



TBU Return to Sport Frequently Asked Questions August 22, 2020

Q: If Hillsborough County is guiding what happens at its facilities, Radice, Waters complex for example, then trainings at Putnam should be unaffected as the county has no jurisdiction there.

A: COVID remains a real health risk throughout the Tampa Bay community. Every city and county government in our community has implemented restrictions. At this time TBU has chosen to follow the guidelines and restrictions implemented by Hillsborough County at all of our facilities.

Q: Other clubs are setting up scrimmages and full practices, why can't TBU do the same?

A: We have been under the restrictions of Hillsborough County with small groups and no contact as a COVID safety measure as well as following our Return to Sport guidelines as it pertains to the soccer piece. Once we move to phase 2, we can do the same.

Q: Other clubs are going outside the county to play, why not TBU?

A: To be training in phase 1, travel outside the county to play in full matches and then come back to training in phase 1 does not make any sense. The athletes will not be anywhere close to being match ready and we would be putting them at a significant disadvantage and susceptible to soft tissue injuries or worse. We need to continue to do our part in flattening the curve and reduce the risk of community spread of COVID.

Q: With respect to scheduling, if teams and leagues are proceeding, how does that work for our TBU team?

A: Every single TBU team is following the same rescheduling plans: MLS, ECNLG, ECNLB, ECNLRG, ECNLRB, FCL, BCOMP, and GCOMP. All games that were to be played in September have been rescheduled to a new play date with the other clubs. There are plenty of open weekends throughout the 2020-2021 season to reschedule. We will have the same amount of games as everyone else in our respective leagues.

As an example, the ECNLB has reduced the league games from 22 to 16. We have moved our two games in September to the spring. We now have 6 in the fall and 10 in the spring instead of 8 and 8. All teams in the league will play the same amount of games over the same amount of time.

Q: Will the season be shortened for the older age groups, and if so, will the team fees be impacted? Or will the season be extended into later in 2021?

A: Most of the leagues have decreased the amount of games already leaving plenty of open dates for rescheduling. All clubs will have the same number of matches and at this time the season does not need to be extended. All team fees across all teams and programs will be adjusted appropriately to match the team and programs programming.

Q: Clubs around the area AND in Hillsborough County having been training and readying for competition, why aren't we?

A: Every player, coach and team in this club is preparing for competition regardless of the current restrictions set forth by Hillsborough County. We have managed to put all players across the club on the same periodization schedule and are ready to move on to phase 2. Regardless of the campus or program, the return of the athlete and match readiness stays consistent. Our Return to Sport guidelines are modeled off the same governing bodies that are running the leagues we are participating in. The leagues understand we are following their protocols in a responsible manner and looking after the best interest of the athletes. TBU's Return to Sport is in close alignment with both US Soccer's and ECNL's suggested Return to Play protocols.

Q: What was the county's reasoning for the October 1st deadline?

A: Hillsborough County set the October 1st date at the advice of local health officials that are closely studying the spread and impact of COVID in our community. Their restrictions across the county started June 1, extended to August 17 and then most recently until October 1. We are consistently in communication with the county and they have been thoroughly impressed with our Return to Sport guidelines and know we are prepared and ready to progress to phase 2 safely.

Q: If there are no games until October 1 what does that mean for my team fees?

A: We will continue to work with each team by pausing the payments and/or adjusting them accordingly to match the programming.