

Club and League Leadership,

We wanted to provide some reminders as well as some clarification for Phase I: Return to Play. We understand that teams are anxious to move into next phases, but as cases in our state and states surrounding us continue to rise, we want to ensure that we are ensuring the safety of not only our players, but the players' families too. Please make sure you share this with your respective coaches and staff.

Many of you have reached out about the following issues and we wanted to clarify:

**Sharing Equipment** - What constitutes sharing equipment? Sharing of pinnis, goalkeepers sharing gloves, players picking up balls that do not belong to them. As long as guidelines for equipment being cleaned before and after practice are followed, passing the ball between players as long as it is not picked up, is fine. The goal is to have zero cross contamination during Phase 1.

**Goalkeeper Training** - Our Phase I restrictions include: no sharing of equipment, staying a minimum of 6 feet apart, and not participating in activities that would create an opportunity for an individual (coach or player) to come into contact with another's equipment (ball and/or keeper gloves). As long as trainings are abiding by these restrictions, training can take place. This will require some creative thinking, as the coach and player should still not be touching the same ball, gloves (equipment), to shared ball.

**Indoor Soccer** - As a privately run business, we have no say in the regulations that indoor soccer parks are implementing. That being said, we have spoken with the Governor's office to get additional clarification as to why these facilities have been allowed to continue their leagues. The short answer is, they're not. The Governor's office said, "Pursuant to Directive 023, Sec. 4 and the guidance issued by LEAP for Soccer Practice Only, the activity must be limited to athletic conditioning, drills, and practices."

**Out-of-State Play** - From our website: NYSA will not be approving any out-of-state play until we have reached the fourth phase of our protocols. If a club or team elects to travel prior to NYSA entering Phase 4, it does so at its own risk and contrary to NYSA restrictions. Not only will such travel and play be void of any insurance coverage under NYSA's policies, those making such trips may be required to quarantine for up to two weeks upon return from another state. Section 28 of the NYSA Policy will be fully enforced.

**Insurance Coverage** - Member teams/clubs/leagues/associations are only insured under the NYSA insurance contracts while conducting sanctioned and approved activities of NYSA. Return to Play guidelines do not consider the participation in another state association's tournament a covered activity at this time; NYSA teams would not have any insurance benefits should they participate in the tournament.

**Always -**

- Wear face coverings (optional for players during practice)
- Keep a minimum distance of 6 feet between players
- Have no more than groups of 30, including the coach and spectators, gathered on a field at a time
- Have spectators maintain a minimum of 6 feet between each other on the sidelines
- Conduct daily self-evaluations of symptoms
- Disinfect equipment before and after use
- Regularly wash hands, avoid touching your face, and touch as few surfaces as possible

Let's all remember that the reason we are adhering to common sense and the Return to Play restrictions is due to a serious health crisis. It is very real, and placing youth players at risk by playing in a weekend event would appear to turn a blind eye to the safety and well-being of our players, coaches and families.

The guidance from the CDC states that everyone is at risk for getting COVID-19 if they are exposed to the virus. This means that if our youth athletes are exposed at a practice, game or tournament, there is increased risk that they bring the virus home to their families.

We will continue to follow the guidance of the CDC and State of Nevada for our next steps. For now, we thank you as members of NYSA, for following our guidelines and continuing to set an example for others in our community.

Nevada Youth Soccer Association

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