



Williamsport Youth Soccer

COVID-19 Preventative Measures – Return to Play Guidelines

**All guidelines are based on the CDC, Maryland & Washington County guidance, along with Maryland State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA), and US Youth Soccer's guidance. They are subject to change based on local Health Department guidance at any time.*

General Return to Play Guidelines for ALL Williamsport Youth Soccer (WYS) players, coaches, staff, and families! WYS will institute the following COVID-19 Preventative Measures:

- Participation in any group activities is only allowed if you have had no signs or symptoms of COVID-19, no signs/symptoms that may have been COVID-19, have not been exposed to someone who has had signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for a minimum period of 14 days prior to participation.
- If you or a household member tests positive for COVID-19, neither you nor any household member may return to group activities for a minimum of 14 days from the positive test. You and household members must receive negative COVID-19 test results and show no COVID-19 symptoms before returning to group activities. You must also provide the negative test result to your coach before returning to group activities.
- Prior to attending any training event, each player should have his or her temperature checked and refrain from participation if he or she has a fever (≥ 100.4 degrees F). (see checklist below)
 - Anyone who self-reports a temperature of 100.4 or more should be sent home and not allowed to participate for a minimum of 14 days or until a COVID-19 negative test result can be provided.
 - If a player/coach thinks they are sick, stay home! Specifically: symptoms of acute respiratory disease (i.e. cough, sore throat, shortness of breath), fever, sudden loss of smell or taste, OR been diagnosed with COVID-19. **If a coach, administrator, or official has a concern about a player's health, they have the authority to send the player home!**
- If you are sick or feel sick, **STAY HOME!**
- At risk individuals, youth, or adult, **STAY HOME** (if you are unsure if you are considered at risk, please consult your medical provider directly).
- All players shall be assigned a "location" for each player to place his/her equipment, and that the player shall return to during breaks. Assigned space on the sideline for all players shall allow for adequate distance per current guidelines.
- Each player must utilize his/her own equipment to include a soccer ball (A soccer ball will be provided if the player does not have one). Additionally, shared soccer balls will be disinfected after each session as well as during sessions, when possible.



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- **NO ONE** is to share water, towels, or any personal equipment. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Shin guards, tape, hairbands
 - Jersey/Uniform
 - Pinnies/bibs of any kind
 - Please note a pinnie/bib may be assigned to a player to take home and care for OR will be laundered at the conclusion of each WYS activity.
- No centralized hydration or refreshment stations.
- Spectators at events shall be limited (especially at practices) and **MUST** maintain maximum social or physical distancing and wear face masks whenever possible (should not include at risk populations).
- WYS will attempt to have sanitizing options available. This may include but is not limited to:
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Disinfectant wipes to be used to wipe down all equipment
- Respect for each individual's choices shall be the top priority. If a participant wishes to wear a face mask this shall be allowed, and accommodations made if needed.
- WYS volunteers **MUST** wear face masks whenever participating in a training session or a game.
- All participants **MUST** sign the WYS COVID-19 Waiver and General Liability Waiver (part of the on-line registration) before getting back onto the field.
- If anyone is not comfortable returning to the field for modified training sessions, they are **NOT REQUIRED** to attend any activities until they are ready. Participation is voluntary.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. As always, thanks for your support and patience during these difficult and trying times!

Sincerely,

Keith Leatherwood

WYS President

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COVID-19 Guidelines – United Regional Soccer League (URSL) League Games:

- Parents should socially distance (6 feet or more apart) on the side lines opposite the players, **MASKS MUST always BE WORN** when distancing is not possible. (NO ONE behind goals)
- Players will only use balls provided by the Coach, NOT THEIR OWN!
- Players **MAY NOT TOUCH** soccer balls or cones with their hands (Coaches will pick them up when needed)
- **NO** Throw-ins during play by players (Players should not **PICK-UP/HANDLE** the ball at all and instead dribble/pass it to the location of the restart)
 - Instead of a throw-in, restarts will occur via kick-in at touchline. All touchline restarts are indirect free kicks.
 - The implementation is this –the “first pass is free” to apply the ball must be played on the ground, the ball cannot be played into the defending team’s penalty area. If either of the above are not followed the defending team can take immediate action)
- **NO** Throw-ins by spectators when the ball goes out of bounds (Spectators should not **PICK-UP/HANDLE** the ball at all and instead pass it to the location of the restart)
- Each player will have an assigned spot on the side lines to place their gear by
- Each player **MUST** bring **HIS or HER OWN** water bottle, **NO** sharing between players.
- Players will sanitize hands before games & after games
- **NO** High Fives, Elbow Bumps, Shaking Hands, or overall touching between players/teams before or after games
- Players will socially distance on the side lines when waiting to join the game.
- Players will wear masks from the parking lot to the field & from the field to the parking lot
- Coaches will always wear a mask before, after & during games.
- Please depart the field as soon as games are over, no congregating around the field area.
- Coaches will **NOT** hold an end of game meeting with the team on the field or side lines.
- In addition, any persons participating/attending a United Regional Soccer League (URSL) event or function is required to conduct a self-health test 1 hour prior to the event or function. If any person answers yes to any of the following questions, that person will **NOT** be able to **participate or spectate** at the URSL event.
 - Fever (temperature greater than 100.4 for children and greater than 100 for adults)
 - New or worsening cough
 - Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
 - Sore throat, different than your seasonal allergies
 - New loss of smell and/or taste
 - Diarrhea or vomiting
 - Do you have a household or close contact who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks?