

GUIDANCE FOR FALL 2020

RUTLAND REC SOCCER LEAGUE

Updated August 31, 2020

Thank you all for working together to create the safest and best possible outcome for the children in our communities this fall. As you all are aware, this season is going to look different and there will be some up front organization on our part to be sure our players and parents understand the policies and procedures for the season.

GUIDELINES:

Per the discussion during our league meeting and the recommendations put forward by the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE), we will be adhering to the rules and guidance put in place by the Vermont Principals' Association (VPA).

VPA GUIDELINE link

<https://vpaonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/AOE-Fall-Sports-Guidance.pdf>

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All sports will begin in **PHASE II**. This means we may all begin practices but there can be no competition outside of our team/school. When the Governor and VT Department of Education (not the VPA) feel we are ready for **PHASE III**, we must remain “in-house” for a minimum of 5 days before we are allowed to begin competitions with other teams. Our league will move forward with the plan to start our first “cross-town” competition among teams on September 26th. If Vermont does not move into PHASE III until a later date, we will continue to practice flexibility and push the schedule back to the following week.

If your school and/or team experiences a Covid related shutdown and/or illness outbreak, it is the responsibility of that program to communicate that information with the League Commissioner as soon as possible.

TEAM POLICIES & PROCEDURES:

All players and coaches **MUST** wear a mask upon entering the practice field and through the duration of practice. **Upon entering practice all coaches (or designated covid-safety volunteer) will be required to do the following:**

*Take temperature of each player

If a player's temperature reads at or above 100.4 they must be sent home. If they must wait for a ride please guide them to a location that is well away from the team but within view of you to see that they have been picked up. Make note of the athlete and what that temperature was on your log/attendance sheet.

*Create a log/attendance sheet every practice

Keep this documentation on file for the duration of the entire season and then at least 14 days following the final day your team plays together. If your program allows spectators during practice or in-house scrimmages, those spectators must also be added to the attendance sheet for contact tracing purposes.

*Ask each player the health and safety questions related to COVID symptoms or exposure

If a player answers yes to any of the questions they must be sent home. If they must wait for a ride please guide them to a location that is well away from the team but within view of you to see that they have been picked up. Make note of the athlete and what question they responded yes to on your log/attendance sheet.

*Coaches must notify the Athletic Director/Rec Director of any of these situations immediately so it can be reported back to the school when applicable. We are all working together to maintain safety and limit exposure. Effective communication and collaboration is essential.

*Be sure to create areas in which players maintain proper social distancing for water breaks, getting ready, and keeping their bags. Players should be encouraged to get ready prior to arrival or at their car so they can just bring their water bottle and mask out to the field.

*During practice and/or games, if cones/pugs are used ONLY the coach will be able to touch them for set up, adjustment and pick up.

*Use of pinneys: If small group games are generated for scrimmages due to low numbers, players must keep the same pinney for the entire scrimmage, unless they are given a new one that has not been worn by another player. When collecting pinneys, coaches should have a drop location for all used pinneys and they MUST be washed for the next day (unfortunately by the coach or program). As the host organization for game play, Rutland Recreation will bring pinnies to help compensate for alterations. Our goal is to get these kids out and playing without compromising safety.

LEAGUE UPDATES:

As our schools resume classes next week and we try to recruit players for our teams, please encourage others to be open-minded in creating co-ed teams when needed. Again, the goal for this fall is to get kids outside on the field learning, having fun, and being physically active. With

that said, **the deadline for team rosters will be September 18th** so we can generate a game schedule with additional time between matches.

LOCATION:

This year's games will NOT be held at Meadow Street Park. Game locations for all U10 games will be at Rutland Recreation Community Center (71 Clement Rd.) and all U12 games will be held at Giorgetti Field (2 Oak Street Extension) unless otherwise indicated.

SPECTATORS:

Some schools and programs are choosing not to allow spectators. As our first competitions will not be held until the end of September, Rutland Rec will be following relevant updates and will make an educated decision regarding rules for spectatorship by the team roster deadline, September 18th. If we decide to allow spectators, masks will be required and numbers will be limited.

I know this can be overwhelming, but we will get through it as long as we are proactive with our planning. We are fortunate that we can have a season at all so let's make the best of it and give the players an opportunity to have a fun, positive season. Best of luck gathering your teams as the school year commences!

Thank you all!

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