



Georgia Amateur Women's Soccer
Association

Covid-19 Pandemic Protocols

Revised August 2020



COVID-19 BEST PRACTICES



Wash your hands

Use soap and water to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your face.



Practice social distancing

Keep 6 ft. away from others. No high fives, handshakes, or fist bumps.



Stay at home if you aren't feeling well

Don't come to training if you have been exposed to someone with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, or if you are experiencing symptoms.



PLAY ON Safely and Responsibly!

Take the PLAY ON Pledge and have fun returning to soccer while staying safe and healthy.

For more information, visit
[USSOCCER.COM/PLAYON](https://ussoccer.com/playon)

The Georgia Amateur Women's Soccer Association is dedicated to providing protocols that will keep our players and participants safe as we return to play.

Please check the GAWSA website weekly as these protocols will be updated on an ongoing basis as needed.



- GAWSA Teams and Players must follow all State and Local Guidelines
<https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>
- Please reference the CDC Guidelines—(continually gets updated)¹
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/youth-sports.html>
- GAWSA Teams need to comply with the home team's venue protocol and requirements, in addition to any GAWSA protocols.

¹ Per the CDC: This information is not designed to provide guidance to adult sports leagues or organizations who plan or manage competition. CDC does not currently have guidance for adult sports leagues, however organizations and administrators can reference the [Considerations for Youth Sports](#) to find strategies for reducing exposure risks during sports competition.

Player Responsibility

As part of registration every player will have to sign the US Adult Soccer's Assumption of Risk before they can play.

US Soccer Assumption of Risk

Prior to your match the manager/captain will ask each player the following questions:

1. In the last 14 days have you developed a cough and/or shortness of breath? Yes/No
2. In the last 14 days have you developed a fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, sore throat or new loss of smell or taste? Yes/No

Please explain if your response is "Yes"

3. Have you been exposed to a known or suspected person with the coronavirus (Covid19) in the last 14 days? Yes/No
4. Have you been tested for Covid-19 in the last 14 days? If "Yes", was the result positive or negative?

Any individual who fails a screening, either based on symptoms or temperature level, should not participate in any GAWSA activities.

- Any player who arrives late for a game must bring a printed copy of the GAWSA pre-screening questions. The pre-screening questions must be completed and signed and before the late player may enter the field of play.

Team Manager Responsibility

- The team manager/captain must sign a declaration of responsibility.
- Each team manager/captain must ask their players the Personal Responsibility Pledge questions before every game and/or practice.
- Carpooling to games is discouraged.
- All team managers/captains must have the following on hand at the field: forehead thermometer, extra masks, hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes
- Clean and sanitized balls may be readily available for use, in the case of the ball not being easily retrievable. It is the responsibility of the home team to supply all sanitized balls.
- Immediately report to the GAWSA board of directors if any player or team official is tested for Covid.
- Within 24 hours of any GAWSA match, team captains or managers MUST send copies of their game cards identifying every player, coach and/or manager who was present at the match.
- The game card must be sent to both the vice president and president. vicepresident.gawsa@gmail.com
president.gawsa@gmail.com.
- Team managers/captains are responsible for keeping a list of all players who participate in any practices or other team events, for purposes of contact tracing.
- All managers/captains should not allow a player to participate in or attend any GAWSA game if the player does not feel 100% healthy, has taken a COVID test and is waiting on results or has tested positive within the past 14 days.
- Any Team that knowingly plays a player with COVID will be immediately suspended for the balance of the season.
- Any Team that does not report every player that tests positive for COVID will be subject to suspension or expulsion.
- Any Team that does not follow the GAWSA COVID protocol will be subject to suspension or expulsion.

Game Day Rules & Processes

Match Officials

- Players must socially distance from all match officials
- Only the captain or manager should communicate with match officials. Players should NOT engage with officials.
- The match officials are not there to enforce COVID protocol.
- Match officials can include any Covid related issues in their game report for a hearing by D&P.
- Deliberate or antagonistically coughing at or on another person at the field will be considered “guilty of spitting” and the player or coach will be sent off.
- Assessment/treatment of an injured player should not be delayed if COVID guidelines cannot be followed.



Game Day Rules and Processes

Team Responsibility

- The Home team must establish separate expanded technical areas for both teams utilizing the field that day to insure social distancing.
- All players and team staff must socially distance off the field.
- Only players and team managers will be permitted on the players side of the field.
- All players must follow our facial protection protocol.
 - Masks must be worn when arriving and departing.
 - Non-playing managers must wear masks.
 - Players not actively on the field are encouraged to wear masks.
- No shared/communal supplies.
- No more than 2 spectators per player will be permitted and must stay on the opposite side of the field when and where spectators are permitted.
- All players should arrive to the field fully dressed and ready to play.
- All players should immediately vacate the field/area to make way for the arriving team after the end of their game.
- All players should bring a water bottle, shared water is not permitted.
- No handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, chest bumps, huddles, group celebrations, etc., should take place, including when goals are scored, or when substitutions are leaving or entering the field.
- During halftime, referees, players and managers should maintain at least 6 feet distance between each other.
- Managers and Players are encouraged to sanitize their hands at half-time.
- Teams should clean up sideline area so that it is clean of all trash.

Controlling the Spread

- Every Player has a duty to inform their captain immediately if they experience any sign/are diagnosed with or tested for COVID.
- Any captain that learns that a player has been diagnosed with Covid must immediately inform the GAWSA Board of Directors.
- The league will notify any teams and players that the COVID positive player has played with and against for the 14-days preceding the COVID test.
- Captains/Managers are responsible for notifying any borrowed or player pool players. They may forward the letter sent by the league to any such players.
- The league will notify the registered team members that the COVID positive player's team is scheduled to play for the 14-days following the positive diagnosis.
- Captains/Managers are responsible for notifying any borrowed or player pool players. They may forward the letter sent by the league to any such players.
- Opponents who do not want to play a team that had a COVID positive player must immediately notify the league, and their venue. This will not be considered a forfeit.
- An *Outbreak* is defined when 3 or more teams within 14 days that are epidemiologically linked have 3 or more players test positive for Covid 19.
- An Epidemiological link is defined as players who test positive within 10 days after play and the link can be contributed to the following: having played, sat on the bench on the same day/time, shared car ride, etc.
- Play will be suspended for at least 21 days for the entire division that the teams play in.
- If the outbreak spreads across divisions, all GAWSA activities may be suspended for at least 30 days.