

## PTTL 2021 Operational Plan

**OYSA and the Portland Timbers and Thorns League is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of all people. Some of our rules and protocols are beyond OHA guidelines but are there to provide the safest possible environment during league games.**

The purpose of this document is to provide athletes, parents, coaches, and soccer organizations with information they can use to assist them with league play protocols in the context of COVID-19. Our procedures, policies, and responsibilities rely upon rules and regulations set forth by public health authorities, which will be different across the state.

In addition to the information below, we ask that everyone also follow the Return to Play Guidelines listed on the OYSA website. These items are in addition to that information.

**The information listed below is required by each of the stakeholders for participation in the PTTL. Any clubs or teams that fail to comply with these responsibilities may forfeit their game, may be removed from the league, and forfeit any remaining games (with corresponding fines from PTTL Rules applying)**

### Introduction of Principles and Responsibilities

#### League Responsibilities:

- Communication Plan:
  - Publish all relevant materials around PTTL and materials including this operational plan on the OYSA website.
  - Direct emails to clubs and coaches about all league protocols, policies, and expectations around game day. 2 emails prior to league starting, bi-monthly during the league.
  - Direct emails to players and parents about all league protocols, policies, and expectations around game day. 2 emails prior to league starting, bi-monthly during the league.
  - Weekly emails to referees about all league protocols, policies, and expectations around game day.
  - Any cancelations or shutdowns will be communicated as quickly as possible direct to all team admins and club leadership.
  - Create plans
- League Health and Exclusion Policy for Covid-19 cases and Covid-19 exposure.
- League Set-Up
  - Winter League – December 19<sup>th</sup> to January 24<sup>th</sup> (Dec. 19/20 and Jan 2/3 are optional)
    - 4 Games at \$375
  - Spring League – January 30<sup>th</sup> to March 14<sup>th</sup> (March 20, 21, 27, and 28<sup>th</sup> are potential make-up dates)
    - 6 games at \$550
  - We will limit travel where we can
  - League area is from Longview to Medford, and Forest Grove to Hood River, Bend
  - Move to DOC Recommendation within reason based on last year's results
  - Scores/Standings will be kept from U12 and older on the website
  - Seeding Meeting to place teams
- Registration:
  - Deadlines:
    - Winter League deadline is December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm
    - Winter League seeding meeting is December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am
    - Spring League deadline is January 4<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm
    - Spring League seeding meeting is January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am
    - Check due at the time of registration
  - Refund Policy: 100% refund if league is cancelled before first game, \$57 per game not played after the start of the league.
  - No roster continuity for leagues in 2020/21.



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- Game Modifications (no throw-ins or slide tackling) from Fall 2020 have been removed (League Rules in revision):
  - Half Length:
    - U11 to U14 games will be 30-minute halves
    - U15 to U19/20 games will play 40-minute halves
  - 5-minute halftime
- Scheduling:
  - Continue sending Valorie any field availability that you have. Even if you don't have access to fields please still report that to Valorie.
  - Game Blocks:
    - U11 to U14 games will be on 90-minute blocks
    - U15 to U19/20 games will be on 2-hour blocks
  - Game scheduling:
    - Schedules will be done in 2-to-3-week blocks.
    - Schedules are planned to be available December 15<sup>th</sup> for any games played December 19/20 and January 2/3 and schedules for January 9/10 and 16/17 by December 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - Stagger game times to ensure minimal contact is made for locations with multiple fields.
    - 2 or more fields games will be scheduled every 20 minutes
  - Schedule 1 game weekends whenever possible.
    - Due to field restrictions and odd-numbered brackets we cannot do 1 game weekends all of the time.
  - Bracketing:
    - Create larger brackets to help accommodate for scheduling and Covid related issues
    - Whenever possible, have an even number of teams in brackets.
  - Schedule requests limited to coaches with more than 1 team. Teams cannot request days off.
- At the Field:
  - Whenever possible, teams and their spectators will take one side of the field while the opposing team is on the opposite side of the field on the opposite side of halfway line to referee. Coaches and players must stay back from the sideline to allow 6 feet of physical distancing from Assistant Referee. Clubs/coaches/team managers/monitors are responsible for the behavior and compliance of physical distancing of their players and spectators. [Click here](#) for a sample field map. Home team will dictate which side of the field teams take.
  - Spectators will not be allowed to attend games in counties that are in High or Extreme Risk.
  - Clubs/teams must follow the rules of the field they are playing on.

