

AYSO Region 88 Return to Play Policy

Version 1.1 (updated 8/19/21) [updates marked in red]

The following guidelines are hereby adopted by AYSO Region 88 to ensure that all players, volunteers, and parents enjoy a fun and safe soccer-playing environment for the 2021-2022 soccer season.

These guidelines are intended to comply with, and may in some cases exceed, rules and regulations for return play recommended by the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”), National Institute of Health (“NIH”), the State of California, County of Los Angeles, City of Glendale, California Interscholastic Federation (“CIF”) and National AYSO policies. Region 88 will continue to amend these policies as additional recommendations are provided by the respective governmental agencies for return to play.

COVID-19 General Statement

COVID-19 continues to pose a high risk to communities and requires individuals and organizations to take precautions and to modify operations and activities to reduce the risk of spread. This protocol provides direction to minimize the risk of spread of COVID-19 during play.

The risk of spread of COVID-19 from an infected person, even if they feel well, to others who are not fully vaccinated is affected by the following factors:

- Risk increases when face masks are not worn correctly and consistently, and physical distancing is not maintained.
- Risk increases with increasing levels of contact between participants; close contact (particularly face-to-face contact), the frequency, and total duration of close contact.
- Risk increases with greater exertion levels; greater exertion increases the rate of breathing and the quantity of air inhaled and exhaled with every breath.
- Risk increases with the mixing of cohorts and groups, particularly when from different communities (during or outside of sports play); mixing with more people increases the risk that an infectious person will be present.

These policies cover the following topics:

- Coaches
- Players
- Spectators
- Referees and Other Volunteers
- Covid Return-To-Play Protocol
- Game Protocol

Coaches

Region 88 has always taken pride in our volunteers' high standards, especially our coaches, which they demonstrate weekly towards our players, parents, and spectators. To ensure that Region 88 is able to complete the upcoming soccer season, the following requirements are hereby implemented:

FACE COVERING

Coaches shall be required to wear a face mask or face covering at all AYSO events.

PRACTICE AND PRE-GAME PROTOCOLS

Before each practice and game, each coach, their assistant or a team representative shall inquire from each coach, assistant coach, parent or guardian (or the player for 19U only) as follows:

- Does anyone in the household have COVID-19 symptoms (for example, fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing)?
- Is anyone in the household currently under isolation or quarantine orders or been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past ten days?
- Were you within 6 feet of someone for a total of 15 minutes or more who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has any of the symptoms listed above?

Any coach, assistant coach, player, parent, or guardian who answers "yes" to any of these questions shall be denied entry into any practice or denied playing in any game and shall be immediately sent home. Any player who develops any of these symptoms during practice shall be immediately isolated from other players and immediately sent home.

Before each match, each coach or their assistant shall sign the game card (or notify the opposing coach in divisions in which game cards are not used) indicating that they have asked these questions of their players. The referee for each match shall verify that that the coaches have signed their gamecards indicating they have conducted the appropriate inquiry for their players.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

As much as possible during practices and games, coaches should maintain a physical distance between themselves and players, parents and match officials.

Players

Players are strongly recommended to wear a facemask or face covering at all AYSO events.

Participants should take a break from exercise and/or remove their face mask if any difficulty breathing is noted and should change their mask or mask if it becomes wet and sticks to the participant's face and obstructs breathing.

Spectators

Spectators are strongly recommended to wear a facemask or face covering at all AYSO events.

In an effort to mitigate contact with third parties and reduce the risk of exposure, Region 88 suggests limiting attendance at practice and games to only players and members of their household, including siblings.

- For practices for 10U and above, after dropping off their player, parents are recommended to remain in their vehicles until practice is concluded, at which time they may retrieve their player.
- For games, parents and siblings are recommended to maintain social distance from other families and players to mitigate contact with third parties and reduce the risk of exposure

Parents, guardians or their players should not attend any practice or game if any of the following questions are answered in the affirmative:

- Does anyone in the household have COVID-19 symptoms (for example, fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing)?
- Is anyone in the household currently under isolation or quarantine orders or been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past ten days?
- Were you within 6 feet of someone for a total of 15 minutes or more who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has any of the symptoms listed above?

