



# Wrentham Youth Soccer

Fall 2020 Season – Coach Session

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# Agenda

**Fall 2020 Season**

**Modifications**

**Capacity Limits**

**Face Coverings**

**Volunteers needed!**

**FAQ's / Questions**

**Specific to Coaches**

# Wrentham Youth Soccer

The Fall 2020 soccer season will begin on **Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**.

## **Our commitment:**

- Organize playing fields, game times, team sizes in adherence with the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) guidelines
- Ensure that parents, coaches and players are aware of the new guidelines
- Ensure that each team has a designated COVID-19 coordinator
- Ensure swift notification to parents should a COVID-19 outbreak occur
- Enforce the MYSA guidelines to ensure a safe and fun season for our children!



# Wrentham Youth Soccer

## Our ask of parents/guardians:

- **Be flexible, be supportive, be vigilant**
  - The guidelines may be refined as the season progresses depending on guidance from local health officials
  - Coaches and referees did not create the guidelines. The guidelines are also new to them, so please help to reinforce the guidelines with your children
  - Our goal is to ensure the safety of players, coaches, referees, spectators and families. *Please wear a mask and maintain 6 feet from other parents, spectators, coaches, referees, and players other than your own child or children.*
  - We want to avoid a situation in which a parent/spectator is asked to leave the field area.
- **Consider volunteering to be the team COVID-19 coordinator!**
- **This is a group effort that requires a collective focus.**



# Mass Youth Soccer Association Modifications (1 of 3)

Focus on the two requirements imposed by the EEA (Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs)

- Eliminate Deliberate Contact
- Minimize Intermittent Contact

**Heading** the ball is suspended for all ages.

**Shoulder to Shoulder Contact** or other intentional physical contact, such as **backing into a player, and pulling an opponents shirt, shorts or mask** *at the discretion of the referee* is suspended for all ages.

**Slide Tackling** is suspended for all ages. Sliding is permitted to block a ball or stop it from going out of bounds *if no other players are within 6 feet.*

**Throw-In** replaced by **Kick-In**.

- The player taking the Kick-In must face the field of play and does not need to keep both feet on the ground during the Kick-In.
- Must place part of the ball on the touchline or on the ground outside of the touchline.
- The ball may not be kicked directly into the opponent's penalty area.
- All opponents must stand at least 10 yards (8 yards for small sided) from the point on the touchline where the Kick-In is to be taken.



# Mass Youth Soccer Association Modifications (2 of 3)

**Corner Kicks** as defined by IFAB Law 17 are suspended and will be replaced by a **Corner Kick-In**.

- The ball may not be kicked directly into the opponents' penalty area.
- Opponents must remain at least 10 yards (8 yards for small sided) from the corner arc until the ball is in play.

## Restarts

- All players must comply with the 6-foot distancing from both teammates and opponents.
- Opponents must remain at 10 yards (8 yards for small sided) from the ball prior to the kick.
- The use of a traditional defensive wall is currently suspended.
- At any time a ball is to be placed for a restart the ball should not be touched with a player or an official's hands. The ball should be placed where the restart will take place with one's foot. If hands are used the ball will need to be removed from play and sanitized.

## Dropped Ball

- The use of a dropped ball as a restart is suspended.
- To replace this procedure, an Indirect Free Kick will be awarded to the team whom the referee deemed to be in possession when the referee stops play.



# Mass Youth Soccer Association Modifications (3 of 3)

## Player Behavior Modification

- Coaches should work with players to break habits that will minimize the spread of the virus. Spitting, nose clearing on the field or spitting on gloves during practices and competitions is not permitted.

## Coin Toss

- As a substitution for the coin toss, the away team shall be provided the choice to kick off or defer to the second half.



# Capacity Limits (Applies to practices and games)

- **No more than 25 players or participant (coaches) can be on a single playing surface (field) at one time.**
- Facilities with multiple fields may be used by more than one group of 25 at a time.
- Fields must be spaced at least 14 feet apart when sharing a single field. **Spectators are to remain at least 8 feet from the sidelines.**
- **The number of spectators at all sanctioned soccer activities is limited to one (1) per player. Spectators are defined as a parent, legal guardian or chaperone.** However, if there is a sibling that must attend due to lack of other childcare options, that sibling can attend with the parent/guardian and will count toward the field capacity limits. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that the sibling is wearing a mask and adhering to the social distancing guidelines.
- No more than 50 people, excluding players, coaches, referees or facility workers in, on, or surrounding any field, provided there is adequate space for all to maintain at least six (6) feet of social distancing.
- For facilities with multiple fields, the capacity limitations shall apply per playing field provided that there is adequate spacing for at least six (6) feet of social distancing for all individuals, including those at adjacent fields.





# Facial Coverings – Who is responsible?

- Going to and leaving the field – **PARENT**
- On the sidelines and on the field – **COACH**
- Neither – REFEREE
  - Referees are not to advise players on use of a face covering
  - Referees may provide notes in their official report regarding the use of facial coverings.

