



**WISCONSIN YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
10427 W Lincoln Ave, Suite 1100 | West Allis, WI 53227  
**office:** 414.328.9972 | **fax:** 414.328.8008  
**email:** [communications@wiyouthsoccer.com](mailto:communications@wiyouthsoccer.com)

## WYSA Return to Play Update | June 1, 2020

Thank you to club leaders and their organizations for the local grassroots efforts that have kept players engaged during these uncertain times. We appreciate your continued support of WYSA and especially the passion everyone has demonstrated to return to the game we all love. Today we are pleased to announce the adoption of [U.S. Soccer's "Play On"](#) a return to play protocol which will guide the phased re-entry of WYSA activities. Effective June 1, 2020 WYSA and its member clubs may enter Phase I of the Play On protocol, provided that any local (county or municipal) order does not otherwise restrict your return to play. The [Phase I Grassroots Soccer Recommendation guide](#) is a comprehensive model to allow soccer to operate under key safety plans and considerations. This guide includes a detailed approach to social distancing, screening, training, and interactions to ensure consistent best practices are followed to promote the health and safety of all participants and fans.

### Points of Emphasis:

1. It is each individual member's discretion if or not they return at this time. Clubs should be respectful of the family decision, and we should all have compassion towards others as we navigate the return to soccer.
2. Similarly, it is each individual club's discretion if they are ready to return. There is great responsibility to the club to return under the Play On guidelines, and clubs should only begin to phase in when those minimum standards can be achieved.
3. WYSA will determine which phase the state is in and indicate when we advance phases. Play On generally lists a minimum amount of time to remain within each phase. Clubs should be prepared, if necessary, to stay in the current phase for longer than the timeline indicated or revert to an earlier phase to ensure the safety of all participants. Any local (county or municipal) order supersedes the guidance of WYSA and must be adhered to by Clubs.
4. Sanctioned activities are limited to those that fall under the guidelines of the present phase.
5. Only outdoor activities are permitted in Phase I.
6. Phase I emphasizes socially distanced training limited to small groups of 10 people (9 players and 1 coach). Training groups should remain the same throughout Phase I. (Clubs may decide to group players by age group, family or other criteria that make the most sense for their organization.)
7. Communicate your health and safety guidelines to all participants.
8. Implement attendance tracking for every training session. This information should be accessible by the club, not just the coach.
9. Ensure all staff and activities are compliant with the [WYSA Athlete and Participant Safety Program](#).

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### Waivers

In addition to the standard Release of Liability Waiver, clubs should begin collecting a [Communicable Disease Waiver](#) which documents that WYSA and/or Clubs have advised the registrant of the risk of contracting a communicable disease in a group sport setting. The Communicable Disease Waiver must remain separate from the Release of Liability, requiring its own signature or acknowledgement of the agreement and can be completed electronically. Communicable Disease Waivers should be collected for all players in the 2020/2021 season, plus separately for any 2019/2020 players who participate in a return to play that occurs before August 1.

### Additional Resources

- [U.S. Soccer Play On\\*](#) (When sharing the Play On protocol, you are asked to share the link, not the download. The protocol is considered a living document and will constantly be updated to reflect the most current guidance, including future phases of the program.)
- [Play On FAQs](#)
- [U.S. Soccer Resource List](#)
- [CDC Considerations for Youth Sports](#) (see bottom of page for Communication Resources)

Finally, we are reminded of the important role each of us plays in the health and wellbeing of tens of thousands of youth soccer participants across Wisconsin. The Play On protocol is intended to provide a measured, deliberate return to soccer. It is our hope that this plan helps move us toward a return to a more traditional season this fall. Until then, we are happy to slowly return to the beautiful game.