



20-21 Season Guidelines
Procedures and Protocols Review
for the Fall Season
September 9, 2020

Several documents have provided to you since the Restart began in June. The purpose of this document is to remind and reinforce the protocols and procedures necessary to follow to create the safest environment we can to open the Fall season. The majority of the prior information and guidelines remain in effect.

Again, the risks of infection still exist. Until a vaccine or cure is developed for COVID 19, we must continue to proceed cautiously and continue to monitor and comply with the Governor's office, PA Department of Health, CDC and any other federal **or local regulations**. The basic mitigation strategies of masking, handwashing and social distancing are crucial to our public safety.

On July 1, the Pennsylvania Department of Health issued its universal masking order. We support this order and are all obliged to comply. Masks must be worn in public spaces. **Athletes are not required to wear masks during training or competition.** However, they must wear them when not engaged in activity. **Coaches and spectators must wear the masks and practice social distancing.** Distancing is also required of players when not engaged in activity.

Each member organization has been required to create an action plan and make it publically available via their website, social media or other means. Each plan must be compliant with their local municipal orders or mandates. This is critical for each of your own members as well as visiting teams and other guests at your fields. **We must respect and trust each other** to comply and enforce the various health safety rules and protocols so that we may be able to start, and finish this season for our children and their coaches.

Each league may have additional rules or regulations including disciplinary measures, that you must become familiar with. Ignorance of the rules is never acceptable defense.

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We also must reinforce the importance of notification and communication to your organizational members and partners. Guidance has previously been provided regarding notifying the necessary members of your organization and associated groups when an individual becomes aware of contact with the virus or has contracted the virus. Please continue to review the PA Department of Health and CDC for updates during the season.

It is imperative for public health and safety that no one knowingly exposed to the virus appears at practices or games. It endangers the lives of others and will prolong this pandemic. We must work together and comply with the prescribed mitigation and protection standards to safely play sports as well as our normal lives. Social distancing, quarantines and masks are the tools we have, and we need to use them to positively return to soccer, school or work. We must do our part to stop the spread of COVID 19.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please consult the Pennsylvania Department of Health <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx> or call them at 1-877-PA HEALTH

In addition, there are six county (Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Erie, Montgomery, Philadelphia) and four municipal (Allentown, Bethlehem, Wiles-Barre, York) health departments that may serve you. <https://www.health.pa.gov/About/Pages/County-Municipal%20Health%20Depts.aspx>

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GENERAL HYGIENE AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Below is the list of general protocols as previously provided .

- Disinfect all training equipment- cones, goals (all sizes), flags etc. Only coaches should handle equipment*
- Hand sanitizer available for all at training or games*
- Goalkeeper gloves must be sanitized before/after games and training.*
- Never share GK gloves or jerseys. Keep spares.*
- Scrimmage vests washed after every training session or game. Should consider it personal equipment and provide each player with their own.*
- No shaking hands, high fives, fist bump, hugs, etc.*
- Each player with their own labeled water bottles and directed to never share with teammates.*
- Each ball sanitized before/after every practice or game.*
- Only one coach may attend to an injured player. Must wear mask and gloves.*
- No player or coach can attend if they are feeling sick.*
- Coaches must screen and monitor athletes for symptoms prior to and during games and practices. If individuals participating have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, or are sick, they must be sent home.***
- Sick players or coaches must quarantine as required by CDC/PA Dept. of Health. Regardless of the illness being COVID related or not, it must be determined by a medical professional, they can only return with a signed note from that medical professional. Must show notice to the club.*
- Coaches must wear a face mask as per CDC/PA Dept. of Health at all times***
- Players to wear face mask when not involved in soccer activities or on the bench***
- Social distancing = 6 feet apart***
- Spectators allowed at the fields and must comply with social distancing to each other.***
- Due to PA Dept. of Health crowd size restrictions, spectators must be limited at each field and facility.***
- Social distancing applies to the sideline- maintain a minimum six foot distance from Assistant Referee and players.***

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REFEREE HYGIENE AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

