



COVID-19 RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

The intent of this document is to communicate TYSA's guidelines and response to the COVID-19 pandemic for all of our youth soccer programs: Recreational, Academy (including Academy Jr, unless specified) and Select. The following will address our training, home and away match days, planned response to positive Covid-19 tests, and our COVID-19 refund policy.

These guidelines will be continuously reviewed to make sure that we are providing a safe environment for our TYSA Family. While TYSA has developed its own set of guidelines, we will continue to follow guidelines and mandates set forth by the CDC, Georgia Governor Executive Order, Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) as well as our soccer governing bodies: Georgia Soccer, SCCL, and US Club Soccer.

TYSA.com will display a rotating banner that will list our current Risk-Level, as well as a link to our guidelines.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

On May 16th 2020, US Soccer and Georgia Soccer began Phase I of the US Soccer Play On guidelines ([Appendix 1](#)) which allowed for individual and small group trainings. However, TYSA delayed our Return to Play until June 8th, 2020 and instituted a number of protective protocols included hand washing, temperature checks, mask requirements, no spectators, and physical distancing.

On July 25th, the TYSA Board of Directors proactively took steps to mitigate the risk to players, families and our coaches and developed a set of guidelines that include a three risk level approach for all of our programs. These guidelines are meant to be a flexible response to the changing environment that we are operating in. The TYSA Executive Board will meet each month or more often as needed to reassess our risk level.

On August 10th, 2020, TYSA will return to play under the US Soccer Phase II Guidelines that allows for Full-Team training under our clubs COVID-19 Return to Play Guidelines. There are practice and match day guidelines for both Recreational and Academy & Select soccer. These can be found in the attached appendices as well as on [TYSA.com](https://www.tysa.com).

Phase II is meant to last 3-6 weeks and will lead us into Phase III, which allows for full team competitions under the clubs COVID-19 Return to Play Guidelines. To date, our first competitive match will be on September 12th.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Recreational Soccer Details

TYSA is not the owner or operator of Henderson Park (HP). As such, we must follow Tucker Parks and Rec Guidelines for allowing organized competition. While we are awaiting an official response from the City of Tucker, our current plan is to allow coaches and players to begin their season practices on **September 14th, 2020**. Season matches will begin the following weekend on **September 19th, 2020**. Any City of Tucker mandated delay will push the start of the season back, and this will be communicated to the TYSA Family.

Practices and match days will follow our posted Recreational COVID-19 Guidelines ([Appendix 2](#)). There will be noticeable practice scheduling changes for the upcoming Fall 2020 season from our previous seasons. The purpose of these changes is to allow for adequate social and physical distancing, and reducing congestion at Henderson Park. While you should refer to the Recreational Guidelines, the following are highlights to these changes:

- Under TYSA's Recreational COVID-19 Guidelines, recreational soccer will start under our Red risk level, unless that risk level is reduced by the TYSA Executive Board.
- The U5/U6 will have a 1 day a week session, which will be on a Saturday or Sunday. Practice will be a 30-minute session immediately followed by a match.
- While under the Red risk level, U8 and up will have 1 practice day a week available at HP and a match on the weekend (either at HP or Granite).

Academy & Select Soccer Details

Academy Coaches and Players are to begin their season practices on **August 10th, 2020**. Academy Jr will be starting on **August 17th, 2020**. Season matches will begin on **September 12th, 2020**.

Practice sessions in August will look like they did during our June sessions. You can find the Academy and Select Covid-19 Practice Guidelines in [Appendix 4](#). Our coaches will continue to practice physical distancing where possible, while allowing for scrimmages so that players can become match fit.

Match Day Protocols

Recreational Soccer

Our goal is to always put the safety of our players, volunteer coaches and parents first. To that point, we know that we will be limiting spectators to 1 guardian per player, requiring face coverings and physical distancing for spectators, having separate entry and exit points, and staggering match times to limit congestions.

You can find our Recreational Covid-19 Match Day Guidelines in [Appendix 3](#), however we do ask for flexibility as these may change as we get closer to our first match weekend.

