

West Deptford Soccer Club

Return to Play Guidelines For Game Day

Dates: August 28, 2020 Tournament play begins
September 12, 2020 SJSL and SJGSL seasons begin

This is an update to our Return to Play Guidelines dates 6/22/2020. These Guidelines address specifically Return to Play for game situations. Since our initial Guidelines, the CDC, Department of Health and US Soccer have implemented and updated the applicable guidelines for competition.

Again, it is important to note that these Guidelines are not to be construed as any type of medical advice, diagnosis, treatment, or recommendations. Any questions or concerns related to a diagnosis of Covid-19 or treatment of same should be addressed to an individual's medical professional. Please note these guidelines are subject to change as new information is released by governing agencies.

It is also important to note that return to play at this time, or at any time, is completely voluntary. If a parent is not comfortable with their child returning to play at this time, there will be no penalty for any missed practice or games. Such decisions are to be communicated privately to the coach of the team and the coach is to keep the information noted and confidential.

As always, if anyone has any questions please reach out to us!

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ENTERING THE PARK:

Prior to returning to play all West Deptford Soccer Club players and parents will be required to sign a waiver acknowledging they have read the guidelines, the responsibilities, are aware of the risks associated with return to play.

In accordance with the current CDC guidelines, please do not come to the park if you, or a member of your immediate household, has had any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 or exposure to someone who has had Covid-19 in the past 14 days.

All visiting Clubs/Teams/Players/Parents will be required to sign a Hold Harmless Waiver required by the Township. This waiver is required before any games or scrimmages are permitted. Currently, WDSC is working to have this document submitted to the SJSL and SJGSL to have a Universal Waiver approved and agreed to by all participating clubs in order to alleviate the need for each opposing team to have to sign the waivers.

GAME DAY GUIDELINES

PLAYER GUIDELINES:

You cannot come to the park if you have a temperature above 100.3 degrees Fahrenheit. As part of our return to play protocol, all players must have their temperature taken prior to coming to the park. This will be a requirement and will not be something that any coaching staff member or other parent/guardian can do. Coaches may ask a player's temperature upon arrival so we ask that you please note it on a piece of paper to bring with you. If a child has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, please do not bring that player to the field.

If, upon reaching the fields, or at any time during a game, a player feels ill, they are to advise the coach immediately. The player will be sent to their parent or guardian if they are at the field still, or will be sent to a separate location to await their parent's arrival to take them home.

Each player must arrive to every game wearing a face covering and keep it on until they arrive at the sideline for players. Each player must bring their own ball, their own water jug with a sufficient amount of water for games, their own hand sanitizer, and their own bag for their belongings. There will be a game ball provided for each team to use for game day. But there is to be no other sharing of equipment.

Players should also bring their second jersey to each game in the event the team has to change to the other color. This will alleviate any need for a team to use pinnies. Players are also encouraged to bring their own towel/mat to sit on along the sideline. Team benches are not permitted as they will not permit physical distancing on the sidelines.

At no time can any players share water, equipment, or other items. Players cannot shake hands, slap hands, fist bump, elbow bump, or contact each other in any manner. We suggest a group chant or cheer at the end of the game in order to maintain the team atmosphere. We realize this is difficult but we must maintain physical distance when players are not actively playing on the field.

PARENT GUIDELINES:

Prior to the start of any return to play, please make sure your child's coach has your up-to-date contact information in the event an emergency arises. If you will not be available while your child is at game, please provide the appropriate contact information to the coach prior to arriving at or sending your child to the game via email, text, or the coach's preferred method of communication. Please do not walk up to the coach at the field to provide this information. Physical distance must be maintained at all times.

Please take your child's temperature the morning before a game. If your child's temperature is above 100.3, they cannot come to game. Please contact the coach to advise of same. We recommend you seek medical advice as to how to proceed regarding the temperature.

Upon arrival to the fields, please drive closest to the field where your child will be playing. Please make sure you, your child, and any other people/spectators arriving with you have a face covering on when leaving the vehicle. Face coverings must be worn until you reach the area where you will be sitting for the game. Only when you have set

up your area and are seated should you remove the face covering. If you have to leave your area for any reason, you must put your face covering on when doing so. This is to return to your vehicle, use the restrooms, or move your seats to another area of the field.

Players and parents will sit on the same side of the field for each game this season. This is being done to reduce the amount of intermingling among the teams and spectators. There will be marked lines on the sidelines that indicate how far from the sideline spectators can sit. Please do not set up your chairs/blankets any closer than the designated spectator line.

Spectators must maintain physical distance from non-family spectators. We will attempt to mark out spectator boxes spaced every six feet. However, we ask that all spectators use their own judgment when setting up their chairs/blankets.

We also ask that you maintain sufficient space from the team area, which will be at the mid-field line.

We also ask that parents not engage with their children at any time during the game. We recognize you will be closer to your child and may want to talk to them. However, please refrain from doing so just as if you were on the opposite side of the field.

Please sanitize your child's equipment after each game (ball, cleats, shin guards) and wash all training gear (including face coverings). We suggest having some type of Lysol spray, Lysol wipes, Clorox wipes, or alcohol-based cleaner (at least 60% isopropyl alcohol) in your car to spray or wipe down equipment before placing it back into your car. If your child utilizes a mouth guard, please make sure the protective case is with the child at all times so they can safely remove it from their mouth after use.

At the end of the game, please put on your face covering before packing up your belongings and walking to your car. We ask that parents not congregate on the sideline after the game. Instead, please head toward your car and wait for your child there. Other

teams/players/spectators may be arriving for a game at the field and we want to avoid too much close contact among the spectators.

COACH GUIDELINES:

Coaches are required to wear face coverings to and from the field similar to players and parents. During the check in procedure with the officials, coaches must wear face coverings. If a coach is tending to a player on the sideline and cannot maintain physical distance of six feet, the coach must wear a face covering.

Because we are not able to use pinnies right now, we ask that coaches confirm the uniform color with the opposing coach at least a day before the game. We would also recommend coaches reminding players to always have both jerseys with them. This will make it easier to change if necessary.

If a player advises during practice game they are not feeling well, please have them put on their face covering, remove their personal belongings from the team area and take them to their parent/guardian. If their parent is not at the field, please have the player remove him or herself to a separate area from the field. Please contact their parent or emergency contact and have them come to the field immediately to take their child home.

Please remind players to maintain a physical distance while sitting on the sidelines and during half-time, and to not have physical contact through handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, elbow bumps, or other contact. Please remind players to use hand sanitizer whenever they come off the field, prior to drinking water during a break, and at the end of the game prior to putting their face covering on to walk to the cars. Please dismiss players at an appropriate physical distance so that they do not congregate while walking to their cars.

During the check in procedure, the coach will hold all cards and show them to the official while calling each player up to show their cleat and jersey number. Rosters will not be exchanged with the opposing team. Much of this will be done electronically prior to the game. Coaches will still pay the officials with cash unless the official objects and requests Venmo or other electronic payment. If any coach does not utilize an electronic payment method please advise the board so we can address this prior to the start of the season.

Please be mindful that these guidelines are new for everyone. We recognize the players may forget at times but we must attempt to keep the players aware of their physical distance and hand sanitizing often in order to keep everyone on the fields.

Together we will return to play safely!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Nancy Monte Carlo, President WDSC at westdeptfordsc@gmail.com or nmc29@comcast.net. 856-207-4314.