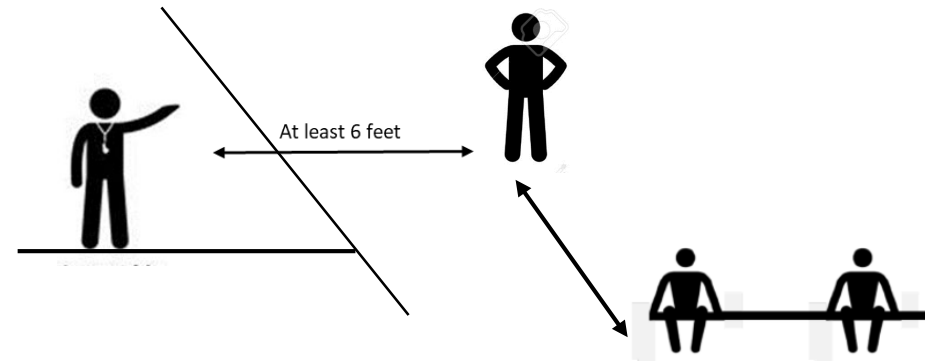
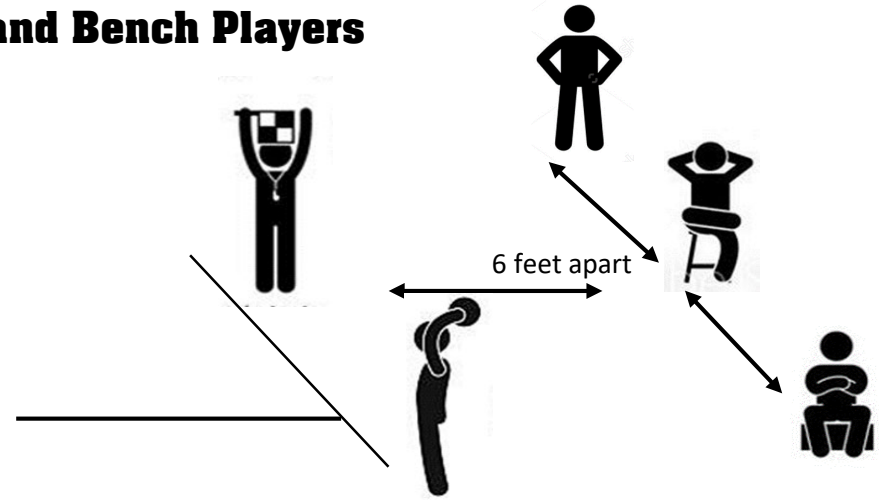
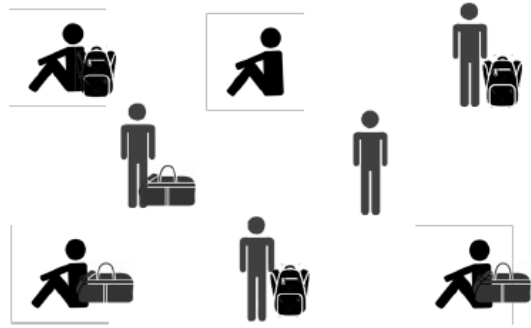
The following has been developed In conjunction with the Eastern Pennsylvania State Association Referee Committee (EPSARC), and follows the guidance of all previously named agencies.

- Provide space for game officials. Officials should arrived dressed and ready, with minimal additional belongings. Officials must be 6 feet from each other when off the field, and wear masks
- Referees will work with their assignors on their wellness and ability to work games. They cannot work if they are sick.
- Official will visually inspect the field as always. Only one official will directly address any corrections to minimize contact.
- Officials and leagues should be in contact regarding player checks and rosters. Coaches should minimize contact by placing rosters on the bench to allow the official to pick it up.
- Must maintain social distancing for the pregame: Player equipment checks and coin toss
- While the referee continues to be the sole decider on what constitutes dangerous equipment, we must be mindful of the situation everyone is in. If a family decides that they would like their child to compete while wearing a mask, officials must not overrule that decision.
- **Players ARE ALLOWED to wear cloth or disposable face masks while playing. Neck gaiters, plastic face shields and other personal protective equipment could be considered dangerous and should not be worn.**
- After being substituted and leaving the field, it is reasonable for a player to wait a few minutes to get a drink and catch their breath before putting on their mask.
- Coaches may pull down their mask to shout instructions to their players on the field as long as they pull their mask up immediately afterwards and maintain their distance to all- on and off the field.
- It is the responsibility of the home team coach, not the referees, to enforce compliance with COVID Protocols of the field or venue.
- Coaches are responsible for all players, bench personal and spectators. Referees should work with head coaches to ensure their team complies with COVID Protocols, especially masks. When necessary, “Ask, Tell, Dismiss” should be used as a method to get everyone to comply.
- Be sure to regularly visit EPSARC’s COVID Protocols site [here](#) or visiting - <http://www.epsarc.org/referees/risk-management-and-covid-19/>

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Social Distancing and Masks are Required for Coaches, Spectators and Bench Players



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RESOURCES

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

- <https://www.governor.pa.gov/plan-for-pennsylvania/>

Pennsylvania Department of Health

- <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>
- <https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/sports-guidance/>
- <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Universal-Masking-FAQ.aspx#:~:text=The%20Secretary's%20Order%20requires%20individuals,place%2C%20or%20near%20others%20at>

CDC Considerations for Youth Sports

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>

United States Olympic Committee and Paralympic Committee

- <https://www.teamusa.org/coronavirus>

US Youth Soccer

- https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/assets/1/6/usys_rta_notice_051920.pdf

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