Academy & Select Home Match Protocols

Our guidelines will be shared with visiting clubs prior to the match weekend. Anyone from the TYSA Family or visiting club who wish to not follow the guidelines will be asked to watch from outside of gated area.

Our Academy and Select Covid-19 Match Day Guidelines can be found in [Appendix 5](#). Like practices, we will have separate entry and exit areas, and matches will be staggered to limit congestion. For spectators, face coverings will be mandatory, as will physical distancing.

In order to reduce congestion, our guidelines we allow for one guardian per player. However, depending on city, county and state ordinances, we may have to further reduce the number of spectators allowed within the fenced area. This will be communicated ahead of time if this occurs.

Academy, Select & RIAS Away Match Protocols

Every club will have their own match day protocols and guidelines and we will share these guidelines with our TYSA Family. Some clubs have also posted their guidelines to their webpages.

As player's coaches and spectators you represent TYSA, so at a minimum we ask that you please do the following:

Prior to leaving home:

- Player/Coach and spectators are asked to check their temperature prior to leaving.
- Screen for symptoms per the [CDC Guidelines](#).

Player/Coach arrival and during the match:

- Players are asked to exit their vehicles wearing their cleats/shin guards.
- Wear face coverings to the field. Like home matches we ask that you wear them during warm-ups.
- Bring a large jug or two bottles so you won't need to use a fountain.
- Bring your own hand sanitizer.
- Wear face coverings while subbed out, and at half time.

Spectators:

- Limit the number of spectators you bring.
- Please wear your face coverings at the field.
- Physical distance on the sideline, and please stay with other spectators from your team.

After Match:

- All players are asked to put their face coverings back on.
- Wash hands/use hand sanitizer
- No post match high-fives or handshakes with opposition team.
- Immediate departure.

TYSA's Response to COVID-19 Symptoms or Positive Coronavirus Testing

Following the [DPH](#) recommendations of time-based returned to work strategies for people who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19 that are not healthcare professions, TYSA will institute guidelines for the following situations:

Symptoms during practice or game

If a player or coach begins to have symptoms they will be isolated away from their team and asked to leave as soon as possible. We ask that you seek your primary care physician and consider getting a COVID-19 test.

If you have tested negative and are 72 hours from the onset of your symptoms, then you will be allowed to return.

Symptomatic people with a Positive Coronavirus Test Result:

If a player or coach tests positive and they are symptomatic, then they cannot return to play until:

- At least 10 days after their first symptoms appeared.
- At least 24 hours since last fever with no fever reducing medications.
- Improved symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath).

Asymptomatic people with a Positive Coronavirus Test Result:

- At least 10 days have passed since the positive laboratory test and the person remains asymptomatic.
- A follow-up negative test would not shorten the return time for the player or coach.

Exposure to someone who tested positive for the Coronavirus:

If a player or coach has been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for the coronavirus, they will be asked to stay home for 14 days. The DPH defines close contact as:

- Living with someone or caring for someone who tested positive for the coronavirus.
- Being within 6 ft of someone who tested positive for a minimum of 15 minutes.
- Having contact with secretions from someone who tested positive (e.g. coughed on, kissed, sharing utensils, etc.)

In the event that any of the above scenarios occur, please let your coach and team manager know. Coaches are required to immediately alert Gareth O'Sullivan so that he can make coaching adjustments.

The Executive Board and Club Director will meet immediately in the event of a positive case to address the situation with a goal to ensure safety and privacy. While there is intra-squad exposure risk; due to the nature of soccer and our mitigation strategies, the hope is that in-person team training and match play will continue uninterrupted.

TYSA is not legally allowed or qualified to conduct contact tracing for the *purpose of sharing with persons outside* of the Department of Health or local health authorities. The club is also legally unable to share information about the identity (name, age, or gender) of the infected source, and we hope that you too will respect the privacy and identity, per federal requirements, for anyone with a confirmed or suspected case of the virus.

