

LETTER TO COACHES

Good Evening Coaches,

We apologize for the length of this email. The contents will be made available on the website and Facebook page as well. This Spring Season has been a daunting task to plan out.

COVID-19 still presents a substantial health risk, and the State of Virginia, Warren County and FRSA want to maximize safety for everyone involved while having a Spring Season. Because of the open space of the Soccerplex fields, the ability to social distance and wear masks, we believe basic precautions will prevent an outbreak which would make it necessary to prematurely end the season or interrupt it for a period of weeks.

The State rules for outdoor sports events, and the CDC guidelines for sports venues, and the Governor's Executive Order 72 apply to FRSA and our Season. Following them where they apply is a stipulation of the Warren County Parks and Recreation (WCPR) Lease FRSA signs for use of the fields. Our ability to have a Soccer Season this Spring is linked directly to compliance. We've reviewed the rules and guidance and have created a strategy which will do two things:

1. Satisfy the Terms of compliance in order to main the Lease and not have our season ended.
2. Provide a safe enough environment for all Parents, players and families to reasonably accept the personal risk of attending open air sporting events (10 games and 12 or more practices) which are opportunities to contract or spread COVID-19 for the entire League, and by extension, Front Royal.

The rules the State has placed as terms for the Lease are mandatory and not negotiable. Compliance requires the Board to enforce the rules, and Coaches to be aware of FRSA compliance procedures for satisfying State requirements. Liability for contracting COVID-19 and its effects is passed through FRSA to the Parents of Players. This represents an extension of the normal "play at your own risk" used for any injuries to players or spectators while on the fields.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

CONCESSION – the concession stand will be open, but no grilling will be done.

RESTROOMS - will be closed. 4-5 port-o-johns will be provided by WCPR and placed around the field.

MASKS - must be worn by Board Members and spectators who don't claim a waiver *while present on the fields*. Players, coaches and refs must wear masks moving to or from the field, but not during play. This includes practices.

CROWDS and SOCIAL DISTANCING – spectators should be limited to 2 people per child. A distance of 10 feet should be maintained between each person/group (family). Groups of Non-family members will not be allowed. People who do not wear masks can only be in groups with family members.

FAMILY - “Family members” include blood relations, adopted, step, and foster relations, as well as all individuals residing in the same household or visiting such household pursuant to a child custody arrangement or order.

HEALTH CHECK-INS – Coaches will perform a COVID check-in prior to each game using pencil and paper. A Check mark, X or A will be notated by each player name to record checklist outcome, (pass, fail, absent). Players that fail check-ins will be moved to another portion of the field or be escorted to their parents. Check-in sheets will be collected by board members at game time. Board Members and Referees will answer check-in questions when they report to the fields.

ENFORCEMENT – (this is where it gets dicey) A copy of what’s expected from Parents, Players and Spectators will be provided along with the Parent’s Code of Conduct. Board Members wearing masks to walk the fields to offer masks, break up groups of people over 10 who are not family members, or mixed groups of mask wearing and non-mask wearing people, and remind them of the consequences for non-compliance. Unrelated, uncompliant people (groups) who refuse to segregate themselves from each other and the rest of spectators, after being asked to do so, will be considered belligerent. A single report of non-compliance violates our Lease and the Season could be ended early. So, action will be taken immediately to remove the child from the game and return them to their parents in order to leave the field. This can be done with a substitution without halting gameplay. The child will be suspended for two games (14 days). Refunds may be offered.

***Note:** there’s limited tools in the box for FRSA to resolve a situation like that. On one hand is the real health risk, on the other the risk to the entire season if Parents won’t abide by the rules which are a condition of the Lease. Coaches are not expected to intervene or assist, other than to make the substitution at the request of the board member. We do not want to interrupt game play.*

It all comes down to this: In order to play, we must agree to the Terms of our Lease for the fields to play on, which is linked directly to enforcement of State restrictions and policies put in place to preserve the health of all those involved. By doing so, we also drastically reduce the chances that a child, parent, coach or family member will need to be hospitalized. It’s that simple. It’s not negotiable for FRSA.

Please accept our sincere, heartfelt thanks and gratitude for helping us provide Soccer to the children of our community. You’re standing up to sacrifice your time and energy to make our entire community better, and the FRSA Board acknowledges each of you for making that choice. Not everyone does.

