



# FTSC Travel Return to Play Guidelines and Procedures

*Fall Season 2020 (September - November 2020)*

# Our FTSC Best Practice Guidelines for Return to Play Game Day Procedures



- ▶ FTSC understands that risk of exposure to communicable diseases can't be 100% eliminated and has compiled the following guidelines and protocols to maximize the safety of all participants, spectators, and staff. These protocols are obtained from an extensive network of to represent what we believe are the 'Best Practices' set forth by health, safety and government agencies. We primarily used guidance from the CDC and State Health Departments as well as US Soccer, US Youth Soccer, and State Soccer Associations—the national and state governing bodies for soccer.
- ▶ The goal of these guidelines is to deliver the safest game day environment possible. These Best Practices and the exact methods for implementing these guidelines and recommendations may vary for every Soccer league events, as well as each facility where competitions are held, however we want to make sure we have our policies for our fields at Middlebush Park in Franklin Township clearly defined to create a structured and safe return to play environment for our players, opposing teams and families
- ▶ Implementing these Return to Play initiatives will require a coordinated and cooperative effort between the Franklin Township, NJ State Soccer Associations, our FTSC Leadership, EDP Soccer, MNJYSA, all participating clubs, teams, referees, coaches, players, and parents/guardians. While we are tasked to assure that we create and maintain a safe environment, parents/guardians are the only ones who can make the decision for their child to participate. So its incumbent on us as a Club to hold to and strictly enforce the guidelines herein.

# FTSC Travel Game Day Guidelines (Home Games)

## Coach Responsibilities:

- ▶ Prior to the day of your scheduled game that you have coordinated with your opposing team coaches (or team managers) to communicate to them with our procedures and policies for game day return to play. Sanitize all your equipment (Balls, Goalie Gloves, etc)
- ▶ On game day, please ensure all FTSC Players and Coaches entering the field of play, have provided you their [FTSC COVID-19 Health Screening Questionnaire](#) prior to getting on the field. All players and Coaches are required to have already provided to the Club their completed [FTSC NJYS COVID -19 Hold Harmless Waiver](#).
- ▶ Please coordinate with your team to meet up at least 20-30 minutes before your scheduled time for proper check in time. Teams waiting to enter the field are required to wear face coverings and practice social distancing. All parents and spectators are required to go into the stands with required social distancing or wait in their vehicles. We expect no spectators to hang around the fields or immediate area to limit crowding or impede safe egress for teams leaving the fields once games are complete.
- ▶ Work with Referee and Site Managers/Volunteers to keep game times to the scheduled times. This will greatly assist with entry of next set of teams and egress of your team<sup>3</sup> and opposing teams



# FTSC Travel Game Day Guidelines (cont'd)

## (Home Games)

### Site Management/Volunteer Responsibilities:

- ▶ We will expect that we keep our level of diligence and enforcement during our game days as we do with our practice and training days, which would include:
  - ▶ Clearing the fields of non-authorized parties at least 30 - 45 minutes prior to first set of games to be played and ensure all gate doors to the field are closed with supplied cones (one cone per gate door) in front of closed gate door to limit use. All players and coaches will have one gate door for entry and one gate door for egress (See Map for details on set up and flow of entry and egress along with waiting areas)
  - ▶ Set up (and close down) of Check In areas for both fields to be used (MB 1 and 2), 1 Site Manager per Field. Including putting out and putting away signage and cones to mark waiting and check in areas
  - ▶ Use provided thermometer guns to temperature check all Players, Referees and Coaches (authorized to be on the Turf field areas). Any players or coaches exhibiting COVID 19 Symptoms including high fever are not allowed to enter the field of play.
  - ▶ Remind Coaches to have all questionnaires filled out for their teams (Players, Coaches and any Volunteers)
  - ▶ Once all players and coaches are checked in, close all gates for entry while the games are executing
  - ▶ When new teams are showing up for the next set of games they should wait in designated waiting areas until the games complete and egress is completed in an orderly fashion. There should be NO new or waiting teams on the fields until prior games are complete and teams have left the field.



