

CASA – COVID 19 Protocols

Per the PA Governor’s guidance statement on COVID-19, “The virus that causes the Coronavirus 2019 Disease is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to safeguard public health and safety. COVID-19 can be transmitted from infected individuals even if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are mild, such as a cough. It can also be spread by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes.” Pending further guidance from the PA Health Department, these protocols are subject to change.

Guidelines

The below guidelines are based on a review of the [Governor of Pennsylvania’s Guidance for COVID-19](#) and the [CDC’s response to COVID-19](#). The guidelines are not intended to be all encompassing as teams may feel the need to institute stricter guidelines for their teams, however it is imperative that for the safety of all players the items listed below are maintained at a minimum. It is important that we all take these protocols seriously to ensure the safety of the players, referees, and everyone’s immediate families.

- Players, coaches, and referees are required to review the CDC guidelines on COVID-19 found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- If a player, coach, referee, or spectator feels ill, **do not attend any CASA sporting event.** If any of the afore mentioned participants test positive for COVID-19, you must reach out to the primary point of contact (noted above) for tracking purposes and to ensure containment within the league. Your information will be kept confidential. We encourage players to take their temperatures prior to the match to ensure that they are not sick before attending a CASA event.
- Players should arrive at the field at staggered times. CASA recommends carpooling should be limited where possible.
- Masks must be worn at all times except when on the field of play, including when on the sidelines and arriving and departing from the field. This extends to coaches, referees, and spectators. Any spectators should be social distancing, and remain on the side of the field opposite of the players, within bleacher/spectator areas.
- Bags and equipment should be placed at least six feet apart. This applies to the bench area as well, six feet of separation is required.
- CASA prohibits the use of team water coolers. Do not share water bottles, towels, or other items. **Players must bring their own water to matches.**
- Care should be taken when spitting, clearing noses, or expelling other bodily fluids.
- Anyone not on the field should maintain social distancing.
- Limit physical contact where possible, including goal celebrations, unnecessary contact with teammates, shaking hands pre-game, team huddles, etc.
- Captains will be required to wipe down their bench area before and after the match with a CASA provided set of sanitizing wipes.

We all have a responsibility to ourselves to maintain these guidelines. The referees at each game have the authority to penalize any player for failure to follow any guidelines that occur within the field of play during match play. The responsibility to follow guidelines that occur outside the field of play (including bench areas and travel between the parking lot and field) falls on the captains and players to police themselves. Referees will have the ability to penalize players for any severe violation of the guidelines that occurs outside the field of play.

The first and second incidents of noncompliance within the field of play will result in a verbal warning, the third will result in a yellow card, and the fourth will result in a red card and immediate ejection from the game and facility. Referees have the authority to give straight yellow or red cards for incidents within the field of play that are deemed severe violations of the aforementioned guidelines. Referees have the authority to end a match if they feel the playing conditions have become unsafe. An incident is defined as any disregard for the aforementioned guidelines based on the referee's interpretations. Continued non-compliance by any team will be reviewed by the Gameday Disputes Committee should additional team sanctions be necessary.

Plan of Action

Should any player test positive for COVID-19, the Governor of Pennsylvania guidelines require organizations to maintain a Plan of Action to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all individuals participating.

In the event that a player, coach, or referee tests positive for COVID-19, they have an obligation to report such instances to league president Nolan Bair (nbair@phillysoccer.org). Appropriate contact tracing will allow us to inform the league participants of any possible exposure to COVID-19. All active members will be notified if a member has tested positive in the league. This process identifies close contacts: individuals who spent at least 10 minutes within six feet of a person who has tested positive or is presumed positive. All players and referees identified will be required to receive a COVID-19 test prior to returning to any CASA event. Confidentiality will be of the highest importance and any player with a positive testing will remain anonymous. In the event of unforeseen game or season cancellations, CASA retains all decision-making authority in regards to allocation of registration fees. Should you have any questions on anything outlined above, feel free to contact your league commissioner or league president Nolan Bair (nbair@phillysoccer.org).