

Shirley Youth Soccer- Fall 2020 Return to Soccer Guidelines

Soccer is categorized by the state of Massachusetts as a moderate risk activity if conducted by the guidelines outlined in this document. Participating in youth soccer is inherently more risky than staying at home with regard to transmission of SARS-CoV-2. The guidelines described herein are meant to reduce the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission relative to how youth soccer is normally conducted. It is important that players, coaches and spectators understand these risks and do their utmost to follow the guidelines. By agreeing to participate in Shirley Youth Soccer you must recognize the increased risk of viral transmission that is involved with this activity when compared to not participating at all.

Player Expectations and Guidelines

Players must be prepared in the following ways before practices/games

- 1. Players must show no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and have not been exposed to someone who has been ill with SARS-CoV-2 in the past 14 days.**
2. Before every practice/game a player's temperature must be taken at home. It must read as normal- below 100.4°F. If a player's health is in doubt, it is best to stay home.
3. Players should have their own equipment bag in which to bring the following: a filled water bottle, a personal pinney (to be given at the beginning of the season and returned at the end), personal hygiene products (sanitizer and sanitizing wipes), snacks.
4. Players will wear face coverings when entering the field, during practices and during games whether on the field or on the sidelines. Mask breaks may be taken as long as 6' distance can be maintained from players and non-family spectators. Ear-loop type face masks are recommended. Around-the-neck type face coverings are not permitted.
5. Players may not touch cones and communal equipment with their hands. Only coaches may touch communal equipment.
6. Players should refrain from touching soccer balls with their hands. Only coaches may handle soccer balls.
7. Players are expected to play and practice in a manner that minimizes physical contact among players. Occasional contact will occur during normal play.
8. Player equipment should be washed/sanitized between practices/games.
9. Any player who tests positive for SARS-CoV-2 must have their parent/guardian contact the Shirley Youth Soccer director Jay Duffner at (617)283-6987. Those players exposed to an infected individual in the two weeks prior to a positive test will be notified. A positive test will result in suspension of that team's activities for two weeks.

Coach Expectations and Guidelines

- 1. Coaches must show no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and have not been exposed to someone who has been ill with SARS-CoV-2 in the past 14 days.**

2. Coaches must ensure that before each practice/game their body temperature is less than 100.4°F.
3. Only coaches may touch Shirley Youth Soccer balls and communal equipment (cones/goals). Coaches should use hand sanitizer before and after handling balls and equipment.
4. Coaches should remind players of the modified rules of play and correct any action that violates those guidelines.
5. Coaches should take attendance at all practices and games. These records should be kept in the event that contact tracing is needed.
6. Whistles should only be used if they can be used when covered by face masks. Consider not using whistles at all.

Spectator Guidelines

1. Spectators should try to limit attendance to one per player, however we know that it is sometimes necessary to bring younger and older siblings. This will be permitted.
2. Spectators should maintain at least 6' distance between family groups.
3. Spectators must wear facial coverings when on and around the field.
4. No side-play is permitted by non-players among non-family members.
5. No more than 50 people cumulative of players, coaches and spectators are allowed at a time on the field. If we approach this limit we may ask those with multiple spectators per player to volunteer to leave the field.
6. Spectators may not touch any communal player equipment (goals, cones, pumps) or Shirley Youth Soccer balls with their hands at any time.
7. During games spectators are not allowed on the same side of the field as players.

Modifications to Rules of Play

The following modifications to the rules of play are outlined by the Mass Youth Soccer Association and applied here to small-sided play expected for Shirley Youth Soccer players.

1. All intentional contact between players during play should be minimized. This includes shoulder-to-shoulder contact and backing into a player. Deliberate contact will result in a direct free kick.
2. Intermittent contact is permitted when making a legal tackle if it results as part of that tackle.
3. Players should wear face masks at all times when on the field and when on the sidelines. Masks should be donned when entering the field area. A brief "mask break" may be taken when a player can ensure 6' distancing from others.
4. Players and referees should refrain from touching a soccer ball with hands. If hands are used, the ball should be removed and sanitized with disinfecting wipes before use.
5. Throw-ins will be replaced with kick-ins.
6. Drop-ball restarts will not be used. Instead an indirect free kick will be given to the team last in possession of the ball as deemed by the referee.
7. No handshakes, fist bumps or elbow bumps.
8. During games, players not on the field should stay at designated substitute spots on the sidelines.
7. Shirley Youth Soccer games will be played without goalkeepers.