



March 30th, 2021

Welcome to the Spring 2021 'Return to Play' Season!

Managers, players, and directors of the OTHSL:

We are happy to be supporting the league's 40th year with all of you in this 'Return to Play' Season. At last count, we have 235-teams participating with another 35 that have opted to sit-out this season. We very much respect every team's decision to play or not to play in this coming season and hope to welcome them back in the Fall under better conditions. See below some important information to get us started:

COVID Guidelines

Wearing masks is required. Follow-the guidelines. Cooperate with each other. Your season counts on it as these guidelines are required by the states for us to allow a season. Find the guidelines here: https://www.othsl.org/OTHSL_COVID_Guidelines_3-28-21.pdf. Teams and their managers who are found to be in violation could be disciplined – and really, just don't want to do that. NH guidelines are significantly different than MA – be sure to read the section appropriate to your games.

So again, please, help and please show appropriate sportsmanship and cooperation for the good of the game and health and safety of each other. As noted in a note this week, there will be League officials spot-checking games throughout the season to help ensure compliance. Just do what's right here.

Spring 2021 Rules Highlights for 'Return to Play'

- Here is a link to current rules: https://www.othsl.org/cgi-bin/Constitution_and_Rules.
- Spring is planned to be a competitive season with semi-final and finals. All games count. Cards count, player suspensions count, and point-deductions count.
- No relegation or promotion from results of this Spring 2021 season. When we go back to 'normal', seedings will revert to the outcomes of the Fall 2019.
- Games postponed due to COVID (that aren't because of COVID guideline violations) will be treated as postponed games and made-up per Rule 14.
- Managers **must** sign-roster before each game certifying that all players have passed health check questions; that their team will follow appropriate guidelines; and that they will support contact tracing efforts if needed. (see COVID guidelines)

TeamSnap Discount

Stop using email and text lists. Working with Mass Soccer, you have access to a TeamSnap Premium at a significant discount. \$39 per year per team (vs. I think \$100+). If haven't used a team communication app . . . they are well worth it. Some benefits to this paid version:



- Availability tracking
- Start 1-clock, everyone sees it on their phone
- Track stats
- Up to 40-players on roster
- Team Chat and email
- One-touch navigation to fields

Honestly, well worth it for that 1-game that gets postponed that you learn-of ½ way into a 50-minute drive, or when the field gets moved at the last minute. Note there's 'no cost' to individual players!

Access it here: <https://www.mass-soccer.org/teamsnap>.

AED Discount

In partnership with MASS Soccer, we continue to support the purchase and maintenance of Automatic Electronic Defibrillators (AED) by the teams in our league. **Both OTHSL and MASS-Soccer will provide a \$250 rebate (Total \$500) when a team purchases an AED** to be available at league games. Teams already owning an AED may receive a rebate for replacement batteries and pads.

Access it here at Mass Soccer: <https://www.mass-soccer.org/page/show/4413251-aed-subsidy-program>.

Completing the MASS form automatically completes our OTHSL requirements to get the rebate. These devices can truly save a life and we continue to encourage everyone to get one. With the rebates, the cost can get lower than \$400.

And that about wraps it up.

When you get a chance, please give thanks to your Division Directors and particularly, an extra thanks to Jeremy Mordkoff, Andrei Taradai, and/or Steve Siniscalchi (Webmaster, Registrar, Secretary respectively) whose efforts to rearrange the league (including need to create a NH division) have been invaluable to being able to play. I simply can not say enough myself for the effort by this team to put on these last couple seasons.

And that thanks extends to you as well. We set-it up and help manage, but each of you managers make the individual efforts to keep this the 'best and largest' adult soccer league in the United States. Looking forward to celebrating this with you all as we celebrate our 40th year.

Good luck this season. Stay healthy. Stay safe.

See you around the pitch,

Jim Buza
President
New England Over-the-Hill Soccer League