



ETFC Spectator Guidelines



Hello ETFC parents,

The COVID19 pandemic has provided a lot of challenges for all of us to organize activities for our children. When we resumed practices this summer, we were hoping for a return to a fall league as we have been doing for years. However, we had to adjust and decided for a more local return to games with limited exposure to other communities. We have been training with the players for the last two months and have introduced contact in training a few weeks ago. Our fall plan is a slow return to games to give the players what they crave the most. While we had to limit parents during practices, we want to provide some opportunities for you to watch your kids play. We have to ensure that all of the Governor's guidelines are observed by the players, coaches and parents to be able to continue rent the fields. The following will give you a short but concise summary how we plan for the fall games and what rules we implement to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Fall Game Plan: 7v7 Club internal league:

Why do we play 7v7? This set up will allow us to create more teams in our own club and allow for more matchups within the club. Small sided games also provide more opportunities for players to get touches on the ball, more action in front of the goal, and transitions will create quick defensive and attacking responses. In addition, it will allow us to play still within our own club and remain still within an age group or two to limit the spread of COVID19. We will keep a record of each player to ensure that we can trace who participated in each game. Players will have to wear a mask during the game and even when they are outside as a substitute.

During the first two weekends, we will play 7v7 games to slowly introduce the players to competitions. The coaches will work on keeping the 7v7 rosters as even as possible. Our intent for the games is to keep them competitive without really worrying about wins and losses. The games will have a few significant rule changes that we want to share with you:

- **Field dimension and goal size for each age group**
 - U11-12 will play Academy goals and 60 yards long, and 40 wide
 - U13-14 will play Academy goals and 70 yards long and 40 wide.
 - U15-19 will play full size goals and play 70 yards long, and 44 wide.
 - Penalty box size (20 wide, 12 deep)
 - Restraining line for U11-12 at half way between half line and penalty box
- **Game time**
 - Everyone will play 2 x 30 minute halves. No stoppage, 5 minutes half time.
- **Game Rules**
 - Offside rule applies. We will have only one referee.
 - No throw ins. Indirect kick ins on the ground
 - No headers for U11 and U12
 - No slide tackling
 - No punting
 - Corner kick has to be on the ground. If it is above waist automatic goal kick.
 - No standing will be kept
- **Sanitizing and health guidelines**
 - Club provides clean balls at beginning, sanitize at half and at end of game.
 - We only play with those balls
 - If someone touches ball with hands, ball will be washed.
 - Wash hands at beginning, middle and end of game.
 - Players have to wear a mask on the field. Players off the field have to maintain at least 6ft of distance from each other. Wear a mask. Coaches have to wear a mask.

- Referee has to wear a mask arriving at field, and leaving. During game mask can be down unless 6ft of distance is not possible.
- Space out rest stations for each player 6ft apart.

Game Day Operations

- **Game Sequence**
 - Team arrives at 8am, warms up to 8:25. Kick off at 8:30am. 9:00am will be half time. 9:05 kick off for 2nd half. 9:35am 2nd half ends. Short team talk, team leaves with face masks on. Spectators leave with face masks on.
 - Next teams arrive 9:55am. 10am warm up to 10:25. Kick off at 10:30am. Etc.
- **Check in process for tracking purposes.**
 - Each coach needs to check in his/her players for each game on a paper form. This form needs to be sent in to DOC at end of day. We will provide template excel that coaches can use for the weekend.

What do we expect from you?

Please take a look at the game schedule and arrive at 9:50 for an 10am start. Please use the appropriate entries and exits to limit exposure of people. The kids will get a 25 minute warm up and the game will start at 10:30am. We can allow only 1 spectator per player on the field. As you can see in the picture below we will set out 12 socially distant cones for spectators for each team. We will keep spectators a good distance from the sidelines. All spectators must remain socially distant and wear a mask. If you are watching the game from the parking lot, please observe the same rules (wear a mask and remain socially distant). We have been grateful to Bob Keefer Sports Center for having fields for us and we need to ensure we all observe their rules and the Governor's rules. Quite a few Community members are walking the facility to report violations and we want to ensure we can keep these fields. Please help us and all the kids by doing your part.



How should you watch the games?

Enjoy watching your kids. They haven't been playing in a real game for a long time so our coaches will be patient with them and you should too. Don't worry about the result of the game, watch for the moments your kid is involved in the game, how does she respond to losing the ball, or winning the ball? How does your son communicate with his team mates? What passing sequences can you spot? What decision making is informed by scanning the field? What does your player do when her team does not have the ball? What is she doing when her team has the ball? How demanding is he when he wants the ball? How does she respond when she makes a mistake? Recovering from a mistake is a key component during the game.

Those games will be great opportunities for our coaches to watch the players and learn how they utilize their skills, how their decision-making skills improve, and what kind of areas players will continue to learn more about. Moreover, these games provide some joy. We all have been waiting for such a long time to play a game. Playing with a mask on will remain a challenge but it is a great safety and health measure. Thanks for wearing yours to be a role model for your kids.

The referees will be older players and it will give them a great opportunity to see the game from a different vantage point. They will have to make also many decisions and use their people skills. For many of them, it will be the first time that they are officiating a game. Please be supportive, encouraging and respectful to those young referees. For some it might become a really good job to get them through college if they have the right credentials.