

EASTERN NEW YORK YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION and Its Participating Leagues

RETURNING TO THE FIELD SAFELY



State Association

GAME DAY PROTOCOLS

As we approach the start of Fall 2020 league play, ENYYSA would like to reiterate the importance of adhering to the *Return to Soccer Activity Guidelines*. The guidelines are reviewed and updated regularly in accordance with New York State Department of Health and US Soccer's Play-On Initiative.

The following update highlights additional specific protocols that must be in place for all competitions. It is the responsibility of the Home Club or Organization to implement and enforce these protocols.

Physical Distancing ([NYS DOH Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation pages 5-6](#))

- Responsible Parties may facilitate appropriate distancing through the use of markings on the ground or seating areas, and other **signage**, and may facilitate appropriate gathering size through the use of signage and/or staff to ensure groups are aware of and adhere to guidelines.
- For Sports Events (e.g. games), Responsible Parties must limit spectators to two spectators per player.
- Responsible Parties must ensure spectators maintain six feet of physical distance between individuals and/or family/household units at all times and all spectators must wear face coverings when they are in common areas and situation where six feet of distancing is not able to be maintained.
- Responsible Parties must ensure that, among all spectators, no individual group exceeds the gathering limit that is currently in place for the region.

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- Responsible Parties should modify layouts so that individuals are at least six feet apart in all directions, to the greatest extent possible.
- Responsible Parties must reserve adequate space for employees and patrons/players/spectators to move within the facility or area, considering appropriate social distancing; this may include but not limited to creating one-way lines, rearranging traffic flow.

On-Site Activity ([NYS DOH Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation page 7](#))

- Responsible parties should discourage sharing of equipment among patrons/players, unless it is able to be cleaned and disinfected between use.
- Responsible Parties should discourage employees and patrons/players/spectators from hand-to-hand contact (e.g., handshakes, high-fives, fist bumps, hugs).

**The following diagrams provide field layouts
that comply with physical distancing and onsite activity protocols**

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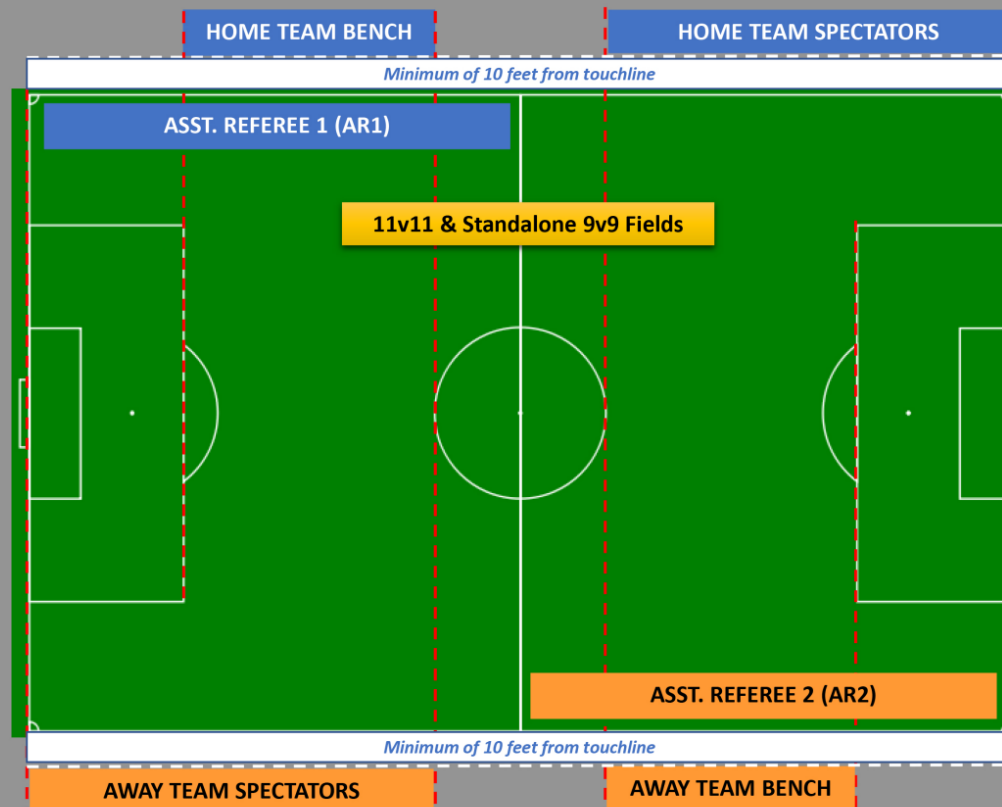


