



RBJSR COVID-19 Safety and Action Plan

Introduction

The Reading Berks Junior Soccer COVID-19 Safety and Action Plan includes guidance and recommendations from multiple sources, including:

- Federal Government and Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- State Government and PA Department of Health (PADOH)
- US Soccer and Eastern PA Youth Soccer Association (EPYSA)

It is understood that the knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing as new information and treatments become available. When necessary, this Safety and Action Plan will be adjusted, with the goal of decreasing the risk of exposure for our clubs, teams, families, and other participants.

This document will be made available to all participating Clubs before RBJSR Return to Play (i. e., before RBJSR games are played).

It is important to note that this document does not take the place of medical or legal advice.

RBJSR COVID-19 Point of Contact

For all RBJSR COVID-19 related policy questions and concerns, our primary point of contact is:

RBJSR 2nd Vice President – Mark Radcliffe

Contact information posted on RBJSR website, <http://rbjsr.org/contacts-and-members/league-officers>

RBJSR Club Minimum Standards

Each participating Club must meet the minimum standards outlined in this section before teams from that club may participate in RBJSR games.

Club COVID-19 Point of Contact

Each participating Club must have a designated COVID-19 Point of Contact. The name and contact information of each Club's Point of Contact must be made available to RBJSR and to the RBJSR Member Clubs (e. g., via the RBJSR website).

Each participating Club's COVID-19 Point for Contact is responsible for ensuring that each participant has signed an EPYSA and/or Club-specific Communicable Disease Participation Waiver.

Club COVID-19 Safety and Action Plan

Each participating Club must have a COVID-19 Safety and Action Plan. Each Club's Safety and Action Plan must be made available to RBJSR and to the RBJSR Member Clubs.

Education of Participants

In accordance with EPYSA guidelines, participating Clubs will share relevant educational materials with all participants (coaches, players, and parents) on behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19. These behaviors include, but are not limited to:



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- sanitizing equipment
- hand hygiene
- wearing face coverings when appropriate
- practice of social distancing
- properly covering coughs and sneezes
- staying home when appropriate.

Pre-game Screening

In accordance with EPYSA guidelines, all participants (coaches, players, and game officials) must be pre-screened prior to each game. The results of the screening must be documented and provided to each Club's Point of Contact (for use should contact tracing become necessary).

Screening includes:

- Temperature check (any participant with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher must be sent home)

Clubs are reminded that some thermometers may not work properly in cold weather (e.g., infrared thermometers in conditions < 60F). Clubs should prepare an appropriate pre-screening approach in cold weather conditions (e.g., screening before exiting the car, at-home screening prior to departure, etc.).
- Symptom check (any participant who is sick must be sent home)

Pennsylvania symptom check for school use
<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/PublicHealthGuidance/Pages/default.aspx#screening>
- Quarantine check (any participant who is in quarantine because of potential COVID-19 exposure or travel to/from designated states must be sent home)

Pennsylvania quarantine list
[\(https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx\)](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx)

Home Club conducts pre-screening of the home team coaches and players.

Away Club conducts pre-screening of the away team coaches and players.

Home Club conducts pre-screening of the game officials.

- Game officials have been instructed to stay home if they are experiencing fever or any other potential COVID-19 symptoms. Pre-screening of the game officials at the field is recommended but not required.
- No "club linesmen" are permitted (i.e., parent or older sibling who assists the referee with out-of-bounds calls).



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- If the game officials are sent home, the normal RBJSL game official no-show procedures are followed.

RBJSL Gameday Modifications

Field preparation

The Home Club is responsible to ensure that goals are properly anchored, corner flags are in place, etc., so that they do not need to be touched by any other participants.

Arrival at the field

Participants may not enter the field/venue until after all participants from the previous game have departed. RBJSL game schedules are adjusted accordingly.

Coaches

Coaches must have game fees and EPYSA team roster (two copies, one for referee, one for opponent) immediately available for the referee.

In accordance with EPYSA guidelines, coaches must wear face coverings at all times. Coaches may pull down their face coverings to give instructions to their players on the field as long as they pull their mask up immediately afterwards.

