

Fall 2021

Great Falls Reston Soccer Club

Covid-19, Delta and/or other Variant Protocols

Should it be deemed necessary, Great Falls Reston Soccer Club (GFRSC) will strictly follow recommendations of Local (Fairfax County), State (VA), and Federal Governing entities regarding Health & Safety of players, coaches, game officials and family/guardian attendees.

When/If masks are required, we have outlined our procedures noted below.

As of July 29, 2021

Protocols for Games

Pre-Game - Coaches and Players

1. Prior to attending any game or training session, each player should check his or her temperature at home and refrain from participation if he/she has a fever of >100.4 degrees. (It will be taken at the field as well)
2. Prior to participation, coaches will obtain verbal communication from the player that:
 - a. The player has not had any/no contact with a sick individual or anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19.
 - b. The player has not had a documented case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
 - c. The player is not currently demonstrating or suffering from any ill symptoms.
3. If the player answers YES to any of the above questions or has a temperature, that player is to leave the field immediately, and may not participate.

On-Field Protocols - Players

- All players must wait to enter the field until their coach arrives and performs the pre-game screen (listed above) - this may include a temperature check.
- All players must enter and leave the field of play at an appropriate distance from other family groups.
- All players must wear a mask to and from the parking area to the field and when on the sideline waiting to be subbed into a game. Masks may only be removed when on the field of play.
- Players must maintain a distance of 6 feet from each other and the coaches along the sideline.
- No sharing of equipment, balls, water bottles, sunscreen, etc.
- Players should bring their own hand sanitizer, and use it before entering and after exiting the game.
- No physical contact, e.g. hand shakes, high fives, fist bumps.
- No spitting.

On-Field Protocols - Coaches

- Coaches must wear a mask at all times.
- Coaches should use hand sanitizer regularly, and encourage players to do the same.
- Teams should each remain on opposite sidelines, with the exception of fields where there is no fence, then teams are to remain on the same sideline opposite spectators. Teams will each be given half the field to line up their players and to maintain social distance.
- Coaches should assist players with cones to indicate 6-foot spacing along the sideline.
- No sharing of pinnies, equipment, balls, water bottles, sunscreen, etc.
- Only the coach handles any warm-up equipment. Bring clean pinnies, and a “dirty bag”, into which used ones are placed after any individual player is finished with it. The coach should then proceed to wash all pinnies before next use, and repeat the above process.
- No hand shakes or other physical contact at the end of the game.
- Limit post-game ‘chat’ and leave the area promptly, instructing players to put on masks and maintain distance.

On-Field Protocols - Parents/Families/Spectators

- All spectators (families, parents, etc) must wear a mask at ALL TIMES - to and from the parking area to the field area, and while watching the game. Spectators are limited to 2 per player.
- Spectators are to maintain the required distance from other family groups.
- Spectators must observe the restrictions about where families may sit or stand as specified for each field - signage will be posted for each field.

On-Field Protocols - Parents/Families/Spectators

- Where there is a fence - spectators are to remain outside the fence - each team can then take a sideline.
- Where there is no fence, spectators should sit/stand on the opposite sideline from the team.
- Teams will each be given half the field to line up their players and to maintain social distance.

Protocols - Game Officials

- Assigned match officials are required to wear facial masks at all times going to/from the field, during pre-game and post-game discussions, and at halftime.
 - **Center referees:** it is the individual official's discretion as to whether to wear a facial mask during the run of play.
 - **Assistant referees (ARs):** a face mask is required to be worn at all times.
- Officials shall NOT share equipment (jerseys, flags, whistles, etc.). Any club linesman can supply their own flag or simply raise a hand to indicate out-of-play.
- Officials shall conduct pre-game discussions and halftime discussions using social distancing.
- Officials shall not conduct player pass checks or shake hands with other officials, players, or coaches.
- Officials will not conduct a coin toss - the Home Team (listed 1st) will kick-off the first half, and the Away Team (listed 2nd) will kick-off the second half.
- During play - the ball:
 - When the ball leaves the field, the officials will let it be retrieved by a player, coach or spectator.
 - At the beginning of each half, the team taking the kick is to bring the ball to the field.
 - At the award of a goal, the team scored on is to bring the ball to the center mark.
 - At the award of a direct kick, indirect kick or a penalty kick, the official will indicate from where the kick is to be taken.
 - In the event of an uncontested drop ball, the official will indicate with his/her foot where the drop ball is to occur, and then blow the whistle to restart the game. (normal laws of the game will apply)
- Officials shall NOT enforce any facility or club Return to Play Guidelines and shall limit themselves to enforcing the Laws of the Game.

- Officials should recognize that COVID is not a laughing matter and communicate to players and team personnel that it should be considered off limits for jokes, both because many people have lost family and friends to the pandemic and because trying to determine intent of such content is difficult even under the best of circumstances.
- Officials should proactively discourage players from group celebrations and high-fives, treat spitting as a send-off offense, and should have coaches remove from the field, spectators deemed acting in irresponsible behavior as needed.
- Any player who approaches a referee to complain about a call or no-call from within 6 feet should expect a caution for Failure to Yield Required Distance.

Post game

- Coaches, players and spectators must social distance and leave the field and surrounding area **promptly**.
- Face coverings **MUST** be worn while exiting the field.
- Any coach, player or game official who participates in a game and receives a positive COVID-19 test within 14 days **AFTER** the game date, should communicate to the clubs involved immediately, so all in attendance can be notified.

Failure to Follow Established Protocols

In the event that the above protocols are not followed to any extent, and that the center referee/lead game official feels that his or her safety, the safety of the ARs, the safety of the players, coaches or spectators are at any point being infringed upon, then the following consequences will occur:

1. The offender(s) has/have two minutes from initial warning (via the Head Coach) to remedy said behavior,
 2. If the behavior is not remedied, the game will be suspended by the referee until such behavior is remediated,
 3. If the behavior continues further, the game will be terminated immediately by the referee, and not made up.
- Normal [FIFA laws of the game](#) apply in absence of any modification listed above.