

July 23, 2020

Dear STYSA Family:

As we continue to navigate through a very strange and difficult 2020 year, and the country begins to recover from the pandemic, our Governor announced earlier this week that Louisiana will remain in Phase 2 of the "Opening Up America Again" guidelines for our state until August 7. LSA also followed with an update yesterday, which has been posted on our website under "Club News".

STYSA has been following the guidance provided by LSA, all state and local authorities, including US Youth Soccer and US Club Soccer. We are making preparations to start the Fall Season strong and to help our kids to enjoy the "beautiful game", while we follow the released guidance that allows our youth soccer league to resume activities. We are excited about the prospect of bringing youth soccer back to our kids, families, and community. However, we also firmly believe it's important to maintain high standards for safety and health during this tenuous time of reopening our society. As such, we plan to restart the STYSA Fall 2020 Season in August under the guidelines outlined by the CDC and the Return to Play Protocol provided by LSA.

The STYSA Fall 2020 Important Dates have been posted on our website under "Club News".

Prior to the start of the Fall Season, all coaches will be informed regarding modified training guidelines that we will utilize in conducting practices and games. In addition, we have also attached our new operating protocols to provide you with full transparency of the measures we are taking to ensure our players, families, and all facilities, people, and processes associated with STYSA are maximizing the safety of everyone involved in the STYSA Fall 2020 experience.

Our first practices are scheduled to start on August 10 (for all STYSA ELITE teams) and August 17 (for all Recreational and Academy teams).

Lastly, we recognize that some families may face a difficult decision when it comes to returning to play soccer this season. Please respect each family's decision. For those who choose not to return this season, we fully support your decision for your family.

Our STYSA ELITE teams have been registered already with LSA and the league is making preparations for the start of the Fall Season. Our Recreational Registration remains open until July 31. In order to provide the best experience possible for everyone involved, we request that if your child is planning on playing soccer with STYSA this year, please register before the deadline, as we may need to evaluate the number of teams based on these decisions.

Thank you again for your support of STYSA. These are extraordinary times and we believe strongly that youth sports can help us in our recovery. Children love sports, and the ability to get them out on the fields will bring a lot of joy and fun that they need so much these days. However, it has to be done safely, with the utmost care for the health of our youth and our society. Let's bring STYSA Soccer back to our communities together.

**STYSA STRONG – GAME ON !!!**

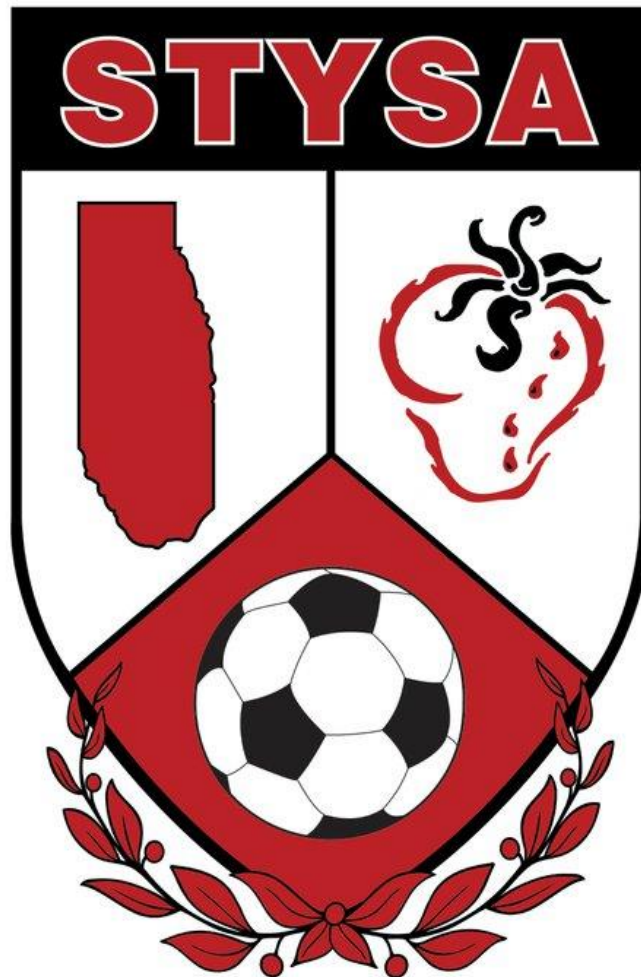
Yours in soccer,



Eddie Sequeira  
President

"One Team, One Club, One Goal"

**SOUTH TANGI YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION  
(STYSA)**



**SOCCER GUIDELINES  
FOR A SAFE RETURN TO PLAY**

**FALL 2020**

# Phasing – Updated on July 21, 2020

## Foreword

LSA announced a Comprehensive Ban on all soccer activities across Louisiana on March 16. Governor John Bel Edwards extended the statewide Stay at Home Order to May 15. Since then, the State has gone from Phase One to Phase Two, as part of the gradual phasing return based on the “Opening Up America Again” guidelines for our state.

