

2021 WVSA MATCH DAY GUIDELINES & BEST PRACTICES



2021 WVSA MATCH DAY GUIDELINES

COACHES – INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Masks required at all times
- Maintain minimum of six (6) feet of physical distance from everyone; in event of player injury, may not be possible
- Be sure to review all player's answers to WVSA Screening Tool
- Monitor/ensure players on bench maintain six (6) feet of physical distance from each other, referees
- Do not provide communal water, snacks, etc. and reinforce with players to bring their own



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REFEREES – INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Masks required during pregame check and when arriving and leaving the field. Masks are optional to wear during a match
- Fourth official required to wear a mask during a match
- Only use own equipment (flags, etc.); if equipment must be shared, sanitize before and after use by another
- Role is NOT to enforce match day guidelines; role is to note and report instances of non-compliance to WVSA



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PLAYERS – INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Masks required to and from the field
- Players and participants to wear masks when not actively participating in training and matches
- Arrive to and leave the field fully dressed (uniform, shoes, shin guards, cleats, etc.)
- Maintain minimum of six (6) feet of physical distance from all other when on the bench (players, coaches, etc.)
- Do not share water bottles, pinnies, balls, snacks, etc.
- No group huddles, cheers, high fives, chest bumps, hugs, etc.



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PARENTS/SPECTATORS – INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

- All attending a match should take their temperature prior to and stay home if 100 degrees or higher; including players
- If you are able, wear a mask to/from the field and during match
- Must sit in designated area ten (10) feet from team bench and touchline
- Maintain a minimum of six (6) feet of physical distance from other family units at all times
- Avoid going to the other team's side of the field



2021 WVSA MATCH DAY GUIDELINES

FACE MASKS = MITIGATION

- Simply stated, if we want to have a fall season, even though it may look and feel different from “normal”, we all must be part of mitigation efforts.
- We have heard from many members that kids need to have outlets such as sports which contribute to positive mental and physical health. If soccer activity results in a breakout of cases, we will be unable to have a fall season.
- Please contribute to ensuring a fall season!
- Mitigation efforts do not guarantee 100% protection. Mitigation efforts do help decrease the spread of the droplets that can carry and transmit the virus.
- The more people who engage in mitigation efforts such as wearing a mask, the more that helps to decrease the amount of droplets!
- COACHES: In all matches between different clubs, coaches are required to wear a mask to/from and during the match.
- Exception: No mask required during game if the game is between teams from the same club, which typically occurs in 8U-below matches.
- PLAYERS must wear masks to/from the game field.
- PLAYERS and participants to wear masks when not actively participating in training and matches.
- SPECTATORS, if able, are asked to wear a mask to/from the game field and during the match.
- REFEREES & AR's must wear a mask to/from the game field and during pregame.
- 4th OFFICIALS must wear a mask to/from the game field and during the match.



2021 WVSA MATCH DAY BEST PRACTICES

DEALING WITH INJURED PLAYER – BEST PRACTICES

- ASSESSMENT/TREATMENT OF AN INJURED PLAYER SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED IF BEST PRACTICES CANNOT BE FOLLOWED!
- When the Referee signals, send only one coach to the injured player (coach should already be masked). Coach should bring 2 clean/unused masks onto the field.
- Coach provides unused mask to injured player prior to speaking to player to assess his/her status.
- Coach mindful of keeping 6 feet of physical distance as possible if/until it is determined player needs assistance or needs help to get off the field.
- If injured player needs help off the field that requires an additional person, coach first signals to player's parent (if present) and provides unused mask to parent. If parent not onsite, coach should signal to a team member, providing unused mask to him/her.
- As possible after exiting the field coach, injured player and anyone who assisted should clean hands with sanitizer.
- ASSESSMENT/TREATMENT OF AN INJURED PLAYER SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED IF BEST PRACTICES CANNOT BE FOLLOWED!



2021 WVSA MATCH DAY BEST PRACTICES

TEAM SUPPORTERS/SPECTATORS – BEST PRACTICES

- Recommendation for the fall season is to limit the number of supporters at a game per player as much as possible.
- We know family involvement at a youth sports activity, especially for proud grandparents, is a big deal.
- Part of overall mitigation efforts are aimed at decreasing the droplets that can carry and transmit the virus and at decreasing the number of people in the same area who can transmit or contract the virus.
- Limited supporters = fewer droplets, and likely fewer people who get (and potentially spread) the virus.



