



Alaska Youth Soccer Association

1231 W Northern Lights Blvd #821, Anchorage AK 99503

(907) 887-6550

www.alaskayouthsoccer.org



05/29/2020

Return to Play (RTP) Protocols and Compliance for Sanctioned Leagues

LEAGUE COMPLIANCE

- 1) **Guidelines-** Follow and consult the Municipality Division of Public Health to ensure you are following guidelines for the appropriate number of people in one group and the size of the group.
- 2) **Application-** Have been approved by the AYSA office to operate a Sanctioned League and paid the fee.
- 3) **Permits-** Have active current facility permits to hold league games.
- 4) **Certificates of Insurance (COI)-** Proper COI in place prior to starting any sanctioned league activity.
- 5) **Emergency Operations-** Review the existing plans for your facility locations.
- 6) **Polices-** Ensure all AYSA policies, guidelines, and COVID-19 Return to Play Protocols are being followed.

LEAGUE PROTOCOLS

- 1) **Transition-** Ensure time of between the end of one game and the beginning of the second game. Times should be staggered to minimize large group gathering.
- 2) **Older Players-** Consider phasing in older divisions first. Recognize the challenges that come up, in order to resolve those prior to bringing in younger players.
- 3) **Game Rosters-** Establish rosters for teams will be paperless and be available to team managers electronically.
- 4) **Games-** Recommend that teams not play more than one game per day.

FACILITY PROTOCOLS

- 1) **Spectators-** Limit spectator attendance and establish guidelines; limit risk by limiting attendance to essential staff/coaches and limited family members based on current recommendations from local and state officials
- 2) **Congregating Guidelines -** Establish designated entry and exit for facility, parking lots, fields, drop off zones, spectator sidelines, and high traffic areas.

CLUB PROTOCOLS

- 1) **Guidelines-** Ensure teams are current on state/ city mandates, protocols including league and AYSA guidelines.
- 2) **Sanitation-** Ensure all teams have supplies including hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes on hand for each game.
- 3) **Hydration-** Players must bring their own water. No sharing. Communal water coolers should not be utilized.
- 4) **Game Ball-** Teams will use disinfectant on the game ball between each game if the same ball is used.
- 5) **Warmups-** Use minimal equipment to limit transmission of virus. Players should not pick up field equipment, move goals, or handle other necessary training equipment.
- 6) **Technical Area-** Establish measures to create social distance between coaching staff and athletes by ensuring each team has only 4 or less technical area staff on the team bench at any time.
- 7) **Athletic Trainers-** Team/ Club Trainers: Establish a protocol for safeguard measures between trainers and athletes.
- 8) **Health Status -** Ensure participants (adults, youth, and their families) are aware that they MAY NOT attend if either they or a household member has onset of illness with symptoms compatible with suspected or lab-confirmed COVID-19.

FIELD PROTOCOLS

- 1) **Sideline-** Establish designated and visual indicators for side-line space for teams, and referees; player and referee benches should be removed.
- 2) **Referees-** Establish social distance for teams from referees spacing in appropriate areas, including at check-in and along sidelines.
- 3) **Spitting-** No spitting is allowed by soccer players, coaches or officials, period.
- 4) **Clear Area-** Team and coaches should leave the field as soon as reasonably possible after play.

Note: All AYSA Sanctioning always adheres to Federal, State, Local and Public Health Authority recommendations, directives guidelines, and requirements.



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Return to Play (RTP) Protocols and Compliance for Sanctioned Tournaments

EVENT COMPLIANCE

- 1) **Guidelines-** Follow and consult the Municipality Division of Public Health with your mitigation plan to ensure you are following guidelines for the appropriate number of people in hosting a large gathering event.
- 2) **Application-** Have been approved by the AYSA office to a Host Sanctioned Tournament and paid the fee.
- 3) **Permits-** Have active current facility permits to hold tournament.
- 4) **Certificates of Insurance (COI)-** Proper COI in place prior to starting any sanctioned tournament activity.
- 5) **Emergency Operations-** Review the existing plans for your facility locations.
- 6) **Polices-** Ensure all AYSA policies, guidelines, and COVID-19 Return to Play Protocols are being followed.

