



# Alaska Youth Soccer Association

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07/23/2020

To: Alaska Youth Soccer Membership

CC: Board of Directors

Re: AYSA Return-to-Play and Travel Update

AYSA Members and Affiliates,

## “Alaska Soccer Landscape during the COVID-19 Pandemic”

As July is coming to an end throughout Alaska, we are seeing a continued rise in COVID-19 cases. Alaska Youth Soccer has adapted and revised the way we conduct our programs while remaining flexible during this unprecedented time. While we are still in Phase 4 “The Green Phase” of our Return-to-Play Guidelines. The daily surges and fluctuations in COVID-19 cases may alter future club activities for our teams.

AYSA will continue to monitor the numbers daily while looking at all aspects of the statewide soccer programs to make a determination about the ongoing status of our playing environment for the athletes, coaches, referees, families, and communities.

The announcement of Fall High School sports beginning, postponement or suspending in regard to their established Return-To-Events Protocols DOES NOT relate to Alaska Youth Soccer and Club Team sanctioning. Alaska Youth Soccer is the governing body for our member clubs and is a year-round sport. We can however in our ability to adapt, postpone, pause, modify the format of games, (3v3, 5v5, 7v7, 9v9), reduce number of games in the season and/or eliminate spectators in order to still have a fall/ winter seasons to keep soccer sustainable.

Over the past few months, I have spoken about WHAT IS IN OUR CONTROL? as we are still wading through the waters of this unprecedented time. We continue to have control over how we prepare daily for our participation in soccer activities within our communities. There are no immediate resolutions to the COVID-19 crisis thus we must ALL remain part of the solution not the problem by remaining mindful in our Return to Play practices so we continue to participate in the sport that we love.

Clubs, athletes, parents, spectators, coaches, volunteers, and referees have all taken an active part to ensure that protocols are being followed; the results have been positive so far. If you have not been diligent in this practice it is NOT TOO LATE to observe and promote the guidelines to help, ensure that we continue our programs.

Our responsibility does not stop at the state, club and team level. Anchorage has issued the **Emergency Order EO-14** which returns the community to a modified version of Phase Two in the Safe Anchorage: Roadmap to Reopening. The order does not include youth sport activities at this time, but it does act as a reminder that at any point we can revert to an earlier phase. The safety of our community in which we participate in will remain a priority for Alaska Youth Soccer and member clubs. **Anchorage based clubs and leagues** will remain vigilant in their daily practices to ensure programs remain safe and healthy for their participants. Currently scheduled league games will continue at this time. AYSA will determine on a weekly basis if there will be a need to “**pause**” games dependent on state or city directives.

## Return to Play (RTP) Protocols and Compliance Reminders

1. Clubs and coaches 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.
2. Clubs will ensure all players and coaches have access to hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes during club sessions.
3. Clubs will ensure players “DO NOT” attend if symptoms are compatible with suspected/ lab-confirmed COVID-19.
4. All non-playing participants should wear “**Face Covering**” if they cannot remain **6 feet apart** at trainings/ games.
5. Players and spectators “**Should Not Congregate**” in parking lots, on sidelines and should avoid all high traffic areas.
6. Players and coaches should continue to wear mask before and immediately after all training sessions.
7. Teams should “**Avoid Group Celebrations**” as part of activity and consider socially distanced celebrations.

## **Return to Play (RTP) Protocols and Compliance Travel Advisories**

What Happens if A Coach or Player Travels Out of State?

The individual will notify the club that they will be or have traveled out of state. On return the individual will follow the state travel [Mandate 010](#) and would need the second negative result (**or 14 days have passed since arrival**) before resuming regular club activity.

- a. A copy of the Covid-19 Health Screening Result Certificate must be sent to the registered Club point of contact and the Alaska Youth Soccer State Office prior to the individual approval for return to club activity.

(The Alaska COVID-19 Traveler Mandate as outlined above will be followed by AYSA and our affiliate clubs/leagues) \* <https://covid19.alaska.gov/travelers/>

Alaska Youth Soccer remains committed to support our member clubs, leagues, athletes, coaches, families, referees, and communities. During this process we will continue to partner with our affiliate members as we are deeply appreciative of the continued leadership demonstrated in the soccer community on and off the pitch during this unprecedented time.

In closing as, we will closely monitor the landscape of soccer throughout Alaska to ensure that AYSA is doing our part to help mitigate the risk as we continue to move forward through the Fall and Winter months.

We Are Alaska Youth Soccer!

Stay safe, be healthy.



Linda Burke

Executive Director

Alaska Youth Soccer

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