time to sanitize equipment and maintain proper social distancing as groups enter and exit the field.

Part II: Proposal for Return to Play for Fall Soccer Season (begins late August)

The list below represents RTSA's plans for returning to play for our Fall season. These items are in direct response to the town's list of required measures:

1. Soccer is listed as a Medium risk sport by the state Department of Health.
2. RTSA coaches will be responsible for ensuring that this plan is enacted for all RTSA practices and games.
3. For all RTSA events (practices, games, fundraisers, picture day, etc.), all participants must maintain proper social distancing (at least 6 feet apart). This includes players, coaches, trainers, players' parents/guardians, and spectators.
4. For all RTSA events, all participants are required to wear a cloth mask. This includes players, coaches, trainers, players' parents/guardians, and spectators. Players will only be required to wear a mask as they arrive at an event and when they are not engaged in physical activity.
5. All events will be scheduled so proper sanitization can occur and entry on and exit from fields will not result in overcrowding.
6. All staff/volunteers will be provided educational materials that have been created by NJYS pertaining to safety guidelines for Return to Play. These materials will be readily available on our website (rtsa.org). These materials will cover the following guidelines:
 - a. Respiratory Etiquette
 - b. Social Distancing Requirements
 - c. Staying Home When Sick Requirements
 - d. Proper Hand Hygiene
 - e. Plan for When a Participant Becomes Sick
 - f. Plan for How to Address Participant Refusing to Follow Guidelines
7. All food and drinks at all RTSA events must be individual. No sharing will be allowed.
8. Players will be asked to use their own soccer ball for training. Players will not be allowed to share shin guards, cleats, or goalie gloves.
9. Coaches/Trainers' equipment will be handled only by coaches/trainers. After each event, this equipment will be sanitized.
10. Before and during each event, coaches will be responsible for reminding spectators and all participants of the requirements outlined by this plan.
11. All fields utilized by RTSA will have signs that have been created by NJYS. These signs contain reminders of safety and social distancing guidelines.

12. To reduce overcrowding at fields, all players will arrive for practice at a designated drop off/field entry location. At the conclusion of practice, players will leave the field from a separate exit/pick-up location. Locations will be marked as such. Practice times will be spaced apart with enough time to avoid overlapping of departures and arrivals.
13. Hand sanitizer will be available at field entry/exit points, in Port-o-potties, and near player benches. Bathrooms will have soap and water if applicable. Disinfecting wipes/sprays will be available to sanitize equipment and high touch surfaces. Players will be asked to bring and keep their own hand sanitizer in their bags.
14. All RTSA practice fields will adhere to the governor's restrictions on numbers of people gathering outdoors.
15. All coaches/trainers and players will have their temperatures checked prior to being allowed to participate in a practice. All coaches/trainers and players will also be required to answer screening questions provided by NJYS.
16. Any participant in a practice exhibiting symptoms related to the coronavirus will be required to exit the field. If the participant is a player, their parent will be contacted for immediate pick up and the player will be escorted by a coach/staff member, wearing appropriate PPE, to the pick up location.
17. Contact activities will be limited during practice sessions.
18. Parents and other visitors will be asked to remain off of the field during practice sessions to reduce the numbers of people on the field. Any visitor on the field during practice sessions will be required to wear a mask and abide by social distancing requirements.
19. Coaches/trainers and players will not engage in any close-contact activities. This includes giving high-fives, spitting, handshakes, team huddles, and other types of activities of this nature.
20. All guidelines outlined above will also be required at all games, including tournaments.
21. Transportation to RTSA practices and games should be done by the player's own families. No carpooling will be allowed.
22. Games will be scheduled to allow for time to sanitize and allow for social distancing as participants and spectators exit and enter the field.
23. Any player, coach, staff, or parent that does not adhere to this protocol and any other guideline set by the Department of Health will be asked to leave the event.

IF YOU ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH RETURNING TO PLAY, DON'T