



COVID-19 Competition Protocols

Revised June 4, 2021

This document outlines the Game 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:

Game Protocols

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

Teams

- Teams will stay on their half of the field for all warmup activities
- Teams will go straight to their designated bench area
- When Applicable, Team warmups shall not begin more than 45 minutes before the scheduled match
 - Team warmups shall be done on or around the scheduled field of your match, with sufficient safe distance from other teams or attendees
- When in the technical area and/or on the sidelines when not playing, a face covering is optional and should completely cover the nose and mouth
 - Players may remove their face covering when entering the game. Players can wear a face covering in the game provided the face covering is not a danger to the player or other players
- Team Manager should verify that no players, coaches or team staff have any related COVID-19 health issues
 - If there is an issue, it needs to be mentioned to the Head Coach who must inform the referee crew and/or US Youth Soccer event staff
- Team check-in will have the players being called by the referee crew from the sideline by the team bench
- Credentialed Team Official will be the only team member to communicate with the referee crew on the sideline as the game is being played

- One Team Captain from each team will handle the coin toss
 - Team Captain shall be required to wear a mask during coin toss
- Must maintain physical distance of 6 feet while in the technical area or on the team bench during the game
- Should maintain physical distance during half-time, water breaks, and all other times off the field of play
- No sharing of water bottles, drinks, food, or any personal items is allowed
- Players should sanitize or wash their hands each time they come off the field and prior to entering the field of play
- Players and Coaches should maintain physical distance of 6 feet from all members of the referee crew, if possible
- Players 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.)
- Please learn and follow the PLAYERS guidelines as noted below

Referees

- Referees will communicate with ONLY a Credentialed Team Official on the sideline and the Team Captain on the field
- Coin toss will be done with referees socially distanced 6 ft. apart
 - Referees will be required to wear a mask during coin toss
- Handling of player cards
 - Games with a 4th official
 - Credentialed Team Official will be the only one to hand the player card to the 4th official and receive the player card from the referee
 - Games without a 4th official
 - Credentialed Team Official will put the player pass at the designated area under the center field a-frame on their side of the field for
 - Referee will then give those cards back at the end of regulation to a Team Official
- Handling of Game Cards
 - Head Coach will be the only person to handle game card when signing
- Referees are recommended to wear a face covering that covers their mouth and nose when not actively officiating (e.g., pregame, halftime, postgame, acting as a 4th official, etc.)
- Referees must not participate in physical contact with players, team officials, spectators, or other members of the referee crew (e.g., handshakes, fist bumps, high-5s, hugs, etc.)
- Referees should not share equipment with other members of the referee crew (e.g., assistant referee flags, etc.)
- Referees should always maintain physical distancing of 6 feet from players, team officials, spectators, and other members of the referee crew
- Referees should bring their own water bottle(s) for hydration
- Referees should bring hand sanitizer for personal use prior to entering the field of play and after exiting the field of play
- Referees should not enforce the Covid-19 Covid Protocols outlined in this document that fall outside of the Laws of the Game. Any issues should instead be reported to US Youth Soccer Event Staff immediately and noted in the referee report of the game

Injuries

- In the case of an on-field injury, all players must separate and not gather around the injured player
 - Team Captain and referee are the only participants allowed in the area of an on-field injured player
 - Field Marshal and/or referee will call for Athletic Trainer assistance as usual

Athletic Trainers (ATC)

- Injuries on the field
 - ATC will tend to these only when called upon from Field Marshal or referee
 - ATC is recommended to wear a mask when treating a player on the field
 - ATC will need to sanitize hands before treating a player on the field
 - When transporting a player, player will need to sit in back seat of cart, if possible
- Injuries under ATC tent
 - ATC is recommended to wear a mask when treating a player at the ATC tent
 - ATC will need to sanitize hands before treating a player at the ATC tent
 - Parent(s) or Guardians will need to remain 6 ft. apart from ATC while ATC is treating a player
 - ATC will need to clean their tent area and table/bench after treating each player

Awards

IF THERE ARE AWARD AREAS

- The first and second place team will arrive to the awards area and locate their designated area
- Spectators MUST remain behind their team area and socially distanced from non-family members at least 6 ft. apart
- There will be no microphone time from the team or team representative
- Awards will consist of the following:
 - 2nd place team will be called on the stage from one side
 - Players receive medal from the Head Coach on the stage
 - Team will have their photo taken
 - Team will exit stage and return to their team area from the opposite side of the stage from which they entered
 - 2nd place team can leave designated area and may take photos at secondary event backdrop location
 - 1st place team will be called on the stage from one side
 - Players receive medal from the Head Coach on the stage
 - Team will have their photo taken
 - Team will exit stage and return to their team area from the opposite side of the stage from which they entered
 - Team must then vacate the designated area upon completion of ceremony and may take photos at secondary event backdrop location

Or

NO AWARD AREAS

- Medals, shirts, hats, etc. will be distributed via boxes to first and second place teams at the field

- First place team will get photo with backdrop at the field or at a common exit point at the complex
 - Event staff will move the backdrop to your field if needed

Vendors

- Merchandise: Team IP
 - Keep social distancing in mind and maintain 6 ft. apart
 - Follow complex rules outlined on-site
- Concession Stand
 - Follow complex rules outlined on-site

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.