



Youth Soccer COVID 19 Protocol & Program Adjustments

The Youth Soccer League will follow directives based on recommended guidance provided by the Arkansas Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control and will be updated as available. These measures will remain in place until data on the severity of the local COVID-19 epidemic indicate it is safe to further relax measures.

Precautions, protocols and continuation of the program will be at the discretion of Fayetteville Parks and Recreation per recommendations from Arkansas Department of Health and Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/SportsTeamCommunityDirectiveFinalAmend8.21.20.pdf>

SCREENING: Coaches, Players, and Staff will all be screened prior to participating in activity each day. Once screened, players will receive a wristband permitting them to participate each day. Coaches, Players, and Staff will NOT be permitted to participate without first being screened, regardless of any reason. Screening consists of players, coaches, and staff being asked five questions prior to being permitted to participate in activity. Those being screened must be able to answer "NO" to all five (below listed) questions. If participants must answer "YES" to any one or more of these questions, they will not be permitted to be in the park and/or participate in any activities.

- Have you had a fever of 100.4 in the past (2) days?
- Do you have cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of smell or taste?
- Have you had contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Have you had a positive COVID-19 test in the past 10 days?
- Are you waiting on the results of a test for COVID-19?

TEMPERATURE CHECKS: All coaches and Staff will have their temperature checks prior to participating in activity. This will be done while being screened each day. If a coach exceeds a 100.4 temperature that day, they will not be permitted to participate.

MASKS: Masks are *strongly* encouraged to be worn at all times if not actively participating! Face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth are required for everyone 10 years of age and older within the park when within 6 ft. of another non-household member.

- Athletes ages 10 years of age and older are required to wear a face covering prior to and following their games while inside the park. Masks are not required when actively participating in a game.
- Referees are required to wear a mask while inside the park, except when actively officiating in a game.
- Coaches and Staff are required to wear a mask at all times.
- Spectators are required to wear a face covering when entering and exiting the facility and any time 6 feet of physical distancing is not possible.
- Face covering should be worn by everyone 10 years of age and older when in the common areas, such as restrooms, concession stands, and walkways.

PHYSICAL CONTACT: To minimize physical contact, high fives, hugs, and handshakes will not be permitted during this time. "air fives", foot bumps, or verbal congratulations will be used instead. Post-game "good game lines" will not take place this season. Instead opposing teams will congratulate the other teams from across the field via verbal congratulations or by clapping.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING: Coaches will be asked to limit practice activities and attempt to keep players distanced as much as possible. During games, players will sit in a player box with spacing between each other.

SANITATION: We will be cleaning our facilities including restrooms and high traffic touch points multiple times per day. Multiple hand sanitizer stations will be available on-site.

Below are changes we've made to the Spring 2021 soccer program to limit exposure, maintain safety, and allow for proper social distancing.

ADJUSTED GAME-TIMES: We will be staggering our game and practice times to allow for a reduced amount of people entering and exiting the ballpark at a given time. This will limit congestion at entry and exit points at the soccer fields.

FIELD LAYOUT ADJUSTMENTS: We have changed where we are positioning our fields inside our complex to allow for all fields to be further spread out. This allows spectators to view games while not sitting within 6' of another household. There will be a s

HOME AND AWAY SIDELINES: New to Spring of 2021, there will be Home and Away sidelines. Parents, Players, and Coaches will all sit on one sideline with the opposing players, coaches, and spectators all being on the opposite side of the field. This allows for spectators of the "home" team to all remain separated from the opposing team's spectators.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING MARKERS: We will be lining the sidelines of our soccer fields with a 'spectator seating line', to help spectators know where to sit and how to properly social distance from others while watching a game.

AGE GROUP BREAKDOWN: We will be changing the way our age groups have been assigned. We are moving from calendar year to school-based calendar year, so we can form school-based cohorts.

SCHOOL-BASED COHORTS: Typically, our league is formed through a random player assignment. As players are already exposed to other children within their school, we are forming teams based on where players attend school as best as we can. This will reduce additional exposure to other children through our league. Teams will be formed by school enrollment, provided registration allows complete teams from a given school. If registration doesn't allow, the league will combine "school-based teams" to allow for least possible exposure.

SCREENING LOCATIONS: We will have multiple screening locations throughout the park to allow for less gathering in a given location where players, coaches, and staff must be screened prior to participating in activity each day. This improves proper social distancing and reduces exposure.

SCRIMMAGES: Teams will not be permitted to host scrimmages between opposing teams during their practice times. This will reduce the amount of exposure that occurs outside of gameplay.