



EMWSL “Return to Play” Covid 19 Guidelines

As of 6/1/2021

The following guidelines are minimum standards for games affiliated with the Eastern Massachusetts Women’s Soccer League (EMWSL). Please consult the Mass.gov website for additional guidance documents specific to adult sports. As always, everyone should make their own decisions on what is an acceptable risk before stepping onto the pitch.

All parties are responsible for adherence to these guidelines. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the event being turned over the league disciplinary committee.

The following are the “minimum standards of participation”, **if a venue operator has additional requirements, those requirements will augment or supersede those listed below.** It is the responsibility of the Home Team Manager to alert and educate their opponent and the scheduled referee to alert them of any differences in guidelines between EMWSL and the venue-specific guidelines. An affirmation from the visiting team that they will comply with the venue-specific guidelines is strongly encouraged.

Facial Coverings

- Unless wearing a mask is required by the venue operator, a player may choose to wear a mask during active play.

- Participants choosing to wear masks should take frequent facial covering breaks when they are out of the proximity of other players.
- Sideline players, coaches, and spectators that have been fully vaccinated do not have to wear a mask. If not fully vaccinated and are not able to maintain a safe social distance then it is recommended one wear a mask..
- Facial coverings must be of the “over ear” variety only and must cover both nose and mouth. Gaiter masks and any around the neck variety masks or clips are not allowed.

Confrontations over mask wearing should be avoided.

Cooperation with Health Officials

Managers, Coaches, Participants, Players, and any others engaging or spectating in EMWSL activities are required to cooperate with state health official and local boards of health and their authorized agents. EMWSL has rosters of all participants with appropriate contact information and make that information available upon request by state officials, local boards of health, or their authorized agents.

Team Managers

- All Managers of a team will be held individually responsible for ensuring that their participants comply with relevant guidelines.
- Team managers shall serve as the designated Covid Contact or designate someone to serve as such on behalf of their team for each match.

- Team Manager must ensure that no player is showing symptoms of Covid 19 prior to the beginning of play. A current list of symptoms can be found at the [CDC](#).
- All Team Managers will:
 - ❖ Immediately alert the league should they become aware of any player who have received or been exposed to someone who received a positive COVID test.
 - ❖ Ensure that players depart the field promptly after play has ended.
 - ❖ Ensure the availability of hand sanitizer and cleaning solutions.
 - ❖ Communicate any venue-specific requirements to opposing teams.

Game Play/Referees

- Pre- and post-game rituals, such as the coin-toss, and international handshake line, should be observed in a touchless manner.
- Referees may wear appropriate face-covering and should take frequent facial covering breaks when they are out of the proximity to other players.
- Referees may not alter the Laws of the Game.
- Any participant, referee, coach, or spectator develops symptoms of Covid-19 during game play, the match shall be immediately terminated.

Players

- If you are sick or feel sick, STAY HOME.
- All players must be on the official game day roster and attendance should be checked-in on the roster with the referee whether they will be participating in the session or not to facilitate contact tracing if required.
- Players should avoid congregating and should return to their designated area during breaks.
- Should sanitize hands before and after they play, avoid sharing equipment, and clean and wipe down equipment. All balls should be disinfected after every session.
- May not share water bottles. No centralized hydration or refreshment stations are permitted.
- Players will follow any venue-specific guidelines.

Venue/Spectators

- Spectators should maintain appropriate social distancing of 6-feet when possible and should be encouraged to wear masks if they cannot.
- Any venue capacity limits should be observed.
- Should allow adequate time between games to allow the departing teams to gather equipment and personal belongings before the next team arrives in the bench area.
- Users waiting to utilize a section or area of the field should wait outside the field of play until previous users have vacated the area to ensure proper social distancing and prevent accidental contact or other users' equipment.

- Any guidelines in-place by the Venue must be respected and where stricter than MASS Soccer or EMWSL, will supersede any guidelines in place by EMWSL or Mass Soccer. Managers of the team that reserved the venue are required to share any facility specific requirements with opponents with enough time for the team to adjust if necessary.
- All participants should adhere to a strict “carry in, carry out: policy and take waste with them when they leave the field.

This document will replace the previous Covid EMWSL Guidelines of 2020 but in the event that guidelines must be reversed to more restrictive the EMWSL Board will act in the best interests of the players, coaches and referees of our league.