

Boston Strikers  
COVID-19 Safety Protocol

**Summary**

The Boston Strikers will follow all standards set by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our members. The Boston Strikers executive board will continue to monitor state regulations and CDC guidance to promote best practices accordingly.

**Registration**

1. When registering for any leagues, members must agree to our COVID-19 waiver (Appendix 1).
2. Registration requires a user account which includes contact information (phone and email) for any necessary contact tracing.
3. Registration will be capped to comply with any MA regulations on outdoor gathering sizes.

**In Advance of Playing**

1. To be enforced by league administrators, coaches, and captains: All players must show no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days prior to attending an event. COVID-19 symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater or equal to 100.4.
2. Players must achieve proper hand hygiene before entering and exiting the field/facility. This includes washing with soap and/or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer. The Boston Strikers will ensure that hand sanitizer is available at each event for those not bringing their own.

**Time of Play**

1. All players will be required to wear face masks when arriving at the field and they will remain in use until exiting the premises. There are no exceptions, regardless of vaccination status.
2. Players will not congregate prior to the start time of each event. Players must remain in vehicles until 5 minutes before the start.
3. Players will be required to arrive with appropriate gear already on and ready to play.
4. Once at the field, players will avoid congregating in large groups and will utilize all space to remain distant from one another. Players from the same household are an exception.
5. No spectators will be permitted.
6. Only board members will be allowed to handle designated Boston Strikers equipment. Prior to and after handling the equipment, one must sanitize hands.

7. All equipment, including soccer balls, will be sanitized with spray prior to use and immediately after use. During play, soccer balls will be sanitized as needed depending on use.
8. Players will be constantly reminded to and recommended to sanitize hands frequently.
9. All members will refrain from hugs, hand shakes, high fives, and other physical contact.

### **Game Play Rules**

1. There will be no throw-ins allowed and all will be replaced with kick-ins.
2. Use of the head to control the soccer ball is discouraged.

### **After Play**

1. All designated Strikers equipment will be fully sanitized and cleaned before leaving the premise and again prior to storing away.
2. Players are responsible for taking all belongings and trash from the field at the end of play.
3. Players must leave the premise as soon as play concludes.
4. Players must bring home their team jerseys and are required to wash before the next game.

### **Administrative**

1. If any player or household member tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of having played in an event, we ask that they immediately notify a board member. The Boston Strikers will follow the disclosure and contact tracing protocols of the state, county, city and facility. Any communication required of Strikers will be handled in accordance with health regulations and will ensure the confidentiality of the identity of the reporting person.
2. If any player or household member tests positive for COVID-19 ahead of playing, they are asked to quarantine for 14 days and/or produce multiple negative test results prior to returning to the field.
3. As stated in the waiver, the Boston Strikers are following all best practices to reduce the risk of exposure/contracting COVID-19, but the Boston Strikers are not able to assert that players will not be exposed to, or contract, COVID-19 in connection with their participation. Each player should make the decision best for them regarding their participation.
4. These policies and procedures will be adjusted as necessary to stay up to date with regulations and best practices.

Appendix

1.

## **Waiver of Liability Form**

### **Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19**

The novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people. The Boston Strikers Soccer Club has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, cannot guarantee that you will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, attending any program or activity held by the Boston Strikers Soccer Club could increase your risk of contracting COVID-19.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 while attending the Boston Strikers Soccer Club event and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at the Boston Strikers Soccer Club event may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, members, representatives, and participants and their families.

I voluntarily agree to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to myself (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I may experience or incur in connection with my attendance at the Boston Strikers Soccer Club event or (“Claims”). On my behalf, I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless the Boston Strikers Soccer Club, its members, and representatives, of and from the Claims, including all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating thereto. I understand and agree that this release includes any Claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of the Boston Strikers Soccer Club, its members, and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after attending any Boston Strikers Soccer Club event or activity.

2.

Reference to MA COVID-19 Public Health Guidance and Directives

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-public-health-guidance-and-directives>

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/safety-standards-for-youth-and-adult-amateur-sports-activities-phase-iv-step-1-effective-32221/download>