



WSA Safe Return to Play: In-House and Academy (updated 7/15/20)

WSA Statement on Safe Return to Play:

Return to play for WSA players and potential WSA players is solely at the discretion of parents/guardians. Coaches and referees are not responsible for ensuring social distance amongst spectators and players. WSA is not able to guarantee the safety of every participant. There is no requirement for players or coaches to wear face masks during outdoor trainings. We are leaving that decision up to the parents/guardians. If parents/guardians are not comfortable with WSA's "Safe Return to Play" policies, they should keep their players at home.

Responsibilities of WSA Leadership:

- (1) All practices/games/events will occur outdoors.
- (2) Practices/games can include an unlimited number of players and with a normal level of soccer contact.
- (3) Communicate responsibilities to all parties.

Play-Related responsibilities of all participants (players, coaches, volunteers, parents):

- (1) COVID-19 self-screening must take place (see below for self-screening process).
- (2) When arriving to and departing from the fields, everyone must adhere to social distancing rules by remaining 6 feet apart.
- (3) For games, each team should be on opposite sides of the field. This includes players, coaches, and spectators.
- (4) Team snacks should not be handed out after games.

Illness-Related responsibilities of all participants (players, coaches, volunteers, parents):

- (1) Participants who live in a household with someone with an active COVID-19 diagnosis should remain home.
- (2) Participants diagnosed with COVID-19 must inform WSA if they (or someone in their household) has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- (3) Participants diagnosed with COVID-19 must present a "cleared for play" letter from their doctor before returning to play.
- (4) Participants who may exhibit signs of sickness during events will be asked to leave the session, and may not return until they are symptom-free.

Responsibilities of Players and Parents:

- (1) Upon registration, all parents/guardians must complete and sign the Carroll County Parks & Rec waiver in Stone Alley.
- (2) Maintain social distance from coaches, players, and others when spectating games and practices. This includes staying back from the marked field lines and coach boxes.
- (3) Players should keep their personal belongings and water bottles in a designated area determined by the coach.
- (4) Players shall not touch other players' water bottles or other personal equipment or belongings.
- (5) Players may sit in a designated substitution area (bench, blanket, grass) during games.

Responsibilities of Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Referees:

- (1) All coaches and assistant coaches must review the Carroll County Parks & Rec "Return to Play" guidance: <https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/media/11878/return-toplay-update-61220final.pdf>
- (2) Discourage direct physical contact—such as fist pumps, high fives, handshakes, etc.
- (3) There should be no team huddles.
- (4) At the end of each game, teams should line up and cross the field in a line 6 feet from the other team and give an air (no contact) high-five, as well as stating "Good game" or other congratulatory phrase.
- (5) Pinnies will not be used. Encourage goalies to bring their own shirt and gloves.
- (6) Players may sit in a designated substitution area (bench, blanket, grass) during games.
- (7) Identify a designated area for water bottles during games and encourage players not to touch other players' belongings.

COVID-19 SELF-SCREENING PROCESS PER CARROLL COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS

- Parents/participants should perform regular wellness checks, per CDC recommendations, prior to reporting to activity:
 1. No fever in the last 2-14 days (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher)
 2. No unexplained cough, shortness of breath, muscle pains, shaking with chills, headache, sore throat in the last 2-14 days.
 3. No prolonged exposure (15 minutes or more within 6 feet or less) to any exhibiting the symptoms above in the last 2-14 days.
 4. Negative response to any of above questions should result in individual staying home and not participating.
- Parents should review COVID-19 information and best practices.
- Monitor athletes during breaks and down times and encourage social distancing.
- Consider no high-fives, team huddles, handshakes, fist pumps etc. instead, consider implementing tilting of a hat, fist in the air, clapping, etc.
- If a coach or volunteer tests positive for COVID-19 anytime during a season or when they've been in contact with other volunteers or athletes, they must immediately Contact Carroll County Department of Health at 410-876-4848 and follow their directions.

- Remember the following:

1. The more people a person interacts with and the longer the interaction = the higher risk of COVID-19 being spread.
2. Educate and encourage participants to stay home when feeling sick.
3. Promote behaviors to reduce the spread (players bringing their own hand sanitizer, sanitizing their hands during water breaks, washing hands 20 seconds or more).
4. Advise those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home, self-monitor for symptoms and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.

COACH/PARENT RESOURCES

Carroll County Parks & Rec “Return to Play” 6/12/20 Statement:

<https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/media/11878/return-to-play-update-61220final.pdf>

State of Maryland resources: <https://commerce.maryland.gov/Documents/BusinessResource/Youth-SportsCOVID-19-Best-Practices.pdf>

CDC resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>