



GAME DAY PROTOCOL

Procedures for YMS and Opposing Teams for
Game Play

UPDATED 4.30.21

PURPOSE

This plan is designed to keep our players participating in soccer while reducing infection risk in the setting of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

This plan has been developed based on the guidelines set forth by Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer, which was created in consultation with US Soccer, US Youth Soccer, the US Olympic Committee, the CDC, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, along with guidance provided by Bucks County Department of Health. Plans from other agencies were also reviewed.

As a community, we must be flexible and this plan will be updated as necessary.

THINGS TO REMEMBER FOR PARTICIPANTS

- THERE WILL BE A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR ANY PARTICIPANT NOT FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES IN THIS DOCUMENT.
 - By choosing to participate in YMS programming, all participants, players, trainers, employees, volunteers and families are subject to the guidelines set forth in this document.
- Players who are not feeling well should stay home.
 - In particular, The player should not play if they have a fever, which is a temperature >100.3 degrees F
- YMS PLAYERS AND COACHES SHOULD COMPLETE THE TEAMSAP HEALTH CHECK PRIOR TO ATTENDING GAMES/TRAINING.
 - Players will not be allowed to take the field until health check is completed.
- Any players participating in a tryout or evaluation are subject to these protocols. Players must register with YMS prior to participating in a try-out.
- It is the parents' responsibility to review these guidelines with their player.

It is critical ALL PARTICIPANTS are open and honest about their or their player's health in order for all kids to remain safe and continuing to play.

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

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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

PRIOR TO THE START OF GAMES

- Players who are not feeling well, should stay home.
 - Any player reporting of demonstrating symptoms of illness at any point should be removed from the game.
- YMS TEAM MANAGERS SHOULD REVIEW TEAMS NAP HEALTH CHECKS AND ENSURE ALL TEAM MEMBERS AND COACHES HAVE COMPLETED THE HEALTH CHECK
 - No player or coach should enter the field without the health check complete.
- YMS Managers should communicate YMS Game Day Protocols to the opposing manager.
- Visiting Team Managers:
 - Visiting Team managers are required to screen their teams using one of the two following methods:
 - Use Teamsnap Health Checks as YMS Teams or
 - Prior to entering the warm up area area the player will be asked a health question by a coach/trainer:
 - Their answers will be recorded by the manager/trainer, who socially distant and outside of the training area.
 - The manager/trainer will verbally confirm with the player:
 - They have not contracted or been in exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

PRIOR TO THE START OF GAMES

- Players must wear face masks when entering our facility/during arrival to their field. Players must wear facemasks when not engaged in on field soccer activities.
- Players should not be commingling with the opposing team or other teams at the facility.
- Parents should bring an extra mask and hand sanitizer
- Players should maintain social distancing guidelines during arrival.
- All players, parents, and coaches should not enter their designated field until the previous group has exited.
- PLAYERS SHOULD GO DIRECTLY TO THEIR SIDELINE:
 - Players will be given a designated gear area that is 6 feet from teammates on their sideline.
 - Players should immediately go to their assigned gear area and remain until their warm up begins.
 - Players must wear face coverings on the sideline when not in the game.
- Benches are not allowed.

DURING GAME PLAY

- During half time or when players are not in the game, players will return to their own designated gear area.
 - Players must wear face coverings during half time.
 - Players should bring their own water and they should not be shared with any other player.
 - During half time or pre-game, coaches should utilize the field of play to keep players socially distant.
- Any player reporting of demonstrating symptoms of illness at any point should be removed from gameplay.
- If players need to use the facilities. Players must use hand sanitizer prior to returning to the game.

DURING GAMEPLAY

- Players should avoid all non soccer game related physical contact with each other, including celebration, handshakes, high fives, etc.
- All coaches and players must maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet to reduce the risk of disease transmission.
- 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.
- Players and coaches may contact another individual's ball with their feet but should not contact with their hands unless during throw-ins, goaltending or heading drills.
- Equipment should only be handled by staff (cones, for example) and should not be handled by players and be disinfected after use.

FIELD OF PLAY/SPECTATOR GUIDANCE

- Families should limit spectators to two family members when possible.
- Spectators should not intermingle with the spectators of an opposing team.
 - Please remain on one side of mid-field opposite your team's bench.
- If anyone becomes sick, they should leave the facility or seek medical attention.

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.

COVID-19 POSITIVE TEST ACTION PLAN

- Club Safety Officer (CSO) will be the point person for all communications in the event of a player exposure. The Club Vice President (VP) will take the lead if CSO is not available.
- If a player from either team has tested positive and potentially exposed their team within 14 days, the game should not be played.
- If a player from either team has a positive test within 72 hours post game, the coach must notify the opposing team coach and any follow league specific protocols.
 - The YMS coach should notify the CSO and club VP immediately via phone call and email.
- Club Safety officer will email all members of the exposed YMS team to notify there was a positive test.
- YMS teams will follow club protocols.

INCLEMENT WEATHER ACTION PLAN

- In the event of inclement weather, YMS will cancel or suspend games.
- All players should bring gear in the event of rain and the game has to be suspended.
- Parents will be notified of cancellations or suspensions via Teamsnap, and will need to pick up their child immediately.
- 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.

CONTACTS

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