



Michigan State Youth Soccer Association

Game Day Processes

Updated 9/1/21 and subject to change

Introduction to Game Day Processes:

The purpose of these Game Day Processes is to limit the potential spread of COVID-19 and associated variants.

Individual Responsibility:

A. Coaches (and Managers)

- Stay home if not feeling well or displaying symptoms of COVID-19
- Maintain proper hygiene habits. Avoid touching eyes/nose/mouth. Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Wash/sanitize hands often. Wash hands thoroughly before and after activities with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or with hand sanitizer.
- All team officials take temperatures independently (at home) before attending games.
- Maintaining a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from everyone, whenever possible, is recommended (exception – see below for attending to an injured player)
- Conduct verbal health check of each player before each game. If a player has any COVID-19 symptoms or any known exposure to COVID-19, they should be sent home and instructed to contact their healthcare provider as soon as possible.
- Players should spread out 6 feet while on the sidelines/team bench. Teams will be placed on opposite sides of the field, when possible.
- Do not provide shared food, water, and equipment (including team benches, shared goalie gloves, shared goalie jersey, etc.)
- Assist players with coming to the fields fully prepared. TIP: Arrange team colors with opponents in advance of the game to minimize the need to change clothes.
- Keep pre-game, halftime, and post-game team meetings brief, and maintain 6 feet of social distance throughout each meeting
- Group huddles, hugs, cheers, high fives, chest bumps, wrestling, etc., are not recommended.
- Limit, or prohibit, partner stretching during warm-ups
- Bring hand sanitizer to each game
- Bring multiple sanitized balls to each game (for use during game)
- Consider use of electronic pass cards, rosters, game cards/reports, when/where possible.



Michigan State Youth Soccer Association

B. Players:

- Stay home if not feeling well or displaying symptoms of COVID-19
- Conduct verbal health check before each training/game. If you have any COVID-19 symptoms or any known exposure to COVID-19, stay home and contact healthcare provider as soon as possible.
- Maintain proper hygiene habits. Avoid touching eyes/nose/mouth. Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Wash/sanitize hands often. Wash hands thoroughly before and after activities with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or with hand sanitizer.
- All participants take temperatures independently (at home) before attending games.
- Participants should report in proper gear (fully dressed) before attending games (uniforms, shoes, shin guards, etc).
- Maintaining a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from everyone, whenever possible, is recommended
- Players should spread out 6 feet while on the sidelines/team bench. Teams will be placed on opposite sides of the field, when possible.
- Bring sufficient hand sanitizer to game for repeated use
- Bring a sanitized ball to each game for warm-ups
- Do not share food, water, and equipment (including shared goalie gloves)
- Participants are encouraged to wash their clothing/gear before, and immediately after use on the warmest setting possible.
- Group huddles, cheers, high fives, chest bumps, etc., are not recommended.

C. Referees:

- Stay home if not feeling well or displaying symptoms of COVID-19
- All participants take temperatures independently (at home) before attending games.
- Maintain minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from everyone, whenever possible, is recommended
- Use only your own equipment – do not share flags, whistles, uniforms, etc. If flags are not owned by all, referees may share flags, but they must be sanitized before and after use. TIP: Bring all equipment and all uniform colors to each game.

D. Spectators:

- All participants take temperatures independently (at home) before attending games
- Sit only in the area(s) designated for spectators. Teams (and spectators) will be placed on opposite sides of the field, when possible. Do not encroach on space designated for referees or teams.
- Maintaining a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance, from everyone not residing within the same residence, is recommended.



Michigan State Youth Soccer Association

- Do not go to the opponent's side of the field
- Some programs/leagues/events may limit or prohibit spectators. Be understanding and adhere to all program/league/event policies
- Some facilities may eliminate restrooms. Be prepared for that possibility.

Protocols:

A. Injured Players:

- Assessment/treatment of an injured player should not be delayed if game day protocols cannot be followed (i.e. do not delay attending to injured athlete because social distance cannot be maintained).
- Upon the referee signal, one coach enters the field to attend to an injured player.
- Coach maintains 6 feet of physical distance as possible if/until it is determined if player needs assistance getting off the field.
- If an injured player needs assistance getting off the field and a second person is needed, the coach first asks the player's parent(s). If a player's parent is not on-site, the coach signals to another team member.
- As soon as possible upon exiting the field, the injured player, coach, and additional person providing assistance should clean their hands with sanitizer.

