



Michigan State Youth Soccer Association

MSYSA Sanctioned Tournament Best Practices

Subject to change at any time (with or without notice)

Updated as of 5/18/21

Tournaments this coming season may still look different than they have in the past. These best practices are intended to assist you during the COVID era. Above all, it's imperative you follow all guidelines and instructions put out by your local health department to protect the health of everyone. All national, state, local (including complex), and MSYSA guidelines, rules, and policies, including those pertaining to social distancing and PPE mandates for COVID-19, must be followed.

For a complete list of all requirements to apply for tournament sanctioning see the MSYSA website [here](#).

Event Management

These are specific things that a tournament organizer can/should do to provide as safe of a tournament environment as possible.

Tournament Limitations

- You may be required to limit the number of teams to meet the local health department guidelines on gathering size. Even if not required, consider limiting team numbers to a reasonable number of teams given current/anticipated conditions.
- You may be required to limit or prohibit spectators to meet the local health department guidelines on gathering sizes. Even if not required, consider limiting to immediate family members only
- Avoid award ceremonies, bounce houses, and other “normal tournament activities” to limit gatherings of large amounts of people.
- Avoid supplying hotel rooms to staff, volunteers, referees, and other independent contractors. If necessary, avoid the sharing of rooms between people from different households.

Event Staff, Volunteers, Independent Contractors

- Volunteers and staff should be organized in advance. Sign-ups should be done electronically, and people should be notified electronically with their specific roles and responsibilities.
- If multiple people from a single household are working a tournament, consider placing them in the same area to limit the amount of people from different households mixing.
- All event staff, volunteers, referees, and medical staff should answer daily COVID screening questions prior to participation.
- Whenever possible, event staff should work out of an individual workstation designated for them, such as a golf cart, instead of working out of a central headquarters area.



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- If there are one or more headquarters area(s), limit the number of people in that area, and have a designated person checking and enforcing this number.
- To limit congregation of coaches, managers, and teams at tournament headquarters, consider having and distributing to teams a designated event phone number. Event staff should go *to the caller* to address issues unable to be resolved over the phone.
- Referees, medical staff, and other independent contractors should be compensated electronically or by check after the tournament (no cash at the fields)
- If the tournament is providing water or meals for event staff, volunteers, and/or independent contractors, everything should be pre-packaged and available for pickup in a socially distanced way.

College Coaches & Scouts

- All college coaches and scouts should answer daily COVID screening questions.

Team Check-In

- No on-site team check in. Everything should be completed online.
- Consider utilizing the services of SportsForms, MSYSA's Official Partner for Electronic Document Submission (<https://www.sportsforms.club>)

Parking & Transportation

- No on-site tailgating
- No golf cart transportation except for injured athletes

Concessions & Vendors

- If concession and vendors are allowed on-site, they should consider taking credit cards only (no cash) and set-up their displays to promote social distancing.

Cleaning, Sanitizing, Hygiene

- Surfaces that are touched often should be cleaned often. For example, bathrooms, tables/chairs, golf carts, bleachers/team benches (not recommended), etc.
- Tournaments should have a schedule for cleaning these areas, and have a designated person to check and enforce that these areas are being properly/frequently cleaned.
- Tournaments must offer the ability for patrons to wash their hands at any/all restrooms facilities (permanent or portable)
- Tournaments should set-up and offer hand sanitizer throughout the tournament venue(s)



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Games

- As possible, MSYSA recommends that physical pass cards not be used at tournaments. If required, the tournament should supply copies of the pass cards (submitted electronically by teams in advance) to referees.
- MSYSA recommends that game reports or score cards be supplied directly to referees, electronically when possible, instead of having teams provide them to referees.
- MSYSA recommends that tournaments build in extra time between games to allow for teams to completely exit a field before the next set of teams enters the field.
- During the referee check-in of players, all participants (players, team officials, referees) must have 6 feet of physical distance between them.
- Referees will conduct the coin toss while ensuring both teams, and referees, maintain 6 feet of physical distance between them.
- Tournament organizers should not supply game balls. Instead, each team should bring multiple sanitized balls for game use only. Sanitized balls are rotated in regularly. One team official from each team should sanitize their own teams' balls at halftime and after the game.
- Spectators should not handle a ball that leaves the field of play.
- MSYSA does not recommend the use of ball kids
- No pre-game or post-game contact celebrations between teams (handshakes, high-fives, etc.)
- When possible, after each game MSYSA recommends that referees electronically submit game reports with results and applicable notes.
- 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 the tournament. Spectators are held to the same standard regarding deliberate coughing and spitting, and referees have the same authority to enforce as they do with all other spectator-related issues.

