

CSSA

Return to Play Protocol

Phase 2 – Return to Competition
June 17, 2020



Reopen CT Sector Rules

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Covid_Business_Recovery-Phase-2/0723Sports_FitnessCenters- C2_V5.pdf

US Soccer Play On Guidelines

(<https://www.ussoccer.com/playon/guides>)



CSSA Return to Play Protocol

Implementing CSSA’s Return to Play protocol on June 17th requires a collaborative effort among leagues, managers and players. Each of us must be diligent at enforcing and following these protocols for the health and safety of our teams, players and their families.

We understand that players enjoy interacting with their teammates, but it is imperative that every player understands, adheres to and respects the social distancing requirements and no-contact guidelines that have been established. We are all part of CSSA, and we are all in this together!

CSSA	Manager	Player
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute and post Return To Play protocols • Be understanding and respectful to players that are uncomfortable returning to play • Educate all leagues on Return To Play protocols • Recommend adequate field space for social distancing • Recommend appropriate waste receptacles are located at fields • Recommend hand sanitizer stations at team bench areas • Manage COVID-19 reporting and communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all Return To Play protocols • Inquire how players are feeling - If they are not feeling well, send them home • Ensure all players have their individual equipment (mask, water, shin guards, etc.) • Ensure warmup meet social distancing requirements for each approved phase • Disinfect equipment after each use • Teams should vacate bench area immediately after the game in the event another game will follow • Respect players, spouses, and families by accommodating those that may not yet be comfortable with returning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all Return To Play protocols • Do not attend training or games if you are not comfortable with returning to play • Wash hands thoroughly before and after games • Utilize face coverings and PPE where required • Wash and sanitize your training equipment (shoes, shin guards, clothing) after every training • Do not share water, food or equipment • Respect and practice social distancing when entering and exiting the fields • Place equipment, bags, etc. at least 6 feet apart • No high 5's, handshakes, knuckles or group celebrations

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Action Plan – Phase 2: Full Team Competitions

Phase 2: Full Team Competitions

Duration: Indefinite

Please note that this is a **TEAM EFFORT** between teams, managers and players. We can not complete these protocols without the **INDIVIDUAL** responsibility to adhere to the guidelines set forth by CSSA. We must rely on all parties to follow guidelines set by the clubs. **INDIVIDUALS** and **TEAMS** that are unable to follow these guidelines will be putting the continued progress at risk of reverting to earlier phases.

Core features

- Full team competitions can occur
- Continue with COVID-19 mitigation strategies
- All events should be guided by local and/or state public health authorities

During this phase, full team competitions, such as tournaments, may take place, as long as mitigation strategies and processes for COVID-19 are being implemented. Teams are recommended to only participate in local events and resist the urge to participate in events in other regions that may require travel or overnight stays. As always, all events should follow local and/or state public health authority recommendations.

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Phase 2 – Preparation for Training/Games

GETTING READY FOR TRAINING/COMPETITIONS

1. All participants, including players, managers and referees, should prepare and pack individual water bottles.
 - a) Pack at least two bottles of water for training or matches, to limit the need for refills. You should not share water bottles and should avoid public water fountains if possible.
 - b) Mark your name on your water bottle (optional).
2. Teams are recommended to bring sanitizing supplies to games.
3. Follow outlined PPE (face mask) procedures. (CSSA is recommending that all Players/Managers wear face coverings to and from fields, and on the sidelines. (Players being substituted and exiting the match should obviously catch their breath and physically recover, prior to choosing to put a mask on, or back on).
4. Wash your hands before departing for games.
5. Recommend that players conduct a temperature check for low grade fever (>100.4.) at home before games. If you have a fever or feel ill, do not go to field or play. Consult your physician.

ARRIVAL AND EXIT PROTOCOLS FOR GAMES

Teams should do their best to provide entrance and exit points for home fields. These should be communicated to all opponents and teams will be expected to follow these protocols.

