



TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Procedures for COVID-19 Management

UPDATED 4.30.21

OVERVIEW

Yardley Makefield Soccer (YMS) 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 volunteers.

These protocols are obtained from an extensive network of sources to represent what YMS believes are the necessary practices set forth by health and government agencies. YMS primarily used guidance from the CDC, The Bucks County Health Department, the PA Department of Health as well as EPYSA, EDP, US Youth Soccer, and other tournaments.

THINGS TO REMEMBER FOR TEAMS

- THERE WILL BE A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR PLAYERS/COACHES/SPECTATORS NOT FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES IN THIS DOCUMENT.
- Prior to arriving at the facility all players, coaches, spectators and referees should take players temperature at home.
 - The player should not play if they have a fever, which is a temperature >100.3 degrees F.
- If any player, coach, referee or spectator is not feeling well, they should stay home.
- We will have a communication plan in place in the event it is discovered there has been an infection at one of our tournament locations.
- It is each team's responsibility to ensure their team members and family members attending the event are aware of these regulations.
- All teams must have their players complete the YMS Tournament Participant Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Release and Indemnification, including Covid-19 Compliance and Assumption of Risk.

FACE MASK GUIDELINES

- Face masks are not required for players on the field of play at YMS outdoor facilities due to guidance provided from the Bucks County Health Department. The Bucks County Health Department determined that wearing a mask in high exertion sports may create an unsafe environment for an athlete. Thus, athletes are not required to wear a mask if the exertion level may reasonably create a safety issue as determined by the athlete him/herself or the organization sponsoring the athletics in Bucks County
- - Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer has acknowledged that YMS is following their local health department's guidelines (Bucks County Health Department).
 - It is the individual family's decision for their player to wear a face mask.
 - Families can make this decision due to the exception stated in Section 3 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Order Requiring Universal Face Coverings.
 - Families should make this decision prior to training/gameplay. YMS will support all families and their decision.
 - Players must still wear face coverings outside the field of play which includes entering the facility, exiting the facility, not in gameplay while on the sideline, and during halftime.
- Face masks are still required by all coaches and spectators when not on the field of play at an outdoor YMS facility.
- At this time, face masks will still be required at the YMS indoor facility.
- YMS teams are subject to the required face covering and COVID protocols set forth by those entities outside of YMS jurisdiction. This includes non-YMS tournaments and away games.
- Gaiters, neck warmers, plastic shields or other personal protective equipment could be considered dangerous and should not be worn by players.
- YMS will reserve the right to modify our policy during the season if there is a change in guidance or new information becomes available.

FACE MASKS-BUCKS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



COUNTY OF BUCKS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Neshaminy Manor Center, 1282 Almshouse Road, Doylestown, PA 18901 - 215-345-3318

FIELD OFFICES

Bucks County Government Services Center, 7321 New Falk Road, Levittown, PA 19055 - 267-580-3510
Bucks County Government Services Center, 261 California Road, Suite #2, Quakertown, PA 18951 - 215-529-7000

County Commissioners
DIANE M. ELLIS-MARSEGLIA, LCSW, Chair
ROBERT J. HARVEY, JR., Vice-Chair
GENE DIGIROLAMO, Commissioner

Director
DAVID C. DAMSKER, M.D., M.P.H.

2/26/21

UPDATED LOCAL CLARIFICATION OF THE ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE PADOH REQUIRING FACEMASKS DURING SPRING ATHLETICS IN BUCKS COUNTY

Under Section 3, A., the order states that exceptions apply to individuals for whom wearing a mask while executing a task would create an unsafe condition as determined by local regulators. Section 3, B., also indicates that if wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, that individual is also exempted from the order. Additionally, the "frequently asked questions" section further indicates that "if the sport, equipment, or exertion level does not allow for face covering to be worn safely then the athlete should not wear a face covering."

