



AYSO AREA 5B

Return to Play

Regional Guidelines

Please note the guidelines are subject to change as per the directives of the State of Tennessee, local health departments and US Soccer/AYSO mandates.

Introductions:

AYSO Area 5B has created a detailed document of health and safety guidelines to implement at all Regional in-person youth programs. It is highly recommended that all coaches and assistant coaches abide by the following guidelines in order to prioritize and maintain the health and safety of all participants, parents and staff.

Responsibilities:

Organization responsibilities:

- Regional Board to verify if the Region has any specific agreements with the local organization other than listed in these guidelines.
- Display CDC posters in relevant areas before and after each day (Regions can put up posters).
- Publish Regional protocol and have all participants/volunteers sign the AYSO COVID waiver.

Coach responsibilities:

- All coaches and volunteers must sign the AYSO COVID waiver prior to the season start.
- Encourage everyone to adhere to new practices in place for the safety of all players.
- Temperature checks will be done prior to activities beginning.
- Encouraged to wear mask around players and when social distancing isn't feasible. Away Games - Coaches are asked to comply with all rules established at game site. See travel section for more info.
- No high 5s or physical contact with players.
- Cleaning and disinfecting equipment at the start and after completion of each practice/game.
- Ensure no sharing of equipment (pinnies, keeper jersey, gloves, ect).

Player responsibilities: (parent should receive this information prior to start of the season)

- All parents/guardians must sign an AYSO COVID waiver for their player and submit prior to the season start.
- Temperature checks will be done prior to activities beginning.
- Players are asked to bring hand sanitizer, but coach can distribute if needed.
- Players should practice social distancing as much as possible.
- No touching of anyone else's soccer balls/equipment.
- Players should go to and remain in designated "soccer locker" for any break. Soccer locker will be space with parent/guardian that is socially distant from other team members and parents. All player's equipment must stay in this space. For games, each team will take one (1) sideline and parent/guardian will set up a soccer locker space on designated team sideline for player that is socially distant.
- Players will be encouraged to have their own ball and to use for drills/training. If a ball must be borrowed from Coach, it must be sanitized prior to and after use.

Parents responsibilities: (parent should receive this information prior to start of the season)

- Complete relevant paperwork and AYSO COVID waiver before season start.
- Encouraged to wear mask around players and when social distancing isn't feasible.
- Ensure child feels well and comfortable with attending practice or game prior to arrival.

- Check temperature and symptoms before arrival at practice or game.
- Keep physically distanced from other parents/families/players. Establish a “soccer locker” space for player on designated team sideline. Keep all equipment not in use for player while they participate.
- Send child with enough water and refreshments for your player. Do NOT send snacks for team or allow players to share snacks.
- Ensure all trash is placed in marked containers and nothing is left in soccer locker space.
- Injuries – parents do not go onto the playing field for an injury unless directed to enter per a coach/referee.

Role of Regional Commissioner (RC)

Region commissioner role is to ensure that all AYSO and Region’s policies, procedures and guidelines are being followed, especially this year due to COVID-19. The commissioner is in a position of authority and will lead and direct coaches and volunteers in order to provide our players healthy environment and experience throughout the season.

Before Game/Practice (Coaches)

- Have roster and game/practice plan ready before arrival.
- Ensure everyone ready to follow the AYSO/Region’s guidelines and protocols.
- Ensure all equipment is being sanitized.
- Wait for the team practicing/playing on the field to exit the field before entering the space.
- Contact Regional Commissioner with any incidents.
- Implement social distancing (6ft apart) as much as possible. Remind parent to spread out and create a soccer locker space for their player. For games, each team will take one (1) sideline and parent/guardian will set up a soccer locker space on designated team sideline for player that is socially distant.

During Game/Practice (coaches)

- Will be coaching own team, if any problem a raised will need to address them and contact RC if needed.
- No scrimmages with other team or join practice with other team.
- Remain in designated practice area.
- Ensure each child in personal soccer locker during water break.
- Ensure no sharing of equipment (pinnies, keeper jersey, gloves, ect).

After game/practice

- Ensure all equipment is sanitized.
- Contact RC with any problems or concerns.

Area/space/teams

- Ratio/team size – these will vary due to divisions; RC will inform coaches of team size for each division.
- Practice social distancing as much as possible (6ft apart).
- CDC recommendations will be handed out/emailed out prior to season start.

Breaks/Halftime/Post Game End

- Designated soccer locker is to be used at every break (practice & game).
- Halftime or Post Game End talks – players should practice social distancing as much as possible of at least 6ft between apart. Post-Game - Coach should move team away from field so next group coming in can take the field and reduce cross team interaction.

Equipment:

- Players/coaches should not share any equipment
- Use own water bottle. Bring enough to last entire game/practice.
- Avoid using pinnies if possible. If worn, only wear one per session, and coach should wash them afterwards.
- No keeper jersey switch permitted during games or practice.

- Coach to provide enough keeper jerseys/pinnies/keeper gloves so no sharing. Coach will collect used items after game and place them in plastic bag. Wash them before next game.
- Coach & parents are encouraged to wear mask during interactions and talking together.

Travel

- Please be advised, some divisions may have games that require travel to other regions. Requirements and guidelines of away game site may differ from the home region site. Volunteers, players, and fans are asked to comply with all rules established at game site.

WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD DISPLAYS COVID SYMPTOMS

At arrival:

- If a child responds yes to any of the screening questions, or has a temperature above the acceptable range, ask to leave. Temperature checks will be done prior to activities beginning.
- Complete incident report form and record symptoms keep this safe and return to RC/Safety Director.
- Report to RC/Safety Director immediately. RC will follow next step to ensure all procedures are followed.
- Player may be asked to leave and not participate should they show symptoms, have an elevated temperature or answer yes to screening questions.

During game/practice

- Report to the parent immediately and have parent collect child immediately. If parent isn't present, have the child sit in soccer locker until parent arrives.
- Complete incident report form and record symptoms, keep this safe and return to RC/Safety Director
- Report to RC/Safety Director immediately. RC will follow next step to ensure all procedures are followed.

Symptoms of COVID-19 to look out for

Fever-Cough-Shortness of Breath

If a Coach Tests Positive for COVID:

- Must stay quarantine for at least 10 days, away from the team.
- Must inform RC immediately and verify if the coach has been around the team 5 days prior to testing positive.
- Assistant Coach will take over coaching the team.
- **Coach must have negative test before return to coaching.**
- If a Coach and Assistant Coach both test positive, team parent will take over the team until Coach and Assistant Coach can return.

If RC tests positive:

- **Assistant RC or Coach Administrator will takeover Regional duties while keeping close contact via email/phone regarding day to day Region's activities.**

There is no guarantee in a minimum/maximum number of games a player will have in a season.

No refunds will be issued once practices begin, for changes in the game schedule, or for park closure issued by local government.

This document will be an addendum to any return to play and sport guidelines published by local government. Local guidelines will supersede this document and all guidelines are subject to change. The information provided is only intended as general information to the public. Following these guidelines does not constitute, and is not a substitute for, compliance with all laws and regulations applicable at any time. Individuals and businesses are responsible to ensure that they comply with all laws and regulations that apply to them, including, but not limited to, federal and state health and safety requirements. Additionally, compliance with these regulations does not ensure against the spread of infections from COVID-19 or any other cause.