TOURNAMENT PROTOCOLS

- 1) **Transition-** Ensure time of between the end of one game and the beginning of the second game. Times should be staggered to minimize large group gathering.
- 2) **Team Check -in-** Establish opportunities to allow for social distancing.
- 3) **Game Rosters-** Establish rosters for teams will be paperless and be available to team managers electronically.
- 4) **Athletic Trainers-** Team/ Club Trainers: Establish protocol for safeguard measures between trainers and athletes.
- 5) **Game Officials-** Establish a designated area for referee headquarters, allow adequate space to set bags apart from others. Have snacks/meals boxed and/or bagged individually, no communal food platters. Have available only bottled water or juice, communal water coolers should not be utilized.
- 6) **Award Ceremony-** Establish protocol to create distance between spectators and teams; to take place on the field directly after championship game.

FACILITY PROTOCOLS

- 1) **Safety Measures-** Establish protocols to create distance between spectators. For example, barriers or markings indicating where occupants should keep a six-foot distance between all non-family members. This may include one-way entrances, limited capacity for attendance, decreased or eliminate number of available vendors and limiting nonessential visitors, and volunteers. Ensure sanitizing options available onsite including hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and additional handwashing/ sink options. Maintain regular cleaning, extra attention to high touch surfaces bleachers, staff, and referee headquarters. Encourage universal face covering/masks for non-athletes.
- 2) **Congregating Guidelines -** Establish designated entry and exit for facility, parking lots, fields, drop off zones, spectator sidelines, and high traffic areas. Provide field marshals or staff to ensure designated areas are followed.
- 3) **Signage-** Throughout the facility; post appropriate signage to remind all players, coaches, referees, and spectators to maintain social distancing. promote health and safety practices.
- 4) **Spectators-** Limit spectator attendance and establish guidelines; limit risk by limiting attendance to essential staff/coaches and limited family members based on current recommendations from local and state officials

CLUB PROTOCOLS

- 1) **Guidelines-** Ensure teams are current on state/ city mandates, protocols including league and AYSA guidelines.
- 2) **Sanitation-** Ensure teams have supplies including hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes on hand for each game.
- 3) **Hydration-** Players to bring their own water. No sharing. Communal water coolers should not be utilized onsite.
- 4) **Warmups-** Use minimal equipment to limit transmission of virus. Players should not pick up field equipment, move goals, or handle other necessary training equipment.
- 5) **Technical Area-** Establish measures to create social distance between coaching staff and athletes by ensuring each team has only 4 or less technical area staff on the team bench at any time.
- 6) **Health Status -**Ensure participants (adults, youth, and their families) are aware that they MAY NOT attend if either they or a household member has onset of illness with symptoms compatible with suspected or lab-confirmed COVID-19.

FIELD PROTOCOLS

- 1) **Sideline-** Establish designated and visual indicators for side-line space for teams, and referees; player and referee benches should be removed.

- 2) **Referees**- Establish social distance for teams from referee spacing in appropriate areas, including check-in and along sidelines.
- 3) **Spitting**- No spitting is allowed by soccer players, coaches or officials, period.
- 4) **Clear Area**- Team and coaches should leave the field as soon as reasonably possible after play.

Note: All AYSA Sanctioning always adheres to Federal, State, Local and Public Health Authority recommendations, directives guidelines, and requirements.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/park-administrators.html>

<https://search.cdc.gov/search/index.html?query=sports&sitelimit=coronavirus&utf8=%E2%9C%93&affiliate=cdc-main>



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6/01/2020

To: State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA)

CC: Board of Directors

Re: AYSA Return-to-Play Guidelines for Referees Officials

Alaska's Move to Phase IV the "Green Phase" Brings Back Full Team Competition "New Normal" including contact soccer, league games, tournaments, and referee certification

Alaska Youth Soccer remains steadfast in our commitment to provide the upmost safest environment for our players, coaches, referees, families, and communities. Effective May 29, 2020, AYSA reinstated all activities currently suspended as sanctioned. All Alaska Youth Soccer affiliate clubs and sanctioned leagues will continue to follow the COVID-19 Return-To-Play Protocols that have been put in place to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Alaska Youth Soccer has taken several precautions as we continue to implement guidelines for a safe environment for our members and referees. As we start the process of Return to Play (RTP) Protocols we will as a state association adhere to all Federal, State and Local guidelines and requirements. Given the changing pandemic environment, these guidelines may change at any time and Alaska certified referees will need to ensure that they are prepared to adjust as required to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Guidelines for Alaska Certified Youth Referees

