



# **Weston Cup & Showcase**

**February 13-15, 2021**

## **RETURN TO COMPETITION**

# **COVID-19 Mitigation & Safety Procedures**



Due to the nature of Covid-19 the below “Mitigation & Safety Procedures” will be updated regularly based on current state, county and local health requirements and recommendations.

### Best Practice Guidelines

Weston FC understands that risk of exposure to communicable diseases cannot be 100% eliminated and has compiled the following guidelines and protocols to maximize the safety of all players, coaches, spectators and tournament staff. These protocols are obtained from an extensive network that are the “Best Practices” set forth by health, safety and government agencies. Weston FC primarily used guidance from the CDC and State Health Departments as well as US Soccer, USSSA, US Youth Soccer and US Club Soccer, the national and state governing bodies for soccer.

General hygiene practices to reduce the risk of spread of infection, the following practices are recommended to mitigate transmission of communicable disease, including COVID-19.

- Avoid touching your face.
- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover mouth and nose (with arm or elbow, not hands) when coughing or sneezing and wash hands afterward.
- Wear a face mask or covering at any time you are in public and unable to maintain social distancing.
- Frequently clean commonly used surfaces (doorknobs, for example) with an antiseptic cleanser.
- Avoid contact with other individuals (shaking hands, for example).
- Maintain a distance of 6 feet between you and others.
- Stay home if you feel sick and contact your health care provider.

Based on years of soccer administration and event management experience, Weston FC stands ready prior, during and after every tournament to revise these procedures with the latest information as needed to deliver the safest gameday and tournament environment possible.

Implementing these Return to Competition initiatives will require a coordinated and cooperative effort between Weston Cup, participating clubs/teams, coaches, players and parents, referees and event staff. While Weston Cup is tasked to create and maintain a safe tournament environment, clubs/teams and parents are the only ones who can make the decision for their player/child to participate.

## Health & Safety Protocols

### General Tournament Facility Sanitizing

- All restrooms will be cleaned before, during and after each event.
- All restrooms will be supplied with hand sanitizer.
- Multiple Hand Sanitizing Units will be strategically placed throughout facility.
- Multiple Hand Washing Stations will be strategically placed throughout every tournament facility.
- All above structures will be wiped down by Event Staff every hour throughout the tournament.
- All above structures will have supplies checked and re-stocked every hour throughout the tournament.

### Pre-Event Protocols: General Health & Safety

- All players and coaches should do a temperature self-check prior to participating in the Weston Cup & Showcase;
  - If a person has a temperature over 100.4 degrees, that person should not travel, nor participate in the event.
- Everyone who feels sick or has any symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the Weston Cup & Showcase.
- Anyone who has had close contact within 14-days with a person known to have COVID-19 should not attend the Weston Cup & Showcase.
- All people planning to be on site should bring their own face coverings, hand sanitizer, sunscreen and hydration.

### Game-Day Protocols: General Health & Safety

- Signage, ground markings and barriers will be used to ensure proper health and safety protocols are utilized and observed by all attendees (proper social distancing, use of face coverings and good hygiene practices)
- Maintain social distancing guidelines when entering and exiting the facility.
- Non-active participants are recommended to wear face coverings/masks at all times.
- Field marshals will be located throughout the facility to assist participants, spectators, and remind of safety protocols.
- Medical staff and athletic trainers (with proper PPE) will be on site to all participants
- Game scores will be posted online.
- There will not be an awards ceremony - Awards will be given out directly to coaches or team managers in a manner meant to reduce interaction.
- Anyone who becomes sick during the event should leave the facility immediately or seek medical attention at one of the medical tents.

## **Pre & Post Game**

Players, coaches, referees and spectators must:

- Maintain social distancing guidelines when entering and exiting the facility.
- Non-active participants are recommended to wear face coverings/masks at all times.
- Bring their own equipment (hand sanitizer, water bottle, towels, etc.) that should not be shared between individuals.
- Pre-Game:
  - Players, coaches, referees and spectators must not enter the facility until 20-30 minutes prior to their game.
  - On field warm-ups should be limited to 15-20 minutes.
  - Pre-game coin toss (if necessary) should follow social distancing guidelines and participants should be wearing masks. Limit number of captains.
- Post-Game:
  - Handshakes should be replaced with socially distanced applause line.
  - Players, coaches and spectators should leave the facility immediately after their game.

