



RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES

Gulf Coast Youth Soccer Club is adopting and implementing the **US Soccer Federation Play-on: Return to Play (RTP) Protocol** to guide our operations through the fall season and beyond or until the COVID-19 pandemic has passed.

The USSF Return to Play protocol provides an easy to read guideline for all participants to follow and is supported by both South Texas Youth Soccer and US Club Soccer. It also allows for additional requirements or orders by local authorities such as social distancing, face masks or event size to be integrated into the plan. [VIDEO: USSF FIVE PHASES OVERVIEW](#)

This phased approach provides a gradual approach to return to play after a layoff and an orderly process to revert to an earlier phase, if needed or required. Each phase represents a different stage of progress required to achieve the eventual goal of playing with **no restrictions related to COVID-19 (Phase IV)**. **These Guidelines & Best Practices will follow all state and local guidelines.**

RETURN-TO-PLAY 5 PHASES OVERVIEW

U.S. SOCCER PLAY ON
[USSOCCER.COM/PLAYON](https://ussoccer.com/playon)

- 0 Phase 0: Stay and Shelter**
Duration: Based on state and local regulations
 - STAY AT HOME. BEND THE CURVE.
 - No organized trainings or competitions
 - Consider virtual options
- 1 Phase I: Individual and Small Group Training**
Suggested Duration: 4-6 weeks
 - State and/or local stay and shelter regulations lifted
 - Recommend small group trainings with max of 9 players and 1 coach
 - Maintain social distancing
 - COVID-19 prevention protocols in place
- 2 Phase II: Full Team Training**
Suggested Duration: 3-6 weeks
 - Full team training allowed
 - Continue to maintain social distancing
 - COVID-19 prevention protocols in place
 - Allow 3 weeks for COVID-19 tracking purposes
- 3 Phase III: Full Team Competitions**
Duration: Indefinite
 - Full team competitions can occur
 - Continue COVID-19 mitigation strategies
 - Consider only local and single-day competitions
 - Large events guided by local/state public health authorities
- 4 Phase IV: No Restrictions**
 - COVID-19 is no longer a public health matter and there are no restrictions directed by federal, state and local authorities.
 - Please refer to www.recognizetorecover.org for general health and safety recommendations from U.S. Soccer.

* Across the country, clubs in different regions will be operating under differing state & local regulations and may be in different phases. All phases must be compliant with your region's regulations.

We expect to operate throughout the fall and foreseeable future in either Phase 2 or 3. The phase we are in will be determined by state and local guidelines and restrictions, by our sanctioning bodies such as US Soccer, STYSA, US Club, etc., and any additional requirements deemed necessary by local leaders or the club. **ALL PARTICIPANTS AND SPECTATORS SHOULD BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROTOCOLS IN EACH PHASE. FAILURE TO SUPPORT OR ABIDE BY THE MANDATED PROTOCOLS MAY IMPACT YOUR PARTICIPATION IN OUR PROGRAMS.** (see back)

Summary of Guidelines

Participants: Coaches, Players & Referees

- Parents and coaches must conduct the daily self-check on their players before participating each day. A self-check form will be emailed out to each team, in which coaches will monitor.
- Coaches and players **MUST** social distance (6') or wear a mask when walking to or from their car to their specific practice field
- Once at the designated practice field, players are not required to wear a mask when actively playing on the field. **HOWEVER**, when not actively playing, including during team talks, water breaks, etc. players are required to maintain a minimum of 6' distance between each other.

TIPS:

1. **TEACH THEM TO STAND ARM LENGTH APART WHEN RECEIVING COACHING INSTRUCTIONS.**
2. **ON WATER BREAK, SPACE CONES OR MARKERS 6' APART FOR THEM TO STORE THEIR WATER BOTTLES (see photo below).**
3. **RECRUIT A PARENT OR TEAM MANAGER TO HELP OVERSEE THE WATER BREAKS, PARTICULARLY FOR THE 3-6 YEAR OLDS.**



- Coaches **MUST** wear a mask at all time when social distancing (6') is not possible.
- Referees **MUST** wear a mask at all times when social distancing (6') is not possible, except when actively refereeing on the field.
- Players and referees **MAY** wear a mask while participating if they choose.

Spectators

Phase 1: No spectators are allowed; you must stay in your car.

Phase 2: 1 spectator allowed per player for practices and games, but all spectators **MUST** wear a mask or social distance (6') from other spectators.

Phase 3: 1 spectator allowed per player at practices, same as phase 2. For games, additional members from your immediate household will be allowed to attend, but **EACH** household must maintain social distance (6') from other households. Fields will have game day markers to aid this spacing at the fields.

If you have any questions about the protocols or need assistance, please contact a board member or email communications@gcysc.com.

1. Recruit one or more parents to help manage the water breaks and bench areas
2. Use the USSF videos to educate and remind your parents
3. If you need help, please ask us.