

GotSoccer

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To: Team Contacts, Team Officials, Coaches

2020-2021 Arizona Federal Credit Union Advanced Leagues - Opening Weekend Reminders Part 1

Teams,

As many of you have experienced or witnessed this has been a challenging year and the fact that we have taken steps to return to play has been so important for our youth. Because of the complexity and depth of information, changes, and awareness leading up to the opening weekend, this is Part 1 of my communication to you today.

This year with COVID, we will need to play where cities and facilities have been available. It has taken the entire soccer community to just get to this point where we are back playing and so many of the majority have followed our ASA guidelines. We also Clubs and Teams to continue to communicate to parents of the short term sacrifices we are making whether it be travel distance, spectator protocol, or other sacrifices just to get our kids back on the field. **Do not be the one when it comes to a team who's parents/spectators are not following the rules and protocol, which could then jeopardize the playing of kid's games and can include forfeit due to lack of adherence by your team.**

To quote one of my favorite ASA coaches who recently emailed me, *"...let's just get the kids safely back into their sporting/social environments..."* and *"We are lucky we are even considering playing games."*

The following are based on where we are today in conjunction with the fluid changes that COVID has pressed upon us. You can assume that should any changes happen at any time, my communication to you as reasonably fast as possible will take place to address any items.

IMPORTANT CHANGES:

- **Until further notice, all Advanced League games will have unlimited substitutions.** Should conditions change, the League Commissioner will notify teams if a return to the current written rules about substitutions (Section 7.02)
- Video/Media Pass: **Any person who intends to video the game at the field level must obtain their Team Official Player pass.** The person will be included in the current 4 permissible team officials in the technical area on the player sideline. The person does not have to obtain or ask permission to secure a special Video/Media pass but instead must go through their background check and SafeSport to become a Team Official. Person may video tape from the centerline or player sideline of his/her team. Individuals who are video taping the game away from the field such as in a permissible spectator area (under current COVID Protocol), parking lot, etc. do not need to become a Team Official and go through this process.
- Best method to contact me during the week is via email at advancedleagues@azyouthsoccer.org for anything related to Advanced Leagues.

KEY REMINDERS:

- **During the "Fall" months of September - October, I will be informing teams on a weekly basis of expectations related to our Heat Guidelines.** Information can be found on the [Advanced Leagues Web Page under Resources & Important Information](#). This can include adjustments to game length, required water breaks, postponement of games, etc.. Determination is not made based on a week ahead forecast and instead are made at a "closer to date" decision or at the location on game day. ASA staff has a Wet Bulb Thermometer to monitor conditions at field locations. These adjustments are communicated out to you.
- From the Scrimmage Fest event and at ODP Tryouts, the athletic training staff and ASA staff observed some key points when it comes to pregame and day of nutrition and hydration:
 1. **Players are not eating or hydrating before their game and/or 24 hours before. Female players represented 100% of the cases observed.**
 2. **Players are not bringing enough water and/or Gatorade. Players should have 2 of those big jugs during the course of a game. Hydro flasks are so cool but if your players use those, they need 4-5 of them....**

3. **Somebody on the team needs to bring extra water and/or Gatorade for players if they or their parents cannot be responsible enough.**

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COVID

- Spectator Seating: Spectators are currently not allowed on the field. Additional Details and maps of the locations where we are playing will provide guidance and will be communicated in part 2.
- Please make sure all players, parents, team contacts are informed and aware of the [ASA Return to Play Guidelines](#) as well as [ASA COVID Protocols](#).
- Everybody in Advanced Leagues needs to be understanding and flexible should there be any actions needed following the protocols. This includes the potential for games getting rescheduled when we are informed of any cases that ASA is informed of and the necessary steps we will take to provide as safe as possible conditions for play. It is our intention that should a game need to be rescheduled due to COVID cases, we will all as a community understand that we need to work together to avoid forfeits and figure out solutions.

Tomorrow's Reminders Part 2:

- Field Locations and ATCs
- Game Day Procedures and Game Cards
- Club Pass Policy: No Write in Players. All Changes must be made in Gotsoccer
- Player Passes and Team Official Passes: All Team Officials in the allowed technical area must visibly display and wear their pass.
- COVID: Protocol, Spectators, Field maps,
- Reporting of Scores
- ASA Staff contacts and expectations at sites.

More coming tomorrow...

