

Swansea Somerset Youth Soccer Return-To-Play (RTP) Plan



Updated: 9/07/2020

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND FACIAL COVERINGS

While limiting proximity of participants is the first line of defense to reduce the risk of transmission Facility Operators and Activity Organizers must require facial coverings to be worn by all participants except:

- During high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities.
- When distancing of 6 feet or more is possible between participants whenever feasible; or
- For individuals that are unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability.

Massachusetts Youth Soccer is requiring all players to wear a face covering per the most current EEA Guidelines for Organized Youth and Adult Amateur Sports. Only face coverings that secure with loops around a player's ears are acceptable. Face coverings must be worn when a player steps onto the playing field or exits the playing field. During play when spacing is greater than 6 feet from another player a "mask break" to catch their breath may be taken. **The default expectation is that face coverings will be worn.**

Players must properly wear their face covering at all times when on the sidelines and in any huddles except when 6 or more feet from another player for a "mask break" to catch their breath, drink or eat. If conditions are so severe as to warrant masks too dangerous to wear, the competition must be delayed, postponed or cancelled. Coaches, staff referees, umpires, and other officials are required to wear facial coverings and maintain a social distance of 6 feet from players, coaches, spectators and other persons at all times.



Parents:

1. If your child has any symptoms, even mild ones, do not send them to practice.
2. Notify the club immediately if your child has become sick.
3. Ensure that your child has their own water bottle and equipment.
4. Be sure your child has necessary sanitizer with them at every session.
5. Players should not arrive at their field earlier than 5 minutes prior to their scheduled arrival time.
6. Ensure athletes arrive dressed for practice and leave immediately after practice. No recreational play, or loitering is allowed.
7. A face covering will be required per the most recent EEA guidelines while actively playing and while on the sidelines. A face covering should be worn during arrival and departure from the field. Only a face covering that loops around a player's ears will be considered acceptable.
8. Spectators must maintain distance of at least 6 feet between spectator groups.
9. Spectators must stay at least 8 feet away from the playing surface.
10. Spectators must wear facial coverings.
11. One (1) Spectator per player is allowed on the field.
12. **There will not be on site waste bins or barrels, please take trash with you. The Somerset School department said we welcome to use the dumpster next to the school.**



COACH

1. Prior to walking to your playing field check in with COVID officer.
2. Take attendance of your respected team (The SSYSL COVID Officer will be drop by for the attendance list)
3. Wear a face covering at all times and you must maintain social distancing of 6 feet from players, coaches, spectators, and other persons at all times.
4. Ensure the health and safety of all athletes.
5. Ensure athletes arrive dressed for practice and leave immediately after practice. No recreational play, or loitering is allowed.
6. Upon arrival, inquire how athletes are feeling, send them home if you believe they are acting or look ill.
7. No handshakes, fist or elbow bumps, or any other physical contact.
8. Coach is to be the only one to handle cones, discs, goals etc.
9. Ensure all athletes have their individual equipment. (Ball, water bottle, GK Gloves etc.)
10. Ensure player's personal belongings (bags, coats, sweatshirts) remain in their personal space and are kept physically distanced from the belongings of others. Do not allow sharing of personal items.
11. Do not allow shared team snacks. Participants and spectators should only drink from their own containers.
12. Group size during training is limited to total of 25 people (players and coaches) on a playing surface.
13. Multiple groups are allowed on the field if they can be separated by 20 feet.
14. Members must remain in their assigned group for the entire session.
15. Inter team scrimmages or games are **not allowed.**
16. Coaches are responsible for maintaining social distancing among players, coaches and spectators. (SSYSL COVID Officer will be on site to help out if needed)
17. Each player should be assigned a designated personal area for their belongings, to rest and to receive instructions from coaches.
18. Place cones 8 feet apart
19. Communicate to players they should not touch any others equipment, balls, nets, cones, etc.
20. When ever doing drill that involve multiple players sanitize ball prior to use. Instruct players to only use only feet no hands.
21. STAY POSITIVE – Players and parents will be looking to you to remain calm and supportive during this transition time.
22. **There will not be on site waste bins or barrels, please take trash with you. The Somerset School department said we welcome to use the dumpster next to the school.**



PLAYERS

1. Practice and encourage proper hygiene, washing hands frequently with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds at a time. Use alcohol based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol). Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or sleeves, do not use your hands. Do not touch your face (eyes, nose, mouth) with unwashed hands.
2. Have your own hand sanitizer with you.
3. A face covering will be required per the most recent EEA guidelines while actively playing and while on the sidelines. A face covering should be worn during arrival and departure from the field. Only a face covering that loops around a player's ears will be considered acceptable. See PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND FACIAL COVERINGS section for full description.
4. Only a face covering which attaches around the ears will be allowed, so as not to cause any injury if accidentally tugged or pulled on. No around the head or neck face coverings will be permitted during contact play.
5. Practice physical distancing on the sidelines. When sitting on the sidelines you should be 6' from the next player and wear a mask as much as possible. Your belongings should remain in your space when not in use.
6. Bring your own equipment (Ball, GK Gloves (if required), shin guards, jacket etc.) Do not touch anyone else's equipment.
7. Bring your own water bottle and snack. Do not touch anyone else's belongings as sharing will not be permitted.
8. Wash and sanitize your equipment before and after each training.
9. No group celebrations, hugs, handshakes, fist bumps, etc.
10. **There will not be on site waste bins or barrels, please take trash with you. The Somerset School department said we welcome to use the dumpster next to the school.**



References

- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/outdoor-adult-sports-supervised-youth-sportsleagues-summer-sports-camps/download>
- <https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/return-to-soccer-activities/>
- [https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/assets/61/6/return to soccer activities - coaches toolkit 060720202.pdf](https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/assets/61/6/return%20to%20soccer%20activities%20-%20coaches%20toolkit%20060720202.pdf)
- <https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/physical-distancing-session-plans/>
- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/safety-standards-for-youth-and-adultamateur-sports-activities-phase-iii-step-1/download>

