

Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League

www.nvysl.org

NVYSL Policy & Procedure Review

Title: NVYSL COVID-19 Policy

Type: Creation of new policy

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A. Objectives:

1. Implement a uniform COVID-19 policy for NVYSL teams participating in league travel soccer games to:
 - a. protect the health and well-being of all players, coaches, spectators, referees, and others involved with NVYSL game activities;
 - b. insure alignment with Massachusetts Youth Soccer COVID-19 Soccer Protocols;
 - c. set consistent expectations for players, coaches, and spectators at NVYSL games in order to minimize COVID-19 protocol non-compliance and enforcement issues.

B. Background

The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to continue throughout the NVYSL Spring 2021 season and, to insure a safe return to soccer, Massachusetts Youth Soccer Assoc (MYSA) has developed COVID-19 protocols for all affiliated organizations that tailor CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines for youth soccer.

With the majority of NVYSL clubs participating in travel soccer games, it is imperative to the health and safety of everyone involved to abide by MYSA COVID-19 Soccer Protocols. This NVYSL policy provides a consistent implementation of the MYSA COVID-19 protocol in order to create a common expectation for the procedures, guidelines, and behavior at all NVYSL games.

C. Definitions

<< None >>

D. Existing Policy & Procedure

<< None >>

E. Proposed Policy & Procedure Revision

The Massachusetts Youth Soccer Assoc (MYSA) Return to Soccer Activities Guidelines and COVID-19 Protocols (mayouthsoccer.org/returntosocceractivitiespdf/) provide detailed recommendations and protocols for everyone involved with youth soccer including the role of the club, coach, parent, and player to help keep everyone safe. This provides a common set of expectations at all NVYSL games, which will increase compliance and reduce misunderstandings regarding what is appropriate behavior. MYSA requires all adults involved in soccer activities to read, understand and conduct themselves in accordance with the Spring 2021 COVID-19 Soccer Protocols.

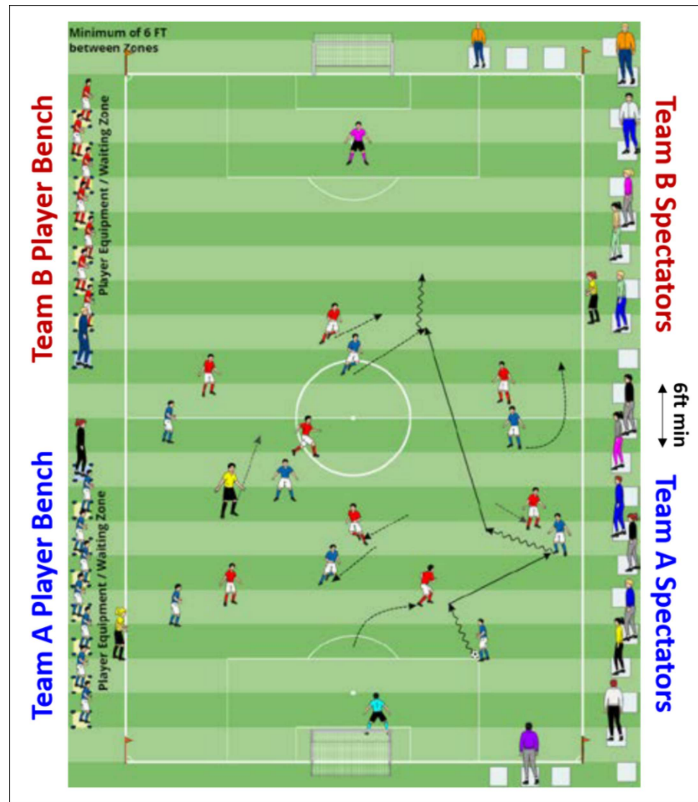
- 1) Therefore, each NVYSL club shall implement and comply with MYSA COVID-19 Protocols as the minimum standard at all NVYSL games. MYSA COVID-19 Protocols apply within the game defined field area or scope of permitted space.
 - a) Additional guidelines that are stricter than those set by MYSA may be imposed to comply with the local Board of Health, field owner, or local ordinance restrictions.

