



Town of Erie

2021 Guidelines for Returning to Soccer during COVID 19

Guidelines based off of the current Colorado State guidelines for Personal Recreation and Team Sports. Please note, state guidelines may be changed during the course of the season.

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/organized-sports>

There is an inherent risk when participating in any youth sports activity. The Town of Erie Sports Department has created these specific guidelines below in order to best mitigate risk in controllable situations.

Overview:

1. If any coach, staff member, player or family members of a player are experiencing any signs of illness, they cannot participate, come to the field and/or must leave the field if they become ill.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
2. All staff members, participants and spectators must screen for Covid-19 symptoms prior to entering any Town of Erie soccer facilities.
3. If at any time Erie P&R feels conditions become unsafe for their players, coaches, officials, sports staff, and/or families, we will end the fall season and look to issue prorated refunds.
4. If staff determine safety protocols are not being followed and it poses a significant risk of exposure to any individual, staff may deem conditions unsafe and suspend activities for that day.
5. Please read and adhere to all signage placed at all of our facilities.

Sanitizing/Masks:

1. All coaches, participants and spectators must wear masks at all times. Any person(s) not wearing a mask must be socially distanced by at least 6' from anyone outside of their household.
 - a. exception – players actively participating
2. Players do not need to wear masks while actively participating, but may wear one if they prefer to do so.
3. All participants should avoid touching their faces and should use hand sanitizer after touching faces or shared surfaces.
4. During practices, intrasquad scrimmages and games, coaches are encouraged to use hand sanitizer for all coaches/players before and after sessions, and throughout each session as needed.
5. The Town of Erie will provide coaches with hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes to use at practices, along with hand sanitizer stations on site for intrasquad scrimmages and games.
6. Coaches are asked to sanitize equipment before, during and after each team activity.
7. Staff will sanitizing bathrooms and frequently touched areas regularly.
8. Any equipment provided by the Town of Erie will be regularly sanitized before and after use.

Social Distancing:

1. Coaches, staff and spectators must keep a minimum of 6 feet distance from each other. This includes entering field complexes, warming-up, watching practices, during games, during intrasquad scrimmages and leaving field complexes.
2. Carpooling players from a different household is highly discouraged.
3. Participants and families are asked to arrive no earlier than **10 minutes** before practices, intrasquad scrimmages or games. Please allow everyone from the previous session to leave the area before setting up.
4. Coaches are asked to creatively work with players while maintaining social distancing.
5. Spectators will be asked to sit on the opposite side of the field from teams and must remain 12 feet off the field sideline while social distancing. Spectators should not mingle amongst other groups and should leave soccer facilities directly following the completion of the activity.
6. Spectators should be limited to parents and siblings only.
7. Only two at a time in the restroom and practice social distancing when in the line. Bathrooms are to be used at one's own risk.

Practice and Game Safety:

1. All activities will follow the maximum limit of players per field based on current state guidance (currently 25 players), not including coaches, officials, sports staff and spectators.
2. Coaches should plan practice activities that minimize contact. Focus on stations and small groups.
3. Players are encouraged to bring their own ball to practice and avoid sharing it as much as possible. All soccer balls brought to practice must be sanitized prior to the start of practice.
4. If sharing is necessary (i.e. goalie gloves, soccer balls) equipment must be sanitized before sharing.
5. Players should not touch each other outside of game play; No high fives, fist bumps or handshakes, etc.
6. Families are encouraged to help coaches with sanitizing hands of participants and cleaning equipment.
7. No congregating in team huddles at any time, address the team while everyone is social distancing. Teams should acknowledge one another and officials after the game with a wave and thank you!
8. There will be no throw ins. When the ball goes out of bounds, the team with possession will take an indirect free kick at the point where the ball left the field.
9. Teams must use a new sanitized ball at the start of each half and after every goal. Teams should have sanitized balls ready to be entered into the game at all times.
10. Each player should have their own bottle for water/sports drinks/etc.
11. No sharing of food or drinks between individuals except for emergency situations, and any snacks provided to the team should be prepackaged. No spitting of sunflower seeds, gum, or other similar products.
12. Games will be played every third week with intrasquad scrimmages and skills clinics scheduled on the off weeks.

Equipment provided by Town of Erie:

Off-site Practice equipment – Cones, Soccer Balls, First Aid Kit, Hand Sanitizer, and Sanitizing Wipes