



# Radnor Soccer Club

## **2021 SAFE PLAY POLICY**

Revision 2.2 – Updated August 14, 2021

## I. **IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER**

By registering to participate in Radnor Soccer Club “RSC” programs; parents and players acknowledges the highly contagious nature of Covid-19 and solely and voluntarily assumes the risk of exposure or infection. Parents and players further acknowledge that exposure to Covid-19, and any subsequent infection thereof, may result in expenses, illness, injury, disability or death. Consequently, parents and players agree to release, covenant not to sue, discharge and hold harmless Radnor Soccer Club, including club personnel, Board members, officials, managers, coaches, and volunteers, from any claims arising from Covid-19 exposure or infection before, during or after participation in an RSC program. In addition to all other rules related to the participation in RSC programs, parents and players agree to comply with all Covid-related protocols and procedures, including, but not limited to, mask-wearing, social-distancing, vaccinations, and quarantines, whether implemented by Radnor Soccer Club or health officials.

## II. **INTRODUCTION**

Radnor Soccer Club (RSC) has developed these Safe Play Guidelines in an effort to keep its players, volunteers and league officials safe during play. RSC cannot ensure that participants will not contract COVID-19 or suffer any injury or illness during play however, these guidelines are believed to be best practices on organizing, playing, and watching youth soccer in accordance with COVID-19 guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The World Health Organization (WHO), local youth soccer regulatory associations, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and local governmental entities and health officials.

Participation in RSC is strictly voluntary. Families may decide not to participate in the club this season or until the COVID-19 pandemic is over given the potential risks involved. All club personnel, Board members, officials, managers, coaches, and families that choose to participate are mandated to review these guidelines and to comply with the guidance offered herein for everyone’s safety. Individuals who participate but fail to abide by these guidelines may be asked to leave a practice, game or be dismissed from a team, at their own expense.

All persons reviewing these guidelines should also review the published recommendations from Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer <https://www.epysa.org/covid-19-resources/>.

**Important note:** These guidelines are written to address all Radnor Soccer Club programs. Certain sections of this document may not apply to the program in which a player is participating.

### **Questions related to the 2021 Safe Play Guidelines should be directed to:**

- **RSC Executive Committee and Safety Officer Primary Contacts**
  - Marc Verbos; Board Vice President – [marcverbos@radnorsoccerclub.org](mailto:marcverbos@radnorsoccerclub.org)
  - Jeff Adams; RSC Safety Officer and Board Director - [jeffadams@radnorsoccerclub.org](mailto:jeffadams@radnorsoccerclub.org)
- **Travel Program Contacts:** Emily Hippler; RSC Head of Travel - [emilyhippler@radnorsoccerclub.org](mailto:emilyhippler@radnorsoccerclub.org) or Travel Coaching Director, Kirk Johnson - [kirkjohnson@radnorsoccerclub.org](mailto:kirkjohnson@radnorsoccerclub.org),
- **Recreation Program Contacts:** Mike English; Head of RSL - [mikeenglish@radnorsoccerclub.org](mailto:mikeenglish@radnorsoccerclub.org), or RSL Administrator at [RSLRegistrar@RadnorSoccerClub.org](mailto:RSLRegistrar@RadnorSoccerClub.org),

The RSC Board of Directors have resolved to promulgate and enforce these guidelines to the best of its ability.

**Important note:** Radnor Soccer Club has a zero-tolerance policy for families who don’t comply with the RSC Safe Play Guidelines and elects to knowingly let their child play when feeling ill or testing positive for COVID-19, will be dismissed from the club for the remainder of the year without refund.

## **DISEASE PREVENTION STRATEGIES**

### **A. Pre-Arrival / When to Stay at Home**

Any RSC coach, official, volunteers, players, or family members should stay at home and NOT attend practices, games, or other club sponsored events if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms, or if they have recently had a close contact with a person with COVID-19 symptoms.

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

### **COVID-19 symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and include:**

- 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

**This list does not include all possible symptoms.** The CDC continues to update this list as more is learned about COVID-19. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

All persons planning to attend RSC practices, games and / or club events should check to be sure that those who will be present at any RSC facility are not exhibiting any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 **BEFORE** leaving their home. In addition, parents should check their players' temperature **BEFORE** arriving for practice, games and / or league events. Any player with a temperature reading greater than **100.4 F** and/or who displays **ANY** of the listed COVID- 19 symptoms **MUST STAY HOME**.

While the Radnor Soccer Club will do everything to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all players, coaches, parents, volunteers, officials, and club personnel, it is explicitly understood, and acknowledged by each player and parent that the responsibility of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all RSC players rests on the parents and players to complete all necessary pre-screening requirements prior to any schedule practice, game, or club event.

