

MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION



**Spring 2021
COVID-19**

Member Checklist For Organization Leadership

May 18, 2021





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Member Organization Checklist For Organization Leadership

Massachusetts Youth Soccer is dedicated to protecting the health of all people in and outside of our community. In an effort to assist our players, coaches and parents with their efforts to return to play after the recent suspension of activities due to COVID-19, Massachusetts Youth Soccer has put together Spring 2021 COVID-19 Soccer Protocols. This is an abridged version of that document, but does not replace it. It is your responsibility to read the full Spring 2021 COVID-19 Soccer Protocols, document and use this as a quick reference document. Given the nature of this pandemic, this framework may change at any time based on the most recent CDC and or Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) guidelines. Please keep in mind that local municipalities may have additional guidelines in place that will need to be adhered to. Once this order has been relaxed, please be aware that individual counties and jurisdictions may have additional restrictions in place that affect your decisions.

The information contained in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. All content, including text, graphics, images, and information, are provided for general informational purposes only.

This document also contains a simple checklist to use as you prepare to return to soccer activities in the Spring of 2021. All Mass Youth Soccer member organizations must follow the association's guidelines. In addition, each organization may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all members, employees, volunteers, and participants.

A similar checklist for coaches is included in the COVID-19 Coach Resources section of our website. This checklist should be used by all coaches as they prepare to return and while they conduct soccer activities.

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Requirements Prior to Commencing Soccer Activities

- ☐ **Make the Mass Youth Soccer COVID-19 Protocols available to all members. This can be accomplished by:**
 - ☐ **Emailing**
 - ☐ **Prominently posting on Website**
 - ☐ **Pointing to the most recent version on the Mass Youth Soccer Website / MA Safe Soccer section.**
- ☐ **Appoint your organization's official COVID-19 Safety Officer who will communicate policies organization wide, to coaching staff, administrators, parents, and players. This should be one individual who may assign certain duties to others.**
 - ☐ **Assign duties to Risk Manager or other specifically designated person.**
 - ☐ **Each team should be assigned a COVID-19 Coordinator who should be on hand at each practice.**
- ☐ **Communicate policies and guidelines to coaching staff, administrators, parents, and players.**
 - ☐ **Confirm all registered adults have read and understand the guidelines as it pertains to their role in the organization.**
- ☐ **Make sure all coaches who will be conducting practices and training sessions are fully registered, affiliated, and compliance approved. Your organization's Risk Manager or Registrar should have this information.**
- ☐ **Confirm your organization has permission to use the fields (facility, complex, park, school, etc.) prior to scheduling any practices**
- ☐ **Work with all coaches to identify their team's COVID-19 Coordinator to oversee compliance at the team level (can be a team parent who must register as an Adult with Mass Youth Soccer).**

For those organizations that use public fields:

- ☐ **Confirm your coaches and other active adults are properly trained and equipped on the use of sanitization products and techniques.**

For those organizations who use private fields/facilities

- ☐ **Confirm facility owner has developed, trained, and implemented increased sanitization protocols for common surfaces, restrooms, and equipment.**
- ☐ **Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available throughout the facility.**



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COVID-19 Safety Officer Role and Responsibilities

Each organization will have an assigned COVID-19 Safety Officer who will communicate policies to club members. Frequently updated information as well as a complete overview of all COVID-19 guidelines and safety protocols can be found on the Massachusetts Youth Soccer website. Spring 2021 COVID-19 Soccer Protocols provides a detailed overview of recommendations and protocols for all people involved with the game including the role of the club, coach, parent and player to help keep everyone safe.

Mass Youth Soccer Spring 2021 COVID-19 Soccer Protocols

- No signs or symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and have not been exposed to someone who has been ill in 14 days A shortened period of time may be followed if recommended by the CDC and Local Board of Health.
- All Massachusetts Youth members who plan to leave Massachusetts for more than 24 hours and all out-of-state residents who plan to come into Massachusetts for more than 24 hours for soccer events are asked to be aware of and understand the current Commonwealth of Massachusetts Travel Advisory (the latest Travel Advisory version as of this documents printed date is dated March 22, 2021)
- Check for normal temperature before going to training - (temperature 100.4 or higher please stay home).
- Upon arrival to training, coaches or staff should ask each athlete if they are experiencing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. If the athlete has any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 they should be sent home and instructed to contact their healthcare provider. They will not be allowed to return to training until they are cleared by a healthcare provider. A doctor's note must be provided.
- Participants, organizers, spectators, volunteers, and facility employees in high risk categories should not participate or attend organized sport activities. List of high risk categories can be found here.
- Be sure appropriate infection prevention supplies (e.g. hand sanitizer, facial tissues, facial coverings) are present in multiple targeted areas (outlined later in this document).
- Indoor and Outdoor facilities with a permitted capacity must limit capacity to no more than 50% of the facility's maximum permitted occupancy up to a maximum capacity of 500. Large capacity venues may exceed the 500 person capacity limit as specified below. Member Organizations are required to verify the occupancy capacity of the facility with the owner (town, school dept etc.) to determine the spectator limits at their facilities