1. Referees should be educated on protocols and requirements, including state and local regulations, CDC and US Soccer recommendations.
2. **Health Status Agreement** (Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement) signed by the Referee / Parent.
3. Referee should evaluate if they are experiencing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 if they are, they should notify the assignor immediately, and voluntarily remove self from all assignments. They should contact their healthcare provider and not accept assignments until properly cleared.
4. Referee should use hand sanitizer before and after each game, have a personal supply of sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, latex gloves and tissues, face mask if desired.
5. Referee should wash and sanitize jersey and equipment regularly and set bag apart from others.
6. Referee should allow when possible to remain ten (10) feet for social distancing prior, during and after the game.
7. Rosters should be paperless and provided by team manager electronically
8. Referee is discouraged to blow the whistle, within ten (10) feet of participants.
9. Referee should discourage group celebrations, high 5's, hugs, handshakes and spitting.
10. Referee should leave the field as soon as reasonably possible after play.

* AYSA Return to Play (RTP) Protocols and COVID-19 Acknowledge Guidelines must be followed in all Alaska Sanctioned Leagues and Tournaments.

Note: U.S. Soccer programming that is suspended through June 30 does not by itself impact the applicability of U.S. Soccer's general liability policy. If the games are U.S. Soccer, Alaska Youth Soccer sanctioned and the referee is certified, then the general liability policy would apply. However, please note that the policy would not cover illness due to COVID-19. Please note that coverage is determined on a case-by case-basis by the insurer, and U.S. Soccer cannot guarantee coverage in any specific circumstance.

Sincerely,

Linda Burke

Executive Director

Alaska Youth Soccer

Referee Health Status Agreement next page



Alaska Soccer Referee Administration
Affiliate Member Club/ Leagues
Health Status Agreement
(Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement)

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in the program, related events, and activities, I the undersigned do hereby acknowledge: there are risks to myself and/or my child of exposure to directly or indirectly arising out of, contributed to, by, or resulting from an outbreak of any and all communicable disease. My dependent or I will abide by all policies as stipulated by the organization sponsoring said event and certify as follows:

- I/We have not had a fever in the last 14 days prior to the event.
- I/We have not had a cough and/or experienced any difficulty breathing/shortness of breath in the last 14 days prior to the event.
- I/We have not knowingly had contact with a person confirmed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days prior to the event.
- I/We have not traveled outside the United States within the last 14 days prior to the event.
- I/We have not traveled outside the State of Alaska within the last 14 days prior to the event.
- I/We have not tested positive for COVID-19.
- If I/We have tested positive for COVID-19, I/we have fully recovered and have been released to return to work/play as normal by my medical doctor.

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY:

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree to his/her release, and on my behalf, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE Alaska Soccer Referee Administration, Alaska State Youth Soccer Association, its officers, officials, affiliates, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event programs and activities of Alaska Soccer Referee Administration, Alaska State Youth Soccer Association, from any and all claims, demands, losses, and liability arising out of or related to any ILLNESS, INJURY, DISABILITY OR DEATH I may suffer, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

I agree to notify my assignor and the Alaska Soccer Referee Administration Board of Directors immediately if my child and/or any immediate family member meets any of the criteria listed above and will voluntarily remove myself from any and all assignments until properly cleared.

I have read this Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement, fully understand its terms outlined, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it, and sign it freely and voluntarily without any inducement.

Referee's Name	Age
X _____	_____
Parent/Guardian Signature	Phone Number
	Date

Alaska Referee Administration
 9116 Wolfram Way
 Juneau, AK 99801
 moctar@alaskayouthsoccer.org



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AYSA Return to Play Protocol Reminders for Clubs and Teams 05/29/2020

GUIDELINES

- Continued COVID-19 prevention and response protocols in place and followed.
- Normal training sessions may begin. Activities, scrimmages, and games are allowed.
- Acknowledge and support decisions to “Not Return to Play” among youth, parents, and coaches who are uncomfortable participating for any reason.
- Assign a **COVID-19 Safety Officer** who will ensure that policy is communicated club-wide to coaching staff, parents, and players as well as send regularly scheduled.
- Physical contact is only permitted within the rules of soccer during time of active, competitive play (no team huddles, no players greeting players, celebrations involving personal contact, etc.)
- Limited travel in-state to events that would require overnight stay.
- Engage your parents and players to help ensure protocols are followed.
- Each club will be responsible to provide oversight and to ensure social distancing protocols are implemented.