Prior to arrival at the field for any practice, game, or other club event, all players are required to complete a "wellness-screen" questionnaire through their TeamSnap account and submit their responses. This questionnaire will include general questioning about how the player is feeling and whether or not the player is exhibiting any of the above listed COVID-19 symptoms. The questionnaire can be found under the "Schedule" section within the TeamSnap app.

**Important note:** EVERY player is required to complete the questionnaire prior to each practice, game, or club event.

Any player who arrives at a field for a practice, game, or club event and has not completed the questionnaire will be prohibited from participating in the event and asked to leave the field or facility.

## **B. Arrival at Practice / Games / League Events**

On arrival at the field, all players will be required to check-in with their team coach and/or club official designated as the "site-lead" (depending on facility). Depending on the current recommendations from health officials, players may have their temperature checked and recorded with a non-contact infrared thermometer that will be available at all RSC playing locations. **Important note:** this does not replace or serve as an alternative to the pre-screen questionnaire and required temperature checks submission that must be submitted and on file as outlined above.

Any player that "fails" the "well-screen" will **NOT** be permitted to engage in the practice, game or event and will be asked to leave the facility immediately in order to ensure the health and safety of everyone else present. Further, any player who exhibits emerging symptoms of COVID-19 or any other illness during a practice, game or event will likewise be asked to leave the facility immediately.

To the extent that supplies are available and practical, all players and coaches will be asked to wash their hands with soap and water or with an alcohol-based hand cleaner upon arrival and before the commencement of the practice, game or club event.

## **C. TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS**

Information pertaining to the most up-to-date travel restrictions can be found at <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

## **D. Occupancy Limits**

Each individual game or practice at an RSC facility must adhere to the current Pennsylvania gathering ~~occupancy~~ limits current guidelines and information can be found by visiting: <https://www.pa.gov/guides/responding-to-covid-19/>

If multiple games are to be held at the same facility, adequate time shall be scheduled between contests to allow for facilities to be cleaned and disinfected as feasible, and to minimize interaction between athletes. Radnor Township sports complexes with multiple fields may operate simultaneous games or practices on fields within a complex, as permitted under the occupancy guidelines in place at that time.

## **E. Use of Club Equipment**

During the 2021 season, RSC discourages the use of any shared equipment. To the extent possible, all players and coaches shall refrain from sharing personal soccer and protective equipment. If equipment must be shared (as may be the case at times), then all shared equipment should be properly disinfected with an EPA approved disinfectant against COVID-19 between users by a coach or other club volunteer. RSC will endeavor to provide said disinfectant solutions at all facilities to the extent practicable and based upon availability of supplies.

Upon completion of any practice, game, or club event, all club equipment including soccer balls, goals, and cones should be disinfected.

During games, officials should limit their contact with the ball to the extent possible. Players should retrieve out-of-bounds balls, where possible, and at no time, should any spectator retrieve the ball.

#### **F. Sidelines and Fields**

RSC is committed to maintaining safe and healthy facilities for all club events by employing the use of EPA approved disinfectant against COVID- 19 before practices and games, to the extent practicable and based upon availability of supplies.

During all games, players shall store their equipment in the designated sidelines areas along the exterior parameter of the field and / or along the fence in the player-waiting area adjacent to the fields. Players are to obtain their own equipment from their designated area without moving their bags during play.

When on the sideline, players and coaches should maintain social distancing recommendations whenever possible and be lined up, or seated, in the designated player-waiting area (as each RSC facility allows).

**RSC's Position Regarding the CDC's Updated Masking Guideline for Fully Vaccinated Individuals:** RSC's policy pertaining to COVID protocols has been to follow the recommended guidelines provided by state and local health officials, and, as such, the RSC policies will be updated accordingly. The current CDC published masking guidance for fully vaccinated individuals; *"To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission. Wearing a mask is most important if you have a weakened immune system or if, because of your age or an underlying medical condition, you are at increased risk for severe disease, or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated. If this applies to you or your household, you might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission in your area. You should continue to wear a mask where required by laws, rules, regulations, or local guidance."* Additional information can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>.

RSC is **not** equipped, and **does not** desire, to "police" the vaccination status of the players, coaches, officials, or parents affiliated with the club. Players, coaches, officials, and parents should exercise their own judgement and, if fully vaccinated, can adhere to the fully vaccinated masking recommendations brought forth by the CDC and PA Department of Health.

