

NYSA COVID-19 Response Plan

Spring 2021



**COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS**



Mission

NYSA Mission

The Narragansett Youth Soccer Association strives to promote the development of young soccer athletes through participation in a learning recreation program and friendly competition. The goal of NYSA is to promote teamwork, social and physical development and athleticism in children of all ages and skill levels. We strive to create and maintain an all-inclusive and safe environment to develop the skill levels of all athletes. NYSA holds high standards of good ethical and moral behavior, good sportsmanship and community involvement.

BOARD MEMBERS

Melissa Boze

Jackie Annino

Bryan DeAngelis

Jennifer Whitworth

Dennis Tierney

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to ensure safety measures are put into place and adhered to during this unprecedented global pandemic. The young athletes have sacrificed so much with distance learning, isolation from social events and their peers and an absence of sports among many other things. This plan will guide all participants on safety measures to maximize the program for the benefit of our youth athletes as well as their safety and the safety of their family, volunteers, coaches, referees and spectators.

Per Reopening RI, soccer has been deemed a sport with Moderate Risk:

Moderate Risk: Sports that involve intermittent close contact or close sustained contact, but with protective equipment in place that may reduce the likelihood of respiratory particle transmission between participants or sports that use equipment that can't be cleaned between participants.

Examples: basketball, volleyball*, baseball*, softball*, **soccer**, water polo, gymnastics* (if equipment can't be sufficiently cleaned between competitors), ice hockey, field hockey, tennis*, swimming relays, pole vault*, high jump*, long jump*, girls/women's lacrosse, fencing, competitive group cycling, crew with two or more rowers in shell, 7-on-7 football, team sailing, non-competitive dance, and solo competitive dance. *Could potentially be considered "Lower Risk" with appropriate cleaning of equipment and use of masks by participants.

Guidelines

NYSA will follow all guidelines, policies, procedures, recommendations from the Rhode Island Department of Health and Executive Orders from the Governor of RI.

Infection Prevention Strategies

- At least one board member or designated COVID Coordinator will be present at all Home games.
 - All coaches have been trained in infection prevention protocols and the importance of adherence to these protocols during practices.
 - Coaches will take attendance at every practice and game and report to the NYSA Board via email within 24 hours with contact tracing records if needed.
 - Parents must pre-screen their players 15 minutes before every practice and game and report to their coach immediately if a player does not pass the COVID-19 screening tool.
 - NYSA will provide hand sanitizer, alcohol based wipes, spray sanitizing gun and extra masks to all teams, with the expectation that coaches will have these items available at each practice and game.
 - All participants (Board Members, Coaches, Referees, Players, Guardians and Spectators) will be required to wear masks at all times while on the field or on the sidelines for practices and games. Those not adhering to proper mask wearing will be given one warning. Continued failure to comply will result in removal from the field grounds immediately. If noncompliance continues, players may be removed from the team for the remainder of the season. If a referee deems a player's mask to be in poor condition, the referee will ask the player to leave the field and find a replacement mask.
 - All participants (Board Members, Coaches, Referees, Players, Guardians and Spectators) shall maintain social distancing of at least six feet at all times except when players are engaged in active play.
 - Coaches will verbally screen all players at the start of each practice and game using the Reopening [RI COVID-19 Screening Tool](#) as a guide.
 - Limit of 2 spectators per player at each game. Any additional spectators will be asked to leave the field. Spectators must remain at least 14 feet from the sideline and at least six feet from each other at all times.
 - Referees will use electronic whistles in order to keep masks on at all times.
 - All balls, goals and other equipment will be sanitized before and after every practice and game.
 - Players must bring their own water bottle and snacks. No group snacks will be provided to players at any point during any practice or game.
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Practice / Game Modifications

