



TO: Member Leagues and Clubs
FROM: Jen Fickett, Executive Director
DATE: June 11, 2020
RE: Return to Activity Waivers & In and Out of State Activity

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As a reminder, 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.

Required Waivers

The waivers below are required to Return to Activity. For those organizations that are looking to take advantage of the Skills Training for All Sports opportunity during the current Phase 1, please note that there are mandatory requirements that every soccer club/organization will need to have in place. These include:

Mandatory

- **Parent/Guardian Waiver (Previously Released):** Having each parent/guardian sign an [Ohio North Infectious Disease Waiver- Player](#). **This is a requirement by our insurance provider** and has been added to both the Sports Connect and Demosphere registration platforms.
- **Coach Waiver (New):** Having each coach sign the [Ohio North Infectious Disease Waiver – Coach](#). **This is a requirement by our insurance provider** and will be included as part of our background screening and participant safety compliance process.
- **League/Club Waiver (New):** Having all leagues and clubs sign the [Ohio North Return to Activity Review and Compliance Waiver](#). This separate online form is simply to verify that all clubs and leagues are following the State of Ohio protocols. To date, Phase 1 [Skills Training for All Sports](#) Protocols have been released.

Out of State Activity

As states open around us, and maybe at different stages of Return to Activity or Play, the question of games/tournaments in other states has come up. After communications with our Insurer, Ohio North will be taking the following stance on Out of State activity effective immediately.

No Out of State activity shall be sanctioned unless and until the State of Ohio has approved such activity. For instance, if Ohio has not yet permitted scrimmages/matches etc., teams may not travel across state lines to participate in scrimmages/matches.

Accordingly, Ohio North is **temporarily** not authorizing any Out of State Travel permissions. In addition, as any event would be viewed as an unsanctioned event and insurance coverage for all parties engaged in the event **would not** be in place. As soon as Governor DeWine opens the Return to Activity Guidelines to cover games and/or tournament play, this will be rescinded.

In State Activity

In alignment with the above, no In State activity shall be sanctioned unless and until the State of Ohio has approved such activity. For instance, if Ohio has not yet permitted scrimmages, matches, etc. Ohio North teams or teams from Out of State may not participate in scrimmages, matches, etc. in Ohio.

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”.

Ohio North Return to Activity Updates

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