



COVID-19 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Introduction

As a Massachusetts Youth Soccer organization, Marlboro Youth Soccer is dedicated to protecting the health of all people in and outside of our community. In an effort to assist our players, coaches, and parents with required changes due to COVID-19, Marlboro Youth Soccer (MYS) has established the following policies and procedures. Given the nature of this pandemic, these policies and procedures may change at any time based on the most recent CDC or Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines.

The information contained in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Implementation of these policies and procedures will require a cooperative relationship between MYS, coaches, parents, and players. While MYS and coaches must create a safe environment, the parent(s)/guardian(s) are the only ones who may make the decision for their child regarding participation in soccer activities.

Safety Standards for All Play

- All MYS activities will be conducted outdoors for the Spring 2021 season, as outdoor participation is generally safer than indoors and allows for greater distancing.
- All MYS activities will be scheduled with a minimum 20-minute buffer to prevent the overlap of participants and to allow for disinfection of equipment and cleaning of commonly touched surfaces, if necessary.
- MYS **requires facial coverings to be worn by all participants during active play**, except for individuals with a documented medical condition or disability that makes them unable to wear a face covering. **This requirement applies to all spectators, coaches, staff, referees, and other officials.**
 - For the purpose of this policy a facial covering means a face mask that completely covers the nose and mouth. Only face coverings that secure with loops around a participant's nose and ears are acceptable. **Gaiters and face shields are not permitted.** Masks with exhalation valves (including mesh masks)

are not acceptable and should not be worn by anybody. Face coverings must be a separate accessory.

- Participants must wear facial coverings on the bench or sidelines at all times and in any huddles or time-outs from active play.
- Participants will take frequent facial covering breaks when they are out of proximity to other players (at least 6'), using caution to avoid touching the front or inside of the face covering by using the ties or ear loops to remove and replace.

Capacity and Spectator Limits

- As required by Massachusetts Youth Soccer, **MYS limits the number of spectators at all sanctioned soccer activities to 2 adults (Parents/Guardians or chaperones) and siblings of a participating player.** If a player's parent/guardian is present as a coach or assistant coach for their team, another spectator is permitted to be present for this player.
- Since MYS may utilize multiple fields and/or playing surfaces at Ghiloni Park, the capacity limits above shall apply per field and/or surface.

Transportation

- Parents/guardians and all adult volunteers shall not transport athletes that are not immediate family members. **Carpooling is prohibited.**

Cooperation with Health Officials

- MYS keeps rosters of all participants with appropriate contact information and will make that information available upon request by state officials, local boards of health and their authorized agents.

Other Required Safety Protocols

- **Social Distancing**
 - Spectators must maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between spectator groups. A spectator group is defined as a family unit.
 - Congregating in common areas or parking lots before, during, or following all soccer activities is prohibited.
 - Players, coaches and officials must arrive for all soccer activities dressed to play.
 - Team-based social gatherings outside of regularly scheduled soccer activities are prohibited.
 - Team benches are not allowed.
 - Sportsmanship must continue in a touchless manner --- **no handshakes / slaps / fist bumps.**
- **Staffing and Operations**
 - MYS will not offer concessions or food service at Ghiloni Park for the Spring 2021 season.

- To participate or attend, all participants, volunteers, coaches, and spectators must show no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days.
- If any individual develops symptoms of COVID-19 during MYS sanctioned activities, they must promptly inform organizers and must be removed from the activities and instructed to return home and contact their healthcare provider. They will not be allowed to return to training until they are cleared by a healthcare provider. A doctor's note must be provided.
- **Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfecting**
 - Ghiloni Park restrooms shall be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with CDC guidance and best practices.
 - Participants must use their own equipment (e.g. ball, shoes, shin guards, goalie gloves) and are instructed to sanitize their equipment after each training session.
 - Each participant is required to have their own water bottle, towel, and personal hygiene products (hand sanitizer, facial tissues, face coverings). Shared team snacks are not allowed.
 - MYS coaches and staff will disinfect shared equipment (e.g. cones, goals, etc.) before and after all games, clinics, and training sessions.

