

# TCYSA Spring Season 2021 Policies - COVID-19 Edition



TCYSA is committed to providing the safest possible environment for all Spring recreational soccer season participants. The policies and guidelines below are intended to facilitate that commitment. However, given the dynamic nature of the current public health emergency, TCYSA may need to change and revise policies and guidance in accordance with changing conditions and updated information and requirements from state and local public health officials and/or Washington Youth Soccer. TCYSA member Clubs are expected to follow and enforce these policies.

## Key Dates:

Games March 20 – June 12 (no games during Spring break April 3, April 10 or Memorial Day May 29)

## Game Scheduling:

- Teams will have 7 or 8 games during the season depending on field availability. Games will primarily be held on Saturdays, with any games that need to be rescheduled possibly being scheduled on Fridays or Sundays.
- For ease of scheduling there will be less focus on home fields and minimal rescheduling requests accepted.
- No teams or individual players may participate from counties that are not in at least the same phase as Thurston County.
- All games will be played in Thurston County.

## Team Structure:

U8 will play 4x4 (no keeper) with rosters of 10 (minimum roster size is 8)

U9 - U12 and under will play 6v6 (includes keeper) with rosters of 10 (minimum roster size is 8)

U13 and above will play 7v7 (includes keeper) with rosters of 12 (minimum roster size is 9)

## Game times (approx.)

6v6 - 25 minute halves with 5 minute half time

7v7 - 30 minute halves with 5 minute half time

## Coaching COVID – 19 Safety Measures:

Face-coverings/masks: Per state requirements, TCYSA requires all coaches to wear cloth face coverings at all times before, during and after practices and games. NO EXCEPTIONS. Coaches who are not able to do so cannot coach. Coaches are expected to help by setting a good example of complying with all safety measures including mask wearing and to make sure that players are also complying. They are also expected to help educate parents about the safety requirements.

*(A face shield with a drape is an acceptable alternative to a mask or other face covering.)*

**Field Marshalls & Discipline:** Clubs are expected to provide volunteers so that it is possible to have field marshalls out at every location for Saturday games monitoring compliance with TCYSA's policies and Return to Play requirements. Coaches who do not comply after a reminder/warning will be subject to discipline similar to receiving a red card. The same with players who refuse to comply after a reminder/warning. Remember that TCYSA does deduct points from standings tallies for discipline/red card issuance.

**Screening:** Each participant (coach, player, and spectator) is expected to conduct their own screening prior to attending any practice or game. The screening should include a temperature check (below 100 F) and monitoring for these common COVID-19 symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

You can also use this symptom self-checker tool from Johns Hopkins Medicine,  
<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/coronavirus/covid-19-self-checker.html>

**The State requirements that govern youth sports can be found here:**

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/COVID19%20Sporting%20Activities%20Guidance.pdf>

**TCYSA also follows Washington Youth Soccer Return to Play guidance which can be found here:** <https://washingtonyouthsoccer.org/washington-youth-soccer-return-to-play-guidelines/>

## TCYSA 2021 Spring Season Return to Play Rules

1. Be smart: If you are sick, stay home. This applies to everyone: players, coaches, and parents. If you have been sick, stay home for 14 days after recovery.
2. Screening: Coaches greet all participants before practice and ask if they have conducted their own screening for a temperature or symptoms. Also ask if they have been sick in the last 14 days or in direct contact with a person who is sick. Send home immediately if the answer is “yes.”
3. Sanitize: Have hand sanitizer available and encourage hand washing before and after all activities.
4. Group play: All activities must be limited to the max number allowed in the current phase.
5. No team events/huddles: No high-fives, handshakes, huddles, celebrations, team snacks or hugs. As much as we want to physically connect, this is not a safe practice for anybody right now.
6. Masks: Per state requirements, coaches, players and volunteers must wear a mask before, during, and after practice and games. NO EXCEPTIONS.
7. Drop-off/pick-up: if possible, parents should remain in car for drop-off and pick-up. All spectators must remain 6 feet apart from those who do not live in the same household.
8. Water bottles: to minimize accidental sharing of water, players must keep their water bottles in their own bag when not in use.
9. Virus reporting: TCYSA and member Clubs will partner with Washington State Department of Health and any local health department on any case investigations and contact tracing. For more information about case investigation and contact tracing visit this Department of Health webpage, <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020COVID19/CaseInvestigationsandContactTracing>
10. If a specific field location has additional safety requirements, TCYSA will expect all participants (coaches, players, spectators) to abide by the location’s rules.
11. Have fun, stay positive: everyone is looking to each other to stay calm, supportive, and compassionate during this time.

## TCYSA COVID-19 2021 Spring Season Game & Spectator Rules

TCYSA is excited to provide a recreational soccer season. This is an unprecedented situation and we are all doing our best to be safe. All coaches, players, family members and spectators must help us by following all social distancing and other safety measures while participating in or attending a TCYSA event.

1. One spectator per player is encouraged. Pursuant to state requirements, we may have no more than 75 people (includes players, coaches, spectators) at a field. Accordingly, we are encouraging families to limit the spectators that accompany a player at each game to minimize the numbers of people present. Spectators should avoid congregating in a way that makes physical distancing difficult.
2. Enjoy the match and exit. Players may arrive no earlier than 30 minutes prior to kickoff, and must depart as soon as possible, preferably within 10 minutes after the completion of the match. Spectators should only go to the field as close to the start of the match as possible—preferably not during any of the warmup period.
3. Stay 6 feet apart. At the field, you must stay 6 feet away from non-household members. Unlike most seasons, spectators do not need to remain on a specific sideline and can watch from any vantage point around the field, including on the endline. We do ask that any spectator on the endline refrain from providing any direction, coaching or communication to any player on the field. As a reminder, TCYSA sideline behavior policies remain in effect.
4. Masks (Spectators). Everyone attending a game must comply with the [face coverings order](#) issued by the Secretary for the State Department of Health which requires wearing face coverings in public settings. TCYSA games constitute public settings. Face coverings must be worn outdoors when individuals cannot maintain at least six feet of separation from individuals who are not members of their household. *TCYSA encourages spectators to wear masks at all times while attending as a way to model compliance for players who are required to wear masks at all times.*
5. Masks (Players and coaches). We are following the [States' Sporting Activities](#) requirements and guidance from [Washington Youth Soccer](#). Coaches, players and volunteers must wear masks before, during, and after games. Everyone should use hand sanitizer immediately following each session.
6. No team events/huddles. Teams should minimize any gathering as a group before, during and after the game. If necessary, coaches may spend a few minutes with the players, but there should be no huddles, snacks, cheers, celebrations, etc. Also, spectators should allow your player to come find you instead of going over to the team sideline to find him or her.
7. Feeling sick – stay home. If you are feeling sick, please stay home. All participants (coaches, players, spectators) must conduct their own COVID-19 symptoms screening prior to attending a game. One screening tool is available at <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/coronavirus/covid-19-self-checker.html>
8. TCYSA Sideline Behavior Policy. TCYSA's Sideline Behavior Policy remains in effect for all those attending TCYSA events.

We know that this season will differ from past seasons in many respects. In order for us to continue to provide recreational soccer we all need to do our part to comply with the mandates and restrictions set

forth by health officials. It is up to all of us to provide a safe and enjoyable playing environment. We appreciate your efforts in that regard.