

# Skagit Valley Youth Soccer Association (SkVYSA)

## COVID-19 Policy 19 August 2021

Skagit Valley Youth Soccer Association (SkVYSA) has a general obligation to provide safe and healthy facilities and programs in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. SkVYSA COVID-19 Health Policies have been developed and implemented to comply with COVID-19 program specific safety practices in accordance with the CDC Guidance, Washington State Department of Health (specifically the Sport Contact Category guidance) Washington State Secretary of Health, and Washington Youth Soccer to keep our sites, staff, volunteers, athletes, and families safe during this season. According to Washington State Department of Health (DOH), soccer is considered a “moderate” risk contact sport.

### **The following guidelines will be implemented, per Washington State Secretary of Health Mask Order June 29, 2021 :**

- Masks are no longer required outdoors. However, **unvaccinated individuals\*** should wear face coverings outdoors in crowded public settings. This includes sporting events, where there is decreased ability to consistently maintain physical distance between non-household members. **All unvaccinated individuals** should be wearing a mask, unless actively playing in a game or in training. All unvaccinated children should be wearing a mask if they are not in active play/training.
- People are not required to wear face coverings while engaged in outdoor training or competition in any type of sport.

\* This includes: Parents, coaches, and other spectators. Kids under 12 and those, 12 and older, who are not vaccinated. Players on the sidelines or otherwise not playing in a match or participating in practice.

### **Protocol for Matches (games) and Practices:**

- At matches and practices, physical distancing should be maintained whenever possible.
- No handshakes or high fives (e.g., congratulatory team lines) before or after games. It would be acceptable (and recommended) for the teams to face each other and thank the opponent while staying apart on the field. Teams should also thank the referees in the same manner.
- Player line-ups and introductions with the referee are done while physically distanced.
- No team huddles.
- SkVYSA is discouraging teams from having practice scrimmages against other teams.
- Parents/spectators should not form a “tunnel” for the kids to run through after the match.
- Each player should have their own water/drink bottle. There should be no sharing of water bottles.
- It is being asked that teams do not have one person bring snacks/drinks for the whole team after matches. Each player should provide their own snacks/beverages.
- For the 2021 Fall Recreational season, we will be suspending the policy of having teams on separate sidelines from spectators at matches. In the interest of trying to reduce the chances for the spreading COVID-19 among different communities, each team and its spectators will be on the same side of the field. The home team will choose which sideline it (and its spectators) will occupy. The visitor (and their spectators) will occupy the opposite sideline. No spectators will be behind the goal line or goal area.
- If the owner/operator of a facility has more stringent restrictions, those restrictions will be adhered to.

SkVYSA is not a medical provider and, as such, will not be asking or requiring people to share their vaccination records/status. It is expected that all participants will have the honesty and integrity to follow these guidelines/protocols.

We know that some of these restrictions are not likely to be popular. However, we feel them to be necessary in order to allow the kids back out on to the pitch. We are asking everyone to do their part to avoid becoming “the reason for canceling the season”. We hope that the day will come when we can relax these restrictions and return to “normal”.

Please keep in mind that this situation (COVID-19) is constantly evolving/changing. Federal, state, or local guidelines may be modified or updated at any time. SkVYSA will reserve the right to make changes to this policy, at any time, in order to comply with any such guidelines and/or regulations.

Thank you,

Chad Burton  
SkVYSA  
President