

GYSA COVID PROTOCOLS

Based on MYSA's Return to Soccer Activities Guidelines
and The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Phase III, Step 1 Guidelines

INTERACTING WITH PLAYERS/PARENTS

- **Coaches and parents should model good behavior**, our kids are always watching. Wear your mask, use hand sanitizer and social distance as much as possible.
- **Only a face covering which attaches around the ears will be allowed**, so as not to cause any injury if accidentally tugged or pulled on. No around the head or neck face coverings will be permitted during contact play.
- Ensure **athletes arrive dressed for practice and leave immediately after practice**. No recreational play, or loitering is allowed. **No spectators will be allowed at practice. During games, only 1 parent/guardian will be allowed** to accompany each player. If a player's parent/legal guardian is present as a coach for their team, another spectator is allowed to be present for this player.
- **Inquire how athletes are feeling**, send them home if you believe they are acting or look ill.
- **Take accurate attendance** using the Team Connect app to assist with contact tracing if required. You may also take paper attendance if you cannot use the app. You need to keep that record safe all season if not using the app, and you must provide attendance records if asked by GYSA.
- **No handshakes**, fist or elbow bumps, or any other physical contact. Please wave to competitors after the game and congratulate them on their play.
- **Practice and encourage proper hygiene**, use alcohol based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol). Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or sleeves, do not use your hands. Do not touch your face (eyes, nose, mouth with unwashed hands). Launder clothing after training session.
- **Only coaches handle equipment** used for practice such as cones, goals, etc.
- Ensure **all athletes have their individual equipment**. (Ball, water bottle, Gk gloves etc.)
- Ensure **player's personal belongings** (bags, coats, sweatshirts) remain in a personal space and are kept **physically distanced from the belongings of others**. Do not allow sharing of personal items.
- **Remind players to bring their pinnie to games and practices**. It is important they don't lose it, and they should wash it after every use. They should return it at the end of the season to you.
- **Do not allow shared team snacks**. Participants should only drink from their own containers.
- **Wear a face covering at all times** and you must maintain **social distancing of 6 feet from players, coaches, spectators**, and other persons at all times.
- No more than **25 players on any surface/playing** area for team/group sports. No more than **50 people excluding players, coaches, referees, or facility/activity workers** in, on, or surrounding any surface/playing area. Please monitor for changes in these numbers from the GYSA Board.
- **Modify play to limit contact or increase distancing for participants** where there is intermittent close participant proximity and/or sustained face to face contact between participants.
- **Player Behavior Modification:** Coaches should work with players to break habits that will minimize the spread of the virus. Spitting, nose clearing on the field or spitting on gloves during practices and competitions is not permitted.

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MODIFICATIONS TO THE GAME

- **Heading** - all intentional heading of a soccer ball is suspended for all ages. Any intentional heading will be treated as playing in a dangerous manner, indirect free kick restart
- **Shoulder to shoulder contact** is suspended and or any other intentional physical contact is to be considered playing in a dangerous manner, indirect free kick restart or other applicable foul or misconduct based on the referee's decision.
- **Slide tackling** whenever within 6 feet of another player is suspended and is to be considered playing in a dangerous manner, indirect free kick restart or other applicable foul or misconduct based on the referee's decision. "Going to the ground" to save a ball from going out of touch or to stop a long ground pass is not considered a "tackle" and is permissible as long as no players are within 6 feet.
- **Throw-ins** are suspended and replaced by a kick-in. The procedure for a kick-in is:
 - › The player taking the kick-in must be facing the field of play and need not keep both feet on the ground during the kick-in.
 - › Must put part of the ball on the touchline or on the ground outside the touchline
 - › The ball may not be kicked directly into the opponent's penalty area.
 - › Opponents must stand at least 10 yards (8 yards for g2-g6) from the point on the touchline where the kick-in is to be taken.
- **Corner kicks** are suspended and to be replaced by a corner kick-in. The modifications for the procedure for a corner kick-in are:
 - › The ball may not be kicked directly into the opponent's penalty area.
 - › Opponents must be at least 10 yds (8 yards for g2-g6) from the corner arc till the ball is in play
- **For all restarts**, all players must comply with the 6 -foot distancing from both teammates and opponents. Opponents must remain at 10 yds (8 yards for g2-g6) from the ball prior to the kick.
 - › The use of a traditional defensive wall is currently suspended.
- **Dropped 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.
- **Coin Toss-** As a substitution for the coin toss, the away team shall be provided the choice to kick off or defer to the second half.

If you have any questions, please contact Jill Thresher: (978) 500-2744 or mjsthresher@gmail.com.
Additional information can be found here: <https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/return-to-soccer-activities/> or
https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/assets/61/6/return_to_soccer_activities_phase_3_step_1_-_sep_4.pdf