# RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES JUNE 2020 

As we transition back to soccer from the COVID-19 shutdown, the health and safety of all Greenbush Soccer players, coaches, family members, and visitors will continue to be our top priority. The following guidelines are to be implemented when club soccer training and games are allowed to continue, as directed by U.S. Youth Soccer and the New York State government. If there is hesitation in returning to play - DON'T; just because you can does not mean you must.

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

## Social Distancing

Greenbush Soccer will implement a strict social distancing policy for any event associated with training or competition. To provide a socially acceptable distance for players and coaches, additional benches will be provided at each field to allow players to sit or take water breaks at least 6ft away from other players. These areas shall be for players only.

Family attendance for training sessions is to be limited to one parent. Each parent is invited to watch from their vehicles or outside the vehicle. At no time shall they be allowed to sit or walk on the field during training sessions. In the event of an injury or the child requires parental assistance, that parent shall be allowed in the training area provided they are wearing a mask.
During games, the same bench system described above shall be implemented.

Again, the bench area will only be for players and coaches. Only immediate family (MAX. 2 people per player) shall be allowed to attend games. Parents or guardians may only sit on opposite side of

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field at least 10ft back from the sidelines. Individual families may sit together but must keep at least 6ft away from other families. There will be no exceptions.

During competition, all officials shall check in at a designated area located at the parking lot side of all fields. At this location, the official may check in
players one at a time. At no time shall the player approach or be closer than 6 ft during this process. This area is only available to the official and at no time shall any parent or guardian attempt to sit in this area.

## Recreational Games

All games shall be scheduled to assure 1 game per field, no exceptions. Once the game is over, players shall be excused 1 at a time by the coach to their parents. Once the game has ended, all players, families, \& coaches associated with the game are expected to leave the field area. In order to facilitate social distancing, the Rec season will be extended to include Saturdays and Sundays throughout both fall and spring seasons.

## Travel games

Travel games shall be staggered, meaning games can only be played on every other field. For example, if there are 3 games, games mays only be played on Fields 1, 2, and 4. Field 3 shall be open and serve as a buffer. If there are 2 games, same rule applies, for example 1 and 2, 2 and 4, 3 and 1. At no time shall games be played at adjoining fields.

## Visiting Teams

All visiting teams shall be given an orientation reviewing social distancing prior to coming to the Greenbush Soccer Club fields. Each team is required to sign off that they have read and clearly understand the expectations of Greenbush Soccer prior to competing or training at our facility.
HEALTH \& HYGIENE

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To provide a clean and healthy environment where the club's players, coaches, families, and visitors can enjoy themselves, the following shall be implemented by the Greenbush Soccer Club.

## Field Facilities

Each field shall be equipped with a portable restroom and individual wash stations. Each restroom is to be cleaned after each event (training, competition) with an approved sanitizing spray. Antibacterial hand wash shall be provided at each location for all individuals. Adjacent to these areas a station shall be set up to allow each player to wash their hands and individual soccer balls with alcohol-based wipes or solutions. All benches shall also be sprayed prior to each practice or competition.

## Public Restrooms

The public bathrooms shall be cleaned with a sanitizing spray the day before each event and hand washed with chlorine based mixture at the end of each day there is a event. Each bathroom shall be equipped with anti-bacterial hand sanitizer shall be placed at all three locations and be inspected throughout any day when either travel or rec games are being conducted.

## Water Bottles

All players and coaches are required to bring their own water bottle to the facility. At no time shall any player share their water bottle with anyone else.

## Mask Use

All officials and coaches are required to wear a face covering as mandated by NYSDOH requirements. At no time shall this rule be relaxed unless relief has been directed by NYSDOH. Players participating in training and competition on the field are not required to wear the protective face covering. Players may wear masks while on the bench if they so desire.

