

# NMYSA RETURN TO ACTIVITY GAME DAY MODIFICATIONS



OPTIONAL MODIFICATIONS FOR GAME FORMATS

# SMALL SIDED GAME FORMATS

New Mexico Youth Soccer Association in conjunction with US Youth Soccer and US Soccer are all working towards the full return of play. However, due to current State restrictions, modifications to game formats may be an option for our member affiliate leagues once we can resume play. Attached are sample playing rules that can be used for games of 3v3, 5v5, etc. should you choose to use modified formats or if restrictions require modified formats.

Note: Returning to play is a personal choice for the parents/players, coaches, referees and administrators. Leagues and clubs must ensure that there are no negative consequences to those that choose not to participate in activity.

# PREREQUISITES

Before returning to activity, all leagues and clubs must first meet and be able to document that they have met, all NMYSA Return to Play Protocols, NM COVID Safe Practices, (CSP), and local government requirements.

# SOCCER CULTURE CHANGES

In the COVID Safe environment certain common aspects of the soccer culture should be modified as follows:

- Player Contact should be minimized as possible (No Handshakes, high fives, hugs, and benches and sidelines should follow social distancing)
- Parents and Fans should remain in the car when/if possible
- Postgame/halftime snacks should not be distributed

# FIELD AND FACILITY MODIFICATIONS

In the COVID Safe environment certain common aspects of the Field of Play and Facilities should/can be modified as follows:

- Fields should be spaced out further to avoid overlap of groups and to aid with social distancing
- Fields should be cleared immediately after the match is finished
- Fields can be altered to allow for rule modifications (IE: the use of a 3v3/5v5 field) Common 3v3 or 5v5 Field Dimensions are included in the rule modifications documents

# FIELD AND FACILITY MODIFICATIONS CONT.

- Common Meeting Area's (Playgrounds, Concession Areas, etc..) Should not be used.
- Entry and Exits should be clearly marked to maintain Social Distancing
- Drinking Fountains should only be used for refilling water bottles
- Hand washing stations should remain close to any drinking fountains and restrooms/porta-potties
- All surfaces should be frequently washed—door handles, benches, etc.

# FACILITY SIGNAGE

Signage should be displayed facilities that help encourage the COVID Safe Practices. Here are some examples:



# GAME TIME AND GAME CLOCK MODIFICATIONS

In the COVID Safe environment certain common aspects of Game Times and Game Clocks should/can be modified as follows:

- Game Start Times should be spaced out by at least 30 Minutes to minimize overlap on fields
- Game Clocks can be modified to allow for shorter games (3v3, 5v5 options)
- Halftime breaks should observe social distancing



# SUMMARY

The goal is to return to play in as safely as possible. Rule and culture modifications are encouraged to allow this to happen.

Please also be sure to abide by the following documents:

- Current NMYSA Return to Play Protocols
- Current NM Health Order
- Current NM COVID Safe Practices

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us!