## **During the Game**

Players & Coaches:

- Should remain socially distanced when on the sideline before, during and after games.
- When not on the field playing (or warming-up) coaches and players are recommended to wear face coverings/masks.
- Multiple tents, benches or chairs may be necessary for this to be possible.

Substitutions:

- Players should be assigned individual pinnies for the entirety of each game.
- Substitutes waiting to enter the playing field should put their pinnie in their own bag before leaving the bench area.
- If the substitute failed to put their pinnie in their bag, the player leaving the field should not take the pinnie from the substitute.

Equipment:

- Have extra balls available. Any ball that comes into contact with anyone not playing, should be disinfected before being reused.
- Surfaces of shared equipment such as soccer balls, discs, and any other equipment should be disinfected before and after each game.
- Players should not share clothing such as training bibs, warm-ups, jerseys, etc.

## **Post-Event Protocols: General Health & Safety**

- Post-event reports to assist in evaluating and assessing guidance, policies and procedures.
- Provide State Health Departments and soccer associations with full access to the Weston Cup & Showcase.
- Send a post-event survey to participating teams.

## **Tournament Participation Protocol**

### **Clubs/Teams: Coaches & Coaches**

- Do not allow any team member(s) with symptoms to attend the Weston Cup & Showcase.
- If you are sick, feeling sick or have a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, you must not attend.
- Players and coaches should remain in their vehicles until the designated time to enter the facility (to allow teams and supporters at previous games to leave the facility and allow time for sanitation).
- EVERYONE AT THE TOURNAMENT IS RECOMMENDED to wear a face covering upon arrival when walking from their vehicle to the fields; upon departure when walking from the fields to their vehicle; when moving around the facility between fields and through communal areas such as headquarters, bathrooms, and when not properly social distancing.
- Players are required to social distance when not playing and are recommended to wear face coverings at all times when in the team technical area during games – Players can then remove face coverings when entering the game,
- Coaches are recommended to wear face coverings at all times.
- Specific areas will be marked for players around their team sideline and bench/technical area to provide for adequate social distancing for those players who are not on the field during competition.
- No early arrival and warm up in areas outside of the playing field prior to the game.
- Coaches and players should maintain social distancing during half time, water breaks and at all times when off the field of play.
- Coaches and players should maintain “social distancing” in the “bench area” and in between games (i.e. do not congregate in groups of 5+ on the sidelines and maintain a minimum of 6 ft. apart from other groups).
- Do not share water bottles, drinks or food or any personal items.
- Hand contact of any kind will be prohibited (i.e. handshakes, ‘high fives,’ etc.).
- Soccer balls and equipment will be disinfected by referees before, during and after each game.
- No spitting will be allowed on the field, sidelines, or anywhere on the event premise.
- Weston Cup & Showcase will not be providing hydration stations or nutrition - players and coaches should bring their own hydration and not share food or beverages with others.

- Coaches should possess player passes during the game - do not exchange documents with the referee(s).
- Teams are encouraged to designate 1 or more adults to pay close attention to players in the technical area to ensure they follow social distancing protocols.
- Tents or tarps may be used only in the technical areas to shield players from the sun and heat -It is recommended to bring enough tents so that all players may be in the shade while still maintaining proper social distancing.
- Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing - recommended into the nape of the elbow
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with hands.
- Players or coach should sanitize their hands each time they come off the field and in between each game.
- All coaches and players should launder clothes, uniforms, and vests after day 1 of the event if the items are to be worn on day 2 and day 3.

### **Injured Players**

- If a player is injured on the field, the referee will signal for the coach to come onto the field. Only one coach wearing a mask should enter the field.
- If an additional person is required to help the player off the field, the coach needs to select a player from his/ her own team to help.
- If athletic trainers are present for the game, he/she should be treating the injured players at their respective team areas.
- If the athletic trainer has a golf cart, it should only be used to move players in an emergency situation. Players with minor injuries should be moved from the field by the coach.