The Bucks County Health Department has determined that it may create an unsafe condition for a person to wear a mask while actively engaged in athletics. Thus, no athlete in Bucks County shall be required to wear a mask if exertion levels may reasonably create a safety issue as determined by the athlete him/herself or the organization sponsoring the athletics.

There has been no evidence to this point of on-court/on-field transmission of COVID in Bucks County throughout the pandemic. Additionally, no team to the Health Department's knowledge, at any level of play anywhere in the United States, has reported an infection from a positive athlete on an opposing team stemming from on-court/on-field competition.

At this time, the State of New Jersey does not require a mask "when persons are engaged in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities." The State of Ohio does not require masks "on the field of play." The State of New York does not require a mask if "players are unable to tolerate a face covering for the physical activity (e.g. practicing, playing.)" The State of Maryland does not require a mask while "engaging in other physical activities where the use of a face covering is likely to pose a bona fide safety risk."

COVID infections related to athletics have mostly resulted from athletes socializing and attending team functions prior to, and after, practices and games. It is extremely important to remember that masks must be worn while not actively engaged in the athletics at all times - masking must continue on the sidelines, on buses, during breaks, or at any other time when social distancing cannot be maintained.

David C. Damsker, MD, MPH
Director
Bucks County Health Department

SCHEDULING

- Games will be scheduled closer in time (back to back in some cases) to one another to limit time at the tournament location
- Scheduling will be structured to reduce the population at tournament locations to meet state and township gathering guidelines.

DURING EVENT

- Players do not have to wear face masks while playing
 - Players must wear face masks when not on the field of play.
- No sharing of water bottles or food or personal items.
- There will be no team benches provided, nor should teams bring benches to the event.
- Tents may be used to protect player from sun or elements during games play.
 - Tents are not allowed to be set up at the facility as a place to gather.
- Player gear and kits should be laundered in between Day 1, Day 2, and Day 3
- Referees are should wear face coverings during game play.
 - Center referee may choose not to wear a face covering if needed.
 - Referees should wear face coverings while not working a game.
 - Referees may have a tent to shield them when not working a game.
- Referees are not required to exchange documents. Coaches should have them available if requested.

DURING EVENT



- All Coaches are required to wear face covering at all times.
 - Coaches may remove their face covering to communicate to players on the field, that face covering should be replaced once communication is complete.
- Coaches must keep socially distant from players during game play and must remain socially distant from players during half time
 - Use additional area to keep players socially distant.
- Only 2 spectators per player are allowed.
- Spectators of opposing teams should not intermingle.
 - Please remain on one side of mid-field opposite your team's bench.
- If anyone become sick, they should leave the facility or seek medical attention.

FACILITIES



- Porta pots will be available at all tournament locations.
- All porta pots will be cleared before, during, and after each day of the tournament.
- There will be hand sanitizer in each porta pot.
- Hand washing stations will be placed at all tournament locations.

Y
M
S

PLAYER SAFETY-INJURY/WEATHER

- In the event of injury, staff may assist in the management of proper first aid. Family members may participate in injury management if necessary. Players should maintain a social distance.
- In the event of unexpected severe weather, players should return to their cars. If a player does not have a car, they may congregate at covered pavilions. Masks must be worn at pavilions.
- All precautions will be taken to adhere to personal protection and social distancing requirements, however those requirements will not supersede protection of the children from the immediate threat of severe weather.

POST GAMEPLAY

- Players and families should exit as quickly as possible from the facility.
- Players and families should wear face coverings while exiting the facility.
- Players should go directly home and shower/bathe prior to other activities.
- Surfaces/gear that may be contacted by players, should be disinfected before and after use.

CONTACTS

- CLUB SAFETY OFFICER: George Schlieben
 - 267.980.1356
 - secretary@ymssoccer.net
- TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: Mike Corso
 - 267.799.6372
 - tournamentdirector@ymssoccer.net
- PRESIDENT: Steve Beede
 - 215.290.3606
 - president@ymssoccer.net
- DIRECTOR OF COACHING: David Simpson
 - 215.290.0278
 - doc@ymssoccer.net