

Warwick Fire Fighters Soccer Club
Fall Recreational Program Plan
www.wffsc.org

WFFSC Mission: The Warwick Fire Fighters Soccer Club is guided by the principal of trying to provide the kids of Warwick and surrounding communities the best possible soccer experience at a low cost. The players were denied the experience in the spring and we want to try and provide them with a program that is as close to normal as possible yet while staying within the guidelines imposed by the RIDOH. The Recreational Program will assist in the youth in returning to some semblance of normalcy where they can enjoy an activity, get some exercise, and have some limited social interaction.

General Guidelines: Due to the pandemic the fall program at Warwick Fire Fighters Soccer Club (WFFSC) will be different this fall season than in the past. The program must comply with the guidelines of what is allowed by the RI Reopening Plan (<https://reopeningri.com/>), Soccer RI (<https://www.soccer-ri.com/post/updated-sri-phase-3-guidelines>), and following the guidance from the CDC and other organizations on how to remain as safe as possible during this time. The general guidelines for any program include social distancing, masks, hand washing, use of hand sanitizers, and a pre-checklist for any activity. In addition there are limits on the number of participants in an activity that must be met. Currently the limit on youth sports as prescribed by the RI Reopening Plan is 50 for outdoor activities and 25 for indoor activities. This is for a 'stable group' where the participants remain with the same group for the duration of the season.

Fall Rec Program: At WFFSC the age divisions for the fall Rec Program are U6, U8, U10, U12, and U16 and within each of these age groups there are teams that typically have about 10-12 players and 1-2 coaches. Teams will be added to a group such that the limit of 50 is maintained. Teams will practice individually so not any issue there for exceeding the guidelines as it will be a dozen or so kids with a couple of coaches. Each Saturday two of the teams in the group will play and the next Saturday the teams will rotate so the exposure each week is only with another team for a total of approximately 22 players and 4 or so coaches.

The below table defines how the players and coaches will be designated into stable groups that will remain together throughout the season. The intent is that participants in one stable group will not be exposed to any participant in another stable group so that the maximum exposure will be within the guidelines defined.

Group	Configuration	Total Teams	Stable Groups	Teams Per Group	Average Players Per Team
U6	4v4 on 2 fields	6	2	3	11
U8	4v4 on 2 fields	8	2	4	11
U10	7v7	8	2	4	11
U12	9v9	6	2	3	11
U16	8v8	4	2	4	11

In addition to practices and games the club may run some skill clinics for age groups where the number of participants including players and coaches will remain less than 50 with the typical number being 20-30 participants.

Infection Prevention Strategies: In regards to the safety precautions the following will be enforced:

1. Ensure at least two board members in attendance during the group activities to monitor and enforce the rules
2. Must maintain the stable groups with only one participant in one group, i.e. a player cannot double roster and be in two groups.
3. Masks must be worn by all adults, including coaches, at all activities even if social distancing requirements are met. Players wear masks when not actively engaged in an activity.
4. Strongly encourage social distancing when possible
5. Limit spectators to a recommended maximum of 2 per player
6. During the game have one team on one side of the field and other team on the opposite side of the field. Team area will be on one-half of the team side and parents will be on the other half of the team side. This minimizes the exposure outside the team group.
7. Signage will be placed around the field to reinforce the rules
8. Concession stand will not be open to minimize gatherings
9. Coaches or activity directors must go through a checklist of questions with the participants
10. Encourage parents to check their child's temperature and symptoms prior to going to any activity
11. For the stable group activities at Winslow provide sufficient time (30 minutes) between when one group ends and another group starts to minimize the risk of interactions.
12. Winslow fields are half surrounded by parking so no clear entrance or exit in order to direct one-way traffic.

13. Spectators are not allowed on the field and will keep a minimum setback distance of 6 feet from the touch-line
14. Provide hand sanitizer stations around the complex and encourage their use

In addition the following game modifications will be made to reduce exposure:

1. No throw-ins. When a ball goes out of bounds a player will initiate start of play with a kick-in. Players, other than the keeper who should be wearing gloves, will be asked to not pick up the ball to return to play, but use feet only.
2. Heading of the ball will not be allowed.
3. Corner kicks will not be allowed into the goal box to limit congregation of players into one area.
4. No slide-tackling although this was never allowed in Recreational Soccer
5. Limited physical contact including no high-fives etc. A modified 'hand-shake' routine will be performed after the game where the players do not physically touch but just acknowledge each other with a 'good game' comment.
6. No playoffs.

Schedule: The teams will start practices the first week of September with the first games Saturday September 12. The season will run through the end of October. No playoffs will be added since this would violate the stable groups.

COVID Response Plan: WFFSC has a COVID Reopening Plan that provides basic guidelines and rules for members as well as a plan to administer notifications if any member has tested positive for COVID. There is a COVID Plan Administrator who oversees the plan. If any member of a group and this includes players, coaches, and parents notifies the COVID Plan Administrator of a possible exposure risk then the stable group will be shut down for 2 weeks and the administrator will make a determination when their activities may resume.

Summary: The intent of this plan is first and foremost to provide protection and minimize risk to the participants while trying to provide the players with what activities are possible to make it as normal a season as we can as well as give a positive experience for the players, coaches, and parents.

Responsibilities: The WFFSC Board of Directors are responsible for creating and implementing this plan. The coaches have responsibility to adhere to the plan when practicing with their team or during the game. Parents/Guardians are responsible for keeping with the plan and instructing their children in the rules and guidelines for if they do not they jeopardize their ability to remain in the program.

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