In the event of a previous game, players will be expected to stay in their car until fields are vacated before entering field area.

EQUIPMENT AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

CSSA will continue to require compliance all protocols regarding face coverings, cleaning of equipment and social distancing in accordance with the State of Connecticut COVID-19 guidelines outlined in Phase 1.

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Phase 2 – Local Competition Guidelines

Game Time

1. The player pre-game ID check-in procedure, with the match officials, is determined by the applicable competition rules (club, league, cup, etc.)
2. No handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, chest bumps, huddles, group celebrations, etc., should take place, including when goals are scored, or when substitutions are leaving or entering the field.
3. When subbing into the game, players should maintain distance from the referees and other players who are also subbing into the game.
4. If a player is subbed out of the game, the player should stand at least 6-feet away from other individuals.
5. Clean and sanitized balls may be readily available for use, in the case of the ball not being easily retrievable. It is the responsibility of the home team or competition organizer to supply all sanitized balls. (Teams will be responsible for their own cleaning equipment to sanitize balls pre-game and post game and any break in play where appropriate).
6. Avoid delays in start of play, so that players do not have pro-longed periods of standing in close proximity.

Half Time

1. During halftime, referees, players and managers should maintain at least 6 feet distance between each other.
2. Managers and Players are encouraged to sanitize their hands at half-time.
3. Managers should limit the amount of time the entire team is together (Players must stay 6 feet apart)

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Phase 2 – Local Competition Guidelines

Post Game:

1. No post-game handshakes should take place. We will consider other forms of sportsmanship or instituting new acknowledgement traditions, such as clapping, etc.
2. If a referee needs the manager's signature for a roster, place the paper down on the end of the bench and step away to have them sign it.
3. Teams should pack-up and immediately leave the field following the game, exiting at the designated exit point.
 - a) Post-game meetings should be kept brief, if any meeting is held at all.
 - b) All participants should endeavor to maintain space between themselves and others.
 - c) Prolonged proximity, even with masks should be avoided.
 - d) Players should avoid intentionally touching each other before or after competitions. This includes hugs, high-fives, or huddles.
4. Players are encouraged to change clothes and take off any equipment after they have left the field.
5. Teams should clean up sideline area so that it is clean of ALL trash.
6. Managers should ensure all equipment, including benches, balls, flags, etc. are sanitized.
7. Spectators are encouraged to maintain social distancing before, during and after the game.

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Check for Symptoms and Reporting

CHECK FOR SYMPTOMS

- If you are sick, feel sick, or may be sick, stay at home!
- Any manager, player or referee who displays symptoms suggesting that the individual may be ill will be encouraged to leave the grounds and go home or hospital. These symptoms include a persistent cough, a fever or any other indications of being ill (including cold, flu, or suspected COVID-19).
- Anyone that displays any of these symptoms will politely be asked to leave by their manager. It is not the referee's responsibility to speak with the player.

REPORTING AND COMMUNICATION FOR COVID-19 EXPOSURE

- Players and managers are required to report (a generic notification; no specific names should be provided, due to HIPAA law) to their respective club, league, or to CSSA, if they test positive for COVID-19, are suspected of being positive for COVID-19, or have been directly exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Any player who has tested positive for COVID-19, is suspected of being positive for COVID-19, or has been directly exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, is strongly advised to report the fact (a generic notification; no specific name should be provided, due to HIPAA law) to their respective club, league, or to CSSA.
- Both teams and the referee crew will be notified of the positive test, and that individual will need to quarantine for 14 days, and adhere to the state COVID-19 protocol.

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Conclusion

This is a hard time for all of us, but we do not need to panic, we just need to be smart and control the situation. We are concerned about every player, colleague, friend, and neighbor. Clearly, balancing the interests of all is an extraordinarily complex undertaking. We are so grateful to all of you who help chart a safe course through this crisis.

We will continue to monitor the situation and will provide updates as needed.

Sincerely,

CSSA, Executive Board

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