## Individual Players Gear

All individual soccer gear, including but limited to balls, cleats, socks, jersey, gloves, head bands, etc. shall under no circumstances be shared amongst any other individual except the owner of that equipment. Individuals shall be required to wipe down their soccer balls prior to the start of any training session. As described in field facilities station to complete this activity shall be provided.

## Player/Coach Wellness

As per established NYSDOH guidelines and recommendations any time when players show symptoms of COVID-19 or any other ailment, those individuals are restricted from attending and participating in any Greenbush Soccer events until symptoms have dissipated and they have been cleared medically. Any individual observed to be sick and displaying any symptoms associated with COVID-19 or any other ailment shall be asked to leave the event immediately.

## Player Health Questionnaire

Prior to starting of any training session or games the coach or board member on duty shall fill out the Greenbush Soccer Health questionnaire. This form shall be turned into the club and filed electronically. In the event a player/coach tests positive for COVID19, this information shall be reviewed and shared immediately with all persons that were in contact with that individual. SEE ATTACHMENT FOR SAMPLE FORM

## RESPONSIBILITIES

Everyone must work together and be responsible to assure that the return to play guidelines are followed to assure the continued health and safety of all club members.

## COACHES

1. Provide guidance and support club return to play guidelines
2. Ask how players are feeling. Sick players will be asked to return home until they feel better.
3. Assure all players have their own (individual) equipment
4. Only person allowed to touch or place training equipment
5. Provide disinfected training vests /pinnies prior to each use
6. Respect players \& families that are not comfortable with playing

## PLAYERS

1. Read and understand all club return to play guidelines
2. Wash Hands prior to and after all training sessions
3. Sanitize equipment as described in club guidelines
4. NO sharing of water, food, or equipment
5. Practice and encourage social distancing guidelines
6. No high 5's, handshakes, knuckles, or group celebrations

## PARENTS

1. Read \& understand all club return to play guidelines
2. Encourage your children to follow club guidelines
3. Check players temperature prior to any training session
4. Provide washed and clean uniform \& equipment prior to each training session
5. Provide individual hand sanitizer
6. Notify coach club immediately if child becomes ill
7. If your child or an immediate family member is sick, please do not attend any training sessions

## RETURN TO PLAY PLAN

Our club will adopt a controlled return to soccer plan. Soccer play will follow the phasing plan listed below;

## PHASE 1- LIMITED TRAINING (approx. duration 2 weeks)

1. No Contact
2. Focus on return to activity with small group training sessions
3. Groups shall not exceed 10 players at any given time per field
4. Participants to remain a minimum of 10 ft apart
5. Training session times shall be set to maximize social distancing ( 20 minute gap between training)

PHASE 2- SMALL GROUP TRAINING (approx. duration 2 weeks)

1. Limited physical contact (controlled by coaches)
2. Small group Training sessions/ Limited 4 v. 4 Scrimmages
3. Groups shall not exceed 10 players at any given time per field
4. Players not participating in field drills to remain 10ft apart
5. Training session times shall be set tomaximize social distancing (20 minute gap between training)

## PHASE 3- CONTROLLED SCRIMMAGES (approx. duration 3 weeks)

1. Minimize physical contact (controlled by coaches)
2. No field limitations for players \& coaches
3. Spectators practice social distancing
4. Players not participating in field drills to remain 10ft apart
5. No travel, scrimmages on club fields only

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## PHASE 4- RETURN TO FULL PLAY

1. Physical contact with no restrictions
2. No field limitations for players \& coaches
3. Spectators practice social distancing
4. Players not participating in field drills to remain 10ft apart
5. League games \& Tournements permitted
6. All games played to follow social distancing guidelines adopted by club

Implementing the Greenbush Soccer Return-to-Play Guidelines will require a cooperative relationship between Club, Coach, Parent, and Player. While the club and coach must create a safe enviroment, you as a parent must make the decision for their child to return to play.

As a parent, if you are not comfortable in your child returning to playDON'T. Your health and well being is most important to our club.

## ATTACHMENTS



