

Soccer

The NYSDOH has determined that soccer is a moderate risk sport (limited ability to maintain physical distance and/or be done individually; limited ability to: (1) avoid touching of shared equipment, (2) clean and disinfect equipment between uses by different individuals, or (3) not use shared equipment at all).

General Considerations:

- Pregame Conference (5-2-2d)
 - Limit attendees to head referee or center referee, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team. (Rule waiver)
 - Move the location of the pregame conference to center of the field. All individuals maintain a social distance of six feet.
 - Suspend handshakes prior to and following the Pregame Conference.
- Team Benches (1-5-1)
 - No linear bench area, adjust backward from the touch line.
- Substitution Procedures (3-4)
 - Maintain social distancing of six feet between the substitute, officials and/or teammate(s) by encouraging substitutions to occur closer to the center line. Hand sanitizer should be used prior to entering the game.
- Officials Table (6-2; 6-3)
 - Limit the table to essential personnel, including the home team scorer and timer. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential and may need to find an alternative location. Space availability at the table is a variable in determining the number of individuals permitted at the officials' table and observing social distancing requirements.
- Goalkeepers may not spit on their gloves. They can wet them with a water bottle. If the official determines this happens, gloves will be taken out of play. (NYSPHSAA Rule)
- A mandatory two (2) minute hydration/mask break will be taken at the first dead ball situation after the 20-minute mark. Players must stay on the field during the break and may remove their mask as long as they maintain social distancing. Substitutes who report to the table prior to the break taking place, may enter the game following the break. (Waiver of the NFHS Rule)
- The use of a dropped ball is suspended. To replace this procedure, an indirect kick will be awarded to the team whom the referees deemed to be in possession at the time of stoppage. (Waiver of the NFHS Rule)

Pre and Post Match Ceremony

- Suspend the pregame world cup introduction line and send players to their field positions with bench personnel lined up on the touch line (six feet apart) for introductions.
- Suspend post game protocol of shaking hands.

Soccer Rules Interpretations

- Rule 4-1 EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES
 - No hard material should be worn on face covering.
 - Gloves are permissible.

- Rule 4-2 LEGAL UNIFORM
 - Long sleeves are permissible. (4-1-1)
 - Long pants are permissible. (4-1-1)
 - Under garments are permissible but must be of a similar length for the individual and a solid like color for team. (4-1-1d)

- Rule 5-3 OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT
 - By state association adoption, long-sleeved shirt/jackets are permissible. (5-1-3)
(Waiver of the NFHS Rule)
 - Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited).
 - Choose a whistle whose tone will carry outside.
 - Fox 40 Mini –
 - Fox 40 Unisex Electronic - 3 tone
 - Ergo-Guard - (3 tone) - orange
 - Windsor - (3 tone) grey
 - Check the market for other choices
 - Gloves are permissible.

Considerations for Officials:

- Bring personal hand sanitizer. Wash hands frequently
- Do not share equipment.
- Consider using electronic whistle.
- Do not shake hands and maintain social distancing guidelines during pre and post-game ceremonies.

Considerations for Coaches:

- Communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents.
- Consider conducting workouts in “cohorts” of same students always training and rotating together in practice to ensure more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- Keep accurate records of those athletes and staff who attend each practice in case contact tracing is needed.

Considerations for Students:

- Consider making each student responsible for their own supplies.
- Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing)
- Individual clothing/towels should be washed and cleaned after every workout immediately upon returning home.
- Bring own water bottle.

Considerations for Parents:

A family’s role in maintaining safety guidelines for themselves and others:

- Provide personal items for your child and clearly label them.
- In accordance with NYSDOH guidance ([Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Sports and Recreation](#)), only two spectators per participant are permitted. (Pg. 5)