

**TOWN OF EXETER  
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Russ Dean, Town Manager  
CC: James Murray, Health Officer  
FROM: Greg Bisson, Director of Parks and Recreation  
RE: Exeter Youth Soccer Association Request  
DATE: 08/10/2020

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**Exeter Youth Soccer Association is proposing the following for the 2020 fall season.**

Exeter Youth Soccer Association (EYSA)

2020 COVID 19 Protocols

Start Date: 9/14/20

End Date: 11/1/20

Activities: Individual skill drills. Small-sided scrimmages, Saturday scrimmages.

Responsibilities:

**EYSA BOARD MEMBERS:**

- EYSA must sign a waiver provided by the Exeter Recreation Department.
- EYSA must have each participant and coach sign a waiver provided by Exeter Recreation Department.
- Each participant, coach and spectator must sign an EYSA waiver.
- Provide mandatory training to all coaches, assistant coaches, and volunteers on the protocols outlined in the coaches' pamphlet regarding the 2020 soccer season which deals with the Covid-19 virus.
- A minimum of two board members must have a face to face (by remotely means, or in person) meeting with every coach, assistant coach and volunteer to discuss the expectations and requirements outlined in the coaches' pamphlet.
- A confirmation/validation of this meeting must be acknowledged in writing by all parties in attendance and maintained by the EYSA board for quality assurance.
- Provide coaches additional equipment to facilitate meeting the extra health protection requirements for the 2020 season. This will include at a minimum:
  - thermometers for temperature checks
  - new cones
  - hand sanitizer, as recommended by the CDC
  - sanitary wipes to wipe down touch points (i.e. goal posts, balls, etc.)
  - any other equipment deemed necessary by the state or board throughout the season
- Provide coaches with detailed email information to pass along to parents and guardians regarding protective measures and requirements

- Collect email verification from each coach prior to participation in any EYSA activities for each individual participating in EYSA-sanctioned activities
  - Collect/Verify Covid-19 waivers, which will be provided by the Board, prior to participation in any sanctioned EYSA event
- Provide a screening tool to each coach so that they can screen each other and each player prior to each event.
  - Provide a Board Member contact to each coach for any questions or concerns for the fall 2020 soccer season
  - Provide protocol instructions to the coaches for when a child is suspected of having Covid-19, as determined by CDC guidelines
  - Provide practice and event times to each coach. Event start and end times will be staggered by a minimum of 15 minutes
    - No group will be allowed to start or end at the same time, nor will any start time coincide with another group's end time
  - Ensure that specified ingress/egress routes to/from the facility are clearly marked so that people entering/exiting have sufficient space to maintain 6-ft. distancing.
  - Multiple groups may practice or engage in an event on the same field if the above conditions are maintained. To ensure that the protocols are followed:
    - A minimum of two adults (Coach, Assistant Coach or volunteer) who have been trained in the EYSA protocol must be present at each EYSA sanctioned event
    - One trained adult per team is designated to ensure these requirements are met through the activities.
    - EYSA Board members will sign up to act as Safety Officers on a rotating basis to visit fields on each day of activity in order to ensure compliance.

#### **COACH / ASSISTANT COACH/ VOLUNTEER:**

- Attend the mandatory coaches' meeting to ensure comprehension of the expectations for the Fall 2020 soccer season

#### **After you receive the roster for your team from the EYSA Board:**

- The coach will send an email to each player contact which will include all required information including protocols (provided by the EYSA Board).
- Confirmation emails back from contacts will be required and provided to the EYSA Board prior to participation in any EYSA event, including practice

#### **Protocols for practices/games/events:**

- Coaches must have completed an EYSA health screening within an hour of the beginning of the event to participate.
- Arrive a minimum of 10 minutes ahead of any player arrivals to facilitate COVID protocols
- Ensure that someone is assigned to disinfect goal posts and other touch points prior to the event.
- Place cones a minimum of six feet apart and assign each player a cone for the duration of practice/event. Players will place their belongings by this cone and will report back to their cone during breaks and when not participating on the field
- Prior to the start of any activity, the coach/assistant coach/volunteer will take each participant's temperature, as well as the temperatures of all coaches/assistant coaches/volunteers. If anyone is found to have a temperature elevated above the threshold outlined in the EYSA COVID 19 guidelines, the EYSA COVID 19 Protocols will be put into place (Protocol to be provided by EYSA Board)

- Ensure that all participants, including coaches, assistant coaches, volunteers and spectators wear a face covering in accordance with CDC guidelines at all times except when directly playing in the event.
- Will ensure that players do not gather in groups
- Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol to all participants for the duration of the event
- Allow time for frequent hand sanitation during the event
- Provide breaks to small groups versus the entire group to discourage congregation
- Disinfect communally used items, such as ball, goal posts and cones, before, during and after each event
- Avoid drills that include touching the ball with hands, such as throw-in drills or extensive use of the goalie
- No sharing of pinnies or equipment of any kind. Players must provide their own equipment, with the exception of using a ball for practice or events
- Whenever possible, encourage the retrieval of ball with feet, instead of hands.
- Use kick-ins in lieu of throw-ins.
- Provide a practice/event plan to minimize downtime. Adhere to start and end times.
- Encourage drivers and non-participants to remain in their vehicles during drop-off and pick-up times to the greatest extent possible
- Provide trash bags and remove all trash accumulated during the event
- Refer to the contact information provided by the EYSA Board for any additional information or clarification.
- Bring an EYSA-provided handheld thermometer to each event for temperature checks as needed.
- Coaches who do not act to enforce the EYSA protocols during a session will be removed as a coach from all EYSA activities for the 2020 fall season.

