

**Government of Meghalaya
Sports & Youth Affairs Department**

No: SYA.91/2020/8

Dated: Shillong the 8th of December 2020

SOP for Resumption of Domestic Football Matches, Competitions and Tournaments through Clubs and Associations*

Whereas, the Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Government of Meghalaya had earlier notified the SOP for Non-Contact and Indirect-Contact Sporting Activities vide No. SYA.91/2020/1 dated Shillong, the 16th June 2020;

Whereas, the Sports & Youth Affairs Department is conscious of the impact COVID-19 has had on the sports ecosystem in the State, and therefore understands that it is crucial to draw up a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for resumption of Football matches, competitions and tournaments through various Sports Clubs and Associations in the State that reassures all stakeholders involved;

Now, therefore, to ensure that all the key stakeholders of the football fraternity in the State follow all the health and safety protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the following protocol is hereby notified in continuation to the SOP for the resumption of Non-Contact and Indirect-Contact Sports Activities:

I. General Principles

- a. This SOP for Resumption of resumption of domestic Football matches, competitions and tournaments through various Sports clubs and Associations in the State shall be in accordance to the Order of the MHA Order No 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 25th November 2020, the general framework and protocols as stipulated in the SOP for Non-Contact and Indirect-Contact Sporting Activities vide order No. SYA.91/2020/1 dated Shillong, the 16th June 2020, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Sports Activities as issued by the Sports Authority of India and the State Health Department's protocols and guidelines on health, social distancing and hygiene, Standard Operating Procedures on preventive measures to contain spread of COVID-19 during festivities as issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare dated 6th October 2020
- b. Sports Clubs and Associations in the State that wish to organise and conduct Football matches, tournaments and competitions should submit an undertaking to the Deputy Commissioner confirming the adherence to the SOP detailed herein and obtain prior permission from the respective Deputy Commissioner.
- c. This SOP is strictly limited to Sports Clubs and Associations in the State who intend to organise Football matches, competitions and tournaments for participants and participating teams hailing from within a particular district of the proposed tournament/competition/match and strictly for participants over the age of 12 years of age.
- d. Sports Clubs and Associations who intend to organise regional and national level football matches, competitions and tournaments which entail participating teams to travel to Meghalaya from out of State shall be required to seek additional directions, guidance and approval from the Director, Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of Meghalaya and the respective Deputy Commissioners of the district.
- e. Sports Clubs and Associations in the State that wish to organise and conduct Football matches, tournaments and competitions are restricted to the maximum capacity of personnel(participating teams, team officials, match officials, service providers, Volunteers and spectators) at the competition venues to 100 personnel or 1/3 capacity of the venue, whichever is lesser as per the directives of the MHA dated 25th November 2020 vide order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A)
- f. At all times the Sports Clubs and Associations must respond to the directives of the Health Department and other authorities.
- g. The detection of a positive COVID-19 case in a Sporting Club or Association will result in a standard public health response, which could include testing and Isolation of the individuals as per the protocols of the Health and Family Welfare Department.

* *The broad classification of sports clubs and associations are inclusive of the gamut of bodies/organisations/entities involved in the structured provision of sports and physical activities for sports persons and the wider community as a whole*