HEALTH STATUS

- Ensure Health Status Agreements have been signed and collected by each player.
- Players should continue to wear mask before and immediately after all trainings and games.
- Ensure participants (adults, youth, and their families) are aware that they **MAY NOT** attend if either they or a household member has onset of illness with symptoms compatible with suspected or lab-confirmed COVID-19.

SANITATION

- Continue sanitizing options available onsite, including hand sanitizer and disinfectant.
- Continue sanitizing equipment immediately after all training and games.

TRANSITION

- Planned transition of time between the end of one training/ games and the beginning of the second session/ game. Times should be staggered to minimize large group gathering.
- Formulate a **No Congregating Policy** of players or parents in parking lots, at drop off zones, at entrance/exit areas of the facility, or before or after training sessions.
- Formulate a **Spectator Policy** of limiting attendance with establish guidelines; limiting attendance to essential staff, coaches, volunteers, and family members based on current recommendations from local and state officials.
- Continued limit carpooling to only members of the same family. Parents stay in car.

TECHNICAL AREA

- Continued social distancing practices maintained before and after trainings, and always on the sidelines.
- Designated side-line space for each player to keep their soccer equipment and water bottle.
- Players continue practice of setting apart bag from others and only using their own equipment.
- Tactical discussions to be provided in digital format, if possible. Team meetings in closed environments should be avoided at all costs. Follow AYSA Code of Conduct - **SOCIAL MEDIA** Guidelines (Section 111).
- Establish measures to create social distance between coaching staff and athletes by ensuring each team has only 4 or less technical area staff on the team bench at any time.

HYDRATION

- Players must bring their own water. No sharing. Communal water coolers should not be utilized.

Note: All AYSA Sanctioning always adheres to Federal, State, Local and Public Health Authority recommendations, directives guidelines, and requirements.



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06/16/2020

To: Alaska Youth Soccer Membership

CC: Board of Directors

Re: AYSA Return-to-Play Phase IV

AYSA Members and Affiliates,

Alaska Youth Soccer highest priority continues to remain committed to provide a safe playing environment for our athletes, coaches, referees, families, and communities. The implementation of appropriate safety protocols as outlined in AYSA's COVID-19 Return-To-Play will assist with the transition from practices to league games. AYSA applauds the efforts of our affiliate clubs and leagues as they work to ensure compliance with the required health and safety standards that have been put in place to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19.

While there is excitement as we transition to Phase IV "The Green Phase" which allows for full team competition, some will still be apprehensive; this is OK. If an athlete, parent, or coach are not comfortable returning to play Do Not. Each family unit will decide when the best time to return to the field. Clubs will continue to demonstrate support and flexibility for each family during this time ensuring to provide a safe environment for all.

As a community, we must continue working together and maintain appropriate sanitary standards as well as doing more to ensure appropriate social distancing for non-playing participants. Alaska Youth Soccer encourages all non-playing participants to wear masks and to follow social distancing before, during and after games. For practices parents are encouraged to limit transportation to only family members and to stay in the vehicle during the practice. The priority for the affiliate clubs and leagues encourages continue diligence on and off the playing field to ensure maximize sanitary and social distancing practices.

RTP Reminders for Clubs and Teams

- Continue COVID-19 prevention and response protocols that are in place.
- Ensure Health Status Agreements have been signed and collected for each athlete.
- Continue to establish and follow spectator and no congregating guidelines, assign a COVID-19 Safety Officer who will ensure that guidelines are communicated club-wide to coaching staff, parents, and athletes.
- Continue social distancing practices before and after trainings, and always on the sidelines.
- Athletes continue to practice of setting apart bag from others, using their own equipment, and water bottle.
- Continue social distance measures between coaching staff and athletes during practices and games.
- Tactical discussions to be provided in digital format, if possible. Team meetings in closed environments should be avoided. Follow the AYSA Code of Conduct - Social Media Guidelines (Section 111).

