

2020 Church League Soccer Plan

Goals:

1. Continue to minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the kids.
2. Keep everyone safe and healthy.
3. Maintain a sense of normalcy and allow the kids to play soccer.

All of our policies and protocols for this season are meant to accomplish these three goals, in that order. Please note that all of these policies are subject to change as conditions and government regulations change.

Health and Safety:

- As of right now, per the governor's orders, masks are NOT required when players are actively involved in play. However, they are required for those not involved in play unless players are able to maintain a 6-foot distance from others (e.g. team devotions/huddles, on the sideline, etc.) The same applies for coaches and spectators: masks must be worn unless you are able to maintain a 6-foot distance from non-household members. Feel free to contact Chris Lieberman with any questions.
- For practices, each coach will receive their own set of cones to use for the season. For the soccer balls, we will have a bag available for each team again this season to use during practice. Coaches will be asked to disinfect all balls upon returning them.
- We ask that coaches do not use shared equipment (pinnies, etc.) for practices or games. Try to structure drills so that players are not standing in long lines, close together for prolonged periods of time. Try to focus on drills with minimal contact, ones that players can do while spaced out. Also try to break the team into smaller groups that stick together throughout the practice when possible. Ideas for these drills can be found on our sports resource page at kids.ccphilly.org/sports (click on the "Sports Resources" button).
- At practices, each team will have their own designated practice area. Teams should not scrimmage one another during practice.
- On game days, there will be a station at each field with balls, disinfecting wipes, and hand sanitizer. Balls will be disinfected at halftime and between games. Players are encouraged to use sanitizer after each game.
- Rather than "community goalie equipment," each team will have their own individual set of goalie pinnies/gloves, which will be washed each week. Coaches will return their used goalie equipment at the end of each game.
- For the B league (6-7s) and up, there will be a designated "parent sideline" and "team sideline." The team sideline will allow plenty of space for teams to huddle while distanced and sit spaced apart. Spectators will be asked to sit 6 feet apart and/or wear a mask and be 6 feet from the field.
- There will be designated areas for teams to do devotions.
- In the A league (4-5s), each team will sit on opposite sidelines. Kids will sit with parents when not in the game.
- Surfaces in the bathrooms will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Team snacks or shared snacks will not be allowed this year. Players should each have their own water bottle, clearly labeled with their name on it. It is recommended that players bring a labeled bag to store their water and mask in on the sidelines.

- Players may not share equipment (cleats, shin guards, uniforms, etc.)
- There will be no parking in the spaces by the field in order to maximize the space that can be used for entering/exiting the field.

Changes to gameplay:

- This year, the field layout will be different. The 13-17s will play on the 10-12s field and the 8-9s will play on the 6-7s field.
- Because they are playing on smaller fields, the E league will play with 7 plus a keeper.
- We are trying to encourage parents not to bring sick kids. Therefore, we will be relaxed with our minimum player limits. If one team does not have enough players, the other team will play down to that team's number. If both coaches agree, the length of the game can be reduced as well if there are less players.
- As we will not be using shared goalie equipment, teams may only use 2 different goalies per game.
- Pre-game will be between just the two captains. Coaches will be responsible for making sure their players are in uniform. Referees will inform coaches of anything that need to be shared with the team.
- Sportsmanship is still important. Instead of post-game handshakes, teams will line up and clap for the other team after each game. Teams are encouraged to get creative with this and make up their own cheer for the other team if they would like.

Other changes:

- Instead of regular uniforms, we will have colored t-shirts. Players can feel free to decorate their uniform with numbers and designs.
- There will be no opening day parade this year. Instead, we are encouraging teams (particularly in the younger age groups) to do a "mini-parade" with their team the first week (basically, announce your team to the parents, let them take pictures, etc.)
- For the B/C league, goalie gloves will be disposable garden gloves. For the D/E league, during practices we will have 2 "primary goalies" per team get sized with gloves to use throughout the whole season. Disposable gloves will be available for any stand-in goalies throughout the season.
- Snack stand is TBD.

Parents and Spectators:

- The best way to prevent sickness from spreading is for sick children (and adults) not to come. No one with flu-like symptoms or any other illness should come to the field. It's better for one child to miss a game than for the entire league to be cancelled. Parents are asked to screen your child for symptoms before coming to practices/games. Coaches should ask any child who is not feeling well, is coughing, etc. to go home. We will reserve the right to insist a child leave.
- If someone who goes to the field later tests positive for Covid-19, please contact Chris Lieberman. The names of individuals who self-report will be kept anonymous in communication to others who may have come in contact.
- This season, we are trying to limit spectators at the game. As much as possible, try only to bring members of the household that need to be there. We ask that those outside the

household not come this season unless absolutely necessary. The elderly and those with underlying medical conditions also should not come to the field.

- At least for practices, we ask that families use the restroom before coming.
- We ask that all parents, players, and coaches refrain from congregating on the field or in the parking lot.
- Health and safety info will be sent to the parents. The key to this season working out is for everyone to abide by the plan, be safe, and use common sense.

CDC guidelines for preventing the spread of Covid-19:

- Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible, or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a sleeve or elbow, not hands
- Do not shake hands
- Regularly clean high-contact surface areas
- When sick, stay at home

Symptoms of Covid-19:

- **Fever or chills**
- **Cough**
- **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 14 days, has been in close contact with someone who has, or is exhibiting these symptoms must stay home.

Sources:

- PA guidelines for sports reopening: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/sports-guidance/>
- CDC guidelines for youth sports: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>

If you have any questions or concerns about these policies, please contact Chris Lieberman at clieberman@ccphilly.org.