



RETURN TO PLAY

Phase IV revised 3/20/21, revised 4/28/21: In keeping with the State of Maine protocols as published, masking will no longer be required for players on the field during competition or training outside. Masking will be required for bench personnel (players and coaches) and all indoor training and competition.

Criteria for Participation in Competition

- Scheduling of games should occur with a minimum of 15-20 minutes between the end of one game and the start of another at any field location to allow for the game participants and spectators to fully exit. Players and coaches should leave the field promptly as many fields in use have spectator limits that could be compromised otherwise.
- Participants arriving for a game should wait in their vehicles or on a nearby field until the field is fully clear of participants from the previous competition to minimize contact.
- **All teams must have a designated monitor/manager that can monitor COVID requirements of social distancing, mask wearing and gathering limits. *This is the responsibility of the home designated club.***
- The 75% permitted occupancy for outdoor venues varies greatly across the state. To keep our games safe, Soccer Maine will depend on the home club to appropriately communicate gathering limits for their home venues to their teams and opposing teams/clubs. For most venues, 2 spectators/parents per player will be permitted. However, some venues do not allow any spectators at this time. Stadiums may have larger occupancy limits, but could be restricted by the municipality or educational institution. Please keep in mind that teams, along with coaches, monitors, referees, and facility personal can exceed 50 persons at the oldest age groups, and the younger age groups would have less space for social distancing, so this must be taken into consideration.
Gathering limits for indoor training or any other indoor event would be 50% of total occupancy or 50 persons, whichever is greater. These percentages change to 100% and 75% respectively on May 24th. (updated 4/28/21)
- All spectators must be socially distanced by a minimum of 6 feet between family units per State of Maine Governor's Executive Order and CDC Guidelines. **If they cannot socially distance themselves to this standard, then they must be masked.** Spectators that do not adhere to the guidelines place risk on their associated team, which could result in removal from league play. It is imperative that spectators/parents understand that adherence to all spectator policies is extremely important in allowing our league play to continue. (updated 4/28/21)
- Upon arrival to game, coaches or staff should ask each athlete if they are experiencing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or have experienced any signs or symptoms in the past 14 days. Further they should be asked if they have been exposed to someone that has been ill in the last 14 days.
- If the athlete has any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, they should be sent home and instructed to contact their healthcare provider as soon as possible.
- Athletes should take temperature before going to game.
- Make sure appropriate infection prevention supplies are present (e.g., hand sanitizer, facial coverings, etc.)
- **Players on the field will not be required to be masked, but all players on the side line must wear a mask at all times. (updated 4/28/21)**
- **Coaches on the sidelines must wear a mask at all times.**
- Participants should use their own equipment and properly sanitize the equipment after every game. This includes water bottles, towels, shin guards, etc. Game ball is the only shared piece of equipment. It is the coach/home team's responsibility to provide this and to sanitize it at specific intervals during the game.
- Cleaning schedule/protocol of equipment with disinfectant before, during, and after game.

Clubs

- Distribute protocols to its members and parents.
- Have a communication plan in place for notification of venue requirements. Teams/Clubs should notify opposing teams/clubs a minimum of one week prior of any restrictions to spectator attendance.
- Have an effective communication plan in place should a team member, coach or manager contract COVID=19. Identify strategies to notify adult leaders, youth and their families if the organization learns of a case that may result in exposure and potential infection to others while at training or a game, while maintaining confidentiality.
- Train and educate all staff to protocols and requirements, including state and local regulations, CDC recommendations and other necessary information. It is the Club's responsibility to see that all coaches, and other staff adhere to these protocols and requirements.
- Provide adequate field space for social distancing.
- Provide hand sanitizer. This would be only used if a player or other individual does not bring their own.

Coaches

- Ensure the health and safety of the Athletes - inquire how the athletes are feeling, and send them home should you believe they act or look ill. Follow all State and Local Health Protocols.
- Ensure all athletes have their individual equipment (ball, water, bag, shin guards, etc.)
- Coach is the only person to handle cones, disk etc.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment; i.e. mask.
- The use of scrimmage vest or pinnies is not recommended at this time.

Monitors

- Ensure that coaches and players on the sideline are masked and socially distanced, along with gear.
- **Ensure that spectators are appropriately socially distanced, and if not possible to socially distance between groups, are masked. (updated 4/28/21)**
- Ensure that any game does not have more than the allowable number of spectators per this policy and per specific venue policies. Spectators must be able to properly distance themselves from each other at an appropriately sized field for the game.

Parents

- Ensure child is healthy, check your child's temperature before attending a training session.
- Stay in car or adhere to social distancing and masking requirements, based on state and local health requirements.
- Ensure child's clothing is washed after every training session, and equipment is sanitized.
- Notify club immediately if your child becomes ill for any reason. This is a requirement.
- Do not assist coach with equipment before or after training.
- Be sure your child has necessary sanitizer with them at every training. This is a requirement.

Players

- **Players are not required to wear a mask for training or competitions outdoors, but are required to wear a mask on the bench of all Soccer Maine competitions and league games and while indoors. (updated 4/28/21)**
- Take temperature before attending training session, and do not attend if you have a temperature of 100° or higher.
- Wash hands thoroughly before and after training and bring and use, hand sanitizer with you to every training.
- Do not touch or share anyone else's equipment, water, snack or bag.
- Practice social distancing, place bags and equipment at least 6 feet apart.
- Wash and sanitize all equipment before and after every training.
- No group celebrations, no high 5's, hugs, handshakes etc.

Follow all Maine CDC guidelines:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectiousdisease/epi/airborne/coronavirus.shtml>

Governor Mill's Reopening Plan: <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine>

State of Maine Community Sports Guidelines: <https://www.maine.gov/dec/d/checklists/community-sports>