B. Referee Payment (MSYSA Recommendations):

- If possible, MSYSA recommends to programs/leagues/events to pay referee electronically instead of cash on the field.
- However, when paying cash at the field is the only option, the team(s) responsible for referee payment should prepare payment at home in advance of the game.
- Wash hands with soap and water. Place cash payment for each referee position into their own separate envelop or Ziploc bag. Write the referee position name, cash amount, and team name on the bag (example: Center Referee, \$40, MSYSA United 09 Girls).
- At the field and when ready to pay referees, team coach or manager should distribute envelopes/bags of cash to each referee individually. Maintain 6 feet of physical distance as much as possible.
- While collecting payment, referees must maintain 6 feet of physical distance as much as possible. Before and after meeting with team officials to collect payment, referees may want to clean hands with sanitizer.
- Upon receipt of cash, referees may want to open bags in full view of team officials to ensure full payment while simultaneously maintaining 6 feet of physical distance from everybody.



Michigan State Youth Soccer Association

C. Pre-Game Check-In & Post-Game Processes (MSYSA Recommendations):

- Consider use of electronic pass cards, rosters, game cards/reports, when/where possible.
- If possible, MSYSA recommends that plans are made to provide game reports directly to referees possibly via email or direct download (instead of having teams provide them to referees).
- Prior to team check-in, all participants clean hands with their personal sanitizer.
- At team check-in, players must have 6 feet of physical distance between them.
- At team check-in and if competition dictates the use of pass cards, team officials distribute game reports (if referees do not already have) and any/all applicable pass cards to referees.
- At team check-in and if applicable, team officials distribute game reports to referees. MSYSA recommends that these be retained by the referees (for direct submission to league/event organizer) and not be given back to team officials.
- Referees' check-in individual players.
- Referees will conduct the coin toss while ensuring both teams, and referees, maintain 6 feet of physical distance between them.
- After each game, MSYSA recommends that referees electronically submit game reports with results and applicable notes to the league/event administrator via an online system or emailing in copies (instead of mailing in reports).

D. The Game:

- MSYSA recommends each team bring multiple sanitized balls for use during the game only.
- Spectators should not handle a ball that leaves the field of play.
- MSYSA does not recommend the use of ball kids.
- MSYSA Approved Teams must follow Out-of-State protocols related to exposure mitigation (for teams traveling outside of Michigan).

E. Substitutions

- Upon entering and exiting the field as a substitute, players are encouraged to clean hands with sanitizer.
- A player exiting a game via substitution should go directly to their team bench. High-fives or exchanging of pinnies with player entering the game is not recommended.
- The player entering the field via substitution puts pinnie in their own bag before waiting to substitute onto the field.



Michigan State Youth Soccer Association

- The player exiting the field via substitution may put on their own pinnie from their own bag. The player should also clean hands with sanitizer.

F. Deliberate Coughing and Spitting

- Deliberate coughing at or spitting at an opponent, referee, or any other participant will result in an immediate red card. Suspension length is determined by competition.
- Spectators are held to the same standard and referees have the same authority to enforce as they do with all other spectator-related issues.

G. Team Benches

- MSYSA recommends that facilities and teams NOT provide nor use team benches.
- If team benches are used, players should maintain 6 feet of physical distance.
- If team benches are used, the home team/club should sanitize the team benches before and after every game.

H. Facilities & Field Set-Up

- When possible, teams will be placed on opposite sides of the field, on the half of the field of which the assistant referee is positioned (see below diagram).
- When possible, a team's accompanying spectators will sit on the same side of the field as the team but on the other half (see below diagram).
- MSYSA strongly recommends that team bench/technical areas and spectator areas are marked with paint.
- Spectators to be minimum of 10 feet back from the touchline, when possible.
- Team technical areas will be between the bottom of the center circle and the top of the penalty area (see below diagram).



Michigan State Youth Soccer Association

Field Diagram

