



CJSA Northwest District COVID-19 RETURN TO PLAY PROPOSAL

In response to the Governor's Phase 2 II re-opening, the Northwest District proposes the following guidelines for Return to Play in the Summer of 2020. As phases change, the district will change with it and update their guidelines for clubs. The below is consistent with Connecticut's Phase II Sports Re-opening and is designed to provide a fun, safe environment for youth soccer players to get back on the fields and back playing soccer.

The NWD welcomes the opportunity to discuss this plan with their clubs in order to share best practices, receive comments and move forward. **CJSA has completed their plan that coincides with the State of Connecticut and is available under the COVID-19 tab on the district website.**

NWD proposes the following as part of Phase II

Gatherings will be limited to 50 people per Site, including players, parents, coaches, refs, etc...

For games, "Site" will be defined as one field. During practices, "Site" will be defined as one half of the field.

Schedule use of club sites with at least 30 minutes between uses. All users will be instructed to wait in their vehicles for the prior users to depart before using a site. Players will be instructed to change into their gear prior to arrival at the fields.

Players will not be required to wear masks or other face coverings while playing. Players on the bench or otherwise not participating will wear appropriate face coverings. Coaches and staff are required to wear a face mask or cloth face covering when unable to easily, continuously, and measurably keep 6 ft of physical distance from others, unless doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety due to medical conditions. All other coaches/adults interacting with players must wear a mask. Coaches will be limited to two (2) per team on the sideline. Spectators are required to bring and wear masks or cloth face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth unless doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety due to a medical condition.

Players will be instructed to bring their own pinnies, balls and water to each event and to clean/sanitize those items after each use. Players will be instructed not to share such items. Team food and drink are not allowed and each player will be responsible for their own "coolers". During halftimes, breaks, etc., players can circle back to their parent individually to get a snack or drink and then return to their team.

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Coaches will be asked to track attendees for each event.

Pre-game, halftime and post-game talks can take place with the required 6-foot social distancing. Players will be instructed that sportsmanship (e.g. handshakes/hi-fives) will be modified to avoid direct contact. No “huddles” allowed at any point.

Each club will be responsible for sanitizing benches and bleachers in between each use (i.e. before/after each practice or game). Benches will be marked to accommodate distancing guidelines. Parent sidelines will be marked with a 6-foot distance from sideline to parent area and then 6 foot markers along the sideline from 18 yd marker to 18 yd marker.

If club field locations are school facilities, the NWD proposes using these facilities in a similar manner as set forth above subject to additional guidance provided by the Town. Notwithstanding the above 50 person limitation, each player will be permitted to have one parent/guardian at the field during matches. However, all such spectators will be instructed to maintain acceptable social distancing and not congregate before/after events.

Each club will appoint a “Covid Officer” who in turn needs to provide a “Field Marshal” at each site to ensure these regulations are followed. The field marshals can be the coaches themselves but there needs to be an appointed person to make sure everyone is in compliance.

Each club will attempt to supply hand sanitizer at the fields.

Each club will post and/or e-mail applicable CJSA and Town/State guidelines to its members and request that members acknowledge receipt and review of same. Making it a part of your registration sign offs is a good way to capture members attention. Each club will also advise its members that before each event they should evaluate for known COVID symptoms and not participate and follow appropriate medical advice if they are experiencing known symptoms.

NWD believes the above is a conservative Return to Play approach that is mindful of applicable regulations and public health guidance while providing players the opportunity to take the field in a safe and responsible manner. The NWD also hopes that these proposals will be temporary and that regulations will be relaxed as the summer moves forward.

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