



Alaska State Youth Soccer Association

RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOLS

UPDATED

2020



US
YOUTH
SOCCER





RETURN TO PLAY



Alaska Youth Soccer Association sanctioned youth soccer activities Return-To-Play operational guidelines are in place to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19. The FIVE phased approach will provide clear direction and understanding for coaches, players, and families to engage in within EACH DISTRICT including guidance from the State of Alaska and as recommended by the CDC. Sanctioned Affiliate Clubs approved for Return to Play may start programming when the appropriate Return-To-Play phase has been reached in their District.



Phase I

SHELTER IN PLACE – NO GROUP TRAINING



Phase II

RETURN TO ACTIVITY SMALL GROUP TRAININGS



Phase III

INTRODUCTION OF PRACTICES AND SCRIMMAGES



Phase IV

FULL TEAM COMPETITION “NEW NORMAL”



Phase V

NO RESTRICTIONS

Alaska Youth Soccer Affiliate Districts

Anchorage	Kenai Peninsula	Southeast
Interior	Mat-Su	

Effective Date 7/31/2020
Anchorage District

Phase II



RETURN TO ACTIVITY WITH INDIVIDUAL / SMALL GROUP TRAINING

Restrictions/ Recommendations

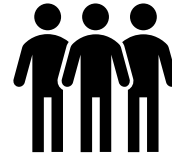
PARENTS/ PLAYERS

- Players to use own soccer ball, also to set apart bag/ equipment from others
- Limit carpooling to only members of the same family. Parents stay in car.
- Hand sanitizer to use before, during and after training; face mask if desired
- Players gear and equipment to be washed/sanitized before/after training
- If you are sick or feel sick, or an at-risk individual STAY HOME

AFFILIATE CLUBS/ LEAGUES/ COACHES

- Sanitizing options available onsite. including; hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to be used to wipe down all equipment after each training session
- Participants include players, coaches, spectators. Limit players/ parents/ spectators with practice start/ end times to maximize social distancing
- **Physical contact should be minimized during training sessions.**
- **Avoid training which creates opportunity for contact with another's equipment (including headers, throw-ins, etc.)**
- **No scrimmages, league games, camps, tournaments during this Phase.**

Alaska Youth Soccer Association



Trainings should comply with local and regional guidelines for the appropriate number of people in one group and the size of the group.

All participants (coaches, players, administrators) are to wear new or clean PPE upon arrival, departure and when not physically active during activities.

No contact e.g. hugs, high-fives, handshakes.

Small group training sessions in area where social distancing can be maintained.

Avoid activities that may require direct or indirect contact (e.g. bumping) between athletes.

No travel to activities outside of your district.



Avoid sharing equipment, practice vest, snacks, and water bottles.

Players should not pick up field equipment, move goals, or handle training equipment..



Participants to remain a minimum of 6 feet apart; includes between players and coaches.

Upon arrival coaches ask athletes if they are experiencing signs/symptoms of COVID-19.

*** Clubs, teams, and players will continue to follow COVID-19 prevention protocols and health and safety guidelines while maintaining vigilant regarding the promotion of safety of all those involved in the program.**





Alaska Youth Soccer remains steadfast in our commitment to the safety of our players, coaches, referees, families, and communities. It is imperative that everyone understands their role and demonstrate a commitment adhering to the AYSA Return-to-Play Protocols which have been created based on federal, state, and local directives and guidance with the intent of providing a safe environment to get back on the field. For the benefit of all AYSA clubs, leagues and players, we ask you strictly adhere to the regulations within your local municipality. Alaska Youth Soccer reserves the right to amend its decisions on sanctioned activities and timelines to best adapt to and reflect all new federal, state, and local directives and guidelines.

Reverting to Earlier Phases

Regardless of which phase you are in you should be prepared to step back and revert to an earlier phase if any of the following occur. Always follow local public health official guidelines.

- Cluster of infections occur
- Inability to maintain COVID-19 prevention and response protocols
- Inability to track and/or isolate players or staff
- External factor exposes a COVID-19 risk to your team or club or league
- Changes to local public health official guidelines regarding group gatherings
- Alaska Youth Soccer places the affiliate as not a “Member in Good Standing”



**Alaska Youth Soccer
Return to Play Protocols**



Return to Play

At a bare minimum, the state association and its member organizations, need to adhere to their state/local guidelines on resumption of sporting activities. Follow their guidelines & directives closely and you will be operating in a reasonable and prudent manner from a risk management standpoint. The state association can decide to be more restrictive than their state/local mandates as respects to return to play, just not any less restrictive. Documentation will be very important. By documenting positive actions taken by the association/club, you will be able to demonstrate that reasonable and prudent steps were undertaken and completed to keep players, staff, and spectators as safe from infection as possible.

Health Status Agreement (Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement)

State associations should consider implementing a communicable disease waiver (release of liability) because it does document you advised the persons there is a risk of acquiring a communicable disease in a group sport setting. As part of your duty of care to persons, the state association has a duty to warn persons of potential hazards. Failure to warn of a hazard can be used against you in a civil suit.

Facemasks (Players)

Players should be allowed to wear a cloth, surgical, or similar face covering while playing soccer but do not mandate players wear one (leave it to the parent's discretion) unless your state mandates face coverings need to be worn while playing athletic activities.

- **Dan Pullen** | **K&K Insurance Group, Inc.**

[US Youth Soccer Return to Activity Notice
Version 1.0, 5/13/20](#)

[U.S. Soccer PLAY ON initiative](#)

[Soccer Recommendation Guide 05/27/20](#)

[Phase III Grassroots Recommendations Guide](#)

[Reopen Alaska Responsibly Plan](#)

[CDC Recreational Guidance](#)

[CSC Resources for Large Community Events](#)

[EPA list of COVID-19 Effective Disinfectants](#)

[Move United](#)

[Special Olympics](#)

[Special Olympics Infographic](#)

[Federation for Children with Special Needs](#)

[Autism; Wearing a Mask Social Story](#)

[CDC Mass Gatherings](#)

[CDC Parks and Recreational Facilities](#)

[CDC Considerations for Youth Sports](#)



Alaska Youth Soccer RESOURCES