## Mask Examples:



# Facial Coverings

- Soccer players **must have facial coverings with them at all times** and where possible play with the facial covering on.
- A disposable or ear loop mask is required. Gator masks are not permitted.
- Players are *not required* to wear a mask during high intensity aerobic activities.
- The goal keeper is *not required* to wear a facial covering.
- **Players must wear facial coverings while on the sidelines at all times, huddles or time-outs.**
- **Coaches and referees must wear facial coverings and maintain a social distance of 6 feet from players, coaches, spectators at all times.**



# Volunteers Needed!

## COVID-19 Coordinator

- Each team must have a COVID-19 coordinator:
  - This can also be a coach
  - Attendance via TeamSnap app
  - Monitors Sidelines
- Registration with Mass Youth Soccer / CORI background check required
- If you are interested, please reach out to me ASAP at:  
[kristenleigh.allen@gmail.com](mailto:kristenleigh.allen@gmail.com)



# FAQ's (1 of 3)

**Q What happens if two players have shoulder to shoulder contact?**

**A** The referee will determine if shoulder to shoulder contact has taken place. If so, he will blow the whistle to call a penalty on the player who initiated the close contact and the opposing team will receive a restart. This is at the discretion of the referee.

**Q Are players allowed to get closer than 6 feet during the flow of the game?**

**A** In the flow of the game, there are no restrictions to when a player can or cannot be within 6 feet of another player without making contact. Players should try to maintain distance as much as possible.

**Q What happens if two towns that are playing each other have different guidelines?**

**A** The guidelines of the home town in which the field is located prevails.

**Q What if a team does not have enough players for a game?**

**A** The two coaches should agree to only play an equal number of players while also allowing for a reasonable number of substitutes.



# FAQ's (2 of 3)

## **Q What if a spectator is not wearing a mask?**

**A** The referee is not responsible for asking spectators to wear masks. The coach or the COVID coordinator for the team is responsible for asking the spectator to put on a mask. If he/she refuses, since this is a Massachusetts law, the coach or COVID coordinator has been instructed to walk away, call 911 and await for authorities to arrive.

## **Q What action should I take if my child or a member of my household has been diagnosed with COVID-19?**

**A** Please contact your coach or the COVID Safety Officer immediately. The name of you and your child will be held in confidence between these two parties and the Dept of Public Health. However, it is imperative that we alert other parents to help stop any potential spread of the virus. All teams and individuals who have been in close contact with the individual will have soccer activities suspended for 14 days.

## **Q What if a school classroom cohort is quarantined due to COVID, will the team also be quarantined?**

**A** Yes, if a particular cohort within Wrentham Public Schools is quarantined, players from that cohort will be asked not to participate in WYS. If as a result there is an inadequate number of players to continue games, the games will not be played.



# FAQ's (3 of 3)

## Q How does the medical exemption work for masks?

A If the coach is approached by a parent who shares that his/her child cannot wear a mask for medical reasons, the coach must allow that child to play without a mask.

**Coaches** - *The parent is not required to provide medical documentation. The coach should NOT accept any written documentation regarding a medical issue.*

**Parents** *should be aware that by falsifying a medical reason, this can open him/her up to negligence and potential legal action should someone on the team contract COVID down the road and their child was not wearing a mask based on false information shared by a parent.*

## Q What if the opposing players are not wearing masks?

A This is a violation of the MYSA guidelines and the coach should not put their team at risk. The game should not be held unless both teams adhere to the guidelines.

## Q Can I bring food/ drinks for the team?

A This year, please do not bring food/ drinks for players to share such as munchkins, etc.



# Additional Coach Responsibilities

- Set the tone – wear a mask and social distance!
- Continuously remind players on the sidelines to wear a mask and maintain 6 feet from each other.
- If you become aware of a COVID-19 diagnosis of a player or family member of a player, notify the COVID Safety Officer immediately. 508-364-9593 or [kristenleigh.allen@gmail.com](mailto:kristenleigh.allen@gmail.com)
- Keep the name of the parent/ player/ family with the COVID-19 diagnosis in confidence. Bad news travels fast.
- If the COVID coordinator for the team is unavailable (or you as the coach also volunteer to be the COVID coordinator in addition to the coach), you will be required to take attendance at each practice and game.
  - This will be done on the TeamSnap app.
  - This task is imperative to ensure that we can properly contact trace and notify players/parents should an extended member of the organization contract COVID-19 .

# Additional Coach Responsibilities

- Keep in mind, the guidelines are new to the referees as well. The referees are not responsible for monitoring player or spectators wearing masks or social distancing.
- Be vigilant and don't hesitate to call 911 if a spectator is not adhering to the guidelines. We are collectively responsible for ensuring first and foremost the safety of the players. Authorities are anticipating and prepared to address these situations. Hopefully this situation does not arise.
- Remember, as stated by MYSA Executive Director, Mike Borislow, this season is about enabling children to play soccer, exercise and have fun!

## **The coach is the key.**

The coach must be aware of, understand, follow, support and be comfortable implementing the guidelines put forth by the state of Massachusetts and MYSA.



# COVID-19 Related Questions?

Please contact Kristen Allen at [kristenleigh.allen@gmail.com](mailto:kristenleigh.allen@gmail.com)