# FTSC Travel Game Day Guidelines (cont'd)

## (Away Games)

### Coaches and Team Manager Responsibilities:

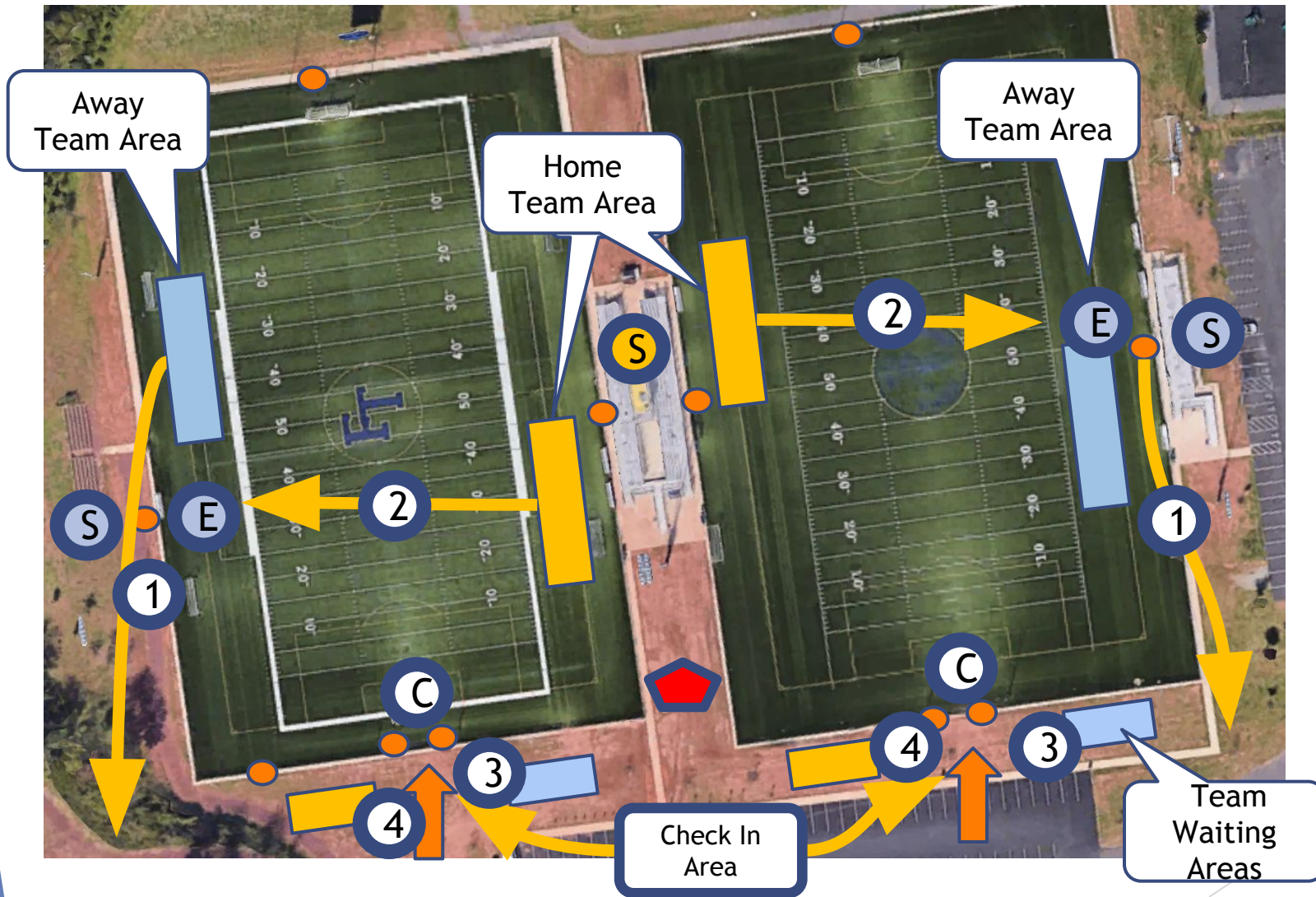
Many of our teams will have games away in other towns and areas in New Jersey. Our Coaches and Team Managers are important in assisting in keeping our policies of safe practices in place to keep our teams and families as safe as possible.

- ▶ Some items to keep in mind and use as a best practice:
  - ▶ Ask the opposing teams (prior to game day) for their safety policies and make those available to your parents and spectators traveling to the location
  - ▶ As much as possible, adhere to the opposing club's outlined safety policies. If you feel unsafe in any way, express your concern(s) to the opposing club and try to workout a resolution(s) prior to traveling. If no resolution on concerns are not met, please bring those concerns to the Club Leadership and we will contact opposing Club Leaders for resolution or game cancellation or forfeit
  - ▶ During Game Day activities at the away location, if you feel that safety policies are not being enforced, make the opposing coach(es)/club and referees aware, and attempt to workout an amicable solution.
  - ▶ Please notify FTSC leadership of any unenforced safety policies and the resolution(s) that was reached (this could include abandoning the match). These will be collected for later discussion with the opposing club.