It is the responsibility of the Home Club's coach, not the referees, to enforce compliance with COVID Protocols of the field or venue – for players, bench personnel, and spectators. Failure to comply can result in disciplinary sanctions up to and including dismissal of the coach (i. e., the coach is shown a red card and sent off the field). NOTE: It is expected that the Visiting Club's coach will take responsibility for their players, bench personnel, and spectators.

Home Club's coach must ensure that the game ball(s) are properly sanitized before the match, at halftime, and after the match.

Coaches are expected to maintain social distancing before, during, and after the match, including when on the bench/sidelines during the match.

Players

In accordance with EPYSA guidelines:

- Players are expected to wear face coverings while warming up, on the bench/sidelines, coming and leaving the field.
- Players are expected to wear face coverings as much as possible during halftime.
- Players may remove face coverings during active play on the field.
- After being substituted and leaving the field, it is reasonable for a player to wait a few minutes to get a drink and catch their breath before putting on the mask.

Players ARE ALLOWED to wear cloth or disposable face coverings while playing. Neck gaiters, plastic face shields and other personal protective equipment could be considered dangerous and should not be worn while playing.



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Players may not share equipment (goalkeeper jerseys, goalkeeper gloves, pinnies, etc.).

Players may not share drinks; each player is expected to have his/her own drink bottle.

Goalkeeper gloves must be sanitized frequently (e.g., on arrival, at the end of warmups, at halftime, after the game).

Players are expected to maintain social distancing when not actively playing (including when on the bench/sidelines during the match).

Spectators

Our top priority is to make it possible for the kids to play with minimal risk of viral contact. To that end, spectators are considered non-essential and should be limited to immediate family members.

In accordance with EPYSA guidelines, spectators are required to wear face coverings.

Spectators will be located on the opposite side of the field as the teams. Each team's spectators will be located on the same half of the field as their team's bench. Any location-specific adjustments will be communicated by the Home Club in advance of the match.

Spectators are expected to maintain social distancing before, during, and after the match.

Pre-game and post-game

No handshakes, high-fives, fist bumps, or unnecessary contact at any time.

Club-specific modifications and mitigations

If a Club has any additional modifications or mitigations beyond these Minimum Standards, the Club is expected to contact their team's opponents in advance of each game, in order to provide their opponents with preparation time to comply with the modifications.

Questions that arise during this communication process should be raised to the RBJSR COVID-19 Point of Contact.

COVID-19 Exposure

RBJSR procedures for potential and confirmed COVID-19 exposure will follow the **EPYSA COVID-19 Response** document.

If a participant becomes ill with COVID-19

- Club COVID-19 Point of Contact notifies RBJSR COVID-19 Point of Contact
 - For HIPAA reasons, information includes only the participant's team and the date/time of symptom onset
- RBJSR COVID-19 Point of Contact notifies opponents or game officials who may have been exposed
 - RBJSR COVID-19 Point of Contact informs the opponent's Club COVID-19 Point of Contact
 - For HIPAA reasons, information includes only the opponent's team and the date/time of symptom onset



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- RBJSR COVID-19 Point of Contact informs the RBJSR Referee Assignor
 - For HIPAA reasons, information includes only the RBJSR game details and the date/time of symptom onset
- If a participant begins showing symptoms within 48 hours after a team's practice session:
 - The participant's team is quarantined for 14 days. RBJSR games within the quarantine period are postponed/cancelled, with no forfeit penalty.
- If a participant begins showing symptoms within 48 hours after an RBJSR game:
 - The participant's team is quarantined for 14 days. RBJSR games within the quarantine period are postponed/cancelled, with no forfeit penalty.
 - The opponent's team is quarantined for 14 days. RBJSR games within the quarantine period are postponed/cancelled, with no forfeit penalty.
 - It is possible that additional teams are affected (e. g., a coach of multiple teams; the quarantine could affect all teams and cause multiple game postponements/cancellations with no forfeit penalty).

Additional Links

CDC Considerations for Youth Sports:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>

PA Department of Health Guidance for Sports:

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/sports-guidance/>

EPYSA COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions:

<https://www.epysa.org/covid-19-faqs/>