On Monday, July 21, Governor Edwards announced the extension of Phase Two until August 7.

## Phasing in General

Phasing is not a simple throw of a switch. It is a gradual, thoughtful, science-based plan to return to play safely and in a manner that minimizes the risk of a COVID-19 resurgence. Phasing and the protocols established for each Phase are subject to change as the effects and behavior of the virus change. The Phasing process has been established by the CDC and the White House Task Force and is being applied by Governor John Bel Edwards across Louisiana.

## Phase One

**May 15 – June 5**

Phase One began with the lifting of the Governor’s Stay-at Home Order. Maximizing social distancing when in public, non-essential travel and isolation following travel were required. Further, Phase One required that “Organized Youth Activities that are currently closed should remain closed”. Therefore, LSA’s comprehensive Ban on all soccer activities set forth in their April 28 notice to Member Clubs was extended until June 5.

- Soccer Activities Permitted: Individual training sessions in your home/residence using your own equipment.
- Coaching occurs virtually. No coaches or other athletes present during training
- Soccer Activities Prohibited: Practices, scrimmages, games, etc.

## Phase Two (extended until August 7)

**June 5 – August 7**

During this Phase, small groups may return to play under strict adherence with the Return To Play Protocol and Responsibilities below. The goal in Phase Two is to maintain absolutely safe conditions for our players while we give them the opportunity re-establish their soccer fitness and become acclimated to the early summer conditions. Phase 2 IS NOT an open invitation to return to the game as we knew it before the pandemic.

- Soccer Activities Permitted: Small group (10 or less) training in which social distancing is strictly observed and game conditions are avoided.
- Fitness, speed and agility training
- Soccer Activities Prohibited: Full practices, scrimmages, games, etc.

STYSA made the decision in March **NOT** to allow any STYSA activities during this Phase in the offseason (for the health and safety of all players and their families).

STYSA will start practices in August. If Louisiana is still in Phase Two, we will follow the LSA guidelines as provided for this Phase.

### Phase Three

Commencing Date TBD

Phase 3 continues our safe and methodical return to play. The focus of our return to play is to conduct tryouts. Other carefully monitored and restricted activities may be undertaken, but Phase 3 is not a return to what we all understand as a normal youth soccer environment. Again, strict adherence to the Return to Play Protocols is mandatory.

Soccer Activities Permitted:	Small group (10 or less) activities
	Team practices where players are trained in small groups and not as a full team (e.g. 3v3, 4v4 small-sided games)
	Fitness, speed and agility training
Soccer Activities Prohibited:	Full practices, scrimmages, games, etc.

### Future Phasing

As the pandemic wears on and as we become more effective in battling the virus, future phasing will take place. The US Youth Soccer Return To Play Committee has already begun discussions on future protocol, but it is clear any future phasing is entirely dependent upon our ability as a culture to deal with the COVID-19 virus.

## Protocol and Responsibilities

### Criteria

In order to participate in any soccer activities other than individual activities at home, an individual including, but not limited to, players, coaches and Club staff ("participants") must satisfy the following criteria

- No signs or symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and have not been exposed to someone that has been ill in 14 days.
- Live in training location/community for 14 days prior to beginning group training.
- Take temperature before participating in any soccer activity. *Anyone who self-reports a temperature of 100 or more should be sent home and not allowed to participate for a minimum of 14 days*
- There shall be no activities that would require direct or indirect contact between players.
- Cleaning schedule/protocol of equipment with disinfectant before, during, and after training.

## **Coach Responsibilities**

- Ensure the health and safety of all players.
- Before each soccer activity a Coach must organize “stations” for each player at or around the bench area that are at least 6 feet apart in which players must keep all of their belongings. This can be done with cones. They shall be required to return to their “station” only during breaks.
- Before each soccer activity ask all players how the athletes are feeling and whether they are experiencing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. cough, fever, or loss of taste or smell). Also ask when they took their temperature.
- If the athlete has any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, they should be sent home and instructed to contact their healthcare provider.
- Follow all state and local health protocols and ensure social distancing at all times including team meetings/talks before during and after soccer activities.
- Ensure all athletes have their individual equipment (ball, water, bag, etc.).
- Coach is the only person to handle all training equipment (e.g., cones, disk, flags, etc.).
- Wear a face mask, when not actively coaching, maintain social distance requirements from players based on state and local health requirements.
- Have fun, stay positive – players and parents are looking to you to stay calm, supportive and caring during this time.
- The use of scrimmage vest or pinnies is prohibited.
- Respect players, parents, and families by accommodating those that may not yet be comfortable with returning.
- If a coach or family member tested positive or suspect they have been exposed to the virus, that coach must self-quarantine per CDC guidelines.
- The affected coach’s team may have to train with an assistant coach or move training times to another date/time (train with another coach) or be shut down temporarily if necessary. The coach and players will have to produce a negative test result before they can resume any activities.
- Furthermore, any other team that the coach (if he/she coaches multiple teams) may have had contact with may have to be shut down temporarily as well.

