



CYO Guidelines in an Active COVID-19 World

In order to ensure the highest standard of safety for children, families and coaches as well as meet our new public health obligation, we are implementing physical and procedural changes to CYO. We are currently developing a full COVID-19 operations plan that will incorporate the following guidelines:

1. Adhere to best practices and recommendations from public health officials and those of the public and private schools whose fields/facilities we are using (this should be viewed as a minimum standard to comply with). CYO teams can ONLY play on fields or in facilities of public, private, Catholic schools that have filed their own onsite plan and NYS affirmation of compliance forms with NYS and required regulatory authorities.
2. All CDC, NYSDOH, and local guidelines will be adhered to.
3. Coaches, players, and officials must stay home if they do not feel well.
4. Coaches, players, and officials will be required to arrive wearing a face covering.
5. Coaches and referees should have a face covering on them at all times in the event that they need to interact closely with players and must wear them if within six feet of players.
6. All coaches, players, and officials will be required to undergo a temperature screening prior to practices and games.
7. A weekly screening questionnaire will be administered to all players and their families electronically; with the aforementioned screening questionnaire returned to the coach prior to the weekly practice or games.
8. Limiting gatherings to no more than 50 people means that teams should not exceed 12 players indoors (preference for 10 players at games, but realize that teams have historically had more than 10; rosters can contain more than 10 players) and 15 players outdoors. With a limit on 2 coaches and score keepers and referees, we should be below the 50 people limit.
9. Only one parent/guardian will be able to attend games; no brothers, sisters, friends in attendance.
10. Maintain social distancing in stands and on the bench. Players on the bench required to wear face masks as well as those parents/guardians in the stands.

11. No throw-ins in soccer, rather a direct kick from the point of out of bounds.
12. Home team should have several balls that are clean and are available for rotation into the game.
13. Home gyms should have plenty of hand sanitizer so that the children and participants can maintain proper hygiene.
14. Children will be asked to bring their own hand sanitizer and water bottles.
15. Emergency supplies of bottled water and masks must be kept by coaching staff.
16. Home teams should have a Facility Coordinator on premise to act as a Social Distancing Ambassador.
17. Allow greater time in between scheduled games so there is less interaction between participants between games. One hour 15 minute time slots will now be one hour 30 minute time slots.
18. Player benches and high contact surfaces should undergo disinfection prior to having another team occupy the same environment for the next scheduled game.
19. Any player, parent, guardian, volunteer, coach or referee that has health conditions and/or immuno-deficiencies should use their best judgement and not attend games/practices.
20. There will be an absolute time limit to games so that we remain on schedule and preclude the possibility of teams arriving to games before the prior game is over. For example, a 12 noon game will be declared over at 1:10pm so that the gym can be emptied in time for the 1:30pm game that follows.
21. No handshakes before or after the game.
22. Team huddles can only occur if all participants are wearing masks and should be discouraged.
23. Coaches will be trained in new COVID-19 procedures.
24. Limiting the season schedule so we can have playoffs.
25. Waiver of liability language should be updated to include risk of exposure to COVID19.
26. If a child becomes exposed to COVID19, then the team will NOT play any games or hold practice for a 7 day period thereafter, and to the best of our ability, the game will be rescheduled.

The children in our CYO leagues have been in isolation for several months and need the positive mental and physical health effects of playing sports together again. As of July 6, 2020 we are permitted to conduct all organized sport and recreational activities according to New York State. We have a duty to return our children to the field and to the court so long as we can do it safely. There is an inherent risk in all activities amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic, but we can manage these risks and have developed a systematic and clear way to safely operate our CYO league this year. As pandemic conditions and New York State guidelines change, we will revise and adapt our procedures to constantly provide the safest environment possible for our children, families, coaches and officials.