



Effective Date: August 21, 2020

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Note: Specific scenarios may arise that these protocols do not address. In these circumstances, NWSL will develop the most appropriate plan. NWSL reserves the right to update these protocols as appropriate.

**NWSL Competition Protocols**

The safety of the players and staff are a priority during the NWSL Fall Series. In order to mitigate risk and ensure as safe an environment as possible, strict guidelines must be followed.

In order to minimize risk of exposure to COVID-19 for Personnel, *these rules must be abided by and adhered to.*

**I. Definitions**

- A. COMPETITION:** “Competition” shall mean the preparation for and conduct of the NWSL Fall Series, which is the continuation of the 2020 NWSL season.
- B. FACILITIES:** “Facilities” shall mean any training and/or competition venues, including fields, stadiums, training rooms, weight rooms, locker rooms and meeting rooms, utilized by NWSL or NWSL clubs in the Competition.
- C. LODGING:** “Lodging” shall mean any home, apartment, hotel room or other dwelling where Personnel are currently residing while in their home market or during travel for the Competition.
- D. PERSONNEL:** “Personnel” shall mean all players, team staff, league staff, facility staff and/or broadcast staff who interact with players during the conduct of the Competition.
- E. REPRESENTATIVE:** “Representative” shall mean the individual designated “COVID-19 Safety Officer” by each NWSL club to serve as the primary league contact for COVID-19 related matters. The Representative is responsible for ensuring all protocols are being satisfied by their club and club Personnel.
- F. ROOMMATES:** “Roommates” shall mean any Personnel who share a household.
- G. VEHICLE:** “Vehicle” shall mean the personal automobiles of Personnel as well as commercial, private or chartered aircraft, motor coaches, vans or club automobiles utilized during the Competition.

**II. General**

- A.** Masks should be worn any time outside of your Lodging (except when exercising, training, playing or eating).
- B.** Use social distancing when possible (6 feet apart from people).
- C.** Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water OR use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol.



- D. Cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow or a tissue.
- E. Avoid touching your eyes and face.
- F. Limit the touching of handles, doorknobs and other common surfaces when possible.

### **III. Travel**

- A. See “NWSL Standards for Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sanitization for Venues, Training Facilities, Team Travel (Air/Ground) and Lodging”.
- B. It is the responsibility of each club to provide its Personnel with PPE. Clubs should provide masks, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes prior to travel.
- C. Personnel must wear masks while in transit, unless alone in a personal Vehicle.
- D. All assigned arrival/departure times must be adhered to during the Competition. Personnel should arrive at their scheduled time – not any earlier or later than indicated.
- E. For travel between markets, teams must either fly or charter two 50+ person motor coaches. Vans are not permitted for travel between markets.
- F. For bus travel, each person must use the same seat throughout the entirety of the trip. This requirement is to ensure that the appropriate contact tracing may be performed, and that Personnel can be quarantined or subject to additional testing as necessary.
- G. When traveling by bus for greater than 20 minutes, Personnel shall sit at least six feet apart, except for Roommates who may sit together. Generally, this will mean that there will only be one person or group of Roommates per row, alternating sides by row. If a team can fit members of the traveling party on one bus while still maintaining social distancing, it may do this after applying to the League. The application must include a map of where each person will sit on the bus.
- H. When booking buses, the following guidelines should be incorporated into the bus contracts. The Representative is responsible for monitoring and reporting any infractions to the bus company. Bus companies and their drivers must adhere to the minimum standards for bus transit operators established by the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/bus-transit-operator.html>) Drivers must be certified as COVID-19 free by the bus company prior to an assignment
  - a. The bus should be cleaned and sanitized before and after every trip.
  - b. Prior to boarding, drivers should be subject to temperature/symptom and exposure screening. If the driver has a temperature or symptoms, or has been exposed to COVID-19, they should not board the bus, and the bus company should provide another driver.
  - c. Drivers should wear masks while on the bus.
  - d. Drivers should not load or unload luggage or equipment.
  - e. To the extent drivers park on-site and stay during the game, drivers must follow strict social distancing guidelines, adhere to the approved cleaning and hygiene protocols, remain in private areas without interacting with other people, and clean and sanitize the bus prior to re-accepting the traveling party for the return trip.
- I. For any air travel, Personnel must maintain their assigned seats throughout the entirety of the flight, unless moving to a new seat creates a greater distance between



- individuals. If any individual changes seats, they must report the new seat and row number to the Representative.
- J.** All flights should be configured to provide as many empty seats or rows, and free space between members of the traveling party and other passengers as possible.
  - K.** Hotel staff and cleaning personnel will follow “NWSL Standards for Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sanitization for Venues, Training Facilities, Team Travel (Air/Ground) and Lodging” as provided by the home team’s Representative.
  - L.** Roommates may be placed two to a room, otherwise all Personnel should be provided an individual hotel room.
  - M.** Personnel exhibiting symptoms while traveling should immediately be isolated from all other Personnel and should be referred to the team physician for treatment and travel recommendations.

#### **IV. Daily Living**

##### **A. Daily Routines**

1. Personnel should generally self-quarantine, except to attend team activities and to perform essential functions.
2. Personnel must follow the medical protocols, which include COVID-19 testing and daily symptom screening.
3. Any symptoms should be immediately reported to the team ATC and team physician or on-site physician.
4. The team doctor or trainer must be notified immediately if any Personnel is feeling sick or has had close contact with someone who becomes sick.
5. Contact tracing protocols as specified by the NWSL must be followed.
6. There is to be no physical contact with players or staff from other teams outside of matches, or with any other individuals outside of team staff and players, and household members.
7. If you choose to have personal items or packages delivered, these must be done through contactless delivery. Representatives must complete the daily checklist on players and staff.

##### **B. Catering/Meals/Food & Beverage**

1. Hands should be washed or sanitized prior to eating.
2. Any catered meals should be served by the catering staff (wearing masks) or in pre-packaged containers.
3. If outside food is delivered, it must be contactless delivery.

#### **V. Facilities**

##### **A. Non-Game Day**

1. Masks must be worn outside of training.
2. The shortest and most direct route should be taken whenever possible.
3. Players are to be dressed prior to arrival at field or facilities for training.
4. Schedules should be followed for the use of weight rooms and other facilities.
5. Players should wipe down equipment before and after individual use.



6. Disposable water bottles may be supplied by the team or the player may bring her own water bottle (and will be responsible for washing it).

## **B. Match Day**

1. Players and staff should arrive at the venue with masks on and all personnel who access the facilities and field on game day must continue to wear them except players and referees when on the field (with the exception of the fourth official who shall continue to wear a mask throughout the match).
  - Staff and substitute players are to wear masks
  - When players are warming up, masks may be removed
  - The head coach may remove his/her mask during the game when standing away from the bench providing instruction to players on the field
2. The use of individual water bottles and towels for players and staff is required.
3. Medical staff are to use masks and gloves when working with players.
4. Training rooms must allow for 6 feet between table and treatment areas of individual players.
5. Ice baths are permitted, but players must shower prior to use. Ice baths are limited to one person per tub and tubs must be appropriately distanced.
6. All ice baths must be cleaned and disinfected by the home team before and after use. Ice baths do not need to be cleaned after use by players on the same team, but must be cleaned between use by different teams.
7. Any Personnel whose role has them at field level on game day must be tested twice in the week prior to the matches (liaisons, stretcher crew, ball retrievers, red cap, field manager, etc.).
8. Club-submitted fan management plans must ensure that fans are no closer to the field than row eight.