COVID Notification Procedures

The following steps should be completed if a member of Marlboro Youth Soccer has come in contact with or has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

1. Affected individual or Parent/Guardian should contact the Marlboro Youth Soccer President (Henry Garcia, henry@marlboroyouthsoccer.org) and COVID-19 Safety Officer (Brian DuPont, brian@marlboroyouthsoccer.org).
2. Marlboro Youth Soccer COVID-19 Safety Officer and or President will notify the local Department of Public Health.
3. Close contacts or others on the team who may have questions about their risk of COVID-19 will be notified by Marlboro Youth Soccer. Names of any affected individuals will not be released.
4. Marlboro Youth Soccer COVID-19 Safety Officer will notify Massachusetts Youth Soccer COVID-19 Safety Officer

A close contact is someone with whom you have been within 6 feet of for at least 10-15 minutes while symptomatic or within 48 hours before symptom onset. A close contact can also be someone who had direct contact with the droplets of a COVID-19 case (e.g. being coughed on) while not wearing a mask or face coverings.

All teams and individuals that have come in close contact with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 will have soccer activities suspended **for 14 days**.

COVID Compliance Waiver / Release of Liability

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All parents / guardians / players must complete and submit a Compliance Waiver and Release of Liability before participation in any soccer activities sanctioned by Marlboro Youth Soccer. Please see Attachments A and B at the end of this document for additional information.

Procedures for Complaints, Investigations and Corrective Action

All Adults are responsible to help ensure that we avoid misconduct. Marlboro Youth Soccer cannot act to eliminate misconduct unless it has notice of the conduct. Adults are thus charged with reporting any concerns regarding compliance with all of Marlboro Youth Soccer's established policies and procedures.

To report violations of the Marlboro Youth Soccer COVID-19 Policies and Procedures :

1. Contact the Marlboro Youth Soccer COVID-19 Safety Officer – Brian DuPont, brian@marlboroyouthsoccer.org.
2. Club or BOD Review/Hearing – Upon receipt of a complaint, the Marlboro Youth Soccer Board of Directors may conduct a hearing in a manner consistent with the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures. The decision of the Club or BOD will be sent to the Massachusetts Youth Soccer COVID-19 Safety Officer.

Reports may be made anonymously, and there are no direct fees or other cost involved in making a report. Marlboro Youth Soccer expressly prohibits retaliation against individuals making good faith reports of misconduct.

All Adults have an obligation to cooperate in any investigation of a complaint of misconduct, including providing any and all information concerning the complaint. Failure to do so may be a violation of this Policy.

Attachment A – Massachusetts Youth Soccer, Return to Soccer Activity Review and Compliance Waiver.

The undersigned, on behalf of the player identified below, hereby represents, warrants and acknowledges that I have read and understand my responsibilities as a Parent/Guardian according to the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Return to Soccer Activities Guidelines, prior to participating in any town program, club, or league soccer related activities. This includes, but is not limited to, individual or team practices, clinics, training, games, tournaments, meetings or classes.

I attest that the information I am providing is true and accurate. Prior to bringing my player to participate in any soccer related activities that they have not experienced any of the following symptoms within the last 48 hours: (please place an X in each box to indicate you have read.)

- Fever (over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit) - temperature must be taken before each practice/game.
- Cough
- Shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Muscle aches
- Sore throat
- Loss of smell or taste, or a change in taste
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Headache
- Fatigue

Place an X in each box below indicating you have read and acknowledged each of the following statements as being true and correct:

- The player will not have been in close contact with anyone who has exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- The player will not have had contact with anyone who has had a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- The player is not restricted from participating by a healthcare provider.
- The player will not have traveled in the past 14 days to or from any states restricted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts travel order. If so, all of the necessary steps required by the order will be completed by the player prior to returning to soccer related activities.
- The player will not have recently traveled to a restricted area that is under a level 2, 3 or 4 travel advisory according to the U.S. State Department.

