



# Gardner Parks and Recreation

## *2020 FALL SOCCER LEAGUE - COVID GUIDELINES*

Effective August 14th the following protocols & recommendations will be in place for the Fall 2020 youth soccer season. The purpose of this information is to provide as best as possible, a safe environment at all our league Sports Complexes and to comply with local government recommendations. Every attempt was made to uphold the integrity of the game in its original form as much as possible.

**\*Disclaimer: These guidelines can change before or during the season and are contingent on the Kansas Recreation and Park Association's and KSHSAA Guidelines.**

### **SAFETY PROTOCOLS:**

1. No one should attend or participate in league play if they currently have symptoms or have been in contact with anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days.
2. Parents/Guardians should monitor their children's health by checking temperatures and watching for any symptoms of COVID-19 prior to bringing them to practices or games.
3. Sidelines – Each team along with their spectators will utilize a separate sideline. Sideline areas should be socially distanced when players are not on the field and when players are not in the game.
4. Masks - Coaches are **required** to wear a mask when in contact with their team. Players are exempt from wearing a mask when they are actively participating in the activity. It is recommended that players on sidelines wear a mask when not actively participating.
5. Equipment -Soccer balls, will be sanitized before, at halftime, and after each game. Mouth guards – **will not** be worn this season to protect from the transfer of saliva.
6. Huddles - Communication with the team needs to follow social distancing guidelines.
7. At the conclusion of the game, no handshakes. Instead, teams should line up on their respective sideline and use an appropriate sign of respect. This act of sportsmanship should be initiated by the coaches and officials.

8. No spitting. Spitting will result in automatic removal from the field.
9. Drinking fountains will not be in service. Players must bring their own water bottles. Do not use team water coolers.
10. Frequency of cleaning at the facility has been increased however there is no guarantee that surfaces are sanitized. This includes picnic tables and playground equipment.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. The wearing of face covering is encouraged for spectators at the Sports Complex. Players, may wear face coverings if they choose. Face coverings may be homemade, or store bought.
2. Participants and coaches should wash/sanitize their hands and equipment after each game.
3. Teams are encouraged to provide hand sanitizer for use before, during and after the game.
4. Social distancing is recommended whenever possible. Teams are encouraged not to gather as a group within close proximity of one another for pre or post game meetings.
5. Once your games have concluded, please leave the soccer field area. Do not remain to watch other games.
6. We strongly encourage those individuals who are at high risk (Senior Citizens and those with underlying medical requirements) to avoid the ballpark.
7. All participants, fans and staff are encouraged to look for any signs of illness and do not come to the Sports Complex if you are showing any symptoms of Covid-19.
8. Try to limit the number of spectators to two per player.
9. Spectators are expected to bring their own chairs – no seating will be provided.

**RULE CHANGES:**

1. Pre-game meeting with officials should be held with 6 ft social distancing guidelines.
2. In the event of an injury only the coach or parent may attend to the player unless medical attention is required.
3. A minimum of 1 official will be provided per game.

## **PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Prior to every workout, practice or game, check for virus signs/symptoms. Parents must not allow children to participate in any activity if they've shown virus signs or symptoms or have possibly been exposed to the virus in the past 14 days.
2. Set-up a designated drop off and pick-up location to promote social distancing.
3. Set-up an area where players can leave their personal items 6 feet apart. Players should clearly label their water bottles and other personal items.
4. Players and coaches should sanitize their hands upon arrival and throughout practice.
5. Assign small groups for practice drills. Have stations for drills set-up for those small groups to rotate through during the course of the practices.
6. Players should maintain proper social distancing while in their groups and waiting for drills.
7. Sanitize shared use equipment as much as possible between drills.
8. Limit one parent or guardian at practice. Parents/guardians are encouraged to stay in their vehicle during practice. If a need arises that the parent/guardian should exit the vehicle, it is highly recommended that they wear a mask or face covering.
9. Coaches, volunteers, and on-field personnel working directly with the players are highly encouraged to wear a mask or face coverings.
10. Players, coaches and volunteers who are considered at high-risk for COVID-19 by CDC standards ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)) should not participate in practices or games.