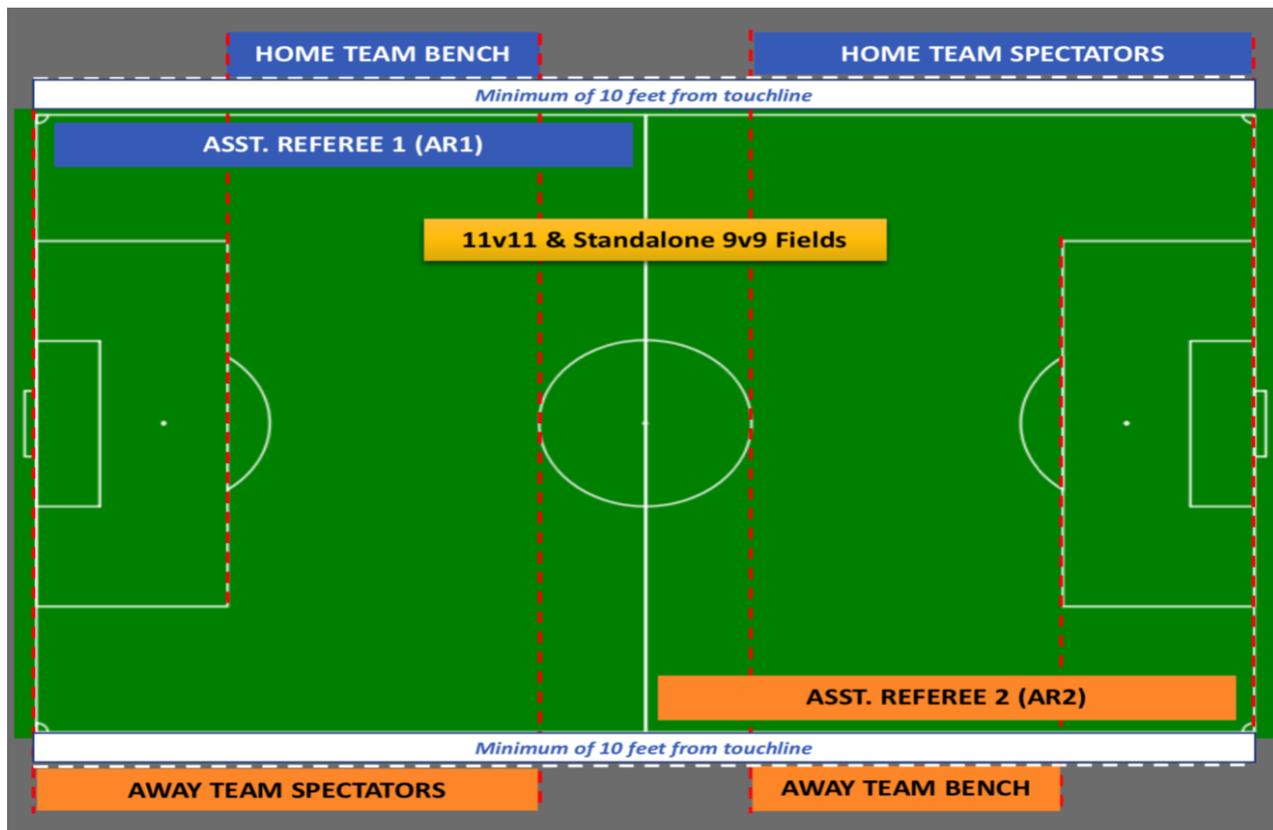
Facilities & Field Set-Up

- Whenever the facility allows, the below diagram should be used (although it specifically says 11v11 and 9v9, the diagram should be used for other formats as well)
- Teams should be placed on opposite sides of the field, on the half of the field of which the assistant referee is positioned (see diagram).
- A team's accompanying spectators should sit on the same side of the field as the team but on the other half (see diagram).
- Team technical areas and spectator areas should be marked with paint.
- Team technical areas will be between the bottom of the center circle and the top of the penalty area (see diagram).
- No team benches unless players can maintain 6 feet of physical distance. If team benches are used, the tournament is responsible for sanitizing the team benches before and after every game.



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- Spectators to be minimum of 10 feet back from the touchline. Facilities that cannot accommodate that requirement should not be used.
- Spectator seating (bleachers, etc.) are not recommended. If provided, the tournament is responsible for sanitizing the spectator seating before and after every game.
- For any indoor facilities used for the tournament, the facility should have separate entrances and exits to avoid bottlenecks



Individual Responsibility

These are specific things that individuals can/should do to contribute to a safe tournament environment.

Team Officials (Coaches, Managers)

- Take temperature for yourself and your player (if applicable) prior to leaving for the game. Stay home if your temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher.
- Maintain minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from everyone whenever possible (exception – see below for attending to an injured player)
- Conduct verbal health check of each player before each game – send anyone home who says they are not feeling well



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- Monitor/ensure that players on the sidelines maintain 6 feet of physical distance from each other
- 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.
- Do as much communication before and after games via email, phone, text, etc. (not in-person)
- Do not allow group huddles, cheers, high fives, chest bumps, wrestling, etc.
- 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)
- Direct your team to quickly exit the field immediately after each game.

Players

- Take temperature for yourself prior to leaving for the game. Stay home if your temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher.
- Stay home if not feeling well or displaying symptoms of COVID
- Arrive at field fully dressed (uniforms, shoes, shinguards, etc.)
- Maintain minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from everyone whenever 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)
- No group huddles, cheers, high fives, chest bumps, etc.
- Quickly exit the field immediately after each game

Referees

- Take temperature for yourself prior to leaving for the game. Stay home if your temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher.
- Use only your own equipment – do not share flags (whenever possible), whistles, uniforms, pens, etc. TIP: Bring all equipment and all uniform colors to each game.
- Note: The role of referee is not to enforce these tournament safety protocols. However, referees should note and report instances of non-compliance to the tournament director

Spectators

- Take temperature for yourself and your player (if applicable) prior to leaving for the game. Stay home if your temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher.



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- Sit only in the area(s) designated for spectators. Do not encroach on space designated for referees or teams.
- Maintain minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from everyone not residing within same residence
- Do not go to the opponent's side of the field
- Tournaments may limit or prohibit spectators – be understanding and adhere to all event policies
- Bring individual chairs, as desired. Tournaments are encouraged NOT to have spectator seating available.