II. Guidance for Stakeholders

| Stakeholders | Stakeholder Responsibilities | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | <i>Before Match/Competition/Tournament</i> | <i>During Match/Competition/Tournament</i> | <i>After Match/Competition/Tournament</i> |
| Clubs & Associations | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Appointment of a Covid-19 Compliance Officer who will monitor the compliance of the SOPs and the protocols. The officer shall liaise with the sports clubs and associations, Venue Management and the Players to ensure compliance of the set-out protocols before and after each Match. Ensure availability of health and medical infrastructure at the competition and training venues i.e. ALS/BLS Ambulance Any food for teams should be prepared and packaged by the team staff, preferably off-site. If the organisers are providing third-party catering, this should be limited to pre-packaged light snacks and uncut fruit prepared to the highest hygiene standard. Drinks to be consumed in the dressing rooms should be served in personal disposable bottles (single use). Both teams and match officials should be allocated designated warm-up areas, avoiding any contact. There should be no involvement of children. Thus, there should be no player mascots, escorts match ball carriers or similar roles usually carried out by minors. The only exception to this requirement may be the use of ball kids, or Alternatively "ball persons" | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Coaches should avoid shouting or raising their voices when facing each other during, before and after the matches When the ball goes out of play it should not be retrieved by non-participants and should be retrieved using the feet rather than the hands where possible. Where there are breaks in the game, if throw-ins or handling has occurred the ball should be disinfected. Team talk huddles should not take place. Team talks can take place, as long as social distancing is observed and held outdoors. Pre-match handshake of practice matches should not occur. Instead players/trainees will be asked to hand-sanitise before kick-off. All players and officials sitting on the bench or the technical seats observe the distancing rules, Designated seats should be clearly marked for use/non-use, team dug outs should be disinfected before, during half time and post-match completion Football/match balls shall be cleaned and disinfected after each use, including after the warm-up and at half-time. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All shared equipment should be thoroughly washed, and disinfected. Warm-ups/cool-downs should always observe social distancing. Gathering in the centre and post-match handshakes with the match officials and opposing team is discouraged. Swapping of shirts or other items is discouraged. There should be no visits by dignitaries or other functionaries to the Match Participants' Zone after the match. There should be no special meetings, ceremonies or any other physical interaction, for example with friends, families or fans. |
| Venue Owners/Management | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All personal training equipment shall be disinfected while the player is inducted into the venue. Hand sanitisers should be made available at the entrance Keep attendance records for all stakeholders entering the venue. Deployment of sufficient housekeeping staff with the adequate sanitation and disinfectants in common areas and toilets. In line with current Health Department guidelines and protocols, all Stakeholders should be checked for symptoms of Covid-19 Clear signage to manage entry, parking arrangements, traffic flow and general movement around the venue to ensure social distancing can be maintained, Display of Posters/standees on preventive measures against COVID-19 at prominent places at the venue along with State helpline numbers | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All indoor areas such as entrance lobbies, corridors and staircases, escalators, elevators, security guard booths, office rooms, meeting rooms, cafeteria should be mopped before during and after the match with a disinfectant with 1% sodium hypochlorite or phenolic disinfectants, for metallic surfaces like door handles, security locks, keys etc. 70% alcohol can be used to wipe down surfaces. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitisation of change rooms, washrooms toilet facilities and fixtures. Sanitisation of goal posts, sports equipment and material belonging to the venue management. |
| Players | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Players should bring along their own equipment. No sharing of sports equipment, towels, water bottles etc. Ensuring all players, officials and staff have their own water bottles to prevent the transmission of viruses and bacteria, Bottles should be labelled and washed (with dishwasher soap) after each match. Warm-up and cool down should be done individually Ensuring adequate sleep, proper nutrition. Players should arrive at the venue changed and ready to compete limiting the time spent in common change rooms. Covid-19 self-assessment using Arogya Setu App and self-monitoring for symptoms. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Covering of mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. Avoiding handshakes, high fives, group celebrations and limit goal celebrations to elbow bumps. Players and officials should refrain from spitting. Interactions with referees and match assistants should only happen with players observing social distancing. All participants must remain socially distanced during breaks in play It is recommended that Players wear dispensable sanitary gloves during the matches. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All clothing material worn during the match i.e. jerseys, shorts, socks etc. should be packed into separate bags/containers(which are to be brought by all the players/trainees) which should be immediately washed with disinfectants and adequate quantities of detergent. Players should proceed to leave the venue immediately after cool-down exercises and technical briefings. |

