

STAGE 1: PROTOCOLS FOR SOCCER IN ARKANSAS



MAY 18 – 31 **

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 May 18th should have an operational plan in place to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19. ASA has been advised that Governor Hutchinson's Directive of April 17 entitled "Directive for Camps, including Day and Overnight, and Places of Worship" applies to soccer. That Directive limits sessions to one (1) coach for every nine (9) players and requires social distancing of at least six feet. This Directive is in effect until May 31 but may be extended. A link to the directive is below under "Resources." Given the changing pandemic environment, these guidelines are subject to change at any time. 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, although the young and healthy may be subject to less severe cases of COVID-19, every case of this disease is potentially life-altering or deadly, particularly for those with risk factors that may occur within our communities. Until COVID-19 is either eradicated, a vaccine is developed, or a cure is found, there is no way of eliminating the risk of infection. 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 our respective programs. No one should ever be required to participate and no one should be penalized or disadvantaged 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 April 17 Directive: https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/CampsDirectiveFinal4.17.20_.pdf

****Dates are estimated targets with consideration to the Governor's Directives.
If there are changes to the orders, then updates will be made to this document.**

STAGE 1: PROTOCOLS FOR SOCCER IN ARKANSAS



MAY 18 – 31 **

Member organizations should use the following protocols as they prepare to offer activities on May 18

Club Responsibilities:

- Create and distribute protocols to its members.
- Have an effective communication plan in place; identify strategies for working with public health to notify adult leaders, players, and their families if the organization learns a participant or adult leader has developed COVID-19, while maintaining confidentiality.
- Be sensitive and accommodating to parents that many be uncomfortable with returning to play.
- Train and educate all staff on protocols, including state and local regulations, CDC recommendations, and other necessary information.
- Be prepared to shut down and stop operations. Develop plans for temporary closure of facilities; cancel trainings or camps to properly disinfect; ensure others are not infected.
- Provide adequate field space for social distancing.
- Provide hand sanitizing or hand washing stations and waste receptacles at fields.

Coach Responsibilities:

- Make health and safety of the athletes a priority.
- Inquire how the athletes are feeling, send them home should you believe they act or look ill.
- Follow all club, local, state, and federal health protocols.
- Ensure all athletes use their own equipment.
- Coach is the only person to handle cones, disk, etc.
- Ensure social distancing per state or local health guidelines. Social distancing of six feet between all players and coaches is required.
- Have fun, stay positive – players and parents are looking to you to stay calm, supportive, and caring during this time.
- The use of scrimmage vest or bibs is not recommended at this time.

Player Responsibilities:

- Wash hands thoroughly before and after training.
- Bring and use hand sanitizer at every training.
- Encouraged to wear mask before and immediately after all training. Players do not need to wear face masks during training.
- Do not touch or share anyone else's equipment, water, snack, or bag.
- Practice social distancing and place bags and personal equipment at least 6 feet apart.
- Only use your own equipment. If you lose control of your ball, wait until teammates have moved six to ten feet away and then retrieve your own ball yourself.
- Wash and sanitize all equipment before and after every training.
- No group celebrations, no high 5's, hugs, handshakes, etc.

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.
- Be sure your child has necessary sanitizer with them at every training.
- Always remind your child of their responsibilities before every training session.