Referees and Other Volunteers

MASKS

All volunteers are required to wear a facemask or face covering at all AYSO events. As much as possible before, during and after games, referees and volunteers should maintain a physical distance between themselves and players, parents, and coaches.

All referees are required to wear a facemask or face covering during practices or games except during match play. During match play, if a referee needs to engage with a player, coach, volunteer, or spectator and cannot maintain at least three (3) feet of physical distance, the referee shall wear a mask. As much as possible before, during, and after games, referees should maintain a physical distance between themselves and players, parents, and coaches.

PRE-GAME PROTOCOLS

Before each practice and game, each referee or volunteer shall confer with other match officials or volunteers as follows:

- Does anyone in the household have COVID-19 symptoms (for example: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing)?
- Is anyone in the household currently under isolation or quarantine orders or been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 10 days?
- Were you within 6 feet of someone for a total of 15 minutes or more who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has any of the symptoms listed above?

Any referee or volunteer who answers “yes” to any of these questions shall be denied entry into any practice or denied participating in any game and shall immediately leave the field. Any referee or volunteer who develops any of these symptoms during practice or game should be immediately isolated from other referees, volunteers, parents, and players and immediately leave the field.

COVID Return-To-Play Protocols

If a coach, referee or volunteer is exposed to COVID-19, the coach, referee, or volunteer shall undertake the following protocols:

A. COACH, REFEREE, OR VOLUNTEER

1. If a coach, referee or volunteer is exposed to COVID-19, the coach, referee or volunteer shall remove themselves from all AYSO events (games, practices, refereeing) based on their last date of exposure to the COVID-19 infected person as follows:
 - a. For a period of 10 days without testing.
 - b. For a period of 2 days after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later after known exposure).
2. A coach or assistant coach who is removed from AYSO activities shall still be responsible for ensuring that all coaching activities and refereeing assistants are fulfilled.
 - a. The coach shall contact the division coordinator and the referee coordinator to try and obtain coverage for all games and practices.
 - b. The coach shall also contact all coaches in the division to help facilitate coverage.

B. PLAYER

1. Any player (regardless of age) who is exposed to COVID-19 shall be prevented from engaging in all AYSO events (games, practices, refereeing) based on their last date of exposure to the COVID-19 infected person as follows:
 - a. For a period of 10 days without testing.
 - b. For a period of 2 days after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later after known exposure).

C. NOTIFICATION

1. Notification of an exposure to COVID-19 by a coach, referee, volunteer or player shall be sent to the Region by submitting a form: Click here: [Region 88 Covid Reporting Form](#).
2. Upon notification of exposure to COVID-19 by a coach, referee, volunteer, player, the Medical Coordinator shall provide relevant COVID-19 information to the coach, referee, volunteer, player and shall determine the clearance date for a return to play.

Game Protocols

The following game protocols shall be followed:

- A. All levels of play
 - a. The pre-game handshake and coin tossed are suspended.
 - b. The visiting team will kick-off in the first half and the home team will kick-off in the second half.
 - c. Home team will select direction of play for kick-off in the first half.
- B. It is recommended that players sanitize or wash their hands each time they come off the field, and before entering the field of play.
- C. Coaches, volunteers, or players should avoid pre-game physical contact with the other team members, referee crew (e.g., handshakes, fist bumps, high-5s, hugs, etc.) Post-game handshakes, high-5s, tunnels, etc., are suspended.
- D. No sharing of water bottles, drinks, food, or any personal items are allowed.
 - a. Until further notice, half-time and post-game snacks in all divisions are suspended.
- E. Game cancellations
 - a. Any game terminated or canceled due to COVID-19 exposure by players or coaches may be rescheduled by the Region at its sole discretion.
- F. Failure to comply with COVID-19 Protocols:
 - a. Failure of any coach, volunteer, player, or spectator to comply with COVID-19 protocols may result in any of the following punishment at the Region's sole discretion.
 - i. Suspension of coach, volunteer, or referee.
 - ii. Termination of player's registration
 - iii. Prevention of any parent or spectator from attending any future AYSO Region 88 events, including games and practices.