BYSA will follow all local / state / federal required protocols for health & safety during the 2020/2021 Fall Season including increased social distancing plans AND all preventative measures.

See list below:

**The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. While the risk of serious illness or loss of life is greatest in those 65 years of age or older or those with pre-existing health conditions, persons in every age group can become infected with COVID-19 and some may become seriously ill or even die.**

**High-risk categories currently include:**

* **Persons with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma;**
* **Persons who have serious heart conditions;**
* **Persons who are immunocompromised;**
* **Persons with diabetes;**
* **Persons with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis;**
* **Persons with liver disease;**
* **Persons with severe obesity (body mass index of 40 or higher);**
* **Persons who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility.**

**With rare exceptions, COVID-19 is not claiming the lives of our children. However, a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread that infection to others who may be far more vulnerable.**

**COVID-19 is spread from person to person through contact that is close enough to share droplets generated by coughing, sneezing, speaking, and even just breathing. COVID-19 can also be spread by touching objects where contaminated droplets have landed followed by touching of mouth, nose, or eyes. Due to this easy manner of transmission, an infant, child, young person or adult who is infected with COVID-19 can spread the infection to others they come in close contact with such as members of their household. Infected persons with mild or even no symptoms can spread COVID-19.**

**Due to these risks, sports and recreation facilities & studios are adopting and implementing return to activity guidelines such as the ones listed below to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 transmission.**

**Parents should monitor the health of their children and not send them to participate in sports and recreation events if they exhibit any symptom of COVID-19. Adult participants should do the same. They should seek COVID-19 testing promptly and report results to their facility and studio staff members given the implications for other participants, families, and staff. Parents of minor participants and adult participants should protect any vulnerable persons in the same household with whom they come into frequent, close contact. They should also be aware of the enhanced risks for those age 65 or over and/or with compromised immune systems for 14 days after such frequent, close contact.**

**Insurance under STYSA/BYSA does not cover any contagious virus; participation includes possible exposure to and illness from infectious diseases including but not limited to MRSA, influenza, and COVID-19. While particular rules and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious illness and death does exist including but not limited to Covid-19.**

State And Local COVID-19 Mandates Or Guidelines: You should follow all state and local mandates and guidelines as regards COVID-19 and sports facilities including but not limited to activity start dates, suspension dates for health reasons, and limitations on crowd sizes.

Stay Home When Appropriate: It is mandatory that ***ANY*** Volunteers, Referees, Coaching staff, parents/guardians, and participants ***shall*** stay home when they are showing signs of COVID-19, have a temperature, or have had close contact with a person with COVID-19. For the safety of all participants and volunteers and to have continued safe play for all attending and participating in the soccer season, this is required.

If COVID Symptoms Exhibited: If a volunteer, player, coach, spectator exhibits symptoms during an event, they ***shall*** immediately be separated and sent home or to a health care facility depending on the severity of the symptoms. They should not be allowed to return to activity until they have met the CDC criteria for discontinuing home isolation.

No Congregation to Minimize Contact with Others Outside of Team Cohorts: Participants, players, coaches, parents/guardians, and other spectators should not congregate prior to team check in and should stay in cars until right before check in and should avoid other groups that are leaving the facility. Participants and parents/spectators should quickly exit after the activity and go directly to their cars without congregating with others in common areas, pavilions, bathrooms, parking lots, fields, etc.

Hand Washing Stations: Hand washing stations will be available at each club for staff and participants.

Personal Hygiene: Volunteers, coaches, players, parents/guardians, and other spectators should practice proper hygiene, wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, use hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol), abstain from touching their face (mouth, nose or eyes), and cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue and throw tissue in the trash. In addition, as a backup, it is recommended that each carry their own hand sanitizer.

Cleaning/Disinfecting - Facility Sanitation: The facility should practice routine disinfectant and sanitation of all areas such as desks, benches, workstations, counters, tables, sign-in pens, clipboards, seats, railings, door knobs/handles, water fountains (should be disabled), bathrooms, grandstands (between each game/practice), training equipment, maintenance equipment, railings, and common areas. Deep cleaning should be performed after hours. If grandstands cannot be sanitized between practices and games they should be moved out of play and blocked off so that they are not allowed to use.

Water Fountains: Water fountains should be disabled but water bottle filling stations should be allowed. However, if the water bottle filling station requires pushing a button or lever, they should be disinfected between each use. Participants should be encouraged to bring their own marked water bottles / jugs / coolers.

Concessions: Minimum requirements for food service providers:

* 6 ft spacing markers in concession lines between customers
* Staff instructed to not report to duty if they don’t feel well, have symptoms, or have a temperature
* Steps taken to prevent cross contamination
* Frequent sanitation of all surfaces.
* Concession staff should wear gloves and face coverings
* Practice social distancing whenever possible with coworkers
* Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and after all potential contamination events; may use hand sanitizer (60% alcohol) but ***NOT*** as a substitute for hand washing
* Minimize handling of cash, credit cards, and mobile devices whenever possible.

**SPECTATORS**

Waiting In Cars: ALL spectators and players should wait in their cars ***with*** parent/guardian (depending on age of player) until just before the beginning of a practice, warm-up or game instead of assembling in groups. Please be aware of the Texas heat and safety regarding leaving children unattended in vehicles. DO NOT leave any minor unattended in a vehicle to wait for a game or practice.

Spectator Social Distancing: Spectators (limit 1 per player) not from the same household ***shall*** be separated by 6 ft as mandated by the state of Texas for Youth Sports allowances.

