



## FLORIDA YOUTH SPRING FOOTBALL 2021 COVID CONTROL PROTOCOLS

### GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

This document provides a guideline for the YSF tournament football clubs to assist them in playing football in the spring of 2021. It is important that all directors, coaches, officials, parents, players and spectators recognize that while it is impossible to completely insulate everyone involved in our tournament from potential exposure to COVID, it is our joint responsibility to take every reasonable and appropriate measure to minimize potential exposure.

If a participant (whether director, coach, official, parent, player or spectator) is exposed (close contact) to an individual infected with COVID, or does become infected, we must take every reasonable and appropriate measure to assure that the individuals that are infected and exposed are properly quarantined and that all affected league participants and the YSF management team are notified. Our general guidelines are as follows:

1. We are following all applicable NFHS and Florida Department of Health guidelines. Each director of each club must be thoroughly familiar with these guidelines.
2. All league participants must also follow applicable local county, city and school district guidelines where they may impose more stringent restrictions than the YSF guidelines.
3. Each individual club/team should have a designated administrator, coach or parent responsible (named herein as the "Team COVID Director") for COVID control and communication of COVID related information to the team and the YSF management team. A verified exposure or positive test result must be immediately communicated to the YSF team Management and other teams directors whose teams have come into contact with the infected individual.
4. Any individual who tests positive or has been exposed to a person who tests positive must self-isolate and not participate in any in-person team activities, whether as player, coach, director, official, or spectator for a minimum of ten (10) days and also provide the designated Team COVID Director a doctor's verification that he or she is cleared to participate.
5. All decision makers involved in a COVID related decision must exercise good judgment and common sense, with the safety of all participants and our communities in general always of **PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE**.
6. Any team/club that is found to have **deliberately and materially** violated YSF guidelines will have its teams removed from the tournament for the remainder of the season. The YSF recognizes that teams and their coaches might face situations that present difficult decisions related to COVID exposure where immediate outside consultation is not available. All we ask is that our coaches and directors use good judgment and common sense in following these guidelines, and make decisions with the safety of YSF participants as the paramount consideration.

## SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

1. Waiver and Communication to Parents/Guardians – YSF requires every parent or legal guardian of every player sign the YSF COVID acknowledgement of risk waiver before participating in any practices or games. The COVID related acknowledgment of risk and waiver will be provided to the YSF in the same way as the current Medical and Liability waivers are provided.
2. Communication - All clubs/teams are encouraged to communicate the risks of COVID infection and the steps the YSF are taking to minimize those risks to parents in multiple ways. These communications include, but not necessarily limited to: team parent meetings, website information pages, and handouts.
3. Team COVID Directors – Each team/club is required to appoint a COVID Director who will be responsible for communication of COVID related information to the team and the YSF management team, the reporting of positive cases and outcomes.
4. Reporting - All instances of COVID infection must be immediately reported to the team Covid Director and the YSF management team, and any other football teams that may have been affected by the positive outcome of the player.
5. Practice Scheduling Restrictions
  - Team practices must be conducted with as much distancing between players as possible.
  - YSF recognizes that work on huddles, formations, defensive alignments, and the execution of basic plays are necessary but encourages as much distancing as possible for individual and position drills.
  - When team drills are conducted, they should be limited to fifteen (15) minutes or less at any one time. In other words, after fifteen (15) minutes of team offensive plays against cones or markers, the team should move to another set of drills that involve more distancing for at least fifteen (15) minutes before going back to team drills.
  - Coaches must strive to keep players not directly involved in drills a safe distance from each other.
  - All of these distancing guidelines remain in effect for the entire season.
  - No more than four (4) total events for a week (Monday – Sunday) are permitted.
6. Parent responsibilities for games and practices
  - Parents are obligated to monitor their child’s symptoms on a daily basis and must exercise extreme caution if their child exhibits COVID symptoms. Parents must screen their child for COVID symptoms before every practice and game and must report any known or possible exposure immediately to the team COVID Director. Immediate communication is the key to controlling any exposures or infections.
  - While YSF understands that some car pooling is occasionally a necessity, this should be kept to a minimum, and parents must take extreme caution to assure that distancing precautions are maintained to the extent possible, and that passengers wear masks during the drives to and from football. Parents must wash/clean all clothing and equipment worn by their child after each practice or game that the child wears the clothing and equipment.
7. Team responsibilities for games and practices
  - All players who attend practices or games must be screened by the designated team COVID Director before participating in the practice or game. Each player must be asked if he or she has experienced any COVID related symptoms, and if any family members or close contacts have become infected. Screening questions should include, at a minimum:
    - Have you had a temperature greater than 100.4 within the last 7 days?
    - Have you had any muscle aches not associated with exercise within the last 7 days?
    - Have you had any shortness of breath within the last 7 days?
    - Have you had any new or unusual cough, within the last 7 days?
  - Coaches should also conduct a physical test on each player, and take note of each players’ answers each day. The operative evaluation standard is: *“When in doubt, sit the player out and send the player home.”*

## 8. Face Masks and Social Distancing

- All coaches, assistants, and sideline personnel are required to wear masks (which can be face masks, shields, or any similar protective device) during all practices and games. Coaches and assistants can pull the masks down from time to time for the purposes of communicating to the team, as long as proper distancing is maintained. Any time coaches address the entire team, whether during practices or games, distancing is required to the extent possible.
- Spectators, whether parents or others, must not be allowed in close proximity to the team during practices. Spectators who choose to remain at a practice must stay a reasonable distance from the practice and must practice distancing from other spectators.
- All equipment used at practice should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected both before and after practice. Player equipment should be cleaned/disinfected after every contact practice or game – pants and jerseys should be washed, and equipment should be disinfected.
- Players and coaches must not share food, water, water bottles or other drinks during games and practices and must not engage in spitting, chewing gum, eating sunflower seeds, and similar activities.