LETTER TO PARENTS

Good Evening Parents,

We apologize for the length of this email, which involves you and your children directly. The contents will be made available on the website and Facebook page as well. Planning the Season has been difficult.

COVID-19 is still a substantial health risk, and the State of Virginia, Warren County and FRSA want to maximize safety for everyone involved while having a Spring Soccer Season. The soccer fields are large and open, we will social distance and wear masks, and Warren County, VA and FRSA believe basic precautions will prevent an outbreak.

A COVID-19 outbreak will prematurely end the soccer season or interrupt it for a period of weeks.

In order to have a Spring Soccer season at all, **everyone involved, including families**, must abide by the applicable State rules for outdoor sports events, and the CDC guidelines for sports venues, and the Governor's Executive Order 72. Following them is a condition of allowing your child to play.

The rules are required by the Warren County Parks and Recreation (WCPR) Lease for use of the fields. **Our ability to have a Soccer Season this Spring is linked directly to Parents and FRSA working together and abiding by the rules of the Lease, which are not negotiable.** FRSA reviewed guidance and created a strategy which will do two things:

1. Satisfy the Terms of compliance in the Lease and not have our season ended early.
2. Provide a safe enough environment for all Parents, players and families to reasonably accept the personal risk of attending open air sporting events (10 games and 12 or more practices) which are opportunities to contract or spread COVID-19 for the entire League, and by extension, Front Royal.

Liability for contracting COVID-19 and its effects is passed through FRSA to the Parents of Players. This represents an extension of the normal "play at your own risk" used for any injuries to players or spectators while on the fields. FRSA is required to enforce the rules and we need your help.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

CONCESSION – the concession stand will be open, but no grilling will be done.

RESTROOMS - will be closed. 4-5 port-o-johns will be provided by WCPR and placed around the field.

MASKS - must be worn by Board Members and spectators who don't claim a waiver *while present on the fields*. Players, coaches and refs must wear masks moving to or from the field, but not during play. This includes practices.

CROWDS and SOCIAL DISTANCING – spectators should be limited to 2 people per child. A distance of 10 feet should be maintained between each person/group (family). Groups of Non-family members will not be allowed. People who do not wear masks can only be in groups with family members.

FAMILY - “Family members” include blood relations, adopted, step, and foster relations, as well as all individuals residing in the same household or visiting such household pursuant to a child custody arrangement or order.

HEALTH CHECK-INS – Coaches will perform a COVID check-in prior to each game using pencil and paper. A Check mark, X or A will be notated by each player name to record checklist outcome, (pass, fail, absent). Players that fail check-ins will be moved to another portion of the field or be escorted to their parents. Check-in sheets will be collected by board members at game time. Board Members and Referees will answer check-in questions when they report to the fields.

ENFORCEMENT – A copy of what’s expected from Parents, Players and Spectators will be provided along with the Parent’s Code of Conduct. Board Members wearing masks will walk the fields to offer masks, break up groups of people over 10 or who are not family members, or mixed groups of mask wearing and non-mask wearing people.

We will remind those groups of the consequences for non-compliance with mandatory 3 rules for spectators (social distancing, not creating groups of non-family members and not wearing masks). Unrelated, uncompliant people (groups) who refuse to segregate themselves from each other and the rest of spectators, after being asked to do so, will be considered belligerent.

FRSA does not wish to penalize a kid whose parent(s) chooses not to abide by these COVID-19 rules which are set as a condition of your child being able to play. FRSA does not want the Soccer Season ended early because of belligerent adults. Belligerent Parents will be asked to leave fields and watch from their car. If they refuse to do so, their child will be removed from the game and returned to them in order to leave the field. This will be done with a substitution without halting gameplay. The child will be suspended for two games (14 days) which is the recommended quarantine time. Refunds may be offered.

It all comes down to this: In order to play, we must agree to the Terms of our Lease for the fields, which is linked directly to enforcement of State restrictions and policies for **FRSA, Players, and Spectators** put in place to preserve the health of all those involved. By doing so, we also drastically reduce the chances that a child, parent, coach or family member will need to be hospitalized. It’s that simple. It’s not negotiable for FRSA. Questions can be addressed to any Board Member of FRSA, or directly to the President.

Please accept our sincere, heartfelt thanks and gratitude for doing your part to help us provide Soccer to the children of our community, particularly after a difficult year.

We look forward to seeing you on the fields.