

ADDENDUM to “MSI Return to Play Guidelines, version 5.0”

This addendum incorporates guidance from the April 27, 2021 Montgomery County Health Order, and is adopted April 29, 2021.

MSI Guidance for Wearing Face Masks during “High Heat/Humidity Declaration”

- A “High Heat/Humidity Declaration” shall be in effect whenever the heat Index (combined impact of heat and humidity) is **above 80 degrees** during practice or game activities.
 - The “Declaration” shall be based upon the current “RealFeel” temperature on Accuweather.com for the location of the game. For games played at Soccerplex, it shall be in accordance with the Soccerplex’s weather monitoring system.
 - Coaches should meet before the start of each practice or game and make a determination as to whether a “High Heat/Humidity Declaration” is in effect, based upon the weather conditions during the game (e.g., it may be cool in the morning, and hot in the afternoon).
- ***If a “High Heat/Humidity Declaration” is NOT made:***
 - All individuals on the sidelines (coaches, players, referees, and spectators) are required to wear face masks at all times.
 - All players and referees are required to wear face masks at all times, including during active practice or play.
- ***If a “High Heat/Humidity Declaration” IS made:***
 - All individuals on the sidelines (coaches, players, and spectators) are required to wear face masks at all times.
 - The CDC and Montgomery County Board of Health have both indicated that participation in vigorous athletic activity while wearing a face mask during High Heat/Humidity may represent a health risk.
 - All players and referees may remove their face masks while on the field and engaged in active practice or play. Upon leaving the active field of play, face masks must be worn by all.
 - Note that a “High Heat/Humidity Declaration” does not mean that individual players **must** remove their face mask; it is a personal choice, and should be actively respected by all.
 - Either coach may request a water break be held at the midpoint of each half by speaking with the referee prior to the start of the game.
- ***Note that “being vaccinated” does NOT mean that individuals are exempt from face mask requirements*** in these larger group settings that occur at MSI games.

MSI Guidance for Spectator Attendance at MSI Activities

- Spectator attendance is limited by County guidelines that take into account:
 - Maximum allowable spectator attendance under optimal conditions
 - Sufficient open space for increased spectator attendance
 - Ability to have a distinct barrier between the “spectator group” and the “game group”
- Spectator attendance shall be limited to a maximum of one (1) spectator per player at the following locations:
 - MSI Kindergarten program at Julius West MS
- Spectator attendance shall be limited to a maximum of two (2) spectators per player at all other MSI games and practices.
- Please refer to the site-specific spectator instructions in the MSI Return to Play Guidelines (as well as diagrams for most game locations) on the MSI website, indicating specific spectator locations designated for each game site. Spectators are required to respect the designated barrier (fence, grandstands, etc.) or boundary lines, as appropriate.