Face Mask Exemption: Check the box(es) below ONLY if this applies to you.

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- The player is not required to wear a mask due to a medical condition.
- The player is not required to wear a mask based on an exemption under Massachusetts Department of Health guidance.

If at any time you are unable to confirm the above criteria, the player must be restricted from participation and should contact their healthcare provider.

I understand that any falsification or omission of the information provided above, could result in disqualification from participating in any Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association sanctioned soccer related activity for no less than a year.

Player's Name _____

Member Organization _____

Signature of Player's parent or legal guardian if such member player is under 18 years

of age _____

Print Name of Signature _____

Date _____

Email address _____

Attachment B – Player Participant Release of Liability

In consideration of my child being allowed to participate in any way in the soccer programs and activities of Marlboro Youth Soccer, and their related events and activities (the “Programs”), the undersigned, acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

The risk of injury and illness from the activities involved in the Programs is significant, including (without limitation) the potential for injury or illness – in particular and not by way of limitation, risks of exposure, directly or indirectly, arising out of, contributed to or by, or resulting from any infectious or communicable disease, including (without limitation) the current or any future outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and/or any mutation or variation thereof – and while particular skills, equipment and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury or illness does exist. I knowingly and freely, for myself and on behalf of my child, assume all such risks, both known and unknown, even if arising from the negligence of the Releasees or others, and assume full responsibility for my and my child’s participation in the Programs.

I consent to my child participating in the Programs.

I, for myself and on behalf of my child, and our respective heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, hereby release, indemnify, and hold harmless Marlboro Youth Soccer, and their respective directors, officers, employees, agents, associated personnel, volunteers, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers and, if applicable, owners and lessors of fields, facilities and premises utilized for the Programs (collectively, the “Releasees”), with respect to any and all injury, illness, disability, death or loss or damage to person or property associated with my or my child’s presence at, or participation in the Programs, including being transported to or from the Programs, whether arising from the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

I hereby authorize the transportation of my child to or from the Programs.

My child has received a physical examination by a licensed medical doctor and has been found physically capable of participating in the sport of soccer. I have provided written notice attached to this release setting forth any specific issue, condition, or ailment that my child has that may impact my child's participation in the Programs. I give my consent to have an athletic trainer and/or licensed medical doctor or dentist provide my child with medical assistance and/or treatment and agree to be financially responsible for the reasonable cost of any such assistance and treatment.

I consent to Marlboro Youth Soccer and its affiliates taking photographs, video recordings, and/or sound recordings in documenting the activities of Marlboro Youth Soccer’s programs and services. I hereby grant Marlboro Youth Soccer and its affiliates’ permission to use the negatives, prints, motion pictures, video recordings, audiorecordings, or any other reproduction

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of the same for Marlboro Youth Soccer and its affiliates' educational and promotional purposes in manuals, on flyers, the internet, or other publications.

My child and my child's parents and guardians will abide by the rules, policies, procedures and protocols as provided by U.S. Youth Soccer and members of U.S. Youth Soccer, including Massachusetts Youth Soccer and all affiliated member organizations.

I understand and give permission for my child to participate in practices and games where they may be on the field with players of younger or older ages. I understand and accept there may be risks involved when playing with players of different ages. I am aware that if I do not accept such risks I may remove my child from the field.

I have read this release of liability and assumption of risk agreement, and fully understand its terms. I understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing this document, and I sign it freely and voluntarily without any inducement. I hereby waive all such rights above including the right to file a legal action or assert a claim for personal or physical injury or death of any kind.

Player's Name _____

Member Organization _____

Signature of Player's parent or legal guardian if such member player is under 18 years

of age _____

Print Name of Signature _____

Date _____

Email address _____

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