



**SOCCER ASSOCIATION FOR YOUTH, USA**  
11490 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45246  
call: 800.233.7291 fax: 513.769.0500 visit: saysoccer.org  
saysoccerusa@saysoccer.org



## **Organizational alternatives to a typical soccer season**

SAY Soccer provides a great degree of reasonable flexibility to administrators and how they choose to organize their community events. When the time comes for our communities to take the field again, we have assembled a shortlist of standard league alternatives that would fall under SAY Soccer sanctioning and insurances when postponements are lifted.

### **Practice Sessions**

Many SAY Soccer Areas and Districts may be faced with limitations that require physical distancing. The number of participants allowed at a facility might vary from state to state, as will the minimum distances between participants.

1. Physical distancing session plans should factor in all participants i.e. players, coaches, and spectators at all times.
2. All Participants should always maintain physical distancing of 6 ft. or more.
3. Utilize field markers (cones) to establish 6 foot square grids or 6 foot lanes for the participants.
4. Establish zones for player waiting areas, player equipment, participation, spectators, and space between participation areas.
  - a. For example, a regulation 11v11 field could be split into four separate participation areas with 20 foot lanes running down the middle of the field (goal to goal) and along the midfield line.

### **Open Field Events**

A fun style of play for all age groups. This format allows everyone to play based on who can make it to the field without regard to specific teams. The games would still have referees and supervision, but no coaching at the field. Administrators would set up fields based on age groups and randomly assign kids to teams as they show up to play.

- Players would show up with registration documents at each event.
- Consider onsite registration for new players that were unaware of your new activities.
- Volunteers should still be pre-screened according to SAY Risk Management Policies before participating in any events.
- Teams can be modified between periods in case of any skill imbalances.
- Field sizes and the number of players can change based on that even's participation levels.

- You can reduce the number of substitutes, even eliminating them entirely, so that everyone gets more playtime.
- Keep an eye towards flexibility and fun for all the players.
- Setup areas for skills competition and/or demonstration (juggling, speed dribbling, relay races, etc.) for those waiting to play games.

### **Small-Sided Games**

If your league experiences lower than usual registrations, play can be adapted to smaller sided games. Team sizes can be reduced to round out divisions and bracketing. Field sizes can be reduced to accommodate the change in team size. It is permissible to use alternatives for goals and field markings. i.e. cones, flags, scrimmage vests, etc.

### **Compact Season**

When the time comes to take the field, timing may not permit a full season. SAY Soccer is fully prepared to work with our members to assure they get the best value for their registration dollar. In the event of a shortened season, we can discuss how your registrations may extend into future seasons with SAY Soccer.

### **Tournament Series**

In the event that teams are formed, and a season of play is out of the question, holding one or more small tournaments over several weeks may be a possibility. This alternative to league play could take many different forms.

### **Player Camps**

Similar to jamboree events, players would arrive ready to be placed in stations based on technical and tactical objectives. For example, station one: offensive drills and games, station two: defensive drills and games, station three: individual skill building, station four: small-sided games. This design set up would of course be age-appropriate.

### **Work together with other Districts, Areas, or local organizations**

All of us are facing the same challenges and it can make things easier for everyone when we work together. We encourage you to reach out to other nearby organizations to see how you can partner together and achieve the common goal of “Kids Having Fun!”

**SAY Soccer has established a COVID-19 page that has established [Return to Play Recommendations](#)**

## **SAY Soccer Online Coaching Education**

<https://www.saysoccer.org/Default.aspx?tabid=746971>

## **UKI**

UK International Soccer produced a Home Soccer Workout for all players. The activities are in the order from top to bottom, starting at the warmup then finishing with the special choice. This is to create a realism of a real training session in a structured environment.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17sDSbnjbv1InGMS-gQMVEjP\\_SL-SLEyDglwD2E3Qkuw/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17sDSbnjbv1InGMS-gQMVEjP_SL-SLEyDglwD2E3Qkuw/edit#gid=0)