# FTSC Travel Return to Play Site Plan - Middlebush Park (Full Field Games - 11v11)



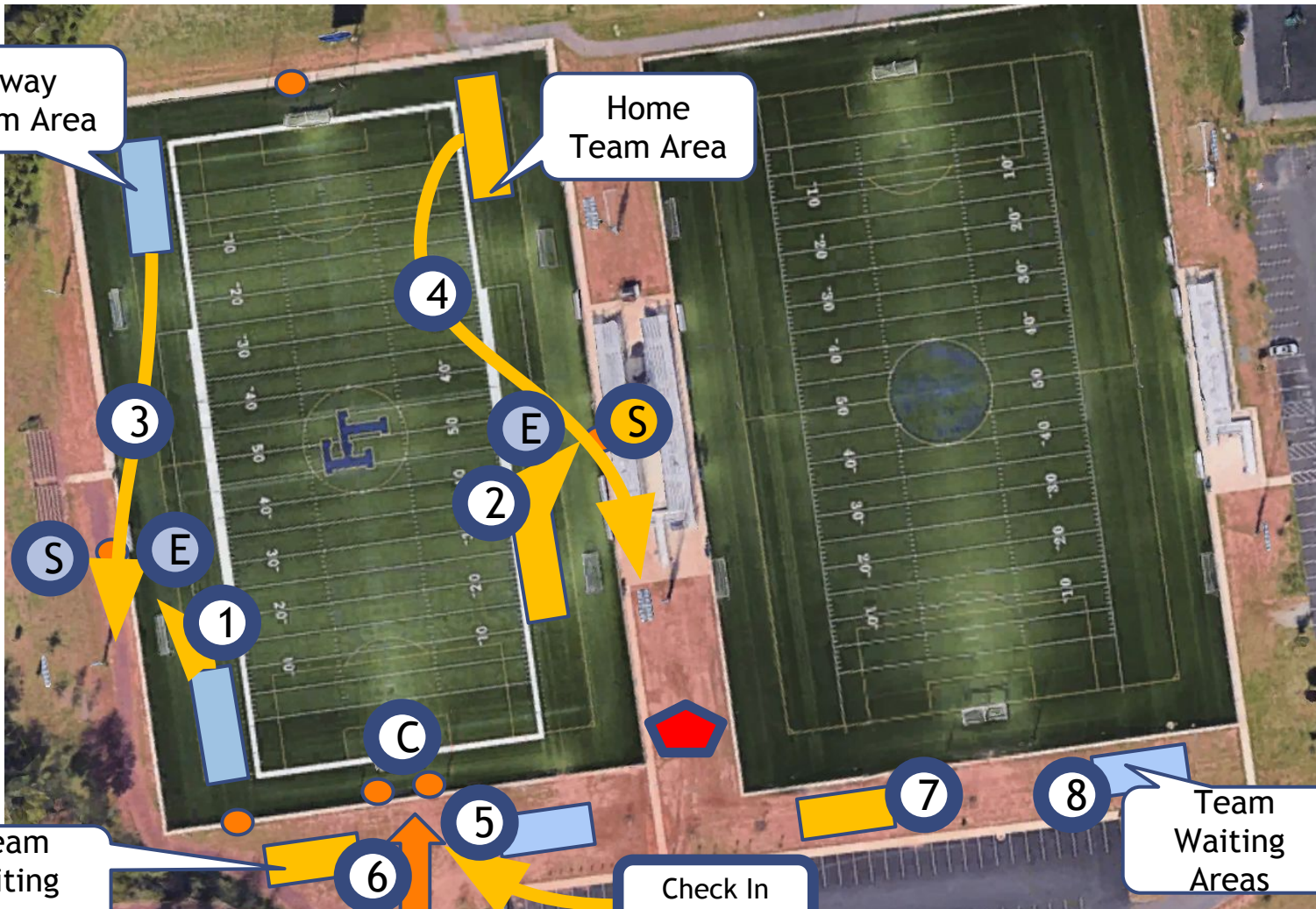
- E** Team Exit Locations
- C** Team Entry/Check In Locations
- Cones
- S** Away Team Spectators
- S** Home Team Spectators

## Entry/Exit Flow

- 1** Exit of Away Team at end of game
- 2** Exit of Home Team at end of game
- 3** Check In Enter for Away Team at end of game
- 4** Check In Enter for Home Team at end of game
- First Aid Tent



# FTSC Travel Return to Play Site Plan - Middlebush Park (Short Sided Games - 7v7 & 9v9)



- (E)** Team Exit Locations
- (C)** Team Entry/Check In Locations
- (●)** Cones
- (S)** Away Team Spectators
- (S)** Home Team Spectators