## Club Responsibilities:

- By registering your team to the league, the club and their teams, coaches, players, and parents agree to follow all league protocols, policies, and responsibilities.
- Designate a point of contact for your club to communicate Covid related issues to OYSA
- Create and distribute field maps on their website that have entrances, exits, and traffic flow clearly marked.
  - Post signs at the field that clearly mark the entrances and exits.
  - Post clear signs listing COVID-19 symptoms, asking individuals with symptoms to stay home, and listing who to contact if they need assistance.
  - Post clear signs about the mask or face covering requirements.
  - Use signs to encourage physical distancing throughout the facility near shared equipment areas.
  - Use signs to direct one-way flow of traffic.
  - Provide a copy to OYSA to post to their website.
    - [Click here](#) to see the webpage.
    - Field map should indicate all fields rules, restrooms, entrances exits, one-way traffic flow and where the home and away teams should be during the game.
- Provide handwashing stations or hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol content) throughout the facility for use by individuals.
- Provide a monitor at your home field, see responsibilities below.



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- Close water fountains, except for those designed to refill water bottles in a contact-free manner.
- Consider closing alternate parking spots to facilitate at least six (6) feet of physical distancing between parties.
- All clubs responsible for providing their coaching staff/managers hand sanitizer and face covering/mask.
- Home club responsible for bathroom sanitation
  - Thoroughly clean restrooms at least twice daily and ensure adequate sanitary supplies (e.g., soap, toilet paper, 60-95% alcohol content hand sanitizer) throughout the day.
  - If possible, leave entrance and exit doors open.
  - Consider using a “one-in-one-out” policy, where only one individual is permitted with the restroom at one time.
- Home club responsible for field set-up and sanitization of all equipment at the beginning of the day, and in between games.
- All clubs responsible for keeping attendance for which players are at every game.
  
- Have an effective communication plan in place, identify strategies for working with public health to notify adult leaders, youth and their families if the organization learns a participant or adult leader has developed COVID-19 and may have been infectious to others while at a youth activity, while maintaining confidentiality as per law.
- Have an action plan in place, in case of a positive test. All positive and exposure cases must be reported to OYSA.
- Train and educate all staff to protocols and requirements, including state and local regulations, CDC recommendations and other necessary information. (See resources document on OYSA Covid-19 webpage)
  
- Be prepared to shut down and stop operations. Develop plans for temporary closure of outdoor activities to properly disinfect and ensure other adult leaders or youth are not infected.
- Provide adequate field space for social distancing.
- Develop a relationship and a dialog with local health officials.
- Each team may designate one person to video or Livestream games.
- Create club passing rules that limit the number of club passes used. Players that play in games that games with positive Covid-19 cases and exposure cases will also be required to follow the protocols of that team. This could also affect the team they are training with after the weekend’s game(s).
- Create a club policy for teams that travel out of state. OHA recommends a 14-day self-quarantine for anyone who has travelled out of the state for recreational purposes.

## COVID-19 Monitor Responsibilities:

**A club may decide to designate a monitor for the facility and/or each team. OYSA recommends that each team has a monitor to help manage Covid-19 guidance at the field.**

**Monitor’s are responsible for understanding and knowing all aspects of the PTTL Operational Plan and responsible for reminding, recording, and reporting. We ask that monitors are non-confrontational, just educational and informative. OYSA will use the reports to deal with the situations presented at the field. Each team will be provided with a monitor vest.**

**All reporting will use [this form](#) and is distributed to our Disciplinary Committee.**

- Ensure that maximum facility capacity, per OHA guidelines, is not exceeded.
  - Statewide:
    - Record number of participants per field, if above 50 report final number to OYSA immediately following the game.
    - Ensure that no spectators are present during games. Parents must remain in the parking area of the park or facility if they choose to stay on site.
    - Remind any spectators that are outside of the parking area to return to the parking area. Record any spectators that fail to comply with your request. Send report of spectators to OYSA immediately following the game.
- Remind, Record, Report
  - Remind any spectators that are not wearing a face covering or physical distancing to comply with OHA guidelines.



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- Record any spectators that fail to comply with your request. Send record of spectators to OYSA immediately following the game. Record can be picture, video, or written.
- Report your information to OYSA.
- Team may be removed from the league; and may forfeit all games and no refunds will be given. Any club with persistent infractions risks the club being removed and inability to register for any further leagues or Cups.

