



Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association and Newton Girls Soccer  
**Spring 2021 Soccer Protocols – Summary**

The following is a quick guide to help you plan and adhere to the Spring 2021 Soccer Protocols detailed at <https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/covid-hub/>. Please keep these important changes handy for practices and game play. This does not replace the more complete documented guidelines that you must be familiar with.

### **Key Safety Points**

- **100% Mask Policy.** Masks must **always** be worn by players, coaches, and spectators at games, practices, and when dropping off/picking up for a soccer activity.
- Players may only wear behind-the-ear, loop-style masks without a vent. No neck gaiters.
- If conditions are dangerous for wearing masks, games should be canceled.
- Families must notify the NGS President ([president@newtongirlssoccer.org](mailto:president@newtongirlssoccer.org)) and the COVID-19 Safety Officer ([ngsdoc@newtongirlssoccer.org](mailto:ngsdoc@newtongirlssoccer.org)) immediately if a player becomes sick or develops symptoms of COVID-19. NGS will notify the team.
- Players must be in good health. They must have had no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone that has been ill in the past 14 days. Parents must take their daughter's temperature (100.4 or higher, stay home) before arriving at the field and keep them home if they feel sick.
- Incoming players should not enter the field until players from the earlier session have left the area. Please do not arrive more than 5 minutes before the session.
- Attendance on TPCA must be 100% accurate as is mandated by the state. Please make sure that you always keep your players' TPCA account up to date.

### **Spectators**

- There is no limit on the number of spectators allowed at a game, except as dictated by space constraints. Family pods may sit together in a viewing area. Each spectator group must stay 6' away from the next unrelated individual or group.
- Spectators must wear face coverings and always maintain six feet of social distance.
- Spectators may observe a game 8 feet from the sideline or 15 feet behind the goal line. Spectators are not permitted to watch the game from the player's side of the field.
- Do not congregate in parking lots. Waiting in the car is permissible.

### **Equipment**

- Players must use their own equipment and sanitize their equipment after every training session. No sharing of balls or goalie gloves. NGS is providing each player with a pinnie to keep for the season and bring to each practice. Players have been asked to purchase goalie gloves for personal use.
- Each participant is required to have their own water bottle, towel, and personal hygiene products (hand sanitizer, facial tissues, extra masks).
- Coaches are responsible for cleaning equipment (cones, goals etc.) with disinfectant before and after training. Players must not touch the equipment.

### **Changes to Rules for Play**

- There are no modifications to the rules of the game this season. League rules apply.
- Sportsmanship and team cheers should continue but in a touchless manner – no post-game handshakes, high-fives, or fist bumps.

### **Team Managers/COVID Manager**

- Each team must have a designated COVID-19 Manager. He or she will remind and update families on necessary guidelines for the safety of all the players, coaches, and families. Please cooperate fully.