

Game Day Processes (Updated 3/4/21 and subject to change)

Introduction to Game Day Processes:

MDHHS Executive Order Under MCL 333.2253 issued on 3/2/21 allows MSYSA, and other contact sports, to move forward with additional soccer activities on 3/5/21. These Game Day processes are meant to keep you and everyone safe.

Individual Responsibility

A. Coaches (and Managers)

- Wear facial covering over your mouth and nose while at game facility (before, during, and after games while around others)
- Remind players and the spectators about the facial covering requirement
- Maintain minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from everyone whenever exception for attending to an injured player)
- Conduct verbal health check of each player before each game – send anyone home who says they are not feeling well
- Monitor/ensure that players on the sidelines maintain 6 feet of social distancing
- Do not provide shared food, water, and equipment (including team benches, shared goalie gloves, shared goalie jersey, etc.)
- Keep pre-game, halftime, and post-game team meetings brief, and maintain 6 feet of social distance throughout each meeting
- Do not allow group huddles, hugs, cheers, high fives, chest bumps, wrestling, etc.
- Bring hand sanitizer to each game
- Bring multiple sanitized balls to each game (for use during game)
- As required for competition, bring photocopies of any/all pass cards, risk management cards, and game reports to be retained by referees

B. Players

- Wear facial covering over your mouth and nose while at game facility (before, during, and after games while around others)
- Stay home if temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher, you are not feeling well, or displaying symptoms of COVID.
- Arrive at field fully dressed (uniforms, shoes, shinguards, etc.)
- Maintain minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from everyone whenever possible
- Bring sufficient hand sanitizer to game for repeated use and

- Bring a sanitized ball to each game for warm-ups (if applicable)
- Do not share food, water, and equipment (including shared goalie gloves)
- No group huddles, cheers, high fives, chest bumps, etc.

C. Referees

- Wear facial covering over your mouth and nose while at game facility (before, during, and after games while around others)
- Use only your own equipment – do not share flags, whistles, uniforms, pens, etc. If flags are not owned by all, referees may share flags, but they must be sanitized before and after use.
- Note: The role of referee is not to enforce these game day safety protocols. However, referees should note and report consistent instances of non-compliance on game reports and/or to the league administrator.

D. Spectators

- Team spectators shall be limited in average to 2 persons per player. For full field 11 v 11 matches with 18 players with coaches & trainers there can be no more than 100 at a field.
- Wear facial coverings (over mouth and nose) while at game facility (before, during, and after games while around others)
- Take temperature prior to leaving for the game. Stay home if temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher.
- Sit only in the area(s) designated for spectators. Do not encroach on space designated for referees or teams.
- Maintain minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from everyone not residing within same residence
- Do not go to the opponent's side of the field
- Some facilities may eliminate restrooms – be prepared for that possibility

Protocols

A. Injured Players

- Assessment/treatment of an injured player should not be delayed if game day protocols cannot be followed (i.e. do not delay attending to injured athlete because social distance cannot be maintained)
- Coach maintains 6 feet of physical distance as possible if/until it is determined if player needs assistance getting off the field

B. Referee Payment (MSYSA Recommendations)

- At the field and when ready to pay referees, team coach or manager (while wearing a facial covering) should distribute envelopes/bags of cash to each referee individually. Maintain 6 feet of physical distance as much as possible.

C. Pre-Game Check-In & Post-Game Processes (MSYSA Recommendations)

- If possible, MSYSA recommends that physical pass cards not be used at games. Instead, a sheet copy of the cards can be used by the coach to assist the referee with check in.
- At team check-in, all participants (players, team officials, referees) must wear facial coverings. The players must have 6 feet of physical distance between them.
- Referees will not conduct a coin toss or captain's meeting. 'Home team' is considered the 'winner' of the non-existent coin toss and therefore select their first-half option.
- After each game, the players do not shake hands, instead they may approach midfield and say good game to opponents maintaining minimum 6 feet social distancing.

D. The Game

- MSYSA recommends each team bring multiple sanitized balls for use during the game only. Sanitized balls are rotated in regularly. One team official from each team should sanitize their own teams' balls at halftime and after the game.

E. Substitutions

- Upon entering and exiting the field as a substitute, players clean hands with sanitizer.
- A player exiting a game via substitution goes directly to their team bench. No high-fives or exchanging of pinnies with player entering the game.

F. Team Benches

- MSYSA recommends that facilities and teams NOT provide nor use team benches.
- If team benches are used, players must maintain 6 feet of distance. If team benches are used, the home team/club is responsible for sanitizing the team benches before and after every game.

G. Facilities & Field Set-Up

- When possible, teams will be placed on opposite sides of the field, on the half of the field of which the assistant referee is positioned (see below diagram).
- When possible, a team's accompanying spectators will sit on the same side of the field as the team but on the other half (see below diagram).
- Spectators to be minimum of 10 feet back from the touchline, when possible.

Field Diagram

