



SYSA COVID-19 Policies

The Sterling Youth Soccer Association (SYSA) is excited to provide players a safe and enjoyable Fall 2020 soccer season. In order for us to ensure the safety of our players, coaches, volunteers, and player's families and friends, it requires a coordinated effort from everyone involved. This document outlines SYSA's policies relative to COVID-19. These policies may evolve as additional information regarding COVID-19 develops.

SYSA is a Mass Youth Soccer Member Organization, and therefore must adhere to the rules and regulations specified by Mass Youth Soccer. The details of these regulations and rule changes are spelled out in the [Return to Soccer Activities Guidelines](#) document. These regulations are based on the most current guidelines developed by the [Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs \(EEA\)](#).

SYSA will be enforcing these regulations for all soccer related activities. This includes practices and games, with no exceptions. These rules will apply to both our In-Town programs (Grades 2/3/4 and Grades 5/6) as well as our travel teams (Grades 7/8). The 2020 recreational high school soccer program is now run as a regional effort in Holden with Rutland, Paxton, Princeton, and Sterling participating in an In-Town program this fall. Please contact [Holden Youth Soccer](#) for more information.

SYSA anticipates beginning practice for travel teams week of September 7, 2020 and in-town program week of September 14, 2020. At time of this policy development (9/2/2020), Massachusetts is at Phase III, Step 1 however if Phase or Step should change during the fall 2020 season, policies will be updated to accommodate any changes necessary.

Prior to Practice or Games:

All players and legal guardians of players are required to sign a COVID-19 Waiver prior to first practice or game that signifies the below criteria is met for every individual before participating in any SYSA sponsored events.

- Participants and spectators show no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days as defined by the CDC
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>)
- Participants and spectators have not had a fever for the past 14 days. A fever is defined as a temperature over 99.5 degrees fahrenheit.
- Participants and spectators have not had "close contact" with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 or exhibiting flu-like symptoms in the past 48 hours.



- Participants and spectators have not been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by their doctor or a local public health official.
- Participants or spectators in high risk categories should not participate in or attend SYSA activities.

Attendance will be taken every practice and game for tracing purposes.

COVID-19 Safety Officer

In accordance with the **Return to Soccer Activities Guidelines**, we have appointed a **COVID-19 Safety Officer**. If at any time you have any questions, concerns, suspected exposure, or safety violations to report, please contact **Allison Learned-Darlington** via email at APLD5@me.com.

COVID-19 Reporting Procedures

SYSA has adopted the COVID-19 Reporting Procedures outlined by Mass Youth Soccer. In the event that a player, coach, or volunteer has come in contact with or has been diagnosed with COVID-19, affected individuals or a Parent/Guardian should contact the **President and COVID-19 Safety Officer** of the possible or confirmed case immediately.

Please note that names **WILL NOT** be shared with anyone other than board members responsible for contact tracing.

Whenever a possible or confirmed case of COVID-19 is reported, the board will hold an emergency meeting to determine whether or not a shutdown is required. If a shutdown occurs due to a "possible" case, we will ask the individual to take a test for COVID-19 and report their results to the board. If negative, soccer activities can resume immediately. For positive tests or confirmed cases, the board will enforce a mandatory 14 day suspension of activities. The board will do our best to limit shutdowns to affected teams, but due to siblings and coaches/volunteers that interact with multiple groups, this may not be possible.

The full **COVID-19 Reporting Procedure** can be found here:
https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/assets/61/6/covid_reporting_procedures1.pdf

Practice and Game Attendance Policies

The **Return to Soccer Activities Guidelines** specifies that there be no more than **50 people** excluding players, coaches, referees, or facility/activity workers in the aggregate in, on, or surrounding any surface/playing area, provided that there is adequate space for all players, coaches, referees, facility/activity workers and spectators to maintain at least six feet social distancing, recognizing that for some moderate and high risk sports intermittent and limited contact may occur for players.



Mass Youth Soccer has required all member organizations to limit the number of spectators to **ONE ADULT SPECTATOR PER PARTICIPATING CHILD**. If a player's parent/legal guardian is present as a coach for their team, another spectator is permitted to be present for this player. Parents/Guardians with other children under 18 may bring them if they cannot arrange for care, but must be kept with the adult at all times. We ask that you respect these policies, otherwise spectators may be asked to leave the field.

Enforcement Policy

In order to keep everyone safe, we must be sure to enforce the policies set out by Mass Youth Soccer and the Sterling Youth Soccer Association. If at any time, a player, spectator, or other individual is in violation of these policies, coaches or board members will issue a verbal warning asking them to comply. If the individual fails to comply with a coach's or board member's instructions, **the police will be called** to remove the offending individual from the fields.

While this policy may seem harsh, our coaches and board members are volunteers, and are being asked to take on a tremendous amount of responsibility in order to provide children with a safe environment to play soccer during these unprecedented times. For their safety, and that of the players, we ask that you adhere to these guidelines to avoid unnecessary confrontations.