



SOUTH DAKOTA
YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
Community Through Soccer



Announcement: Return to Play Protocols & Recommendation: Phase 1

Greetings South Dakota Youth Soccer Association Members,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of SDYSA we want to thank you so much for your continued support and patience through the recent months of uncertainty. We have been diligently working to keep informed of the situation so that we could work on getting South Dakota back on the fields for soccer. That being said outlined below are our recommendations and notices regarding returning to play. **It is imperative to note that ALL clubs and members should first and foremost follow the guidelines set forth by their local governments and leadership, as well as the CDC.**

- **PROGRAMMING:** SDYSA will maintain their suspension of programming through May 31st. This means no sanctioned games/tournaments in the state of SD, and no approved travel to tournaments or games through the month of May. SDYSA will provide an update on this date of suspension no later than May 31st, 2020.

- **TRAINING:** Clubs are allowed to host training opportunities during this time virtually or one on one/group training with social distancing guidelines clearly laid out. Outlined in the Return to Play Infographic provided there are a set of standards developed with recommendations from USYS, local leadership, the CDC, and the WHO. These include but are not limited to:
 - ◆ Maintaining social distance practices of 6ft between EACH party. This means players, coaches, and assistant coaches.
 - ◆ Masks are allowed but not required.
 - ◆ Parents/Guardians are to remain in their cars to minimize potential exposure.
 - ◆ No sharing of water bottles, uniforms, equipment, etc.
 - ◆ No high fives, hugs, celebrations that involve direct contact with another player or member of the coaching staff.
 - ◆ **DO NOT attend practice if you are feeling sick or have a temperature. DO NOT attend practice if you are under guidelines to quarantine due to exposure or sickness.**
 - ◆ If a family does not feel comfortable participating at this time due to potential exposure or high risk exposure please excuse them from participating without repercussions.

- **COMPETITION:** In order to comply with social distancing guidelines set by State and Local Governments, as well as the CDC, there are to be no games or competitions held during the programming suspension.
- **INSURANCE:** Members should note that SDYSA's general liability insurance coverage is in place but does not cover contracted illness such as Covid-19.
- **ENFORCEMENT:** All recommendations laid out by SDYSA, the CDC, and US Youth Soccer are solely recommendations and guidelines. SDYSA does not have the ability to enforce these measures so we are relying heavily on all club leadership to put player's health and safety first and foremost when working on returning to play.
- **PHASES:** This situation has been fluid and ever changing so in order to ensure the safety of our members SDYSA will be developing phases of returning to play. At this time with Phase 1 we are simply laying out guidelines for getting back to training in person and in small groups with social distancing protocols. Further phases will be developed in the near future with club leadership as well as taking into account the current pandemic reach, and local government regulations. We appreciate your feedback on these as they are developed, as well as your patience as we all work through this together.

We want to thank you all again for being so flexible in such an unpredictable situation. Our mission has always been Community Through Soccer and we have used that as our driving force in making decisions that keep our communities safe and connected, if even at a distance. Dale Weiler, our Technical and Executive Director as well as Polly Dean our Director of Operations, are available for any questions, comments, or concerns your club or membership should have in the following days and weeks.

Thank you in advance for your support and we look forward to working with all of you to navigate this new territory of youth sports.

Dale Weiler, ED
td@southdakotasoccer.com

Polly Dean, DOO
director@southdakotasoccer.com

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www.southdakotasoccer.com



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