

**Waterville Youth Soccer Association (WYSA)**  
**COVID 19 Protocols for 2020 Fall Rec Soccer and Travel Soccer (Maine Novas)**

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The Waterville Youth Soccer Association supports the continued implementation of recreation and travel soccer opportunities for our local residents in a safe manner that incorporates state, federal, and Soccer Maine guidelines. WYSA is committed to implementing the following protocols to minimize the spread of COVID 19 and to maintain the health and well-being of our players, parents, coaches, referees, and board members. **We APPRECIATE your cooperation with the following protocols (guidelines subject to change pending change to state, CDC, or Soccer Maine requirements).**

**Parent and Player Responsibilities:**

- Parents are required to monitor their children's health and report any signs of COVID 19 to the coach or WYSA board (per CDC guidance: fever/chills, persistent cough, sore throat, body aches, change in smell or tasting, difficulty breathing).
- Players who have been diagnosed with COVID or exposed to COVID must notify their coach or the board and will be restricted from attending WYSA events until cleared by a medical professional (please send a note of negative COVID test result).
- Parents will encourage proper hand washing/sanitizing techniques. Please send sanitizer to practice, games, clinics for your player.
- Parents will ensure players have their own ball for practices, if required by their coach.
- Parents may watch practice from or near parked vehicles, if social distancing is implemented, but remain off of the playing field or its immediate perimeter at all times.
- Parents will make sure water bottles are clearly marked with names. No food is permitted at practices or games.
- Field attendance is limited to 100 people or less for all games and events; **all teams may invite 1 spectator per player. The coach of each team or designated monitor will be responsible for ensuring attendance numbers meet the target.**
- **Spectators are required to wear masks when in attendance at games.** Spectators must maintain a distance of at least 6 from other spectators. At no time will spectators be allowed on the bench side of the field on game days.

**Coach Responsibilities:**

- Coaches will screen each individual player upon arrival to practice, games, or other events to determine if players are exhibiting signs of COVID 19, have been exposed to COVID, or have travelled to states that have restricted access to Maine; coaches will ask players to leave the playing field if signs or symptoms are reported.
- Coaches will take player temperatures with laser thermometers. Temperature readings will only be shared with parents, at their request. **Any player with a temperature 100.4 or higher will not be allowed to play and will be sent home.**
- Coaches will report any signs of COVID 19, or of possible exposure, to the rec soccer or travel directors within 24 hours; directors will report to the board within 24 hours of receiving notice.
- Coaches will mark 6-foot intervals with cones on the side of playing fields, one for each player. Players will each place gear/backpacks, water bottles, etc next to a cone at practice. During games, players will also sit at

their cone on the sideline to maintain 6-foot distance. Players will wear masks while seated on sidelines per Soccer Maine rules; no player benches are permitted.

- Coaches will keep a COVID 19 "kit" at all sessions, games, and clinics to include at minimum extra masks, spray sanitizer, laser thermometer, paper towels, and hand sanitizer.
- Coaches will wear masks during all games, practices, and clinics
- Coaches will structure soccer events (e.g., practices, clinics, games) to be consistent with Soccer Maine guidelines (e.g., Phase 3, Phase 4).
- Coaches will provide sanitized balls for practice sessions and clinics or require players to bring their own balls; coaches will provide and sanitize game balls; players are instructed not to handle practice or game gear (cones, pinnies etc); use of pinnies is not permitted at this time.
- Coaches will maintain when possible a 6-ft distance from players and other personnel during trainings, games, and clinics; structure practices to avoid crowding and enforce an arrival and departure protocol that minimizes contact between players.
- No tight huddles to discuss game plans or "hands in" cheers and no end of game high-five line.

#### **Board member Responsibilities:**

- WYSA will schedule events (practices, games, clinics) to reduce arrival/departure overlap of teams and players.
- Practice and game schedules provide adequate change over time to allow players time to enter and exit the fields; games will be spaced 45 to 60 minutes apart; practices will be scheduled to end at least 15 minutes prior to the arrival of subsequent teams.
- Players will remain in their vehicles until such time that the previous team has departed, and a coach has initiated practice; players should depart practice immediately or if need be (i.e. waiting for a ride) maintain social distancing protocols.
- The Board will monitor players diagnosed with or exposed to COVID. Board will approve return to play after confirming negative test result or receiving clearance from physician for player to resume play.
- Provide necessary signage and monitor compliance of players, parents, coaches and spectators.
- Update/revise protocol as necessary or as new guidelines/recommendations emerge from Soccer Maine, Maine CDC, etc.

#### **Game Specific Protocols and Other 2020 Modifications:**

*Per Soccer Maine's protocols the following procedures are to be implemented this fall season:*

- Festivals for our younger age groups - U9s through U11s - will not take place this fall; WYSA will not send teams to any tournaments that may still be planned.
- Clubs are permitted no more than 2 coaches to minimize the number of individuals on the sideline.
- **Players and coaches on the sideline must be physically distanced (6 feet apart), including their materials (backpacks, water bottles, etc.), and will be masked while on the sideline.**
- Throw-ins will not take place in the Fall Classic League. Instead a pass with your foot will be used in place of a throw-in; players must give 10-yards of space to player taking the kick.
- Heading of the ball has been eliminated from game play and training for all teams and all age brackets for the 2020 season.
- No high-fives/fist bumps/handshakes at start or end of game.