



To: ASA Club Presidents and Directors of Coaching
From: Rick Kelsey, Chief Executive Officer
CC: Board of Directors
Date: September 17, 2020

Subject: Coach and Team Manager Responsibilities for COVID-19 Protocol Adherence

Over the past few weeks, ASA has been able to kick off the Arizona Federal Credit Union Advanced Leagues, MaxInMotion Open League, ODP Tryouts, Coaching Education, and a few tournaments; the **only** state in the southwest to do so. ASA has partnered very closely with our member clubs and their leadership in developing and implementing the Return-to-Play guidelines. These have been shared with multiple municipalities and have been instrumental in getting more and more fields made available and opened. All of this has been done **together**, ASA and Clubs working together in collaboration with a single goal – play soccer all season long.

Together, we must now focus on ensuring that we are playing soccer continuously through December, January, February, March, etc. While we are fortunate to be playing it is just as important, if not more important to make sure we keep playing. And the only way to ensure this is for **everyone** to work together. Coaches and Team Managers must take more accountability in communicating with parents and enforcing adherence to the guidelines. This includes encouraging parents to limit numbers attending games, wearing masks, social distancing, and sitting only in areas designated.

Along with driving adherence, Coaches and Team Managers must be familiar with and take responsibility for following the ASA COVID protocols regarding management of Close Contact Exposure, Symptoms, and Positive Testing. The process for reporting positive results about ASA COVID Protocols and Reporting, which were created with guidance from the Arizona Department of Health Services, can be found on the ASA website in the Return-to-Play section. It is critical that **all** positive results be reported to ASA immediately and the defined protocols followed. Failure to report positive results is irresponsible and creates unnecessary risks to others.

We are currently in Phase IV, Step 1:

Restrictions

- Attendee capacity (coach, player, spectator, team official) at each field not to exceed what has been defined by state, county, municipal, or facility requirements.
- Adherence to the ASA defined three-step Return-to-Competition guidelines
- No sharing of water or equipment.
- Masks required for coaches at all times
- Masks required for players transit to/from the field and while not participating in play
- Limitations on participants per field to be in accordance with municipality proclamations/requirement.
- Practice times should be set to maximize social distancing.
 - Recommend a minimum of 30 minutes between end time of one session and the start time of the next.
 - If youth need supervision while waiting for pickup, adults should be at least six (6) feet apart.

Activities Permitted

- Participation in ASA sanctioned leagues, games, and tournament
- Inter-Club scrimmage/practice games.
- Regular training sessions can be held.
- Games may be played in ASA sanctioned leagues or tournaments. Recommend that teams not play more than one game per day.

Activities NOT Permitted

- A three-step Return-to-Competition guideline has been developed to support games and game day operations. These **must** be adhered to.

ARIZONA

SOCCER ASSOCIATION

	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Attendance (Includes players, coaches/team officials, referees, and staff)	<p>NO Spectators.</p> <p>Total number of attendees (players, coaches/team officials, referees, and staff) will not exceed state, county, municipal or facility requirements.</p> <p>NOTE: As of 8/13/2020, the Governor's Executive Order does not allow for more than 50 people per event. An event would be considered a full size soccer field.</p>	<p>Spectators allowed. All spectators must wear a mask at all times and maintain social distance</p> <p>Total number of attendees (players, coaches/team officials, referees, and staff) will not exceed state, county, municipal, or facility requirements.</p> <p>NOTE: As of 8/13/2020, the Governor's Executive Order does not allow for more than 50 people per event. An event would be considered a full size soccer field.</p>	No restrictions
Coaches/Team Officials	<p>If not feeling well - STAY HOME</p> <p>Required to wear mask at all times.</p> <p>Responsible for ensuring adherence to all requirements</p>	<p>If not feeling well - STAY HOME</p> <p>Required to wear mask at all times.</p> <p>Responsible for ensuring adherence to all requirements</p>	No restrictions
Players	<p>Required to wear mask to/from the field and when not playing.</p>	<p>Required to wear mask to/from the field and when not playing.</p>	No restrictions
Team and Parent/Spectator Seating	<p>Teams will sit on opposite sides of the field from each other, behind the Assistant Referee.</p> <p>Spectators are not permitted on the field. They <u>may</u> only sit in areas designated by the facility away from the field.</p>	<p>Teams will sit on opposite sides of the field from each other, behind the Assistant Referee.</p> <p>Spectators will sit on the same side of the field as their team but the opposite half of the field away from the Assistant Referee.</p>	No restrictions
Referees	<p>If not feeling well - STAY HOME</p> <p>Maintain 6 feet from other officials when game is not being played</p> <p>Required to wear mask to/from the field</p> <p>If a player is injured do not get within 6 feet; call coach/team official on to address players injury</p> <p>No pre/post game handshakes</p>	<p>If not feeling well - STAY HOME</p> <p>Maintain 6 feet from other officials when game is not being played</p> <p>Required to wear mask to/from the field</p> <p>If a player is injured do not get within 6 feet; call coach/team official on to address players injury</p> <p>No pre/post game handshakes</p>	No restrictions
Game Schedules	<p>Games will be scheduled with greater time between end and start time to minimize unnecessary contact.</p>	<p>Games will be scheduled with greater time between end and start time to minimize unnecessary contact.</p>	No restrictions
Game Day Operations	<p>ASA staff, when present, to wear masks at all times.</p> <p>Gloves to be worn by staff when picking up trash or sanitizing equipment</p> <p>No pre-game coin toss; Home team chooses direction</p> <p>No benches provided by the host organization</p> <p>No pre/post game handshakes</p> <p>Pop-up tents may be used. Recommend teams have multiple pop-up tents in order to maximize social distancing</p> <p>Sanitization plans to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Game balls - Game day signage - Goalposts, corner flags 	<p>ASA staff, when present, to wear masks at all times.</p> <p>Gloves to be worn by staff when picking up trash or sanitizing equipment</p> <p>No pre-game coin toss; Home team chooses direction</p> <p>No benches provided by the host organization</p> <p>No pre/post game handshakes</p> <p>Pop-up tents may be used. Recommend teams have multiple pop-up tents in order to maximize social distancing</p> <p>Sanitization plans to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Game balls - Game day signage - Goalposts, corner flags 	No restrictions
Out-of-State Travel	<p>Out-of-state travel is not recommended.</p>	<p>Out-of-state travel is not recommended.</p>	No restrictions

We **cannot** take for granted that our teams, leagues, and tournaments are playing. In order to keep playing we can not relax. Coaches and Team Manager **MUST** do more to ensure their teams, parents, and spectators adhere to all guidelines, all the time. No one wants to be that team, that player, that coach, that team manager, or that parent that leads to being shut back down. We can do this **TOGETHER!!!**