

SOCCKER RHODE ISLAND RETURN-TO-PLAY-GUIDELINES

These are just guidelines. Clubs may need to come up with guidelines that work best for them. These guidelines have been combined from US Youth, and Reopen RI(Governor or RI). Included is the CDC guidelines document.

Phase 1 (March – May 31, 2020)

1. State health authorities require shelter in place, stay at home order. Individual training sessions can be held in participant home/residence using their own equipment.
2. Coaching occurs virtually. No coaches or other athletes should be present during individual training.
3. Individual training sessions can be held in participant home/residence or outside (maintaining social distancing) using their own equipment.
4. Coaching occurs virtually. No coaches or other athletes physically present during training.

Phase 2 (June 1 – June 30, 2020)

Below are suggested criteria for participation in permitted small group training sessions. (15 people)

1. Stable groups: Participants are required to be organized in “stable groups” of a maximum of 15 people. The term “stable groups” means the same individuals, including children, staff and any adult leaders, remain in the same group over the course of the entire program. Children shall not change from one group to another, and groups should occupy the same physical space. Parents and caregivers should choose one stable group for their child per season. No signs or symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and have no known exposure to someone that has been ill in 14 days.
2. Physical distancing: Physical distancing is encouraged, but not required within each stable group; however, activities where at least six feet of distance can be maintained are encouraged and 14 feet of distance is preferred. When not engaged in active play, members of a stable group should maintain physical distance of six feet between each person.
3. Space between stable groups: Stable groups are required to maintain a minimum of 14 feet between the outer limit of their group play and any other stable group or passersby.
4. Quarantine: All out-of-state participants in Summer Youth Sports should be advised of and adhere to any executive orders regarding the need to quarantine prior to participation in Summer Youth Sports
5. Screening: Screen adult leaders and youth participants prior to the activity for any symptoms of COVID-19. A screening tool is available, in English and Spanish, to aid with proper screening at <https://health.ri.gov/covid/for/business/>. Any person exhibiting signs of illness or who have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 must be excluded from the activity in accordance with CDC and RI Department of Health guidelines at <https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/>
6. Upon arrival to training, coaches or staff should ask each athlete if they are experiencing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. If the athlete has any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, they should be sent home and instructed to contact their healthcare provider as soon as possible.

7. Hand cleaning: Teach and reinforce handwashing with children engaged in sports activities. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol may be used. Handwashing and/or sanitizing should occur before, during, and after Summer Youth Sports activities.
8. Shared objects: Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean, sanitize, or disinfect between use (e.g., balls, bats, racquets). Participants should bring and use their own equipment where possible, or have equipment designated and labeled for individual use by the organization. Shared equipment should be limited and sanitized between users. Equipment should be staged to allow physical distance between users and to limit multiple touches. All participants must have their own food/beverage items. Cups, bottles, or other food/beverage items are not to be shared.
9. Establish a cleaning schedule/protocol for equipment with the proper use of disinfectant before, during, and after training.
10. Face coverings: Coaches and staff are required to wear a face covering in accordance with RIDOH regulations and Executive Order 20-30 or when unable to easily, continuously, and measurably keep six feet of physical distance from others. Youth participants are encouraged to wear face coverings when not engaged in active play. While engaged in the active play of sports or strenuous activities, youth participants do not need to wear a face covering. However, youth participants should be encouraged to wear face masks at all other times. Face coverings shall not be required of those who are unable to comply for health or developmental reasons, including young children who may not be able to effectively wear a mask.
11. Facilities: Close shared spaces, such as locker rooms, if possible. Otherwise, stagger use and clean and disinfect between uses. For any facilities in use, a cleaning schedule must be implemented to ensure the frequent cleaning of high-touch areas or equipment, daily cleaning, and a cleaning and disinfection between sessions. This may include cleaning frequently touched surfaces on the field, court, or play surface at least daily, or between use by different stable groups. Find guidance on cleaning and disinfection at CDC Youth Sports Guidance.
12. Practice vs. team play: Focus on practice and drills is encouraged rather than games, even within stable groups. Team play may be allowed when physical distancing can easily and continuously be maintained during competitive activity. Risk of transmission increases when there are combined activities or games between two or more stable groups. Competition between groups or teams and travel to play other groups are prohibited.
13. Plan and communication: Summer Youth Sports organizations shall provide parents, caregivers, and participants with their COVID-19 plan. Organizations are encouraged to appoint a team parent to support coaches in monitoring compliance with COVID-19 plans during practices and drills.
14. Resources: Additional resources can be found at CDC Youth Sports Guidance and at Aspen Institute's "Return to Play COVID-19 Risk Assessment Tool."

