

**WEST DEPTFORD SOCCER CLUB**  
**RECREATION RETURN-TO-PLAY INFORMATION**  
**FALL 2020**

Hello Parents/Guardians and Players!

We are excited to welcome everyone to the Fall season at West Deptford Soccer Club. We realize this is going to be a different type of sports season and we are here to answer any of your questions and concerns. Attached is our Club "Return-To-Play" Guidelines that were approved by the Township to allow soccer to return to the fields. We ask that you read the Guidelines to your child as well as reviewing them for yourself to be aware of your responsibilities to keep our players safe. Below is more specific information for our recreation program that we hope helps answer your questions and alleviate any concerns you may have. Also attached is the Covid19 Waiver which all athletes in the township must sign in order to play any sport or participate in any recreation activity this fall.

**General Information:**

Our recreation program is set to begin practice September 1, 2020 and games will begin September 12, 2020. We will still have our training sessions prior to Saturday morning games and will be doing so following all CDC and US Club Soccer guidelines.

**First things first! SAFETY!**

All players will be kept within their own team for training, practice and games. We ask that all parents make sure their child is not feeling ill or has a fever before bringing them to the park for a practice or a game.

All players are required to bring their own water bottle that is clearly marked with his or her name. Coaches will not have extra water and players cannot share their water. All players will also need their own ball. If your child needs a ball from the club, please let us know and we will get one to you for the duration of the fall season. Your child will also need their own shin guards and cleats.

All players are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer to the field. This can be one of the pocket bacs, or on-the-go styles that loop onto a bag or attach to the water jug. Coaches will be reminding the players to use hand sanitizer before each water break and at any time they may have touched something that is not theirs. We encourage parents to remind their kids about the importance of hand sanitizer before touching their water or their face!

**FACE COVERINGS:** Players are not required to wear face coverings at practice or games. This is a personal decision by each parent based on your level of comfort. Our coaches will be wearing face coverings only when they cannot maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from the player. If you prefer that your child wear a face covering, a gaiter-style may be easiest to allow them to keep it around their neck when not in use. If your child is going to wear a mask to and from practice/games, we ask that they have a Ziploc bag to place the mask in while they are on the field.

**PRACTICE:** The players will be kept physically distant while on the field as much as possible and will maintain distance while taking a break. We realize it is difficult to impress upon the kids to “keep their hands to themselves”, but we ask you to remind your child of this when you are dropping them off for practice/games.

When you arrive for practice, please pull up closest to the field where your child will be practicing. If you decide to stay for the duration of practice, we ask that you either remain in your car or maintain physical distance in the parking lot from both other parents and from the players. While we recognize many parents enjoy this opportunity to sit along the practice field, we cannot have that many people in the area. Therefore, please do not congregate along the practice field.

**GAME DAY:** For those of you who are returning to our program, you are aware that we generally have training and then the teams will play their games. Usually parents are hanging out in the same areas as the teams during both training and games. Due to the need to maintain physical distance, we will be limiting the number of teams on the fields at one time and will be asking parents to not congregate right at the training areas. Also, because it may be difficult to maintain physical distance during the game time, we ask all parents and spectators to bring their face coverings. We are attempting to line the fields and maintain enough space on the sides for all spectators. Please be patient with us in the first week or so as we work through this. It is new for us as well and we may not get it perfect on the first try!

Also, we have to suspend the half-time and after-game team snacks that are usually a part of every recreational game. We know that parents usually provide oranges or some snack/sports drink for the teams during the season. Due to the current situation with Covid19, we cannot allow the sharing of fruit or other items with the team. We are currently discussing whether we can have a pre-packaged snack, and we will let you know once we confirm this with our governing bodies.

### **GENERAL QUESTIONS?**

We realize this situation is new and changing frequently. We are working hard to be as flexible and fluid as possible. We ask that our parents be the same with us. If you have any questions or concerns that are not addressed in this or in the Return-To-Play Guidelines, please reach out to either Rick Nichols our Recreation Director, or Nancy Monte Carlo, President, and we will work to provide you with an answer. Please remember all our coaches are volunteers and this

is new to them as well. If they are asking you to comply with a guideline, it is to keep our kids as safe as possible. Please do not give them a hard time. If you disagree with what is being asked of you, please contact Rick or Nancy and we will address it.

Thank you for taking the time to review this document and for making the commitment to fall soccer in WDSC! We look forward to seeing all the kids out on the fields in the next few weeks!

Rick Nichols, WDSC Recreation Director

Michael O'Loughlin, WDSC Registrar

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