- With the exception of the goalie who will be wearing gloves, players are not allowed to touch the ball with their hands at any time. Throw-ins will be replaced with kick-ins.
 - Balls that leave the field of play must be retrieved with the player's feet and not their hands.
 - No spectator is allowed to touch the ball if it rolls out of bounds. If the ball is touched, the game will be stopped so the ball can be sanitized properly with alcohol-based wipes or the game ball must be replaced.
 - With the exception of U14 & U19, heading of the ball is not allowed.
 - No slide tackling.
 - Substitutes waiting to get into the game must social-distance with other substitutes.
 - Players must limit physical contact to the greatest degree possible (no high fives, fist bumps, elbow bumps or any other contact before, during or after games).
 - Coaches must stay within the standard coaching area and at least 6 feet from the sideline. Coaches must not enter the field of play at any time unless attending to an injured player. If physical contact is required to attend to the injured player, sanitizer will be utilized as soon as possible.
 - Each game will include a 2-minute hydration break midway through each half. During this break players must check their masks, hands and soccer balls must be sanitized and players should hydrate themselves.
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Responsibilities

NYSA Board Members

Board Members will stay abreast of all state guidelines as it relates to youth sports and will communicate any changes or updates to coaches, players and their families. The Board will provide all required equipment in order to maintain safety standards at all times. The Board will designate one Lead COVID Coordinator to ensure all COVID related safety protocols are being adhered to. The Board will oversee any contact tracing activities as necessary and report information to and communicate with RIDOH. Board members will collect attendance records of all players and coaches present at each practice and game. Attendance records will be kept for at least 30 days.

NYSA Lead COVID Coordinator:

Jennifer Whitworth, Email: narragansettsoccer@gmail.com, Phone: 401-626-6703

Coaches

All coaches for all teams will ensure the above requirements are being met at all times by their assigned team. Coaches must notify when noncompliance is observed. Coaches will be responsible for screening their players at the start of all practices and games and not allow any player showing signs of illness to participate in play. Coaches will keep attendance at each athletic event and report athletes in attendance within 24 hours to the NYSA Board for record keeping and contact tracing purposes. Coaches will be responsible for sanitizing all equipment at the start and end of each practice and game. Coaches must ensure that all players' equipment is neatly spaced 6' apart. Coaches must sign the SuperLiga COVID Waiver of Liability Form.

COVID-19 Response

Players will be encouraged to participate in frequent testing either through their school or at a state testing site located throughout Rhode Island. The RI DOH will be notified immediately upon notification of a player that has tested positive or has exhibited COVID like symptoms. NYSA will follow all guidelines set forth by RIDOH. A symptomatic player or coach will not be allowed to attend practice or games until a negative COVID test is presented. Any players or coaches on quarantine status determined by RIDOH will not be allowed to attend any practices or games. Once a player or coach has been cleared by RIDOH, the player or coach must also be cleared by a NYSA Board member as well, to resume normal athletic activities.

Referees

Referees are responsible for monitoring and enforcing the game modifications noted in this plan. Referees must notify a Board Member should repeated or intentional noncompliance is observed.

Guardian(s)

Guardians are responsible for teaching their young athletes the importance of social distancing, mask wearing and rule following in order to maintain a safe environment for all athletes in the association. Participation and a successful season are dependent on adherence to the above requirements. Guardians will be responsible for screening their children prior to arrival at practices and games. Guardians will not bring an athlete who is symptomatic or under a quarantine, isolation or stay-at-home order to any practice or game unless cleared by the RIDOH and/or NYSA Board and proof of a negative COVID test (or proof of a positive test in the past 90 days.) Fully vaccinated, previously exposed or a previous positive test does not give athletes permission to disregard the requirements set forth in this plan. Failure to adhere to these guidelines could result in an athlete being asked to leave a practice/game and potentially being asked to no longer participate in team events for the remainder of the season. Guardians MUST follow the requirements for games and all events. Failure to comply will result in the guardian/spectator's removal from the field. Continued noncompliance will result in the guardian/spectator not being allowed on the field for future games and other athletic events. Guardians must sign the SuperLiga COVID Waiver of Liability Form.

Players

Players will adhere to all requirements listed above. Players will wear their masks appropriately (covering the mouth and nose) at all times. Players will do their best to have fun while playing at each and every practice and game.

Resources

[Rhode Island Department of Health COVID-19 Information](#)

[Reopening RI Phase III Youth and Adult Sports Guidance](#)

[Reopening RI Youth, adult & school sports and indoor sports facilities guidance Updated 3.22.21](#)

[Back2School Rhode Island](#)

[Reopening RI COVID-19 Screening Tool](#)

[CDC Consideration for Youth Sports Administrators](#)