

## **USLNJ RULES: COVID PROTOCOL**

1. **Purpose.** This COVID Protocol is meant to be in addition to the USLNJ Rules of Conduct and to the extent that it contradicts the Rules, this Protocol shall govern.
2. **Disclaimer.** The League is taking reasonable precautions to reduce the transmission of the virus among the Members of the League (Players). However, the League cannot eliminate the risk nor can the League represent to the Membership that its efforts are in any way effective.
3. **Eligibility to Play the Season**
  - 3.1. Unless a player signs the Release and Assumption of Risk Agreement, a player may not receive a player card and is ineligible to play.
  - 3.2. It is the responsibility of the Manager to collect the signed forms. The Manager will send an signed affirmation with the following information:
    - 3.2.1. a list of players that have signed;
    - 3.2.2. stating the players signed; and
    - 3.2.3. that he verifies their signature.
    - 3.2.4. The Manager will retain the signed agreements.
  - 3.3. The League may request the Manager to furnish one or more of the completed forms at any time.
4. **Eligibility to Play on Game Day**
  - 4.1. Each player will submit to a contactless temperature check prior to the game and the Manager will note it on the roster sheet. The Manager must also note the jersey number for each player on the roster sheet as well.
  - 4.2. The Players will not sign the roster sheet. The temperature check will substitute as verification of the presence and a member of the team.
  - 4.3. Each Player will complete a questionnaire and sign the form that will ask about the state of their health and potential contact with the virus. The questionnaire will be dead dropped into a folder and preserved by the Manager for the duration of the season. The Manager will note its completion on the roster sheet.

4.4. The Referee and/or the Manager will take a picture of the completed roster sheet. A copy will be sent to the League.

## 5. Procedure on the Field before the Game

5.1. The Referee can begin the review of the Players 15 minutes before the start of the game. If a player arrives after that time, the Player is not permitted to start in the game. If there are late players present, the Referee will call for a 5 minute break after the passage of 15 minutes to review the late sign-ins. Only players that have completed the pre-game procedure in Section 4 above by the break will be considered by the Referee. Any players arriving later or not prepared by the break will only be considered at halftime.

5.2. The Players will line up on the sideline with suitable distancing between the Players.

5.3. The Players may not approach the Referee until the review has been completed.

5.4. The Manager will hold the Player card for the Referee to view along the Player. The Manager will retain the card in his possession.

## 6. Conduct around the Field

6.1. Each player will have a mask on at the time of entering the facilities that contain the field.

6.2. Each substitute Player will keep his mask on and try to maintain distance from other Players or persons while on the sideline. If a Player occupies an area close to the field that has no Player or person in his proximity, he may remove his mask while standing alone.

6.3. If the player needs to leave the field area to use any other part of the facilities (including parking lot), the Player will keep his mask on for the duration.

6.4. After the game is completed, the Players should refrain from shaking hands or gathering on the sidelines. The Players should leave the field and facilities without delay.

## 7. Post-Game Requirements

7.1. Any team with a player who tests positive for COVID-19 or suffers from symptoms of COVID-19 after the game and was in close contact with other players, managers, or

referees must report it his Manager as soon as possible and cannot return to play or practice until following all CDC guidelines. Currently these guidelines are:

- 7.1.1. Wait at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared; and
- 7.1.2. At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication; and
- 7.1.3. Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.

*DEFINITION: CLOSE CONTACT: A close contact as defined by the CDC as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. The World Health Organization (WHO) additionally includes persons with direct physical contact with a probable or confirmed case, direct care for a patient with probable or confirmed COVID-19 disease without using proper personal protective equipment, and other situations as indicated by local risk assessments.)*

- 7.2. The Manager with any player, assistant manager or any other participant, that engaged in practice or game within the previous 10 days and tests positive for COVID-19 or suffers from symptoms of COVID-19 must report it to the league as soon as possible. The manager must also report it to the manager(s) of any opposing teams played within the previous 10 days.
- 7.3. Any team under the above circumstances will delay all League games within the following 10 days to a future date.
8. **Penalties.** Without the limiting the application of the Rules, the following penalties shall be added:
  - 8.1. Spitting - **Any player spitting at a referee or another player shall receive a Red card and be suspended from play for the duration of the season.** Any player spitting in any manner while in close proximity (less than 6 feet) to other player(s) or the Referee, shall receive a Yellow card.
  - 8.2. Encroaching on Referee space - Any player approaching the Referee with the intent to speak to him must maintain a distance of 10 feet, as determined in the sole discretion of the Referee. This penalty excludes Players who in the course of playing the game may walk or run by the Referee without any intent to engage the Referee. The encroaching Player shall receive a Red card.

**NOTE:** Requirements may change if revised guidance is supplied by the NJDOH.