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- Large capacity venues, defined as having capacities of 5,000 persons or more as specified in a certificate of occupancy or other, equivalent authorization must follow capacity limits for large capacity venues in COVID-19 Sector Specific Safety Rules for large capacity venues.
- Spectators are not required to wear a mask where 6' of social distance can be maintained. If a spectator is unable to maintain proper social distance they must wear a mask.
- For facilities with multiple fields, surfaces, courts, courses etc. the above capacity limitations shall apply per playing field, surface, court, etc., provided that there is adequate spacing for at least six feet social distancing for all individuals, including those at adjacent fields, surfaces, courts, etc.
- Participants should use their own equipment and be instructed to sanitize their equipment after every training session.
- Each participant will be required to have their own water bottle, towel, and personal hygiene products (hand sanitizer, facial tissues, face coverings). Players are required to wear face coverings during all soccer activities, Coaches and spectators will be required to wear face coverings and maintain a social distance of 6 feet at all times. Tissues, wipes, or disposable gloves must be properly disposed in the appropriate receptacles.
- Any equipment handled by coaches, volunteers or players (cones, goals etc.) must be cleared with disinfectant before, during, and after training.



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Requirements While Conducting Soccer Activities

- ❑ Team COVID-19 Coordinator will communicate with the coach to ensure all required policies and procedures are in place during the training session.
- ❑ Designated player equipment area is set up next to the playing area you are assigned to. The area should be away from the sideline and the spectator area.
- ❑ Adhere to guidelines regarding proper use of face coverings and masks.
- ❑ The Coach is the only person who can touch any cones or equipment. Coaches should not handle a player's soccer ball with their hands at any time.
- ❑ Throughout practice, during breaks for water, encourage proper hygiene as provided in the guidelines.
- ❑ The Coach shall take proper attendance for each session, recording on paper, or electronically.
- ❑ Do not allow players to share team snacks, water, equipment, or clothing.

Protective Equipment and Facial Coverings

In accordance with and based on the EEA Safety Standards for Youth and Adult Amateur Sports activities mandates, Phase IV Step 1 effective May 18, 2021

For Youth aged 18 years and under when outdoors and engaged in moderate risk sports (soccer), a mask will not be required. At their parent's discretion, players may continue to wear a mask while playing soccer.

For participants aged 19 years and older when outdoors and engaged in moderate risk sports (soccer) where social distancing can not be continually maintained (soccer) a face covering must be worn while actively playing. The player may remove the face covering for frequent short mask breaks to catch their breath when they are out of proximity of other players (at least 6') using caution to avoid touching the front or inside of the face covering by using the ear loops to remove and replace.

Players are not required to wear a mask outdoors while on the sideline or in a huddle if proper social distance is maintained. If social distance cannot be maintained masks must be worn.

For the purpose of this guidance a facial covering means a face mask that completely covers the nose and mouth. Only face coverings that are secure with loops around a player's ears are acceptable. Masks with exhalation valves or vents (including mesh masks) are not acceptable and should NOT be worn by anybody. Face coverings must be a separate accessory.



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Coaches and Referees are not required to wear a mask if they are outdoors and can social distance. At any time social distance can not be maintained they must wear a mask. Referees age 18 and younger do not need to wear a face covering while on the field of play officiating a game. The use of electronic whistles or similar non-traditional whistles by all referees is required.

Some town, city and regional Boards of Health as well as leagues may impose more restrictive measures for facial coverings for participants and spectators. If so, these restrictions take precedence.

If conditions are so severe as to warrant masks too dangerous to wear, the competition must be delayed, postponed or cancelled

Requirements After Conducting Soccer Activities

- ☐ Ensure that all players have all of their belongings and have disposed of any trash that they may have (water bottles, snack wrappers).
- ☐ Dismiss players to allow for proper physical distancing as they leave the field.
- ☐ The coach shall be the only person to handle the cones and other equipment. The equipment should be disinfected prior to being used again.
- ☐ Once athletes have completed their competition or activity they must leave the area if another team is taking the field or using the playing surface to ensure adequate space for distancing.
- ☐ While it is recommended players and spectators leave the facility after their practice or game if they remain, proper social distancing will be required at all times.
- ☐ The coach should be the last person to leave the practice area.
- ☐ Facility Operators must minimize equipment sharing and clean and disinfect shared equipment at the end of a practice session as outlined in the guidelines.
- ☐ In the event that you are notified of a positive test or exposure to COVID by a member player, parent or coach, please follow the process outlined below.



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In the event that a member test positive for COVID-19:

1. The affected party (parent/guardian for player) should notify the COVID-19 Safety Officer and President for the organization.
2. Upon notification the COVID-19 Safety officer and or President will obtain details in regards to the exposure timeline. Details should include, when the person was exposed, when they first exhibited symptoms, and their last contact with the team.
3. COVID-19 Safety Officer and or President will notify the local Department of Public Health official. Based on the information provided the Department of Public Health will provide guidance in regards to next steps.
4. If directed to, by the local Department of Public Health, notify those who would be considered close contacts of the affected party. This is done using the MA Youth Soccer COVID-19 exposure Notification Letter. ([Please click here to download](#))

It is important to keep rosters of who was at practices and games each day to aid in the contact tracing process.

Do not release the name of the affected person. Be prepared to stop all activities with the affected team/teams in accordance with current CDC guidelines and Public Health department recommendations.

5. If a case of COVID-19 is reported to you, notify Massachusetts Youth Soccer COVID-19 Safety Officer - Tamie Endow using the COVID-19 Exposure Reporting Form

An explanation of the Contact Tracing Process can be found by reviewing the [COVID-19 Notification Procedures on the Mass Youth Soccer Website](#)