

# TBAA

## COVID-19 PROGRAM PREPARATION PLAN

This Program Preparation Plan has been developed for use by TBAA Youth Soccer pursuant to the guidelines issued by the New Jersey Department of Health. The purpose of this document is to provide players, parents and coaches with return-to-play guidelines. The guidelines in this document are NOT intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. All content, including text and information, are provided for general purposes only. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, TBAA Youth Soccer makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the completeness of this information. Further, parents and coaches are encouraged to seek advice from medical professionals and/or public health officials if you have specific questions.

The State of New Jersey has determined that soccer to be a “moderate-risk” sports activity. As such, beginning on June 22, 2020, soccer practices may be conducted as long as they are NON-CONTACT.

On July 6, 2020, contact practices and competitions may occur.

### **Club Responsibilities:**

Appoint a member of the TBAA Executive Board to support and remind coaches, players and parents of social distancing recommendations, use of face coverings, proper hand hygiene and equipment sanitation;

Provide adequate field space for physical distancing;

Create and distribute guidelines to coaches;

From June 22, 2020 through July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, limit practice activities to those that do not involve person-to-person contact between athletes and/or coaching staff. For example, focus on individual skill-building activities;

Have an action plan to notify coaches and parents if the organization becomes aware of a participant or coach who has developed COVID-19 and may have been infectious to others while at a youth activity (remain mindful of maintaining participant confidentiality regarding health status);

Be sensitive and accommodating to parents who may be uncomfortable with returning to play at this time;

Be prepared to shut down and stop operations;

Develop plans for temporary closure of indoor facilities and cancellation of outdoor activities for proper disinfection;

Concession stands should meet the requirements for outdoor dining outlined in Executive Order No. 150 (2020) and Department of Health Executive Directive No. 20-014.

### **Coach Responsibilities:**

Prioritize the health and safety of the participants;

Inquire how the athletes are feeling. Send home anyone who may act or look ill. Actively encourage sick players to stay home. Routinely reassure parents that they should be comfortable with their child attending the activities and that there is no pressure from the team, club or league on the player to participate;

Exercise reasonable care to ensure that all athletes have their own individual equipment (ball, water, bag, etc.) and station on the sideline for their equipment (e.g. backpack);

Encourage players to wear cloth or disposable face coverings when not engaging in vigorous activity, such as when sitting on the bench, when interacting with a coach, etc. Face coverings should **not** be worn by staff or athletes when engaging in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic workouts or where doing so would inhibit the individual's health.

Ensure that athletes and coaches adhere to social distancing while not actively involved in practice activities (on the bench, etc.);

Do not permit athletes to share food, beverages, water bottles, towels, pinnies, gloves, or any other equipment or materials that is involved in direct bodily contact;

Discourage sharing of equipment as much as possible. If equipment is shared, coaching staff should be aware of the sanitation procedures for team equipment;

Maintain physical distance requirements from players based on state and local health requirements and exercise reasonable care to ensure players practice appropriate physical distancing (e.g. prohibit high-5s, hugs, handshakes, fist-bumps, etc.);

Be the only person to handle equipment (e.g. cones, disk etc.); do not enlist parental or attendee assistance. The use of scrimmage vests, or pinnies, is not recommended at this time;

Conduct all training outdoors and compliant with physical distancing per state or local health guidelines;

Wear a face covering during coaching;

Any coach who has recently had a close contact with a person with COVID-19 should stay home and monitor their health;

Have hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes or other sanitizing materials readily available at all times;

Have fun, stay positive – players and parents are looking to you for leadership.

### **Parent Responsibilities:**

Ensure your child is healthy and check your child's temperature before activities with others. If your child is ill, the child must not attend practice or game;

Any player who has recently had a close contact with a person with COVID-19 should stay home and monitor their health.

Stay in car or adhere to social distance requirements, based on state and local health requirements;

Ensure washing (e.g. hands) takes place after every training;

Ensure clothes and equipment (clothes, cleats, ball, shin guards etc.) are sanitized before and after every training;

Notify the coach immediately if your child becomes ill for any reason;

Do not assist your coach with equipment before or after training;

Be sure your child has necessary sanitizing products with them at every training or game;

Be sure that your child has their own water, soccer ball and any other equipment with them at every training or game;

**Player Responsibilities:**

Remind your parent to take your temperature before leaving for practice or games;

Wash hands thoroughly before and after practice;

Bring, and use, hand sanitizer with you at every practice and game;

Wear face covering before and immediately after all practices and games;

Utilize your designated location and do not touch or share anyone else's equipment, water, food or bags;

Practice social distancing, place bags and equipment at least 6 feet apart;

Remind your parent to wash and sanitize all equipment before and after every practice or game;

No group celebrations, high-5s, hugs, handshakes, fist-bumps, etc.