



COVID-19 Competition Protocols

Revised June 4, 2021

This document outlines the Event Protocols in which US Youth Soccer events must be conducted in order to comply with our COVID-19 safety guidance.

1. Unless otherwise noted, these guidelines are put in place by US Youth Soccer and must be followed by players, coaches, team staff and spectators for all current events.
 - a. In some cases, local and state guidelines may be stricter than those established herein, and those local and state guidelines will supersede and supplement any US Youth Soccer guidelines already in place.
2. Local and state guidelines (as currently known) are identified with a double **asterisk** (**)

US Youth Soccer Midwest Region Presidents Cup COVID -19 Competition Protocols are as follows:

Event Protocols

- Location – Voice of America MetroPark Athletic Complex: 7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, OH 45069

Club Responsibility

- Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms must stay home or at hotel
- For out of state travel, follow the COVID-19 guidance of the state and local public health authorities to which the team is traveling
 - Limit the use of carpools. Encourage players, coaches and team staff to only ride with those in their household if at all possible
- Individuals traveling together by plane must wear a face covering and social distance whenever possible, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation
 - It is strongly recommended that teams traveling by team charter bus wear a face covering
- Players, coaches and team staff must conduct COVID-19 symptom assessments 72 hours before departure of event
 - [Coronavirus Self-Checker | CDC](#)
- Teams will be responsible for their own hydration needs at the event. US Youth Soccer will not be providing water coolers due to COVID-19 protocols and safety measures
- Provide the team with proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Limit physical contact, ex: high fives, handshakes, hugs, fist bumps, etc. within your team/club
- If you have team meetings, please have adequate space to social distance

- Team shared equipment (ex: soccer balls, discs, etc.) should be sanitized as frequently as possible

COVID Field Marshal

- The Field Marshal will serve in this dual responsibility

All Participants

- If any player, coach, team staff or spectator tests positive for Covid-19 during the event, please inform your State Representative IMMEDIATELY. The State Representative will work with the US Youth Soccer event staff to determine the next steps
- If any player, coach, team staff, spectator (including college coaches), referee, USYS staff, complex staff or LOC member is exhibiting any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19 they must not attend the US Youth Soccer event until they are cleared by a medical professional or meet the CDC guidelines for return from self-isolation
 - Signs/Symptoms of COVID-19 (from CDC):
 - Fever (> 100.4°) or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- CDC Guidelines for return from self-isolation following a positive test for a person exhibiting symptoms can be located [here](#)
 - Recommendations following diagnosis or are presenting symptoms from COVID-19:
 - Isolate for at least 10 days past when first symptoms appeared
 - And
 - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications
 - CDC Guidelines for return from self-isolation following a positive test for a person who is asymptomatic:
 - 10 days after positive viral test
- If any player, coach, team official, referee, or spectator has been around a person with COVID-19:
 - The best way to protect yourself and others is [to stay home for 14 days if you think you've been exposed](#) to someone who has COVID-19. Check [your local health department's website](#) for information about options in your area to possibly shorten this quarantine period
 - However, anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19, and who meets the following criteria, does **NOT** need to stay home
 - Someone who has been fully vaccinated within the last three months and shows no symptoms of COVID-19

Or:

- Someone who had COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months **and**
 - Recovered **and**
 - Remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath)
 - The most up-to-date CDC recommendations can be found [here](#)
- Players, coaches and team staff must conduct daily symptom assessments before each game
- For all players, coaches, team staff, spectators, volunteers, USYS staff and LOC, wearing a face covering that completely covers their nose and mouth when traveling from their vehicles to the fields is optional. Face coverings are optional when leaving the fields to return to their car, when moving around the facility between fields and when physical distancing of 6 ft. cannot be maintained

Players

- All players are asked to remain in their vehicles until forty-five (45) minutes prior to their game time. If teams from a prior game are still at the field, find an area away from the field to minimize interactions between groups
- After completion of each game, all participants must leave the playing field and surrounding area, no congregating
- When in the technical area and on sidelines not playing, a face covering is optional and to be worn that completely covers their nose and mouth
- No sharing of water bottles, drinks, food, or any personal items at any time
- Must not participate in pre-game or post-game physical contact with members of the other team, referee crew, (e.g., handshakes, fist bumps, high-5s, hugs, etc.) or with spectators (e.g., high-5s, tunnels, etc.)

Coaches/Team Staff

- All coaches and team staff are asked to remain in their vehicles until forty-five (45) minutes prior to their game time. If teams from a prior game are still at the field, find an area away from the field to minimize interactions between groups
- After completion of each game, all participants must leave the playing field and surrounding area, no congregating
- When in the technical area and on sidelines not playing, a face covering is optional and to be worn that completely covers their nose and mouth
- No sharing of water bottles, drinks, food, or any personal items at any time
- Must not participate in pre-game or post-game physical contact with members of the other team, referee crew, (e.g., handshakes, fist bumps, high-5s, hugs, etc.) or with spectators (e.g., high-5s, tunnels, etc.)
- Should be prepared to provide hand sanitizer for use in the team bench area
- Must designate a Credentialed Team Official to monitor physical distancing and spectator limits for their team prior to the game. This adult will monitor and remind all players, team officials, and spectators for their team of the physical distancing and mask policy before and after the game. During the game, the designee will monitor team officials, substitutes, and spectators to ensure compliance with the policies
- Must ensure that spectators are aware of current limitations at the event and the current US Youth Soccer guidelines must be followed

Spectators

- All spectators are asked to remain in their vehicles until twenty (20) minutes prior to their game time
- After completion of each game, all spectators must leave the playing field and surrounding area, no congregating
- Family members must sit together, socially distanced from other individuals/family groups.
- Physical distancing of at least 6 ft. between groups of people not from the same household should still be maintained
- It is optional that a face covering be worn at all times that covers their mouth and nose
- Must not participate in pre-game or post-game physical contact (e.g., high-5s, tunnels, etc.) with members of their own team who do not live in the same household

Referees

- It is recommended that referees receive a negative COVID-19 test result more than 72 hours ahead of travelling to the event. Any referee that completed the vaccination prior the start of the event, or who has experienced COVID in the last 90-days, would be exempt from the recommendation of a COVID-19 negative test prior or the start of the event.
- May wear a face covering during the game
- May use electronic whistles or other artificial noise makers in place of a traditional whistle
- If any referee or member of the referee delegation test positive for Covid-19 during the event, please inform the Referee administration at your event. The Referee Admin will then work with US Youth Soccer event staff to determine the next steps

Links

Local operating procedures

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Centers for Disease Control

- [National COVID-19 updates](#)
- [Youth Sports Considerations](#)
- [Youth Sports Programs FAQ](#)
- [Considerations for Events and Gatherings](#)
- [After contracting COVID, when you can be around others?](#)

Miscellaneous

Sanctions

Failure of a team to follow the guidelines could jeopardize the event for all teams.

Penalties will be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the severity of the violation.

The penalties can include:

- Immediate suspension of the game
 - Opposing team would automatically earn a 4-0 victory
- Single or multiple game suspension (team or individual) from future US Youth Soccer events

Disclaimer

Players, coaches, team staff, spectators, college coaches, volunteers, USYS staff and LOC taking part in US Youth Soccer activities do so with the knowledge of risk and potential exposure involved. In doing so, they agree to accept any and all inherent risks to their personal health.