



Alaska Youth Soccer Association

1231 W Northern Lights Blvd #821, Anchorage AK 99503

(907) 887-6550

www.alaskayouthsoccer.org



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