## Entry/Exit Flow

- (1) (3)** Exit of Away Team at end of game
- (2) (4)** Exit of Home Team at end of game
- (5) (8)** Check In Enter for Away Team at end of game
- (6) (7)** Check In Enter for Home Team at end of game
- (●)** First Aid Tent

# FTSC Travel Return to Play Guidelines - Emergency Action Plan (COVID-19 Related)



**What to do in the case of a possible infection or report of player/coach testing positive?**

**Individual Players or Coaches (possibly Family Members):**

- If you have a player (or Coach) that is experiencing symptoms, do not attend league games
- If a player (or Coach) is experiencing symptoms during a league game, immediately leave the facility and self-quarantine for required days and keep us abreast of progress (14 days). The determination of cancelling the game should be brought to the attention of the coaches and referees for review
- Those experiencing issues should seek professional medical advice and see a medical professional and get tested
- In all cases the Club should be notified immediately so that if the player has contact with others on the team, or other Club members, we can do the necessary communications as required.

**In any of these cases our Club will:**

- Notify MNJYSA and EDP Soccer officials, then cooperate with any mitigation and contact tracing protocols based on CDC recommendations
- Notify our local/state health officials and cooperate with any mitigation and contact tracing protocols based on CDC recommendations
- As required by local/state health and safety tracing guidelines, the entire team and coaches should self-quarantine for 14 days and not participate in any organized competitions
- Any players/coaches/teams that may have come into contact with a potentially infected individual may be notified, and asked to self-quarantine or get tested for COVID-19
- Determination of continuation of the season will be determined by our Club based on state and local recommendations as well as League Leadership



# FTSC Travel Return to Play Guidelines - Sample Coaches Email to Opposing Teams

Coach or Team Manager,

We are excited to host you at our Club fields at Middlebush Park, Somerset! Our Club has enacted Return to Play policies that are meant to keep all our collective players, coaches, referees, families and patrons as safe as possible during the games on our fields. Here are some rules we have in place that we ask you to share with your families so that we keep all our teams and visitors in a safe environment as required by State, League and CDC safety guidelines

- Please have all patrons and players wear face coverings until players are in the mode of active play (warmups, practices sessions and game play). We ask that all Coaches and Team Administrators on the field of play to wear face coverings
- No Parents and Non NJYS (or US Soccer) Carded personnel are allowed on the turf fields at any time. All spectators and families will be allowed to watch games from designated areas (i.e., stands). See Site Map for details
- Please arrive at least 30 minutes before game time for check in (including temperature check) to enter turf fields. No carded personnel will be allowed on the fields until check in is complete. See Site Map for details
- Teams will have designated areas on opposite sides of the fields and ask that player bags and equipment be physically distanced (6 feet apart) to keep with safety guidelines.
- Upon completion of games we will direct our teams off the field at designated exits to ensure no crossing of entering teams and limit crowding. We also ask that social distancing be adhered to in all parts of the park and parking lots

We look forward to a competitive match and your assistance in adhering to these rules to keep our teams and patrons safe. Please feel free to reach out to me to discuss any concerns or questions you might have.

Sincerely FTSC Coaches

<ADD RELEVANT SITE MAP>





# FTSC Travel Return to Play Guidelines - Important Reference Materials and Contact Information

We are very excited about the opportunity to safely get our Club back to playing matches. A big part of this working well and being executed successfully falls on our players, families, and coaches. Thank you for everything you do! The following references are available on our [franklinsoccer.com](https://franklinsoccer.com) [COVID-19](https://franklinsoccer.com) website for your help.

## *League Guidelines*

- ▶ [MNJYSA COVID-19 Guidelines](#)
- ▶ [EDP League COVID-19 Mitigation Plan](#)

## *CDC Recommendations*

- ▶ [CDC Checklist for Coaches COVID19](#)
- ▶ [CDC How to protect yourself COVID-19](#)
- ▶ [CDC Stop the Spread of Germs](#)
- ▶ [CDC Stay Safe On and Off the Field](#)
- ▶ [CDC Youth Sports Fact Sheet COVID19](#)

## *Escalation Contacts Information*

Co - President - Adam Kozubal 732-512-8358

Co - President - John Castillo 347-581-4709

VP of Travel - Joe Adamski - 908-752-8094

Operations Manager - Elvin Charleston 908-413-1223

*Coaches should also use WhatsApp "FTSC Coaches" Group Chat for assistance as well*