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REFEREES & PREGAME CHECK – BEST PRACTICES

- If Referees or AR's conduct an equipment check by lining players up, players must have 6 feet between them
- Referees and AR's will not handle player passes for league play; Referees and AR's will not ask for nor handle team rosters for league play
- Tournaments have the option to require Referees/AR's check rosters that include player photos or check player passes in order to ensure player eligibility. In that instance, sanitize hands before and after handling; masks are required for the Referee and AR's during that pregame check.
- Referees and AR's will not conduct a coin toss or a captain's meeting
- Home team will be deemed "winner" of coin toss and thereby select their first-half option



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SUBSTITUTIONS – BEST PRACTICES

- For a player in the game who is substituted for, he/she should immediately head directly to his/her team bench to leave the field of play.
- If substitutes are wearing a pinnie, player coming off the field should not take the pinnie from the substitute; he/she should put on his/her own pinnie when arrives at team bench; substitute should not have pinnie on while waiting to enter the game, should put in gear bag.



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DELIBERATE COUGHING – BEST PRACTICES

- DELIBERATELY coughing at or on an opponent or any other participant in the match is treated in the same way as spitting at or on an opponent and will result in an immediate red card.
- Spectators will be held to the same standard and Referees will have the same authority to enforce as they do with all other spectator-related issues.



2021 WVSA MATCH DAY BEST PRACTICES

TEAM BENCHES – BEST PRACTICES

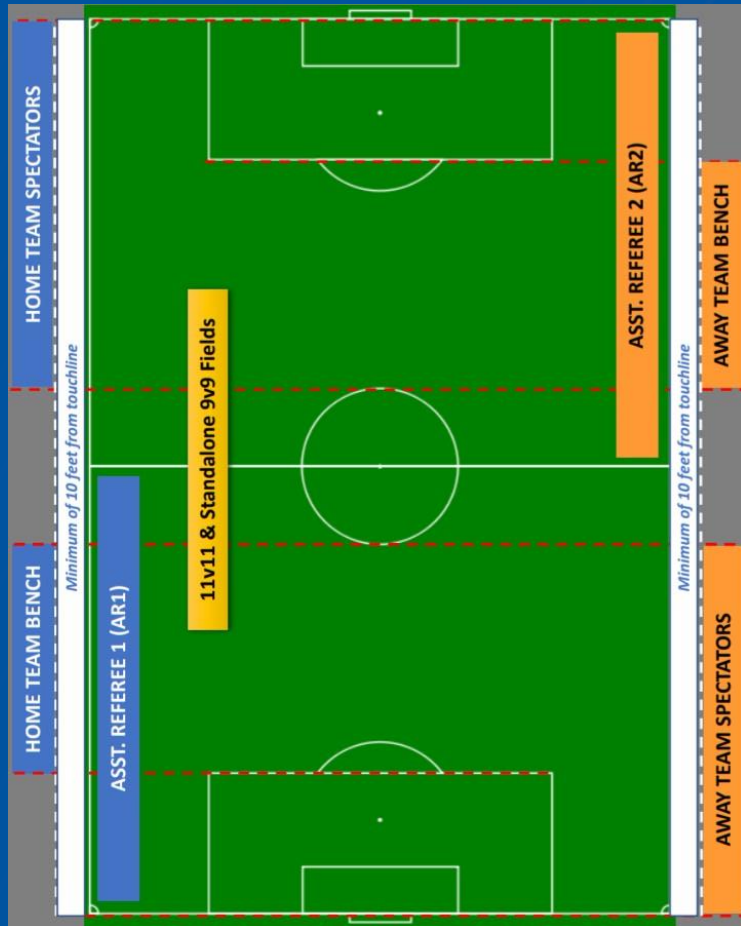
- The recommendation for the fall season is for facilities NOT to provide team benches.
- While on their team's sideline, players are to maintain a physical distance of 6 feet from others at all times. This makes a team bench essentially unusable.
- If a bench is present, the home club or facility personnel, whether professional, part-time or volunteer, will be responsible for sanitizing the team benches between every match.