#### **PARENTS/ GUARDIANS/ SPECTATORS/ PARTICIPANTS:**

- Parents/Guardians must maintain and update an active contact phone number for emergency notification.
- Spectators must sign an EYSA waiver to attend and must complete an EYSA health screening.
- Arrive as close to the start of your event as possible. Pick up promptly at the end of event/practice
- All nonparticipants should remain in their vehicles to the greatest extent possible
- All participants and nonparticipants exiting a vehicle or arriving at any field location must wear a face covering as outlined by CDC guidelines. Only participants may remove their face coverings when directly participating in an event.
- Six feet of social distancing should be maintained at a minimum at all times.
- Do not share equipment or any personal item during the event.
- Do not loiter at the field after your event is over. Exit the area immediately.
- If spectators for a team do not comply with the above requirements, the team's activities will be suspended for one week, with no refund to participant families.
- If a second infraction occurs with spectators associated with a team, that team's activities will be suspended for the remainder of the season with no refunds to families.

#### **Players:**

- Players must have completed an online health screening within an hour of the beginning of the event to participate.
- Players must arrive no earlier than 10 minutes before their practice/play time.
- Players may not enter the facility until all players and coaches from the prior event have exited.

- Players must wear CDC-recommended face coverings when not actively playing on the field.
- Players must adhere to all EYSA COVID 19 safety protocols.
- Players who do not comply with EYSA COVID 19 safety protocols, will be asked to go to their designated rest area while their adult contact is contacted and arrives to pick them up and remove them from the event. They will be prohibited from the following event.
- Players who do not comply with EYSA COVID 19 safety protocols at a second event will be prohibited from attending the remainder of the 2020 fall season events.
- There will be no refunds given to families whose players are removed for non-compliance with EYSA COVID 19 safety protocols.

**Practice/Play Format:**

- Teams will be made up of players of the same age in order to attempt to align with school cohort models.
- Teams will be comprised of no more than 10 players and two coaches.
- Teams of the same age group will arrive at the same time. No more than four teams will be on the fields at any time.
- Coaches, players, and volunteers must be screened on arrival to each competitive sporting event, training session, or practice shall be required to fill out a screening tool and shall be asked if they:
  - o Have any symptoms of COVID-19 (see Universal Guidelines for list of potential symptoms) or fever of 100.4 degrees F or higher.
  - o Have had any close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have had COVID-19 in the past 14 days. (NOTE: Healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment should answer “no” to this question)
  - o Traveled in the past 14 days either:
    - § i. Internationally (outside the U.S.),
    - § ii. By cruise ship, or
    - § iii. Domestically (within the U.S.) outside of NH, VT, or ME on public transportation (e.g., bus, train, plane, etc.).
- Person(s) with any COVID-19 symptoms, those who report that in the past 14 days they have had close contact with someone suspected or confirmed with COVID-19, or report travel risk factors should not be allowed into the sporting event, competition, game, and/or practice, and:
  - Symptomatic persons should be instructed to contact their healthcare providers to be tested for COVID-19 and self-isolate at home following the instructions below.
  - Asymptomatic persons reporting that in the past 14 days they have had close contact with someone suspected or confirmed with COVID-19, or who report one of the traveled-related risk factors should self-quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure or return from travel.
  - NOTE: Healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment should answer “No” to this question.
- Teams will work separately on individual skill drills for the first 30 minutes in space that allows for 6 feet of distance between each player.

- Teams will scrimmage with other teams from their age group who are scheduled for the same practice/play time so long as all players, coaches and spectators who are not participating on the field of play are wearing CDC-recommended face coverings and maintaining a distance of 6-ft. from others.
- Players are encouraged to bring their own ball. If a player arrives without their own ball, EYSA will endeavor to provide a ball when possible.
- Each player will have a rest area designated by cones placed by the coach prior to arrival. No benches will be utilized.
- Players are encouraged to bring their own chair or towel for their designated area.
- Anyone who is not directly playing in the event must wear CDC-recommended face coverings and maintain a distance of 6-ft. from others.
- Intentional contact should be avoided, and play should be stopped to remind players to avoid intentional contact.
- Balls should not be handled. Utilize kick-ins in lieu of throw-ins.
- Players, coaches and spectators not complying with EYSA COVID 19 protocols will be asked to leave the facility immediately.

#### **Confirmed or Suspected Cases of COVID-19:**

When a coach becomes aware of a positive COVID-19 test amongst their team's players or coaches, the coach will immediately inform EYSA.

- EYSA will require the team to quarantine as required by Local health officials.
- EYSA will contact the Exeter Public Health Officer and NH- DHHS immediately
- EYSA will cooperate with NH-DHHS to assist in contact investigation and notification of persons potentially exposed.
- Any newly symptomatic player or coach will be isolated then sent home via private transportation.
- Per NH-DPHS: Symptomatic coaches and players will be treated as a positive result and required to quarantine for at least 10 days or for the period recommended by the CDC. Once these coaches or players have improving symptoms and are fever free for 72 hours without taking fever-reducing medications, they will be allowed reentry to play.
- Household members of players who are symptomatic and identified as having a high degree of COVID-19 suspicion, will also be sent home as a precautionary measure to reduce potential transmission within the community. These siblings may return once they have improving symptoms and are fever free for 72 hours without taking fever-reducing medications.

James Murray, Health Officer and myself have reviewed the plan and it meets the Safer at Home Guidelines for youth sports. If approved, Exeter Parks and Recreation will work on having the Covid-19 waivers signed by both EYSA and each individual player. We will also work in scheduling these two activities to provide staggered arrival times so there is plenty of space for social distancing, etc.

Respectfully Yours,  
 Greg Bisson  
 Director Exeter Parks and Recreation