Reverting to Earlier Phases; Regardless of which phase you are in clubs and leagues should be prepared to step back and revert to an earlier phase if any of the following occur. Always follow your 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".

The information in the AYSA Return-To-Play Protocol is NOT intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. All content, including text, graphics, images, and information, are provided for general informational purposes only. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, Alaska Youth Soccer makes no representation and assumes no responsibility.

Alaska Youth Soccer Updates

Referee Certification- The Alaska Grassroots Referee Initiative "**Calling Referees Across Alaska**" The Alaska Soccer Referee Administration (AKSRA) will be hosting more Certification/ Re-certification Field Clinics in Anchorage. Sat (June-20) 10:00 -11:30 am at Chilly Pepper Field | Wed (June-24) 5:30 -7:00 pm at Lloyd Steele Field | Sat (June-27) 10:00 -11:30 am at Chilly Pepper Field | Mat-Su Valley - Palmer Soccer Club Sat (June-20) 10:00 am-2:00 pm

(Certification) 12:30-2 pm (Re-Certification) at Sherrod Soccer Complex Palmer. Information on certification in your area contact Gregg Pralle - Anchorage to Peninsula: aksoccerref@yahoo.com | Bryce Melegari - Fairbanks: bamelegari@gmail.com | Moctar Diouf - Southeast: keemane31@gmail.com | http://www.alaskayouthsoccer.org/AYSA_Ref | <http://www.alaskayouthsoccer.org/akreferee>

Alaska Tournaments- The 2020 Zane Cup Memorial Tournament is scheduled for June 25-28, 2020. SSAAK Chugiak S.C. is excited to offer this opportunity for the soccer community. [Register Today!](#)

The Alaska Airlines Cup will be held Aug 13-15, 2020 in Anchorage. Rush looks forward to all teams joining them again this summer as a great way to wrap up the summer season. [Register Today!](#)

State Cup 2020- Alaska Youth Soccer registration for the annual tournament is currently open. We are planning for State Cup to be held July 30-Aug 2, 2020 in Fairbanks with appropriate modifications. More information on format and team hotel links can be found @ <http://www.alaskayouthsoccer.org/alaskastatecup>

Alaska Development Program (ADP)- The 2020-21 Season will start with **District Site Visits** in Fairbanks on Thursday June 25th and Ketchikan on Sunday June 28th. Information for additional site visits will be released shortly. The August Sub-Regional Camp (Aug 3- 5) in Anchorage is currently on the schedule.

Upcoming AYSA Dates- Alaska State Cup (July 30-Aug 2, 2020) | **Sub-Regional Camp** (Aug 3- 5, 2020) | **VA Adaptive Soccer Camp:** (Aug 14- 16, 2020) | **AFL League:** (Oct 10- Dec 6, 2020) | **Futsal State Cup:** (Dec 5-6 & 11-13, 2020) | **AYSA AGM:** (Nov 21- 22, 2020)

U.S. Soccer- The PLAY ON initiative was launched with this [Phase I Grassroots Soccer Recommendation guide](#), a comprehensive model to allow soccer to operate under key safety plans and considerations, with additional phased guides to follow. These guides include a detailed approach to social distancing, screening, training, and interactions to ensure consistent and best practices are followed to promote the health and safety of all participants and fans.

US Youth Soccer- Join US Youth Soccer and NCAA Division I Soccer as they Unite the Soccer Community in the Fight Against Hunger. Find out more about [Soccer United Against Hunger](#)

CDC Considerations for Events/ Gatherings ([updated 6/12/20](#)) and Considerations for Youth Sports ([06/16/2020](#))

AYSA remains committed to do everything possible to support our clubs, leagues, athletes, coaches, families, referees, and communities. During this process we will continue to partner with our affiliate clubs as we are deeply appreciative of the leadership demonstrated throughout the soccer community on and off the pitch during this unprecedented time.

We hope to see you all safe, healthy, and back on the pitch. We Are Alaska Youth Soccer!

“In Unity is Strength”

Sincerely,



Linda Burke
Executive Director
Alaska Youth Soccer