

# RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOLS FOR SOCCER IN ARKANSAS



August 18, 2020 \*\*

Arkansas Soccer Association (ASA) is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of all people. The purpose of this document is to provide athletes, parents, coaches, and member soccer organizations with information they can use to assist them in developing their return to training programs within the context of COVID-19. As guidelines meant to be used by athletes and member organizations with vastly different resources, this document cannot be prescriptive; rather, it should spark thoughtful deliberation among athletes, coaches, and staff, who will use the information to create their own unique return to training plan that is specific to their situation. Many of the recommendations rely upon rules and regulations set forth by public health authorities, which will be different across the state. There will be other logistical challenges of returning to training.

The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. All content, including any 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, ASA makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the completeness of this information. Further, you should seek advice from medical professionals and/or public health officials if you have specific questions about your return to training and competition.

Member organizations considering resuming training on or after August 18 should have an operational plan in place to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19. This document may be useful for clubs to implement and/or modify to fit their own particular circumstances with respect to the resumption of full contact soccer.

Given the changing pandemic environment, these guidelines are subject to change. Most, if not all, cities and counties have a phased approach to reopening businesses and the easing of social distancing requirements which will vary across the state. Youth and team sports may not be a high priority for some local officials, and this may pose significant challenges for some member organizations. Member organizations must be aware of and adhere to all Federal, State, and Local guidelines and requirements.

Finally, every case of this disease is potentially life-altering or deadly, particularly for those with risk factors that may occur within our communities. This should always be in the forefront when designing and considering your return to training program. The risks of participation must be clearly communicated with parents and participants in your respective programs. No one should ever be required to participate and no one should be penalized because they chose not to participate.

Member organizations are encouraged to make plans available to staff, parents, and the youth they serve. Requirements for safe participation in the activities should also be posted on the organization's website and at the facility, if possible. **Plans should include the following elements based on guidance from the State of Arkansas and as recommended by CDC.**

## Resources:

- CDC recreational guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/index.html>
- EPA list of COVID-19 effective disinfectants: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
- Caring for Our Children (CFOC) standards for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting educational facilities for children: <https://nrckids.org/CFOC/Database/3.3>
- Governor Hutchinson's Amended Team Sports Directive from August 10: [https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/directive\\_team\\_sports\\_.pdf](https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/directive_team_sports_.pdf)

**\*\* Subject to change. All contents set forth in this document are subject to any Federal, State, or Local regulations and are subordinate to those restrictions.**

# RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOLS FOR SOCCER IN ARKANSAS



August 18, 2020

Guidelines for member organizations as they prepare to offer activities on or after August 18

## Assessing and Reducing Participant Risk

- Limit the amount of personal contact with shared equipment, gear, and public surfaces
- Enable ability to engage in social distancing when not actively engaged in play
- Strategically match the number of teams and participants to the size of the facilities
- Require 6 feet social distancing between non-immediate family spectators and all players when not actively participating
- Consider the challenges of long-distance travel

## Promoting Behaviors that Increase Safety

- Provide staff with necessary PPE
- Increase cleaning, sanitizing, and the availability of wash stations
- Limit physical contact (high fives, handshakes, etc.)
- Encourage self-checks and staying home when appropriate
- Require participants to wear proper face coverings when necessary and not engaged in play
- Maintain adequate supplies
- Increase signs and messages to inform participants and attendees
- Strategically implement crowd control
- Significantly space out fields and game times to avoid large crowds
- Designate COVID-19 points of contact
- Enhance and streamline communication systems
- Require players to wash hands before and after each event

## General Health & Safety Operational Protocols

- All players and coaches should do a temperature self-check prior to practice or game – If temperature is 100.4°F or greater, that person should not attend

- Anyone who is sick or has COVID-19 symptoms should not attend
- Anyone who has had close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 in the prior 14 days should not attend
- Anyone who has had a positive COVID-19 test in the prior 10 days should not attend
- Anyone who is waiting on the results of a COVID-19 test should not attend
- Anyone who has had a fever of 100.4°F or greater should not attend until 48 hours have elapsed without fever
- ALL people planning to attend a practice or match should bring their own face coverings, hand sanitizer, sunscreen, hydration, and food
- If team benches are present, sanitize benches before and after each match

## Parent Responsibilities

- Check your child's temperature prior to any training session. If your child is not feeling well or if a temperature is detected, do NOT go to practice.
- Notify club immediately if your child becomes ill for any reason.
- Limited or no carpooling.
- Maintain proper social distancing from non-family members.
- Wash training attire after every training session.
- Ensure all equipment, cleats, ball, shin guards, etc. are sanitized before and after every training.
- Do not assist coach with training equipment.
- Always remind your child of their responsibilities before every training session