## 9. General Contact guidelines

- All coaches and players must also avoid, to the extent possible, any unnecessary physical contact with teammates and other individuals (including handshakes, high fives and similar activity).
- Players are encouraged to wear full finger athletic gloves, and also wear masks when not directly participating in a game or practice activity.
- All participants are encouraged to thoroughly wash their hands before and after practices and games

## 10. Hand Sanitizer

- During practices all coaches for all teams must provide hand sanitizer to the players
- YSF certification clerks when checking in players ON THE FIELD prior games will provide hand sanitizer to every player before the start of the game.

## 11. Game guidelines

- During games, the ten foot restraining line between teams and spectators must be strictly enforced. Doing so allows team members and coaches on the sideline to remain separated, and also establishes separation between the teams and spectators. Spectators should be dispersed along the sidelines and end zones or in the stands to the extent possible, and, in addition, all local and city restrictions must be followed.
- YSF will require gate staff to take temperatures for all players and attendees at the gates.
- Spectators should be restricted to the area between the 25 yard lines.
- There will be an outdoor gathering limitation of 180 people per game per field at the facility. Generally, this should allow at least four (4) spectators for each game that is underway.
- Spectators are encouraged to wear face masks and maintain six foot distancing.
- Teams that are scheduled to play the following game should warm up as far from the game as possible, and their spectators should remain in their vehicle or stay away from the game field until the preceding game has finished and the teams and their spectators have completely vacated the proximate area of each game field.
- The host team along with the YSF certification staff are responsible for crowd control, and in the event that spectators are not adhering to distancing guidelines, the YSF field supervisor has the authority to request that the officials terminate the game immediately.
- Prior to the pre-game coin toss, coaches from each team must certify to the YSF certification staff that all participants have been screened, and to their knowledge, no infected players or players exhibiting COVID symptoms are participating.
- YSF has authority to terminate any game if it is clear to them that participants, coaches, or spectators are not complying with the tournament or governmental authorities.
- All coaches and sideline personnel are required to wear masks from the time warm-ups begin until their team has left the game site.
- Chain gang personnel are also required to wear masks during the game.
- Coaches should, to the extent possible, maintain distancing among players, coaches, and sideline

personnel while the game is underway, and should, to the extent possible, maintain distancing during time outs and halftime.

- Teams are encouraged to utilize alternatives to the traditional offensive huddle process by implementing “distance huddling”.
- Game balls should be cleaned/disinfected before the game, at halftime, and after the game.
- There will be no post game hand shake line.

12. Referees and YSF Certification clerk guidelines

- Referees must wear facemasks throughout the games only dropping them to communicate.
- YSF certification clerk must wear face masks all through their day working at the fields.
- Referees must require the players to place the ball for each down
- Referees should minimize the amount of direct contact they have with players and coaches
- Coaches should engage both the YSF certification clerks and the referees on issues providing the officials with a 6 feet social distancing guideline.
- YSF staff should conduct all pre game certification activities with a six foot social distancing guideline between themselves and players/coaches.
- In the event that a team has enough COVID infections that will result in the team not having enough players to play a scheduled game, the YSF must be informed immediately to enable the game and the opponent to be re-scheduled.

## DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

1. Symptoms of COVID-19 Infection – The following symptoms can indicate COVID-19:

- Most common symptoms:
  - Fever (equal or greater than 100.4 degrees F)
  - Cough
  - Shortness of Breath
- Less common symptoms:
  - Sore Throat
  - Congestion
  - Nausea and vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  - Headache
  - Muscle/Joint pain
  - Sudden loss of taste or smell
  - Chills

*Note: Some people do not have symptoms or have very mild symptoms. Persons with COVID-19 may be infectious two days prior to symptom onset.*

2. Close Contact and Exposure – close contact and/or exposure means any one of the following:

- Caring for a sick person with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection
- Living in the same household as anyone with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection
- An individual who has had close contact (less than 6 feet) for greater than or equal to 15 cumulative minutes with a person with known or suspected COVID-19 or possible COVID-19 infection.

In the cases of the first two bullets above, the team should consider the quarantine/self-isolation “automatic”. In the case of the third bullet above, the quarantine/self-isolation decision will be made by the teams Covid Director. If you are absolutely sure an individual had 15 or more minutes of close (less than 6 feet) contact with a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19, please ensure that the individual self isolates for 10 days from the last contact with the infected person.