Amended Refund Policy

Due to the heightened anxiety from the COVID-19 Pandemic, TYSA has reviewed its current [Season Refund Policy](#) and will make a temporarily change for the upcoming 2020/2021 soccer year. The amended refund policy only applies to a season cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

TYSA, GA Soccer and the SCCL will make every attempt to get a full season in. If the season is paused and later cancelled, refunds will be based on the original Pause date. More details to come should this occur.

At the time of this guideline, TYSA does not offer a season ending cancellation insurance policy. The board is actively seeking insurance options and we will send out information if we find a viable option.

Fall Season Refunds

For our Recreational soccer program, if the Fall season is cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be offering prorated refunds depending upon when the cancellation occurs.

For our Academy and Select programs, we will also be offering a prorated refund depending on when the season is cancelled. The prorated refunds will be based on fees due for a Fall season (\$775 per season). For those on the Monthly Payment Plan, the final monthly payment will be made on the 3rd of the month in which the cancellation occurred, regardless of the cancellation date. No other payments will be withdrawn for the Fall season.

Spring Soccer Season

Regardless to the Fall season outcome, TYSA will continue to operate and plan for a Spring season. Like the Fall season, we will also be offering a prorated refund depending on when the season is cancelled, should that occur.

For those families who chose the monthly payment plan option, if the Fall season is cancelled then the Monthly installments will be changed and the automatic withdrawals will not restart until **January 3rd 2021** and then continue through **May 3rd 2021**. Like the Fall plan, the final monthly payment will be made on the 3rd of the month in which the cancellation occurred, regardless of the cancellation date. No other payments will be withdrawn.

RETURN-TO-PLAY 5 PHASES OVERVIEW



0

Phase 0: Stay and Shelter

Duration: Based on state and local regulations

- BEND THE CURVE. STAY AT HOME.
- No organized trainings or competitions
- Consider virtual options

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Phase I: Individual and Small Group Training

Suggested Duration: 4-6 weeks

- State and/or local stay and shelter regulations lifted
- Recommend small group trainings with max of 9 players and 1 coach
- Maintain social distancing
- COVID-19 prevention protocols in place

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Phase II: Full Team Training

Suggested Duration: 3-6 weeks

- Full team training allowed
- Continue to maintain social distancing
- COVID-19 prevention protocols in place
- Allow 3 weeks for COVID-19 tracking purposes

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Phase III: Full Team Competitions

Duration: Indefinite

- Full team competitions can occur
- Continue COVID-19 mitigation strategies
- Consider only local and single-day competitions
- Large events guided by local/state public health authorities

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Phase IV: No Restrictions

- COVID-19 is no longer a public health matter and there are no restrictions directed by federal, state and local authorities.
- Please refer to www.recognizetorecover.org for general health and safety recommendations from U.S. Soccer.

* Across the country, clubs in different regions will be operating under differing state & local regulations and may be in different phases. All phases must be compliant with your region's regulations.

APPENDIX 2

[Return to Guidelines](#)

U5/U6 COVID-19 Practice Guidelines

	Risk Level			
Practice Guidelines	Green	Yellow	Red	
At Home				
Monitor for symptoms	R	R	Format will be changed to practice on game day before the matches until we return to yellow. All other requirements are the same as yellow.	
Temperature check before leaving home	O	R		
Arrival				
Hand sanitizer/washing	No Restrictions	R		
Staggered start times		O		
Separate gate use		R		
Practice				
Player contact	No Restrictions	Unrestricted		
Player/Coach face coverings use		Encouraged		
Spectators Allowed inside gates		Limited		
Spectator face covering use		R		
Departure				
Immediate Departure	No Restrictions	R		
Separate gate use		R		

U8 – U16 COVID-19 Practice Guidelines

	Risk Level		
Practice Guidelines	Green	Yellow	Red
At Home			
Monitor for symptoms	R	R	R
Temperature check before leaving home	O	R	R
Arrival			
Hand sanitizer/washing	No Restrictions	R	R
Staggered start times		O	R
Separate gate use		R	R
Practice			
Player contact	No Restrictions	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
Player/Coach face coverings use		Encouraged	R
Spectators Allowed inside gates		Limited	No
Spectator face covering use		R	N/A
Departure			
Immediate Departure	No Restrictions	R	R
Separate gate use		R	R

O=Optional, R=Required, X=canceled

Any personal protection is encouraged by an individual at a lower risk level when not required.

