



# United SC Return to Play Safety Protocol

*"Uniting Passion, Uniting Communities, Uniting Competition"*

Within this model, community health trends will drive our progress forward. Each Category will last a minimum of three weeks before the next Category can be implemented, but increased incidents of viral spread may prolong our time in a category or may force us to go backward to a more restrictive category.

Community health professionals and our State leaders will have the ultimate decisions and we will follow their advice. We understand that both the physical and mental wellbeing of children is enhanced by physical activity and social contact with their teammates, friends and coaches and it is our goal to get players back on the field as soon as possible with a reasonable assumption of risk. We also understand that while children often do not suffer severe effects from COVID-19, they can be easily infected and become vectors for the disease, putting vulnerable populations around them at risk. COVID-19 remains highly contagious, so we must do everything that we can to minimize the risk of spreading the virus in our efforts to bring some normalcy back into the lives of our players and families.

Per Governor Inslee's Professional Sports & Other Activities COVID\_19 Requirements, Youth Soccer falls within the **Moderate** risk category. As general guidance, smaller groups are safer than larger ones and outdoor locations are safer than indoor locations.

**Signs of Illness:** We expect all players and family members to stay home when sick or if they have been in contact with someone with COVID-19. No exceptions! Any person with symptoms of COVID-19 should contact his or her health care provider or other appropriate health-care professional to get tested. If a positive test result occur, players are required to contact their coach immediately via phone or email to report the test results.

**Records and Contact Tracing:** Coaches & Team managers must keep a roster of every athlete, staff member, and volunteer present at each training session, and contest to assist with contact tracing in the event of possible exposure. The coach is required to report any positive COVID\_19 diagnosis to a club administrator as soon as they learn of it. The coach is also required to report all players/staff that person was in contact with prior to the diagnosis. All training and travel rosters must be kept on file by each team for 28 days after the practice/game/travel date.

**Travel:** When traveling, limited exposure to those outside the household unit is strongly encouraged. For travel groups that include more than one household in the same vehicle all members of the travel group including the driver, must wear a face covering and spread out inside the vehicle as much as possible. A roster seating chart must be kept on file by the coach or team manager of that team for 28 days after the travel date.

**Masks:** All athletes/participants are required to wear a mask before and directly after training and games. Coaches, referees, team volunteers, and parents, **MUST** wear a mask at all times.

**Sanitation, Hygiene & Disinfecting:** All soccer gear must be sanitized before and after use. If using restrooms at the training site staff is responsible to inspect the cleanliness of the facility and set up any social distancing by limiting the number of players allowed in the restroom at the same time. The use of restrooms must be limited to hand washing and restroom use only. NO showers permitted. No sharing of gear, water bottles, uniforms, or towels is permitted. All players & staff members must practice good hygiene at all times. Hand sanitizer must be kept at the training or game facility at all times and be easily

accessible to all players & staff members. The hand sanitizer must contain 60-95% alcohol. Hand sanitizer will be provided to each team.

**Equipment:** Only the coach may handle team equipment. Coaches should encourage each player to bring their own ball for practices. Coaches must provide players with their own bibs/pinnies to bring to every practice session to avoid shared community gear. Limit the amount of equipment brought to practice. All equipment must be disinfected after each use.

**Temperature testing:** The temperature of each coach/staff member is required prior to each session. Any staff member with a temperature over 100.4 must immediately leave the facility.

**COVID-19 Coordinator & Safety Officer:** Each team must assign a COVID-19 coordinator to oversee compliance at the team level during training sessions. The club has assigned a COVID-19 Safety Officer that will communicate and oversee the policy across the club and will provide regular updates and reminders to staff members and coaches.

**Physical Distancing:** All teams are expected to practice physical distancing. Physical distancing of 6 feet must be maintained between staff, volunteers, and any spectators at all times with exceptions for training and medical personnel and volunteers performing their medical duties. Athletes must comply with the 6 feet distancing rule with the exception of when engaged in sporting activities.

**Facility Guidelines:** Coaches are responsible for designating a drop off spot at the training location that allows for minimal congestion and good social distancing. Spectators are not permitted at training or game facilities until we reach low Level COVID Activity in our county. When we reach Moderate level COVID-19 activity one parent or guardian for each youth player is allowed. All spectators must maintain physical distance of at least six feet between each person.

**Games & Trainings:** All teams are expected to comply with Governor Inslee's guidelines for sporting activities.

Per the Governor's guidelines these rules must be practiced:

**HIGH LEVEL COUNTY COVID ACTIVITY >75 cases/100K/14 days OR >5% positivity**

- Team practices and/or training can resume for low, medium, and high risk sports if players are limited to groups of six in separate parts of the field/court, separated by a buffer zone. Groups should remain stable over time.
- Brief close contact is permitted.
- Attendance rosters including group contact info must be kept.
- The club "return to play" safety plan must be followed at all times.
- Any practice or training activities that can be done outdoors should be done outdoors
- No tournaments allowed.
- No Scrimmages, intra-team competitions, and league games or competition allowed.

**MODERATE LEVEL COUNTY COVID ACTIVITY >25-75 cases/100K/14 days AND < 5% positivity**

- Attendance rosters should include group contact information.
- The club "return to play" safety plan must be followed at all times
- Any practice or training activities that can be done outdoors should be done outdoors.

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- Scrimmage, intra-team competitions, and league games allowed.
- No tournaments allowed.
- No spectators allowed except for one adult parent/guardian/caregiver for each minor-aged participant allowed.
- Spectators must maintain physical distance of at least six (6) feet between each person. No spectators allowed for participants 18 and older

**LOW LEVEL COUNTY COVID ACTIVITY <25 cases/100k/14 days AND <5% positivity**

- Attendance rosters should include group contact information.
- The club “return to play” safety plan must be followed at all times
- Any practice or training activities that can be done outdoors should be done outdoors.
- Scrimmage, intra-team competitions, and league games allowed.
- Tournaments allowed. All teams and individuals participating in tournaments must reside in low level COVID activity counties.
- Spectators to follow current gathering size limit in the Safe Start Plan.