



Fall 2020 Guide: Parents

Please take the time to read through this document - it should ensure that you have a smooth and enjoyable experience during this very unique season/situation..

Message from the DOC

Whilst we are excited to get back out on the fields after a missed Spring and a reduced summer season, we do so knowing full well it'll be a very different experience than previous seasons. We are permitted to play, both our Intramural and Travel programs, but the return to play comes with serious restraints and modifications as laid out by Mass Youth Soccer.

These modifications are aimed at safeguarding players and to enforce current social distancing protocols for spectators. Many of these modifications will be change the way we play soccer, but they are necessary for us to be able to return to play. We do not have any wiggle room – MYSA governs the game in MA and if we do not adhere to the guidelines, we cannot play!

This Fall season will be a steep learning curve for all of us. We will proceed under the guidelines knowing that the KIDS CAN PLAY. So long as we look out for each other, stay positive throughout, and embrace this 'new' version of soccer, the fall will be FUN for our players – I am certain of it.

We are in it together. From the NYS Board of Directors, to our volunteer coaches, to our players and parents – we can make this a positive experience for all!

NYS is here to answer any questions you have – don't hesitate to reach out.

Ed Jenkinson
Director of Coaching

Temporary Modifications to the Game

In order for us to play our league season, we are REQUIRED to make the following temporary changes to the laws of the game:



- **Heading** - All intentional heading of a soccer ball is suspended for all ages.
- **Shoulder to Shoulder contact** is suspended and or any other intentional physical contact is to be considered a violation of Law 12, Playing in a Dangerous Manner, Indirect Free Kick restart or other applicable foul or misconduct based on the referee's decision.
- **Slide Tackling** is suspended for all ages
- **Throw-Ins** are suspended and to be replaced by a Kick-in.
- **Corner Kicks** are suspended and to be replaced by a Corner Kick-in.
 - The ball may not be kicked directly into the opponent's penalty area.
 - Opponents must remain at least 10 yds (8 yards for small sided) from the corner arc until the ball is in play
- The use of a traditional **defensive Wall** is currently suspended.
- The use of a **Drop 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.

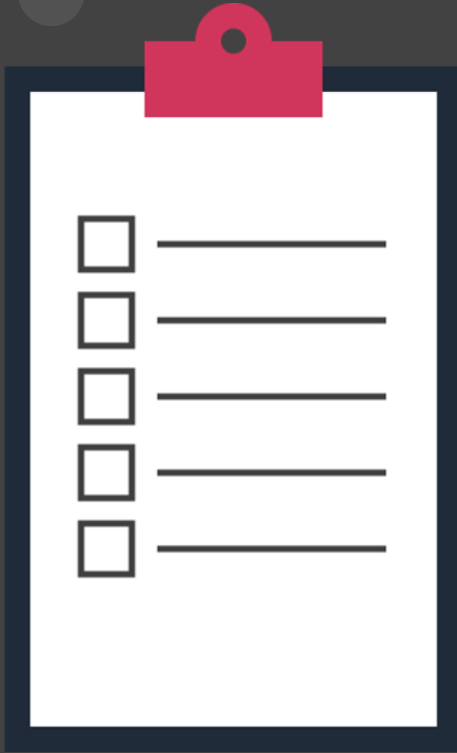
How can YOU help?

NYS will need help from our parents to make this season work. The next few slides will dive a little deeper, but there are some general rules:



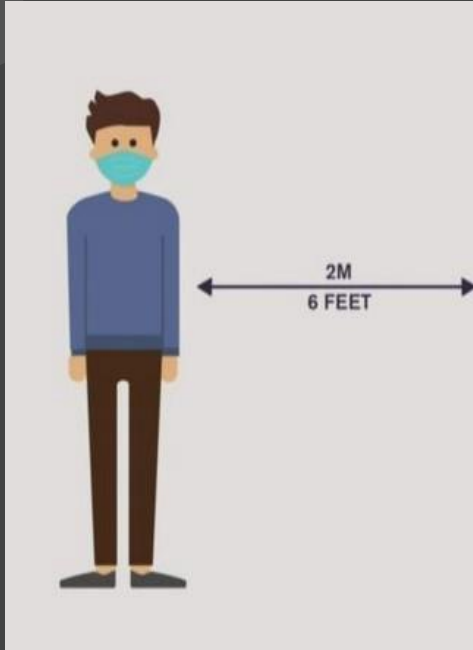
- **Monitor your child's health**
- **1 spectator per player at all events**
- **Socially distance!**
- **Wear a mask – everyone!**
- **No sharing equipment/drinks – pack extra**
- **Sanitize before and after a practice and/or game**
- **Be kind, be patient, be safe**

Pre-Game Checklist



- Monitor your child's health. Take temperature daily. The average normal body temperature is generally accepted as 98.6°F (37°C). Some studies have shown that the "normal" body temperature can have a wide range, from 97°F (36.1°C) to 99°F (37.2°C). A temperature over 100.4°F (38°C) most often means you have a fever caused by an infection or illness.
- If your child has any symptoms, even mild ones, do not send them to practice or a game. Public health urges you to stay home and isolate until:
 - You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (without the use of medicine) AND
 - Other symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) have improved AND
 - At least 7 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.
- Anyone in your household that you have had close contact with (within six feet for approximately 10 minutes) should self-quarantine for 14 days, even if you haven't been tested for COVID-19.
- Notify the team coach and our Covid-19 Safety officer (safetyofficer@newtonsoccer.org) immediately if your child has become sick.
- Ensure that your child has a water bottle, equipment (ball and GK Gloves if necessary), light and dark shirt (no shared scrimmage vests will be provided).
- Ensure your child's personal equipment, cleats, balls, shin guards etc. are cleaned and sanitized before and after every training.
- Be sure your child has necessary sanitizer with them at every session.

Spectator Requirements



- NYS is required to stagger game times to allow teams and spectators to exit and enter field space without engaging with the previous or subsequent teams. **Participants are required to leave the field (including parking lot) immediately after their game has ended. Spectators arriving early should wait in car until field is clear.**
- **There is a limit of only 1 spectator per player.*** This is a state requirement - if there are too many spectators at any given game the activity will be halted until the numbers are good.
- **All spectators must adhere to current social distancing protocol** - 6ft apart, face masks must be worn etc
- To assist with social distancing requirements, **spectators may be permitted to sit/observe the game from behind the goal line** no less than 15 feet from the goal line and not within 10 feet of the goal post where space accommodates.
- Viewing on the sideline may be done 8ft from the touchline. Spectators are not permitted to observe the game from the coaches/teams side.

*Exceptions: Any Spectator who is responsible for other minors and is not able to have them cared for by others is permitted to be in attendance as a spectator with such children with them at all times.

Players Required to Wear Masks During Games

NYS is requiring all players, during practices and games, to wear a mask. Based on the guidance from MYSA:



- **Players will be required to wear face coverings** before, **during** and after their **games**, including engagement in active play. The only type of face covering that is permissible for players is the ear-looped style face covering. These standards will be enforced by member organizations along with support from the game officials as appropriate.
- Players are permitted to remove the mask to “catch their breath” at points in the game where they are 6ft away from all other participants, i.e.:
 - After long runs down the field, plays without close contact, during stoppages etc
- Coaches will be encouraged to rotate players often to help ease the burden of wearing a mask.