*Coaches are encouraged to have players practice physical distancing when possible during practice sessions. Scrimmages are allowed.

APPENDIX 3

[Return to Guidelines](#)

Recreational Soccer COVID-19 Match Day Guidelines

	Risk Level		
Match Day Guidelines	Green	Yellow	Red
At Home			
Monitor for symptoms	R	R	R
Temperature check before leaving home	O	R	R
Arrival			
Hand sanitizer/washing	No Restrictions	R	R
Spectator limits		None	1/player
Separate gate use		R	R
Staggered start times		O	R
Sidelines			
Spectator distancing	No Restrictions	Encouraged	R
Spectator face covering use		Encouraged	R
Spectators over 60		O	Discouraged
Player/Coach face coverings use		R	R
Bench water/bags distanced		R	R
On-bench social distancing		R	R
Warm-Up			
No one allowed on field until 20 min prior start	No Restrictions	R	R
Player contact		Unrestricted	Unrestricted
Mask/face covering use		O	R
Game Play			
Player contact	No Restrictions	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
Player/Coach face coverings use		Encouraged	Encouraged
Ball Disinfection		O	R
Spectators may not touch ball		Encouraged	R
Referee mask use		O	Encouraged
After game			
Handshakes prohibited	No Restrictions	O	R
Immediate departure		R	R
No post game snacks		O	R
Separate gate use		R	R

O=Optional, R=Required

Any personal protection is encouraged by an individual at a lower risk level when not required.

Spectators are to remain 6-9 feet away from field touch lines.

APPENDIX 4

[Return to Guidelines](#)

Academy & Select COVID-19 Practice Guidelines

Practice Guidelines	Risk Level		
	Green	Yellow	Red
At Home			
Monitor for symptoms	R	R	R
Temperature check before leaving home	O	R	R
Arrival			
Temperature check	No Restrictions	O	O
Hand sanitizer/washing		R	R
Staggered start times		O	O
Separate gate use		R	R
Practice			
Player contact	No Restrictions	Allowed	Allowed*
Player/Coach face coverings use		Encouraged	R
Spectators Allowed inside gates		Limited	No
Spectator face coverings use		R	N/A
Departure			
Immediate Departure	No Restrictions	R	R
Separate gate use		R	R

O=Optional, R=Required

Any personal protection is encouraged by an individual at a lower risk level when not required.

*Coaches are encouraged to have players practice physical distancing when possible during practice sessions. Scrimmages are allowed.

APPENDIX 5

[Return to Guidelines](#)

Academy & Select COVID-19 Home Match Day Guidelines

	Risk Level		
Match Day Guidelines	Green	Yellow	Red
At Home			
Monitor for symptoms	R	R	R
Temperature check before leaving home	O	R	R
Arrival			
Hand sanitizer/washing	No Restrictions	R	R
Spectator (Guardian) limits		Encouraged	1/player
Separate gate use		R	R
Staggered start times		O	R
Sidelines			
Spectator distancing	No Restrictions	R	R
Spectator face covering use		R	R
Spectators over 60		O	Discouraged
Coach/bench face covering use		O	R
Bench water/bags distanced		R	R
On-bench social distancing		R	R
Warm-Up			
No one allowed on field until 20 min prior start	No Restrictions	R	R
Player contact		Allowed	Allowed
Player face coverings use (masks, gaiters)		O	R
Game Play			
Player contact	No Restrictions	Allowed	Allowed
Player/Coach face coverings us		Encouraged	Encouraged
Ball Disinfection		O	R
Referee mask use		O	Encouraged
After game			
Handshakes prohibited	No Restrictions	O	R
Immediate departure		R	R
Separate gate use		R	R

O=Optional, R=Required

Any personal protection is encouraged by an individual at a lower risk level when not required.

Spectators are to remain 6-9 feet away from field touch lines.