Spectator Face Coverings: Parents/guardians/spectators (limit one per player) are ***strongly*** encouraged (or required depending on state law or local ordinance) to wear face coverings anytime they are on all soccer complex premises.

Spectator Box Areas: Spectators are required to stay in the spectator box areas for game events as per STYSA /BYSA rules. Individuals should avoid being in a Spectator Area larger than 10 individuals. Within these areas, individuals should, to the extent possible, minimize in-person contact with others not in the individual’s household. Minimizing in-person contact includes maintaining 6 feet of separation from individuals. Other preventative methods ***shall*** be utilized to slow the spread of COVID-19, such as wearing a face covering or mask, washing or sanitizing hand frequently, and avoiding sharing utensils or other common objects.

Capacity Limit: Capacity in spectator areas is limited - 1 spectator per player based on ability to spread out to meet Texas state required social distancing of 6 ft. between spectators at Youth Sports facilities not residing in same household.

**COACHES / TEAMS**

Waiting In Cars: ALL Coaching staff / rostered adults should wait in their cars until just before the beginning of a practice, warm-up or game instead of assembling in groups.

Pre-Game Warm Ups: During pre-game, players and coaching staff should maintain the 6 ft. distance if possible, during warm ups and drills and should only have close contact during actual competition.

Restructure Practices: Restructure practices to greatest extent possible to concentrate of conditioning, drills, skill building and limit close contact to a specified number of minutes during simulation drills and scrimmages. Scrimmages between teams not practicing together should not happen due to limited cross-team exposure.

Large Teams Training / Practice: Breaking up large teams into pods during practice that have limited close contact with other pods on the same team will help to prevent possible exposure.

No Handshakes/Celebrations/After game family/spectator “good of the game” human arches: Players and staff should refrain from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc.

Coaching / Team Shared Equipment: The use of team shared equipment (e.g., balls, cones, popup goals, etc.) should be limited whenever possible and should be sanitized after each use. Limit use of team shared supplies and equipment to one team of players/cohorts at a time and sanitize between use. Coaching staff should clean and dispose of all trash from player seating or sideline areas when departing practice or games. Coaching staff should set up and take down practice/game equipment before and after scrimmages and games. Players should not be involved to minimize player contact. When arriving at team seating or sideline areas, coaching staff should disinfect all hard surfaces such as benches, railings, etc.

Spacing of Player Equipment: Player equipment should be spaced 6ft. apart accordingly, as possible, to prevent close contact.

***MANDATORY BEFORE EVERY PRACTICE & GAME:*** If it is not possible to gather before entering the facility, minimize contact with others and find a place just inside facility perimeter to safely gather and conduct this check. This can be done by any coach, manager or team mom as people arrive at the facility.

* Check In Health Screening: For teams - A rostered adult should conduct check in questioning and observation of all coaching staff & players about the existence of any COVID-19 symptoms including cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit. These questions should be answered about themselves personally and any known family members they have had close contact with who ***is*** a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19. Any concerns ***shall*** result in denial of entry.
* Check-In Temperature Screening: A designated volunteer or family member for each team/player as needed should use an infrared non-contact forehead thermometer to take the temperature of each player, coaching staff, parent/guardian, team spectator before they enter the facility. Any reading of 100.4 or higher ***will*** result in a denial of entry to facility and participation in event.

Player Provided Equipment: Players should bring their own equipment such as balls, shin guards, goalie equipment, water bottles/jugs, snacks, color coordinated shirts in place of pinnies for practice, etc., and it should kept separate and in individual bags or containers. There should be no team snacks/drinks provided by one person. Please have each player responsible for their own to avoid sharing and limit contact.

Pre And Post Event Social Distancing: Social distancing should be practiced by players and staff during all instruction, explanation of rules, pre-game strategy, and post-game briefing sessions. Players should be 6 feet whenever possible prior to start of game/warmup and after game.

Coaches, Volunteers Face Coverings: ***Strongly*** encouraged (or required depending on state law) to wear face coverings as applicable whenever withing 6 ft. of another person.

Player Face Coverings: Players are ***strongly*** encouraged to wear face coverings before warmup / games and after games, in close contact areas and situations where applicable so long as they don’t compromise their safety. Players should be allowed to wear face coverings during competition if they choose to do so. Players are not recommended to wear face coverings during activity due to increased respiratory concerns while playing soccer or practicing. Players should wear face coverings at any time the player or their parents / guardians feel the need for increased safety measures.

Texas State Policy on COVID-19 contact: Isolate any volunteers, staff, and participants exhibiting new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19 and contact the local health department. Do not allow staff, volunteers, or players with the new or worsening signs or symptoms of COVID-19 to return to work (with respect to soccer club / association position) /games / practices *(either as a volunteer or independent contractor – this applies to all rostered adults / coaches, referees, and club/association volunteers)* until:

* --- In the case of a staffer/volunteer/player/coach/rostered adult/referee who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has *improvement* in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*; or
* --- In the case of a staffer/volunteer/player/coach/rostered adult/referee who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
* --- If the staffer/volunteer/player/coach/rostered adult/referee has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on a negative nucleic acid COVID-19 test and an alternative diagnosis.

(Note: references to volunteers means any APP-KidSafe approved coaches / adults, age verified APP-Kidsafe youth volunteer, team specific coaching staff, and general league / association / club staff members which may include directors/officers, referees, gate workers, schedulers / scorekeepers, concessions, field maintenance, janitorial, and any board member etc.)