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Game Day Protocols – Fall 2020

Fields & Facilities

- Teams will be placed on opposite sides of field, on the half of the field that the AR is on.
- Strongly recommended that team bench/technical and spectator areas are marked with/by painted areas.
- The home team will be on the AR1 side of the field.
- Parents and spectators will sit on the same side of field as their team, located on the other half of the field.
- Team technical area will be between the bottom of the center circle to the top of the penalty area (see diagram)
- See diagram for allowable areas for teams and spectators to be seated; minimum 10 feet back from the touchline
- Game transitions: next teams to play on that field should not enter technical areas until previous teams have left; same for parents and spectators
- Sanitize match balls, and if facility provides team benches, sanitize team benches
- As possible with scheduling, try to stagger or limit games being played at same time on side-by-side fields



** Requirements & considerations for match day protocols are subject to change if/as conditions warrant.*

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Game Day Protocols – Fall 2020

Multiple small-sided fields that fill a full-sized field

Fields &
Facilities



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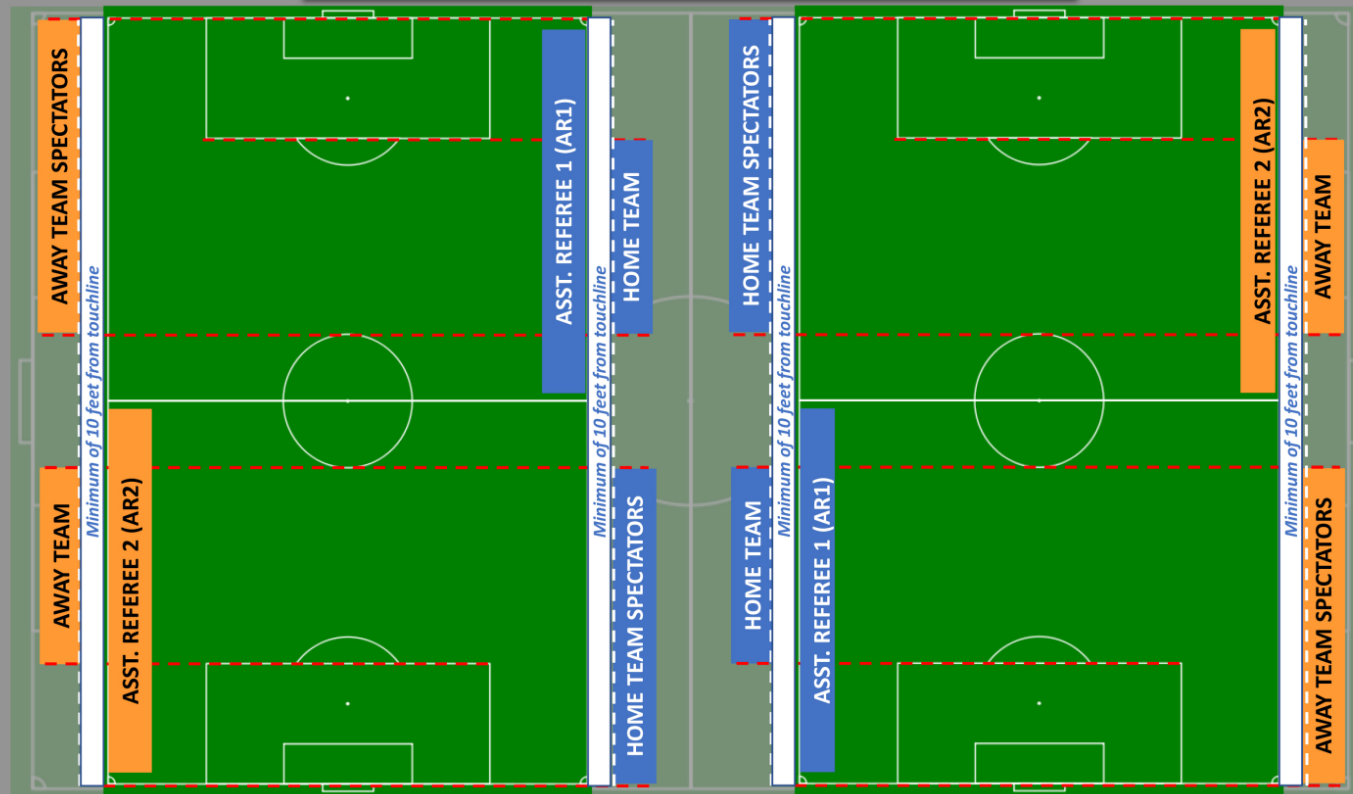


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Game Day Protocols – Fall 2020

Small-sided, side-by-side fields that go across a full-sized field

Fields &
Facilities



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ENYYSA is recommending the following criteria to educate its members on CDC guidelines, New York State Department of Health, and US Youth Soccer Guidelines to maintain a healthy environment while players, coaches, parents, spectators, and referees return to the field.