### **Spectators: Parents**

- Weston Cup & Showcase strongly recommends that only one (1) parent/supporter per player attend.
  - If more family members must attend, a family unit should be comprised only of people who reside in the same household.
  - These family units should sit together and socially distance from other family units before, during and after the event.
- It is strongly recommended that people over 65 and/or with pre-existing conditions do not attend.
- Anyone with symptoms (fever, cough, etc.) must not attend any event.
- Spectators and guests should bring personal hand sanitizer and wipes to the event.
- All spectators must wear a face covering while walking between the parking lots and the facilities.
- Face coverings must be worn when traveling through common areas (going to porta pots, moving from one field to another between games, etc.).
  - Spectators must follow clearly marked directional signage entrances and exits to the facility and at the fields to maintain proper social distancing

- Spectators and supporters will be located on the same side of field as the team they support to reduce interaction between competing teams and their supporters (see field diagrams).
- Spectators will be separated in clearly marked areas to comply with all social distancing guidelines (6 feet apart).
- All supporters should maintain “social distancing” (i.e. do not congregate in groups of 5+ (families only) on the sidelines and must maintain a minimum of 6 ft. apart from each other).
- Tents, tarps or large group structures will not be permitted in the spectator areas of sidelines (Only within technical areas for players and coaches).
- Everyone is expected to cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing - recommended into the nape of the elbow.
- Anyone feeling sick should leave the facility immediately and go home or seek a healthcare facility.
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with their hands whenever possible.
- It is strongly recommended that players have minimal number of supporters on site.

### **Referees**

- Anyone with symptoms must not work the Weston Cup & Showcase.
- All referees will have their temperature taken prior to their first game each day of the event.
- All referees are required to wear face coverings while moving between the parking lot and the fields.
- Referees in common areas must wear masks at all times, unless during gameplay or while properly social distancing as an alternate referee.
- Referees must cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing - recommended into the nape of the elbow.
- Physical contact of any kind will be prohibited (i.e. handshakes, “high fives”, etc.).
- May use artificial or electronic noise makers rather than whistles.
- Soccer balls and equipment will be disinfected by referees before, during and after each game.
- All referees should launder clothes and uniforms after activities each day.
- Referees should not exchange documents with the coaches or team managers—Coaches should possess player passes during the game.

### **Tournament Staff**

- Anyone with symptoms must not work the Weston Cup & Showcase.
- All staff will have their temperature taken as soon as they report to the site each day of the event.

- Anyone feeling sick during the tournament must leave immediately after informing the tournament director.
- All Weston Cup & Showcase staff must wear protective face coverings throughout the event, changing them as needed.
- All Weston Cup & Showcase staff must cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing - recommended into the nape of the elbow.
- Assigned staff will be responsible for sanitizing all defined public areas (i.e. restroom handles/doors, tents, golf carts, etc.).

### Covid-19 & Health Resources

- Centers of Disease Control & Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- Florida Department of Health: <http://www.floridahealth.gov>
- US Soccer: <https://www.ussoccer.com/playon#additional-resources->
- Florida Youth Soccer Association: <https://www.fysa.com/fysa-on-the-coronavirus/>
- USSSA: <https://usssa.com/coronavirus>
- US Club Soccer: <https://www.usclubsoccer.org/coronavirus>

### Planning: Weeks/Days Prior to Participating in the Weston Cup & Showcase

- Help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by doing your part. Be prepared by knowing our protocols and training your players, parents and spectators before they arrive onsite.
- Please share the resources that we will be providing throughout our Return to Play campaign.

DISCLAIMER: The health, safety, and welfare of all event participants is the top priority of Weston FC. This plan is dynamic and a work in progress. It will be adjusted and updated regularly to reflect new information and guidance from federal and state governments, as well as health organizations, and soccer governing bodies. All communicable disease mitigation recommendations and best practices outlined within are intended to deliver the safest game day and tournament environment possible. However, following these guidelines does not eliminate 100% of the risk and potential for exposure. Please check with you sanctioning/association body (US Soccer, USSSA, US Youth Soccer, US Club Soccer, AYSO) guidelines before participating in soccer tournaments.

By registering for Weston Cup & Showcase, attending, and entering event facilities, all participants, including, but not limited to, coaches, players, parents, spectators, event staff, vendors, partners, medical and training staff, facility staff, public safety, and administrators agree to follow all national, state, local, and Weston FC guidelines, and assume all responsibility of risk in attending the Weston Cup & Showcase. By entering the facilities where the Weston Cup & Showcase is held, participants agree to not indemnify Weston FC or its staff nor hold them responsible for any sickness or health conditions that may result from attending the tournament.