



TO: Member Leagues/Clubs and Sanctioned Tournaments
FROM: Jen Fickett, Executive Director
DATE: May 22, 2020
RE: Responsible RestartOhio: Return to Activity

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On May 21, 2020, Governor DeWine released the Responsible RestartOhio Guidelines specific to [Skills Training for All Sports](#). We are excited about this opportunity; however, want to stress to everyone the importance of complying with the Responsible Restart Guidelines. While other states around us may be reopening or returning to play before Ohio, it is important we do our part in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 to other areas of the country.

To assist our members, Ohio North has a [Return to Activity](#) page on our website. This includes a collaborative deck between Ohio North and Ohio South on Mandates and Best Practices, US Youth Soccer Best Practices and examples of fellow State Association guidelines on Return to Activity. We hope this will assist our members as they move forward. We also anticipate the addition of further resources as we move forward to normalcy.

For those organizations that are looking to take advantage of the Skills Training for All Sports opportunity for their upcoming tryout process, please note that there are mandatory requirements that every soccer club/organization will need to have in place. These include:

Mandatory

- Having each parent/guardian sign an [Ohio North Infectious Disease Waiver](#). **This is a requirement by our insurance provider.**
- Ensuring compliance with the newly released [Skills Training for All Sports](#) Protocols.

Best Practice

- Having a written set of protocols on how the organization will ensure compliance with the Responsible RestartOhio Guidelines.

As previously stated, it is important that as Ohioans we continue to do our part in mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Soccer clubs/organizations can move forward with tryouts/training opportunities IF they can meet state requirements. However, it is important that as soccer clubs/organizations/parents/players that you feel comfortable with the new guidelines. If soccer clubs/organizations do not feel they can achieve the required level of compliance, then it is important that you do not proceed. And please know that you should feel comfortable in making the decision to not proceed. You are making a conscious effort to do your part in protecting the health and safety of our youth. As we have heard many times, "Just because WE can, does not mean WE should".

Question: Does the new Skills Training for All Sports mean clubs can now hold in-person tryouts. Yes, but with restrictions. Clubs can hold in-person evaluations for ALL players starting on May 26, 2020. However, the tryouts can only be completed while maintaining compliance with Skills Training for all Sports protocols, after every player's parent/guardian has received and signed an Infectious

Disease Waiver form (clubs will need to maintain these on file for future submittal to Ohio North) and while maintaining social distancing protocols.

Ohio North Rule 3.7 states that clubs or teams may not recruit registered players to leave their team prior to June 1st. Players who did not register with a club or team for the 2020-2021 seasonal year are not bound by the date.

Question: Does the new Skills Training for All Sports allow for clubs to engage in small-sided games and scrimmages?

No. The Ohio Department of Health Responsible ReStartOhio Skills Training for All Sports specifically states, "No-touch rule is in effect. All individuals must avoid physical contact with others including high fives, huddles, or other close contact occurring before, during and after skills sessions...*scrimmages and games are not permitted*".

Question: Do players have to wear masks when engaging in skill training?

No. It is a recommended best practice that Parents/Guardians should wear face coverings inside training facilities.

According to Ohio North's insurance provider, players should be allowed to wear a cloth, surgical, or similar face covering while playing soccer at the parent's/guardian's discretion.

Question: Does the 10-person Mass Gathering Restriction still apply?

No. The restriction on the number of players has been removed. However, the key to ensuring compliance is always maintaining 6-feet of distance.

Question: Are parents permitted to watch the skills training?

Yes. Parents/guardians can remain at the training facility; however, they should maintain 6-foot social distancing practices. No other spectators are permitted.

Question: What equipment is permitted during skills training (e.g. practice vests, cones)?

Equipment and items related to the activity must be sanitized before, during and after every event. If equipment cannot be sanitized during the activity, only participants of a single team can use the equipment and items related to the activity.

Question: How do the Safe Sport protocols affect the club's ability to receive player video recordings for tryouts?

Utilizing videos of player skills training is perfectly acceptable provided the parent/guardian introduces the player and does the video recording.

Additional Points to Consider:

- Coaches should designate space for each player to maintain 6-foot spacing
- Coaches, players, parents/guardians must do a self-symptom check before going to the training session
- Facilities need to ensure that there is adequate space for social distancing on and off the field of play

Ohio North Return to Activity Updates

Visit our website for the latest [Ohio North Return to Activity updates, FAQs and resources](#)