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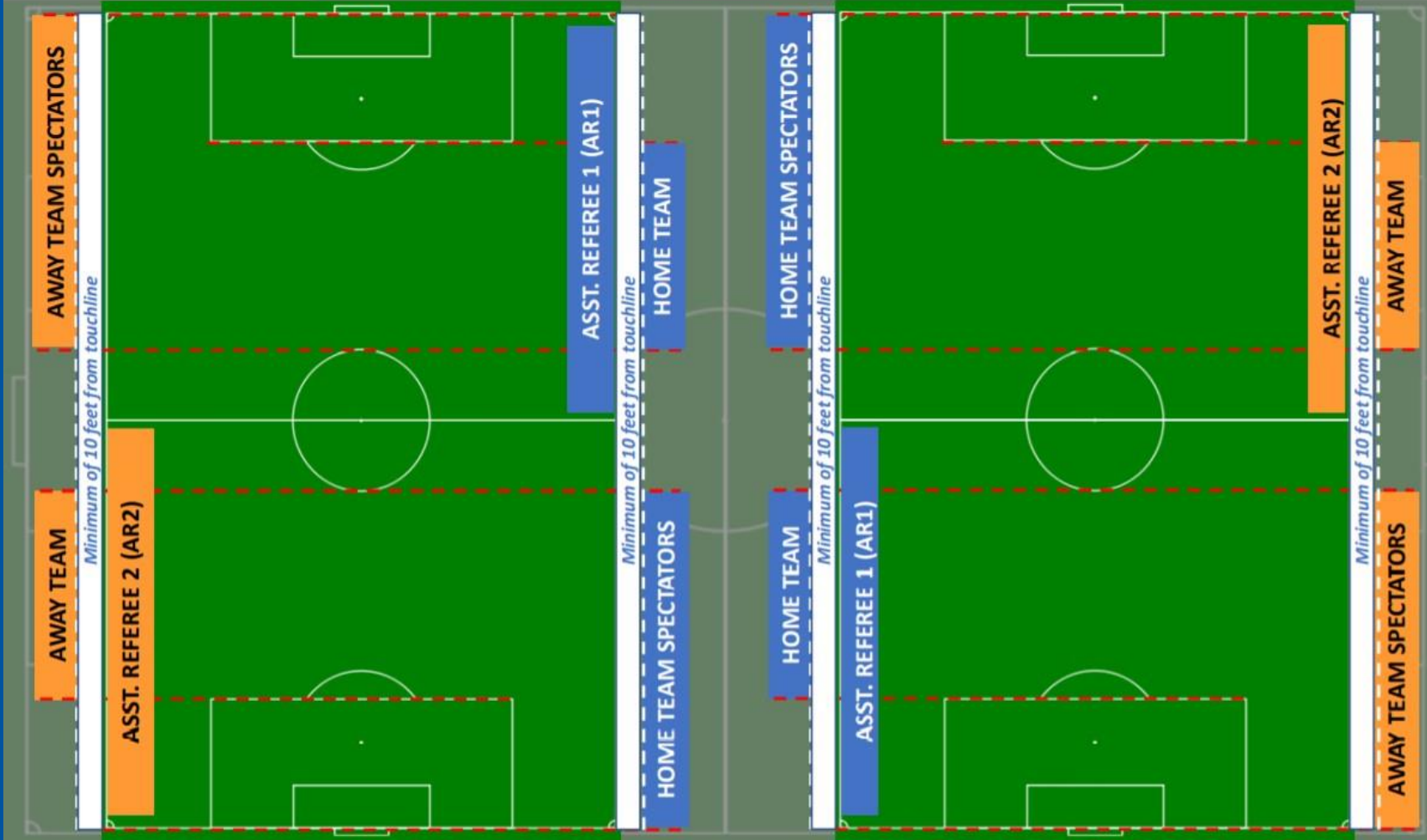
FIELDS & FACILITIES – BEST PRACTICES

- Teams will be placed on opposite sides of field, on the half of the field that the AR is on.
- Strongly recommended that team bench/technical and spectator areas are marked with/by painted areas.
- The home team will be on the AR1 side of the field.
- Parents and spectators will sit on the same side of field as their team, located on the other half of the field.
- Team technical area will be between the bottom of the center circle to the top of the penalty area (see diagram)
- See diagram for allowable areas for teams and spectators to be seated; minimum 10 feet back from the touchline
- Game transitions: next teams to play on that field should not enter technical areas until previous teams have left; same for parents and spectators
- Sanitize match balls, and if facility provides team benches, sanitize team benches
- As possible with scheduling, try to stagger or limit games being played at same time on side-by-side fields



2021 WVSA MATCH DAY BEST PRACTICES

Small-sided, side-by-side fields that go across a full-sized field



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For WVSA Return To Play
Guidelines, Protocols, & Tools
visit www.wvsoccer.net/rtp