## Referee Responsibilities:

- Wear a mask up to the field to start the game, during the game, during halftime, and immediately following the game. If you are found to have not complied with this requirement, you may be removed from any future PTTL assignments for the calendar year.
- If a player clearly refuses to wear a mask over their nose and mouth, after being reminded it is required, the referee verbally reminds the player's coach and instructs the coach to correct the equipment issue with the player. If the player continues to refuse to wear a mask over their nose and mouth, the referee can abandon the match., If the match is abandoned, the referee will call the Game Day Hotline to inform the league, and write detailed notes regarding the incident in the referee report. Team may be removed from the league; appropriate fines are applied.
  - NOTE: it is expected that properly worn masks may slip down, fall off, require adjustment, etc., during the course of a match. The above requirement is ONLY for the case of clear and deliberate refusal by a player to wear a mask over their nose and mouth.
- If a coach clearly refuses to wear a mask over their nose and mouth, the referee warns the coach and instructs the coach to correct the equipment issue. If the coach continues to refuse to wear a mask over their nose and mouth, the referee can abandon the match., If the match is abandoned, the referee will call the GameDay hotline to inform the league and write detailed notes regarding the incident in the referee report. Team may be removed from the league; appropriate fines are applied.
- Referee can use an electronic whistle, whistle through their mask, or pull mask up to blow whistle, pull it down immediately afterwards.
- Maintain physical distancing at all times, prior, as much as possible during, and after all games.
- Will not touch the ball with their hands.
- Referee will only take a roster from the coach, and have the coach read out the player names and then show the referee the card to compare the card to the roster. Coach can also use Digital Player Passes instead of player cards.
- Enforce all game modifications made by the league to ensure the safety of the players.
- No handshakes, fist bumps, etc. after the game.

## Coaching Staff Responsibilities:

- Check-in all players to ensure no players have Covid-19 like symptoms. Template provided on OYSA Covid-19 page.
- Ensure that players and team's spectators are following the guidelines and rules of the field you are playing on.
- Always wear a face covering, maintain physical distance requirements from players based on state guidelines and local health requirements.
  - Have an extra face covering in case your face covering breaks
- Use hand sanitizer before interacting with your team.
- Make sure that your team has left the field within 5 minutes of the game ending.
  - Use appropriate exit and waits until all players have been picked up
- Will make sure the home team provides 3 balls per half that have been sanitized. Game balls from 1<sup>st</sup> half can be sanitized by the home team at half time.



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- Have an emergency plan in place if someone to be injured or needs to leave the field immediately. Have access to parent cell phone numbers, and we recommend having 2 coaches/managers at all games so one coach can handle any emergencies, the other coach can manage the team.
  - Coaches should check on an injured player but still maintain 6 feet of physical distancing when possible. In the case of an injury where a player needs more assistance, the coach may help the player.
  - The coach should be able to contact the parent and ask for support.
    - Parent may come onto the field or complex to help aid the injured child as needed.
- Recommend using cones to show where player bags should be for physical distancing.

## Parent Responsibilities:

- Keep child at home if they have any Covid-19 like symptoms.
- Check player's temperature prior to game, must be below 100.4 to participate. Report temperature to the coach upon arrival at the game.
- Parents, guardians, or spectators are NOT allowed to be at the field in counties that are in High or Extreme Risk. This is in line with the Sector Risk Level Guidance Chart **and the capacity limits for each county status.**
- Use the OYSA Field Map webpage to know and follow all rules for drop-off, entrances and exits for field your child is playing at.
- Player drop off:
  - U11 to U14 teams may drop off no earlier than 20 minutes prior to kickoff.
  - U15 to U19/20 teams may drop off no earlier than 30 minutes prior to kickoff.
  - May be different at different fields, so please check prior to the game.
- Player pick up:
  - All players must leave the facility within 5 minutes of the game ending.
  - No congregating.
- Statewide, if the parent chooses to remain on-site, must remain in the parking area of the field or park, preferably in your car.
  - Do not park in fire lanes or other spots not designated for parking.
- Do not use your hands to return to ball to the field when the ball goes out of bounds.
- For same-day travel, prepackaged meals should be considered. If restaurant dining is the only option, consider take-out food or outdoor eating as alternatives.

## Player Responsibilities:

- Stay home if you have any Covid-19 like symptoms
- Face coverings are required at all times, prior, during, and after the match, and must be worn over the nose and mouth.
  - [Click here](#) for the guidance on types of face coverings that are allowed per OHA guidelines.
  - We do not allow the face shield as a face covering for safety reasons.
  - If your face covering falls down during game play, pull it up immediately.
  - Have an extra face covering in case your face covering breaks or becomes too wet.
- Make sure to bring both sets of jerseys to every game.
- Cannot enter the field area until previous teams have left the field. Remain in your car until you see that the previous teams have left the field.
- Recommend using hand sanitizer prior to, during halftime, and after the match.
- Maintain 6 feet of physical distancing at all times when not participating in the match.
- Hand shakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, and group celebrations are prohibited.