## **Parent Responsibilities**

- Ensure your child is healthy.
- If you are not comfortable with returning to play, DON’T. You are the only one who will make the decision when your child returns to play. Return to Play is voluntary.
- Check your child’s temperature daily and ask whether they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., cough, fever, or loss of taste or smell).
- No carpooling.
- Parents are not permitted on or near the field.

- Parents must stay inside or in close proximity to their car when at any soccer activity. If outside their car, parents must wear a face mask and must adhere to social distancing guidelines.
- Ensure child's clothing is washed after every training session.
- Ensure all equipment, cleats, ball, shin guards, etc. are washed or sanitized before and after every training.
- Notify club immediately if your child becomes ill for any reason.
- Do not assist coach with equipment before or after training.
- Be sure your child has necessary sanitizer with them at every soccer activity.
- Should parents feel the need to communicate with a coach, it must be done via email or by telephone.

### **Player Responsibilities**

- Take your temperature daily and especially before activities with others.
- If you are not comfortable with returning to play, DON'T. Return to Play is voluntary.
- Wash hands thoroughly before and after soccer activity.
- Bring and use, hand sanitizer with you to every soccer activity.
- Wear mask before and immediately after all soccer activity.
- Observe the separation of the "stations" established by the Coach at the bench area and make certain to place all of your belongings (bags, water bottle and equipment) at least 6 feet apart.
- Do not touch or share anyone else's equipment, water, snack or bag.
- Practice social distancing.
- Wash and sanitize all equipment before and after every soccer activity.
- Observe social distancing. No group celebrations, no high 5's, hugs, handshakes etc.

### **Protocols for Reporting and Communication of COVID-19 Exposure**

Staff and Coaches are required to immediately report to STYSA if they test positive for COVID-19, are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or have been directly exposed to someone who has tested positive for or is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

For players who have tested positive for COVID-19, are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or have been directly exposed to someone who has tested positive for or is displaying symptoms of COVID-19: their parent or guardian is required to report this to the club at [stysasoccer@gmail.com](mailto:stysasoccer@gmail.com) , and should provide as much information, such as:

- Child's first and last name
- Team
- Specific symptoms (e.g., sore throat; shortness of breath/difficulty breathing; fever of 100.4 or higher; chills; headache; sinus congestion; cough persistent and/or productive; joint aches and soreness; vomiting or diarrhea; and/or a rash)

- Testing: have they been tested, or are they being tested, the results, if applicable
- Family details: whether the case was identified within another household member, etc.
- Last date your child participated in a STYSA training event.

All names and details will be kept confidential and will only be shared with local health officials.

If a case of COVID-19 is reported, STYSA will communicate with the local health department and follow the appropriate guidelines. All players, coaches and staff who came into contact with that person will be notified. Due to HIPAA laws and to protect the privacy of all involved, the identity of that person will remain anonymous.

Once notified that an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19 and/or has been in close proximity with any player, coach, or staff member, such individuals must adhere to all guidelines as communicated. These guidelines may include, but are not limited to:

- Notifying your primary physician
- Adhering to self-isolation and/or quarantine for 14 days or undergo testing and confirm and negative test result
- Requiring proof of a negative test or a doctor's note before returning to play

Affected teams may transition to Virtual Training during this period until members are cleared to return to in-person programming.

### **Thanks and an Offer of Support**

STYSA is a proud member of the [PLAY Sports Coalition](#), a united front of youth sports organizations formed to support young athletes, working families, coaches, and volunteers across all 50 states, particularly those in underserved areas. PLAY Sports Coalition has been doing its part to help youth sports recover through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. STYSA has been involved with the Coalition throughout this pandemic and appreciates the support and advice that has been provided by many professionals. In addition, we are grateful to the United Soccer Coaches for the incredible amount of COVID-19 resources and opportunities to collaborate via virtual meetings, webinars, etc.

At STYSA, our mission is to develop champions for life. In doing so, we aim to create a positive impact on the field, at home and in the community. We can only pursue this mission through the active participation of all of our members – players, families, and coaches. There has been no period in our club's history that has required this amount of unity and effort to return to the field. We appreciate your support, and stand together to make this happen. We also appreciate the support of our partners, sponsors, and also the endless hours and work of all unsung heroes in our community who have been directly involved at the front lines of the pandemic.

Thank you for your partnership in this endeavor and, as ever, for being part of the STYSA Soccer Family and community.

**The goal of resuming play is to provide as many opportunities for as many children in our community as possible.**

STYSA Soccer

“One Team, One Club, One Goal”