Radnor Soccer Club assumes no liability for any individual that may contract the COVID-19 virus, vaccinated or non, by way of the individual's personal decision related to face coverings. RSC does recommend that all individuals, including those fully vaccinated, continue to wear face coverings at any indoor events for individuals when not actively involved and engaged on the field of play.

**Masking remains a wholly personal decision and RSC respects each individual's right to make this decision for themselves and/or their player(s), as long as such decision follows the current recommendations of health officials.**

**For home games, we will come to agreement with the visiting team. If the visiting team would prefer to wear masks, we will do so also. For away games, we will defer to the home team, which means if they want to wear masks we will do so also.**

**Spectators, parents and coaches should follow masking guidance promulgated by Pennsylvania and our local municipalities.**

Nonessential visitors and spectators at games should be limited, when possible. RSC kindly requests that spectators be limited to player's parents and immediate family when possible. Parents are asked to refrain from attending practices when possible and to drop off / pick up their players. Parents **MUST** be available by phone during all practices and games in the event that their player exhibits signs of emerging illness while at the facility. RSC understands that this may not be possible for younger divisions and other divisions of the club's rec. programs and therefore asks parents and coaches use their best judgement when necessary, in determining spectator attendance based on age groups.

Family members, and other spectators are **NOT** permitted to enter any designated player areas, the field of play, or other areas outside of the designated spectator areas at any time or for any reason (other than to attend to an injured player as requested by an official or coach). Spectators should follow the recommended social distancing and masking guidelines at all times within the designated spectator area. RSC policy will follow the recommended guidelines provided by state and local health officials and will change in accordance with these guidelines.

Radnor Township and RSC reserve the right to erect barricades and / or to otherwise demarcate entrances and exits, pick-up and drop-off locations and spectator viewing areas at all facilities in order to prevent or limit unsafe congregation or crowding. Family members, friends and other spectators in attendance must strictly adhere to all field

signs and / or directions from Township officials, club officials, referees and coaches.

#### **G. Public Facilities**

Radnor Township will make all decisions as to whether or not public restrooms and water fountains will be available for use during the 2021 RSC season.

RSC recommends that all players, coaches, and spectators bring their own water / drinks to practices and games. Teams are not permitted to set up shared water coolers or any other type of shared beverages or food during the 2021 season. Coaches and players should label their own water / beverage bottles prior to arriving at the facility, and these should be kept with each player's equipment so as to avoid any confusion or unintentional shared use.

If the public restrooms are open at RSC facilities during the 2021 season, then RSC recommends that only 1 person be inside and using the restroom at a time. Parents should accompany their child to the restroom to be sure that this practice is being followed. Everyone using a public restroom should ALWAYS be sure to wash their hands with soap and water prior to exiting the restroom. If soap and water is not immediately available, then an alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be used instead.

To the extent any facilities are operating, social distancing must be followed at all times, and the following of any signs or published rules of use should be considered mandatory.

#### **H. Social Distancing**

All players, coaches, volunteers, club officials, referees, and spectators should practice current social distancing recommendations when with individuals not residing within their household, wherever and whenever possible, and during all RSC practices, games, and league events.

#### **I. Personal Protective Equipment**

Face coverings are not intended to protect the wearer, but rather to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 from the person wearing the mask (who may not have any symptoms of disease).

**Masking remains a wholly personal decision and RSC respects each individual's right to make this decision for themselves and/or their player(s), as long as such decision follows the current recommendations of health officials.**

**For home games, we will come to agreement with the visiting team. If the visiting team would prefer to wear masks, we will do so also. For away games, we will defer to the home team, which means if they want to wear masks we will do so also.**

**Spectators, parents and coaches should follow masking guidance promulgated by Pennsylvania and our local municipalities.**

Players should not wear protective medical gloves on the field during game play.

These policies are subject to change and will follow the recommended guidelines provided by state and local health officials.

### **III. MODIFIED GAME PROCEDURES & RULES**

#### **A. Pre-Game Meetings**

The holding of pre-game meetings is strongly discouraged. If a meeting is to be held, then social distancing between individuals should be implemented during the meeting. Meetings should only consist of one coach from each team, and game officials. No players should ever be a part of pre-game meetings.

#### **B. Referee Positioning**

Referees should maintain a safe distance from players, coaches, and other officials during play at all times whenever possible and are encouraged to referee games from the sidelines.

#### **Spitting, Gum, etc.**

Spitting, gum, etc. will NOT be allowed on field during the 2021 season. All players and coaches are to refrain from spitting at all times, including on sideline areas and on the playing field.

#### **C. Effort to Avoid Collisions and Close Proximity of Players**

Due to the nature of the sport, it is understood that players, during games will be in close proximity and have potential for collision with other players. Players should refrain from entering goalie boxes and avoid gathering in groups as much as possible when play is suspended.