- Participants should have no sign or symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and have not been exposed to someone that has been ill in 14 days.
- Common Symptoms to watch for:
 - Fever
 - Trouble breathing
 - Pain or pressure in the chest that persists
 - Experience confusion or trouble waking up
 - Bluish lips or face

Coaches

- Wear a mask at all times
- Maintain minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from others
- Inquire how the players are feeling, send them home if they say they don't feel well, or you believe they act or look ill
- Ensure all players have their individual equipment (ball, water bottles, bag, etc.)
- The use of scrimmage vests or pinnies is not recommended at this time
- Monitor/ensure players on bench maintain 6 feet of physical distance from each other and referees
- Coach is the only person to handle all practice equipment. (cones, disk etc.)
- Coach to sanitize/clean all personal training equipment before and after each session (e.g. cones,
 - discs, etc.)
- All training should be outdoors and ensure social distancing per state or local health guidelines.

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Players

- Take temperature daily before arriving at the field
- Arrive to and leave field fully dressed (uniform, shoes, guards, etc.)
- Wear mask to and from the field
- Wear mask when on the bench
- Maintain minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from all others when on bench (players, coaches, etc.)
- Bring and use hand sanitizer with you to every training
- Do not touch or share anyone else's equipment, water bottles, energy drinks, etc.
- Wash and sanitize all equipment before and after every training
- No group celebrations, no high fives, chest bumps, hugs, handshakes etc.

Parents and Spectators

- Ensure child is healthy and check your child's temperature daily
- All attending match should take temperatures prior to and stay home if 100 degrees or higher
- Wear mask to and from and during a match
- No more than 2 spectators per player
- Always maintain minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from other family's
- Do not assist coach with equipment before or after training
- Be sure your child always has sanitizer with them
- Avoid going to the opposing team's side of the field

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Referees

- Wear gloves
- Wear mask during check in, pregame, and coin toss
- If you feel you need to wear a mask and it does not affect your ability to ref the game, wear it
- Avoid touching player passes
- You may allow league administrator or team manager to secure passes after player check-in
- If a player or coach is sent off with a red card, report it to the League via the appropriate format immediately after the game-at this time you are under no obligation to keep the players pass if not comfortable doing so
- Wash hands and/or use sanitizer frequently
- Avoid close contact with players whenever possible
- Try not to handle the ball when possible
- Do not share water bottles
- Social distance from your fellow referees
- Instruct the teams to socially distance and avoid celebrations
- Avoid shaking hands with players before and after games
- Substitute players should be wearing a mask on the bench
- If you feel an unsafe condition exists, do not play the game
- It is always recommended that you take the appropriate precautions to protect yourself. Please consider the following:
 - Exclude referees and players that have symptoms from participating in activities
 - Exclude referees and players that have been exposed to the coronavirus and have been directed to by health officials to self-isolate / self-quarantine from participating in activities
 - Expectation of cooperation with local health officials and contact tracers if a referee or player tests positive for the Coronavirus.

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USYS Recommendations for COVID Positive Case

- When a member is showing symptoms, or thinks they may have contracted the virus, their Club should direct that person to be tested and follow up with their local or state health department. Players with symptoms or having been exposed to anyone with the virus should not participate in team activities until they receive a negative test result.
- Any player that tests positive or has been in contact with a person that tests positive, should be removed from training. That player, and all those that have been in contact with them should self-quarantine. according to CDC and local health guidelines.
- When a member has tested positive and the case is confirmed by local health officials, all members of the Club and their families should be notified that a member of the Club has tested positive.
- The Club should not identify the individual, but rather leave that communication to local health officials.
- All members should follow their local or state guidelines for contract tracing and quarantine requirements.
- Clubs, in cooperation with their local health department, should clean and sanitize their entire facility. Clubs should work with local health officials to determine when their facility can be reopened.

Resources:

[New York State Department of Health Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation During COVID-19](#)

[Reopening New York: Sports and Recreation Guidelines](#)

[US Soccer: Complete Return to Play Recommendations for COVID-19](#)