III. Guidance for Spectator Management & Control for Event Organiser's & Venue Owners/Management

- a. Spectators above 65 years of age, persons with comorbidities, pregnant women and children below the age of 10 years are advised to stay at home. This applies to the event organisers, managers and staff as well.
- b. Only those staff and visitors who are free of symptoms shall be allowed inside the venue, anyone found symptomatic during thermal screening should be politely refused entry and advised to seek immediate medical care.
- c. All staff and visitors to be allowed entry only if using face cover/masks. The face cover/mask has to be worn by all at all times while in public places.
- d. Spectators must maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet in public places as far as feasible, when queuing up for entry and inside the venue as far as feasible, specific marking for the purpose may be done, use of face covers/masks to be mandatory.
- e. Respiratory etiquettes to be strictly followed. This involves strict practice of covering one's mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing with a tissue/handkerchief/flexed elbow and disposing off used tissues properly, spitting should be strictly prohibited.
- f. Installation & use of Aarogya Setu App shall be advised to all.
- g. Identification of spatial boundaries which would facilitate compliance with thermal screening, physical distancing, sanitization etc.
- h. Coordination with the Local Police Authorities for deployment of security personnel to avoid crowding etc.
- i. Adequate manpower shall be deployed by the organizers to ensure observance to physical distancing norms and other preventive measures at all times. Volunteers/staff should be appropriately stationed to ensure thermal scanning, physical distancing and wearing of masks.
- j. Adequate supplies of sanitizers, thermal guns and physical distancing floor markings to be ensured.
- k. Appropriate arrangements for personal protection gears like face covers/masks, and other logistics like hand sanitizers, soap, sodium hypochlorite solution for sanitizing frequently touched surfaces etc. shall be made available by event organizers/venue management & owners for their staff as per requirements.
- l. Event organizers owners may make suitable provisions for contact less payment.
- m. Define a place within the competition venue where a large number of people can be isolated and in case of a large number of spectators/players/event staff are exposed
- n. Medical care arrangements with linkages to nearest hospitals to attend to health emergencies.
- o. A simple do's and don'ts advisory may be circulated / displayed prominently at each event venue, posters/standees/AV media on preventive measures from COVID-19 must be displayed prominently at the event sites.
- p. Preferably multiple and separate entry and exits for visitors shall be ensured, entrances to have mandatory hand hygiene and thermal screening provisions.
- q. Proper crowd management inside and outside premises like parking lots, waiting areas, stalls and eateries etc. duly following physical distancing norms shall be ensured.
- r. SOP in case of a suspect case or person who develops symptoms during the conduct of the event:
 - i. Place the ill person in a room or area where they are isolated from others.
 - ii. The person will remain isolated while wearing a mask/face cover till such time he/she is examined by a doctor.
 - iii. If symptoms deteriorate, inform the nearest medical facility (hospital/clinic) or call the State or District Helpline.
 - iv. A risk assessment shall be undertaken by the designated public health authority (district RRT/treating physician) and accordingly further action be initiated regarding management of case, his/her contacts and need for disinfection.
 - v. Disinfection of the premises to be taken up if the person is found positive.

**Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya
Sports & Youth Affairs Department**

No: SYA.91/2020/8(A)

Dated: Shillong the 8th of December 2020

Copy to:

1. P.S. to Minister I/c Sports & Youth Affairs for Information of Minister.
2. P.S to Chief Secretary, to the Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of Chief Secretary.
3. P.A to Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Sports & Youth Affairs, Department for Information.
4. The Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills District, West Khasi Hills District, South West Khasi Hills District, Ri-Bhoi District, West Jaintia District, East Jaintia Hills District, West Garo Hills District, East Garo Hills District, South Garo Hills District, North Garo Hills District, South West Garo Hills District for information and Necessary action with a request to circulate the all Meghalaya Sports Clubs and Associations.
5. The Chief Engineer, State Sports Council Meghalaya for information and Necessary Action.

By Order Etc.

**Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya
Sports & Youth Affairs Department**