

PAL Soccer 2020 Season FAQs

1. Are you planning on a “normal” PAL season for 2020?

As you are aware, we waited until June to begin registration. With Gov. DeSantis lifting all restrictions on youth sports due to COVID-19, we are planning to run as “normal” of a PAL 2020 season as we possibly can. Games will run from September 12th to November 7th, 2020, with practices beginning the week of August 17th.

2. With increased cases of COVID-19 in Florida, will that impact the season?

Unfortunately it’s too early to tell. If there are new restrictions imposed by the State of Florida, Okaloosa County, the City of Niceville, or SAY Soccer (our sanctioning body) we will react accordingly. Depending on when that is, it may void the season or stop it mid-stream. We are hopeful that no restrictions happen and are planning as such. SAY Soccer requires us to have a COVID-19 mitigation plan prior to any games. We will publish that as close to the season’s start as we possibly can to allow us to tailor the plan to current conditions. This plan will be published on the PAL website for everyone to see.

3. If the season is cancelled or cut short, will there be refunds?

Yes, we will refund registration fees if parents request them, but we will have to take into account any expenditure that we cannot be reimbursed for. For example, if uniforms have been screen printed or worn and cannot be returned to our uniform provider, we cannot reimburse those costs. If we have played games, any monies used to pay referees will have to be accounted for. There are other costs we pay to the City and to SAY Soccer as well. If parents don’t request a refund, any money left from their registration will go to the PAL scholarship fund used to help underprivileged children play in PAL.

4. Will there be a concession stand this year?

No, PAL will not operate concession stands at the game fields this year out of concern over concession workers' being able to maintain social distancing. Parents and coaches will need to ensure they plan ahead to bring with them everything they need for games, especially water and other hydration, as they will not be available for purchase at the fields.

5. Will masks be required?

No, it is not feasible or safe to require players to wear masks while playing soccer. If future health guidelines require masks then the Board will address how that impacts our season, to include cancelling or curtailing it.

6. What about spectators at games?

At the current time, the PAL Board is not planning on establishing any rules for spectators at games. We will leave it to spectators to continue to follow applicable health guidelines such as physical distancing. It would be impossible for PAL to require and enforce spectator rules. We will look to parents and other spectators to continue to “do the right thing”.

7. I still have concerns about the PAL 2020 season!

The PAL Board is right there with you! Unfortunately none of us know what’s going to happen between now and when we start practicing in mid-August. PAL Soccer has been playing in the Niceville area for over 40 years and it would be awful if the 2020 season is affected. That said, rest assured that the health and safety of our players, coaches, parents, referees, and everyone else associated with PAL comes first. The Board will adapt and adjust the 2020 season as things change over the coming weeks.

8. I have a question you haven’t covered...

Please feel free to contact us if you have a question we haven’t thought of. Visit our website, nicevillepalsoccer.org, as well as the PAL Facebook page for up-to-date info. Email us (see the ABOUT page on the website for contact info) or post a message to Facebook with any additional questions.