NO TRAVEL GAMES CAN BE PLAYED. SCRIMMAGES AMONG THE 15 PLAYERS THAT PRACTICE TOGETHER.

Phase 3 (July 1 -TBA)

1. Guidelines have not been issued at this time. The plan is to be able to play games. Will be updated and send out once they are provided.

Introduction of Principles and Responsibilities

Club Responsibilities:

1. Create and distribute protocols to members.
2. Contact insurers to ensure all coverages and communicate that information to participants prior to commencement of initial training.
3. Have an effective communication plan in place.
4. Identify strategies for working with public health officials to notify adult leaders, youth and their families if the organization becomes aware of a participant or adult leader has developed COVID-19 and may have been infectious to others while at a youth activity.
5. Maintain participant confidentiality regarding health status.
6. Be sensitive and accommodating to parents who may be uncomfortable with returning to play at this time.
7. Have an action plan in place, in case of notification of a positive test result.
8. Train and educate all staff on protocols and requirements, including state and local regulations, CDC recommendations and other necessary safety information.
9. Be prepared to shut down and stop operations.
10. Develop plans for temporary closure of indoor facilities and cancellation of outdoor activities or camps for proper disinfection.
11. Provide adequate field space for social distancing.
12. Provide hand sanitizing stations and waste receptacles at fields for individual participant use.
13. Develop a relationship and a dialogue with local health officials.

Coach Responsibilities:

1. Ensure the health and safety of the participants.
2. Inquire how the athletes are feeling. Send home anyone you believe acts or looks ill.
3. Follow all state and local health protocols and guidelines.
4. Ensure all athletes have their own individual equipment (ball, water, bag etc.)
5. Ensure coach is the only person to handle equipment (e.g. cones, disk etc.); do not enlist parental or attendee assistance.
6. All training should be conducted outdoors and compliant with social distancing per state or local health guidelines.
7. Always wear a face mask, even when not actively coaching.
8. Coaches should maintain social distance requirements from players based on state and local health requirements.
9. Have fun, stay positive – players and parents are looking to you for leadership.
10. The use of scrimmage vest, or pinnies, is not recommended at this time.

Parent Responsibilities:

11. Ensure your child is healthy, and check your child's temperature before activities with others.
12. Consider not carpooling or very limited carpooling.

13. Stay in car or adhere to social distance requirements, based on state and local health requirements
14. When at training, wear a mask if outside your car.
15. Ensure child's clothing is washed after every training.
16. Ensure all equipment (cleats, ball, shin guards etc.) are sanitized before and after every training.
17. Notify your club immediately if your child becomes ill for any reason.
18. Do not assist your coach with equipment before or after training.
19. Be sure your child has necessary sanitizing products with them at every training.

Players Responsibilities:

1. Take your temperature daily and especially before activities with others.
2. Wash hands thoroughly before and after training.
3. Bring, and use, hand sanitizer with you at every training.
4. Wear mask before and immediately after all training.
5. Do not touch or share anyone else's equipment, water, food or bags.
6. Practice social distancing, place bags and equipment at least 6 feet apart.
7. Wash and sanitize all equipment before and after every training.
8. No group celebrations, high-5s, hugs, handshakes, fist-bumps, etc.
9. Follow all CDC guidelines as well those of your local health authorities.