

MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION



Reopening Massachusetts Return to Soccer Activities

Member Checklist For Organization Leadership

September 4, 2020





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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 the Return to Soccer Activities Guidelines. This is an abridged version of that document, but does not replace it. It is your responsibility to read the full [Return to Soccer Guidelines 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. Please be aware that individual counties and jurisdictions may have additional restrictions in place that affect your decisions.

This document also contains a simple checklist to use as you prepare to return to soccer activities in Phase 3, Step 1 of Reopening Massachusetts. 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.

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.

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Requirements Prior to Commencing Soccer Activities

- ☐ **Make the Mass Youth Soccer Return to Soccer Activities COVID-19 Guidelines 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 Mass Youth Soccer website. The Return to Soccer Activities Guidelines 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.

Return to Soccer Activities Guidelines

- 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.
- Players must come from a low risk state (please refer to <https://www.mass.gov/guidance/guidance-for-travelers-arriving-in-the-commonwealth-of-massachusetts> for the most current list of low risk states) to participate without quarantining. If the player lives outside of that area they must quarantine 14 days prior to beginning group training.
- 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).
- All Parents/Guardians/Chaperones must adhere to CDC and DPH assemblage and distance guidelines. Parents/Guardians/Chaperones should be limited to one per player. Operators are encouraged to mark off spectator/chaperone viewing sites to allow for social distancing.
- Players must wear a face covering in accordance with EEA guidelines.
- Spectators/Chaperones must practice social distancing and wear face coverings at all times.
- Each participant will be required to have their own water bottle, towel, and personal hygiene products (hand sanitizer, facial tissues, face coverings). 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 disinfected



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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 Face 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 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. 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.

Game Modifications to Comply with EEA Guidance – August 15, 2020

There are a number of practice and game modifications that will be used this fall for the safety of the participants. These modifications are likely to evolve as the state releases updated information and recommendations. A complete list and explanation of the game modifications can be found in the Return to Soccer Activities Guidelines found on the [Mass Youth Soccer Website](https://mayouthsoccer.org/return-to-soccer-activities/).



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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.
- ☐ Ensure players and spectators do not congregate at the field or in the parking area.
- ☐ The coach should be the last person to leave the practice area.
- ☐ In the event that you are notified of a positive test or exposure to COVID by member player, parent or coach, please follow the process outlined below.

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

- 1) The parent or guardian should contact the COVID-19 Safety Officer or club president.
- 2) The COVID-19 Safety Officer or president will notify the local department of health.
- 3) The department of health will direct the club and the league on how to best address the situation to prevent the further spread of the virus.
- 4) Notify close contact or others on the team who may have questions about their risk of COVID-19 by sending out the COVID-19 Notification Form. Do not release the name of the affected person. Be prepared to stop all activities with the affected team/teams for 14 days.
- 5) If a case of COVID-19 is reported to you, notify Massachusetts Youth Soccer COVID-19 Officer – Tamie Endow - using the COVID-19 Exposure Reporting Form.

All forms related to COVID Notification procedures can be found in right hand column on the [Return to Soccer Activities webpage](#).

An explanation of the Contact Tracing Process can be found by reviewing the COVID-19 Reporting Procedures.