



Alaska Youth Soccer Association

1231 W Northern Lights Blvd #821, Anchorage AK 99503

(907) 887-6550

www.alaskayouthsoccer.org



08/3/2020

To: Alaska Youth Soccer Membership

CC: Board of Directors

Re: Return-to-Play – Update Anchorage District

AYSA Members and Affiliates,

All policies and decisions are guided by local and state mandates and guidelines. As Alaska Youth Soccer consistently shares and emphasizes, these guidelines and best practices are intended for use **WHEN AND IF** your local authorities have deemed it safe to gather in groups and at no time should trainings include more individuals (players, coaches, and parents/guardians) than is locally allowed. AYSA is in no way endorsing holding practices or games in violation of any federal, state, or local mandates. It is important to remain vigilant and nimble as we prepare for every eventuality. By prioritizing the safety of our soccer community, we can preserve the health of those around us and help ensure soccer can remain part of our lives at this time.

At the outset and throughout the Alaska return-to-play process, please remember each participant and their families should stay informed and make educated choices about when they are ready to play. No one should feel pressured – or pressure others – into a decision.

Anchorage Trainings Should continue to comply with local and state mandates and guidelines 1) Appropriate number of individuals in one group/ size 2) Individuals to wear a mask or cloth face covering 3) Maintain six feet of physical distance from non-household members. (**EO-13 v2** allows for exceptions “athletes and medical” wearing a face covering). All participants (coaches, players, administrators) are to wear new or clean PPE upon **arrival and departing** and when **not physically active** during trainings and activities. Coaches, staff, and administrators should maintain as much social distance as possible during all club trainings and activities. Coaches **should not be within six feet** of any athlete; they should wear a mask or cloth face covering when **they cannot maintain** the six feet requirement.

The safety protocols outlined in AYSA’s **COVID-19 Return-To-Play Guidelines and Recommendations** regarding daily medical clearance, training prep, sanitizing/disinfecting, congregating/ transitioning, celebrations/ high-fives, check ins and individual stations should continue to be followed as we move forward.

Additional Club Considerations (08/03/20)

1. Consider creating “**Team Pods**” to limit crossover exposure risk that may come from club interactions.
 - a. Per team, maintain the same coaches, administrators, instructors, and staff for all team activities.
 - b. If possible, limit coaches, administrators, instructors, and staff to only one team.
 - c. Clubs are encouraged to assign specific arrival times for all club-specific participants (ex: for staff, per team, for players) to limit congestion during warm up and accessing the field.
 - d. Limit coaches, administrators, and staff attendance at training to allow for social distancing.
2. Survey your space. If possible, carefully consider what “**Maximum Capacity**” would ensure social distancing remains possible through all activities.
 - a. Consider implementing protocol to track the number of participants and spectators in your space at a given time. Restrict additional people entering the facility or space after reaching “**Maximum Capacity.**”
 - b. For contact tracing purposes, maintain a list of all facility users, participants, and attendees at trainings.
3. Communicate your **UPDATED** health & safety guidelines to all participants, including players, coaches, administrators, parents, and staff.
 - a. COVID-19 prevention and response protocols should continue to be maintained.
 - b. Parents and guardians are not encouraged to attend trainings. Should parents and guardians attend, they should carefully follow spectator policies and watch from areas specifically designated for viewing.
 - c. Parents should not congregate together and should follow social distancing guidelines.
4. Follow PPE (face mask) procedures outlined; follow **ALL** Federal and Municipality Mandates, and Division of Public Health Guidelines for the appropriate number of people in one group, distancing six feet apart, and face covering guidelines.

- a. Hand sanitizer or hand washing stations should be located around the facility and very easily identifiable.
5. Should carpooling or ride sharing be necessary, consider the following:
- a. Only rideshare with a family or individual who has practiced appropriate distancing and sheltering requirements established by their local government or public health officials.
 - b. Rideshare with the same individuals for each training and team activities.
 - c. Maintain safe distancing during loading and unloading, and while in transit if possible.
 - d. Limit the number of stops between departure site and training destination.
 - e. Wear PPE in the vehicle.
 - f. In accordance with the Safe Soccer Framework and the U.S. Center for SafeSport policies and guidance, a minor and an adult who is not the minor player's parent/legal guardian may not be alone in the vehicle together.

For the benefit of all Anchorage clubs, teams, and players, we ask you strictly adhere to the mandates 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.

We will continue to review any additional mandates as they occur and adjust our RTP in accordance. As always please reach out to the Alaska Youth Soccer office if you have concerns or questions.

“In Unity is Strength”

Sincerely,



Linda Burke
Executive Director
Alaska Youth Soccer

See Attached

[AYSA RTP- Anchorage 7/31/20](#)

[Municipality of Anchorage](#)



Alaska Youth Soccer Association

1231 W Northern Lights Blvd #821, Anchorage AK 99503

(907) 887-6550

www.alaskayouthsoccer.org



08/4/2020

To: Alaska Youth Soccer Membership

CC: Board of Directors

Re: Return-to-Play – Update Anchorage District

AYSA Members and Affiliates,

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your patience as we adjust within our current COVID-19 Return-To-Play Guidelines to align with the current State and Local mandates. The transition to the individual and small group training phase should allow for social distancing but not take away from the opportunity to have valuable training sessions.

There is some flexibility in the current phase than earlier with the updated guidelines from US Soccer and US Youth Soccer, which were not available when we started in May. Basically yes, you can pass the ball during practices but do so safely. No intra club or community scrimmages because of the six feet requirement. I know this is not ideal, AYSA will continue to adhere to all Federal, State and Local guidelines, requirements and safety guidelines while maintaining vigilant regarding the promotion of safety of all those involved in the program.

Small Groups- Creating a training plan that organizes coaches and participants into small groups that remain as consistent as possible throughout the Phase while complying with the gathering limitations within the mandate remains important. Keeping the same bubble of players, coaches, and teams together will allow for more opportunities for the players and to enable contact tracing efforts if needed. Players, coaches, parents, and administrators should remain disciplined in the use of masks and social distancing (six feet requirement) including wearing the mask **to/from the field** and when **not physically active** during the trainings.

Parents are encouraged to stay in their cars/ parking lot and maintaining strict adherence to social distancing.

Training Schedule Coaches are encouraged to plan a training schedule whereby there is no more than two small groups on a regulation-size field at any time. In those instances where you are concerned that younger players may not be as capable at maintaining social distancing parameters, you can decrease the number of players or increase the space in which they are playing to maintain proper distance or increase the space you are using for training.

Trainings should only occur in the community you live in. The phase does not sanction any travel requiring over-night stays in hotels, extensive travel or sharing of vehicles. Reminder the phase does not allow for scrimmages, league games, camps, or tournaments because of the social distancing requirement of six feet.

Practices- All practices and designed activities are to focus on individual fitness and skills training to help limit or eliminate player interactions while maintaining safety in accordance with local guidelines.

Drills may involve passing and transition, provided that the ball is not touched by the player other than by their feet and the players maintain social distancing as regulated by local guidelines

Field Players- should not handle soccer balls unless wearing gloves. Players are allowed the use of shared balls between players in foot drills with avoidance of the use of hands. Headers should be avoided. Players should maintain social distancing when possible.

Goalkeeper Training- soccer balls should not be shared. Plan for one soccer ball per goalkeeper. If the goalkeeper is involved in an activity with field players and using his or her hands, use the goalkeeper's designated ball(s).

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. We will continue to review any additional mandates as they occur and adjust our RTP in accordance. As always please reach out to the Alaska Youth Soccer office if you have concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

Linda Burke

Executive Director

Alaska Youth Soccer