- 2) Each club shall prominently post on their website and communicate information on the current MYSA COVID-19 Soccer Protocols, and any applicable local guidelines, to all of their players, coaches, parents, and associated members.
 - a) If stricter guidelines are imposed by the town or for a specific field, the club should include details about local protocols on their website and, prior to the game, the home team coach or COVID coordinator should contact the visiting team coach to inform them of any additional restrictions. The visiting team coach or COVID coordinator will be responsible to inform their players and parents prior to traveling to the game.

- 3) To help manage compliance with the MYSA COVID-19 Protocols within the designated field area, each team shall have a team COVID coordinator present at each game. Responsibilities of the team COVID coordinator are listed on the MYSA COVID Hub webpage (<https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/covid-hub/>), Team COVID Coordinator Checklist.
 - a) At each game, each team's head coach and COVID coordinator are responsible for enforcing MYSA COVID-19 Protocols for their team's players, coaches, and spectators. Although the other team may have additional COVID Coordinators or administrators present, the team's head coach is ultimately responsible for their team's and spectator's behavior.
 - b) In addition to the responsibilities listed in the MYSA Team COVID Coordinator Checklist, the Team COVID Coordinator shall act as the team COVID point of contact during the game for the coach, their team's spectators, and other team's coach and COVID Coordinator. The team COVID Coordinator will coordinate and communicate with the other team's COVID coordinator to bring to their attention any non-compliance or issues, including issues associated with the other team's players, coaches, or spectators. It is the responsibility of the respective team's COVID coordinator to address the issue with their team or team's spectators.
 - c) The team's COVID coordinator must be a registered adult but does not need to be listed on the team roster.
 - d) In the event the team's designated COVID coordinator is not available, any other registered adult or the team's assistant coach can also serve in the role as COVID coordinator for the game.

e) If only the head coach is present at the game, and no other registered adult or assistant coach can fulfill the role of the team's COVID coordinator, the game must be delayed, postponed or cancelled.

- 4) Spectators shall sit across from their respective team's bench. This will minimize the possibility of COVID transmission between towns and allow the appropriate team COVID Coordinator to address issues with their team's spectators.
- a) While in the defined field area, sibling spectators will be required to sit with their adults and not be running around, kicking a ball, etc.



Spectator Seating Area

5) Game Time Modification:

To comply with MYSA minimum time between games, the game times for NYVSL matches will be modified for the Spring 2021 season to incorporate 25 minutes between games. These game times will supersede NYVSL Policies and Procedures section 3.1.05 : GAME TIMES.

Saturday:

- a) Girls Grade3/4 : 9:00 AM
- b) Boys Grade3/4 : 10:30 AM
- c) Girls Grade5/6 : 12:00 PM
- d) Boys Grade5/6 : 1:30 PM
- e) Girls Grade7/8 : 3:00 PM
- f) Boys Grade7/8 : 5:00 PM

Sunday:

Grade 9/10, Grade 11/12 and Post-Graduate : 1:00 PM, 3:00 PM, 5:00 PM

Matches may be scheduled at different times than above to deal with lack of available fields or to make up a postponed match.

- 6) This policy shall automatically expire and no longer be in effect in the event that MYSA discontinues the use of COVID-19 Protocols or provides guidance that COVID-19 protocols are no longer necessary.

F. Associated League Process

Compliance with MYSA COVID-19 Protocols is an important factor in ensuring the health and safety of everyone present at a NVYSL game. If necessary, feedback to the club or League on issues associated with violations of COVID-19 protocols shall be submitted by the coach or team COVID Coordinator to their club's COVID Safety Officer and NVYSL Sportsmanship Director. The NVYSL Sportsmanship Director may refer repeated or egregious violations of the NVYSL COVID-19 Policy to the Sportsmanship Review Committee for further action.