



Cobras FC 2021 Outdoor Play Protocol

The purpose of this document is to establish protocol for the Cobras FC organization for the outdoor 2021 season. This guidance is effective May 26th, 2021. The safety of our players, coaches/staff, and families is our top priority.

New York State Sports and Recreation Guidelines

Below is the current New York State Sports and Recreation Guidelines directives. Youth Soccer is considered by New York State to be a Moderate-Risk sport. Moderate-Risk sports are eligible to return to play starting July 6, 2020 per the below conditions.

Moderate-Risk Sports	Limited ability to maintain physical distance and/or be done individually	Limited ability to: 1. avoid touching of shared equipment, clean/disinfect equipment between uses by different individuals, or 2. not use shared equipment at all	Baseball/ Softball Doubles tennis Racket games (e.g. badminton, racquetball) Water polo Gymnastics Field hockey Swimming relays	Crew (2+ rowers) Rafting Paintball Soccer Non-contact lacrosse Flag football BMX bike racing	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	Individual or distanced group training or activities Organized no/low-contact group training (e.g. sport camps and clinics) Competitive team practices Games, meets, matches, scrimmages (e.g. organized leagues, pick-up sports)
Lower-Risk Sports	Greatest ability to maintain physical distance and/or be done individually	Greatest ability to: 1. avoid touching of shared equipment, clean/disinfect equipment between uses by different individuals, or 2. not use shared equipment at all	Individual running Batting cages Hunting/ Shooting/Archery Golf/Mini-golf Non-motorized boating Singles tennis Rock climbing	Individual swimming Individual crew Cross country running Toss/bowl games (e.g. horseshoes, bocce, bean bag toss) Flying disc games (e.g. disc golf, frisbee) Ropes courses Horse events/	✓	Competitive tournaments of multiple games, meets, matches, or scrimmages requiring travel* *Effective March 29, 2021, statewide travel for sports and recreational activities may resume. Until such time, for all lower, moderate, and higher risk sports, travel for practice or play is prohibited outside of the region or contiguous counties/regions. Interstate travel for practice or play remains strongly discouraged and, if undertaken, must strictly adhere to the requirements of the State's travel advisory .

Cobras FC Social Distancing and Masking Protocol

In order to ensure a safe and consistent return-to-play for all Cobras FC Travel, Elite and Recreation teams, the following measures will be in effect. These policies are based on NYS DOH published guidelines updated on May 19, 2021 and guidance from NYSWYA.

***Note – While the guidelines below are Cobras FC protocol, local facility policies/guidelines that are stricter in nature will supersede Cobras protocols and must be adhered to.**

For participants -"Responsible Parties must ensure a distance of at least six feet is maintained among individuals at all times, whether indoor or outdoor, unless safety or the core activity (e.g. practicing, playing) requires a shorter distance. If a shorter distance is required, individuals must wear acceptable face coverings, unless players are unable to tolerate a face covering for the physical activity (e.g. practicing, playing); provided, however, that coaches, trainers, and other individuals who are not directly engaged in physical activity are required to wear a face covering. Acceptable face coverings for COVID-19 include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings and disposable masks that cover both the mouth and nose." [emphasis supplied]

"For spectators, the following additional safety measures apply: Responsible Parties must ensure spectators maintain six feet of physical distance between individuals and/or family/household units at all times and all

unvaccinated spectators must wear face coverings at all times, so long as they are over the age of two and medically able to tolerate such covering. As of May 19, 2021, vaccinated spectators are not required to wear a mask. Responsible Parties may allow spectators to temporarily remove their face covering to consume food or beverages so long as they are seated and socially distanced. Responsible Parties may facilitate appropriate distancing through the use of markings on the ground or seating areas, and other signage.” [emphasis supplied]

Based on a fair reading of the above language we interpret ‘tolerate’ as applied to participants, as contrasted with spectators, not in the medical sense, but rather in the personal feeling sense. The acceptable face covering while playing is a personal choice of toleration by the player. If they can tolerate the mask while playing it is recommended that they should wear one. If they cannot tolerate a mask while playing they should not be compelled to do so.

Recording Attendance at Cobras FC Team events

In order to assist the NYS Department of Health with contact tracing, should it become necessary, coaches or assistant coaches should note attendance at Cobras FC team events until further notice. This can be as simple as noting within your phone the date, time and participants of a practice or game. This information should be easily accessible if needed.

What to do if a Player or Coach has a positive Covid-19 test

The Cobras FC policy will rely heavily on previously established New York State Department of Health and CDC protocol and guidelines. All Cobras FC players or coaches who have a confirmed positive case of Covid-19 should immediately contact their own health care professionals and the Department of Health for further assistance.

In the event that a coach or manager of a Cobras FC team is notified that a player has tested positive for Covid-19, the coach/manager should notify the following:

- The impacted player or coach that he/she is to refrain from attending any Cobras FC team events until the full Covid-19 protocol has been followed;
- The Cobras FC President of the confirmation, and to the best of his/her ability, indicate to the Cobras FC President when the last contact was at a Cobras FC team or club event (i.e., practice, indoor league game, Club Coaches meeting, etc.);
- The team, for awareness purpose, that a player/coach from the team was confirmed as testing positive for Covid-19, and advise that the team should follow guidance provided by the Department of Health, IF THERE WAS A COBRAS FC TEAM EVENT WITHIN 48 OF THE ONSET OF SYMPTOMS OR TAKING THE COVID-19 TEST;
- The coach or manager of any other teams that had shared a Cobras FC event (i.e., scrimmage, indoor league game, etc.), IF THE SHARED TEAM EVENT WAS WITHIN 48 OF THE ONSET OF SYMPTOMS OR TAKING THE COVID-19 TEST;

Following these notifications, if a Cobras FC team event had occurred within 48 hours of symptoms or the Covid-19 test, the coach or manager should stay in contact with the impacted player/coach for guidance and official contact tracing notification from the Department of Health.

Depending on the direction of the Department of Health based on the nature of any exposure, a Cobras FC team may have to cancel or adjust upcoming team events. If the Department of Health determines there was no concerning exposure to the team, team events may continue as scheduled, and the Cobras FC President and Field Coordinator should be contacted. However, coaches are encouraged to use their best judgement and listen to any concerns from the parents and players, and is, of course, empowered to cancel or adjust any upcoming team events as needed, beyond the Department of Health direction. Please be aware that any cancelled team practices might not be able to be rescheduled, based on field availability.