Coaches are encouraged to utilize practice drills and techniques that limit close proximity of players whenever possible

and limit practice scrimmaging and other activity that require players to be in close contact. It is understood that this will not always be possible and coaches should use their best discretion to make the decisions.

#### **D. Traditions and Sportsmanship**

Players should avoid huddles, shaking hands, fist bumps, high fives or other displays of unity or sportsmanship before, during and after games and practices. Players should limit unnecessary physical contact with teammates, other athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators. The post-game “handshake” with the opposing team should be replaced with a “salute” from each team’s respective sideline, or other creative gesture.

### **IV. NOTIFICATION OF ILLNESS**

**For RSC travel programs**, the Board Director that serves as the head of travel programs (**Emily Hippler**), Travel Director of Coaching (**Kirk Johnson**), should be contacted **IMMEDIATELY** upon an RSC travel player, coach, or official testing positive for COVID-19. Upon contact, travel program leadership will confer with the RSC Risk Committee Director; **Marc Verbos**, RSC Board Vice President and RSC Safety Officer; **Jeff Adams** to make the determination of the level of exposure classification and what appropriate actions / notifications are necessary under the guidance provided by the Chester County Health Department.

**For RSL (rec) programs**, the Board Director that serves as the head of RSL programs (**Mike English**), and the RSL Registrar, should be contacted **IMMEDIATELY** upon an RSC travel player, coach, or official testing positive for COVID-19. Upon contact, travel program leadership will confer with the RSC Risk Committee Director; **Marc Verbos**, RSC Board Vice President and RSC Safety Officer; **Jeff Adams** to make the determination of the level of exposure classification and what appropriate actions / notifications are necessary under the guidance provided by the Chester County Health Department.

In accordance with state and local privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations, RSC will notify local health officials, coaches, referees/officials, and any families that were in “close contact” with the affected player so that those individuals can then determine whether or not they need to be tested for COVID- 19 and / or isolated / quarantined.

In order to assist with proper notifications and contact tracing, all RSC coaches are required to keep a log of all players who attend practices and games. Correspondingly, families **MUST** update TeamSnap **BEFORE** any practice or game and **MUST** keep TeamSnap updated with any changes through the occurrence of the practice or game. Families should also be prepared to arrive 15 minutes earlier than usual to all events in order to allow sufficient time for each player to have a “well-screen.”

**Marc Verbos**  
Risk Committee Director  
RSC Board Vice President

**Jeff Adams**  
RSC Safety Officer

## RSC SAFE PLAY CHECKLIST FOR 2021 SEASON

### Pre-Game/Pre-Practice Logistics

- Prior to arrival at the field for any practice, game, or other club event, all players are required to complete a “wellness-screen” questionnaire through their TeamSnap account and submit their responses. The questionnaire can be found under the “Schedule” section within the TeamSnap app.
- Coaches or club officials will verify that the player has completed the “wellness-screen” questionnaire via TeamSnap prior to the player being permitted onto the field.
- Drop off ONLY for practices *\*unless specific age-group or division rules state otherwise.*
- Players shall store equipment in the designated sidelines areas only located along the exterior parameter of the field and / or along the fence.
- Players are to obtain their own equipment from their designated area without moving their bags during play.

### Practice and Game Logistics

- Avoid equipment sharing
- Disinfection of shared equipment between users
- Ball retrieval limited to players
- Players retrieve playing equipment and beverages from their individual equipment placement location without moving their equipment bags from the placement location
- **RSC is not equipped, and does not desire, to “police” the vaccination status of the players, coaches, officials, or parents affiliated with the club. Players, coaches, officials, and parents should exercise their own judgement and, if fully vaccinated, can adhere to the fully vaccinated masking recommendations brought forth by the CDC and PA Department of Health.**
- NO non-players, non-coaches, or non-officials are permitted at any time on the field of play unless requested by a coach or official.
- Spectators are only permitted within the designated spectator areas and practice social-distancing with 6 feet between persons from different households and wear a mask, or acceptable face covering at all times.
- One person in the restroom at a time

### Game Play Modifications

- Referees should maintain social distancing whenever possible.
- **NO** pre-game meetings
- **NO** spitting, or gum
- **NO** post-game “handshake” with the opposing team - should be replaced with a “salute” or other creative gesture

### Required Notifications

- **MUST** notify RSC if any player tests positive for COVID-19 or becomes symptomatic
- **MUST** keep TeamSnap updated to allow for contact tracing
- Coaches **MUST** keep attendance listing for all practices and game