



MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION



PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND FACIAL COVERINGS

In accordance with and based on the EEA Safety Standards for Youth and Adult Amateur Sports activities mandates, Phase IV Step 1 effective May 18, 2021

For Youth aged 18 years and under when outdoors and engaged in moderate risk sports (soccer), a mask will not be required. Players will be required to continue to wear a face covering (mask) when entering and exiting the facility, in all common areas where 6' of social distancing can not be maintained and on the bench when not engaged in playing on the field. At their parent's discretion, players may continue to wear a mask while playing soccer.

For participants aged 19 years and older when outdoors and engaged in moderate risk sports (soccer) where social distancing can not be continually maintained (soccer) a face covering must be worn while actively playing. The player may remove the face covering for frequent short mask breaks to catch their breath when they are out of proximity of other players (at least 6') using caution to avoid touching the front or inside of the face covering by using the ear loops to remove and replace.

For the purpose of this guidance a facial covering means a face mask that completely covers the nose and mouth. Only face coverings that are secure with loops around a player's ears are acceptable. Masks with exhalation valves or vents (including mesh masks) are not acceptable and should NOT be worn by anybody. Face coverings must be a separate accessory.

All participants must wear facial coverings on the bench or sidelines at all times and in any huddles or time-outs from active play. This includes players with a medical exemption. This requirement applies to all coaches, staff, and referees and any other officials. Referees age 18 and younger do not need to wear a face covering while on the field of play officiating a game. The use of electronic whistles or similar non-traditional whistles by all referees is required. Unless otherwise specified by the league or facility any type of CDC recommended facial covering may be worn by these parties.

Some town, city and regional Boards of Health as well as leagues may impose more restrictive measures for facial coverings for participants and spectators. If so, these restrictions take precedence.

If conditions are so severe as to warrant masks too dangerous to wear, the competition must be delayed, postponed or cancelled