



## PREMIER CUP

### BETHESDA SOCCER CLUB LETTER OF APPROVAL REQUEST

September 24, 2020

Submitted by: Bethesda Soccer Club Premier Cup Tournament Director, Brad Roos  
[broos@bethesdasoccer.org/240-344-4943](mailto:broos@bethesdasoccer.org/240-344-4943)

This request for a Letter of Approval for the Premier Cup is a time sensitive request. Due to the large amount of planning and preparations required for this event, we respectfully request an answer prior to October 6, 2020. We fully understand that the landscape revolving around COVID-19 is changing even by the hour and appreciate the County's desire to maintain a safe environment for our residents. Below we will outline the steps we will take to provide a safe environment for players, coaches, referees, spectators, and the supporting businesses and residents of Montgomery County.

Premier Cup hosted by Bethesda Soccer Club

November 13-15, 2020 Premier Cup Bethesda Soccer Club Girls Tournament

November 20-22, 2020 Premier Cup Bethesda Soccer Club Boys Tournament

The year 2020 will mark the 36<sup>th</sup> annual tournament. This event is nationally known for the quality and diversity of the competition, quality of the facilities, and the customer friendly attitude of the club in welcoming teams to the event.

This fall we are focusing on hosting the tournament for the recruitable age groups for the two weekends in November 2020. Normally this tournament hosts teams from 9u through 19u but due to the COVID-19 Pandemic we will only be requesting the ability to hold the 15u through 19u girls and boy's teams over the two weekends this fall. The remainder of the age groups will be accommodated in a tournament being scheduled for spring 2021.

The tournament will monitor the ongoing pandemic situation and will identify those jurisdictions in which the level of community transmission is high. These jurisdictions will not be invited to the tournament, and any teams previously accepted will be notified they will not be able to participate in the event.

It should be noted that 42 of 55 State Soccer Associations have returned to game play including tournaments. Please also note that in 22 of 24 Maryland jurisdictions all game play and tournaments, including teams from outside MD, VA, and DC has resumed. This includes surrounding jurisdictions such as Frederick, Howard, Anne Arundel, Harford, and Baltimore Counties. These events have occurred

since June without incident or outbreak. This Bethesda Soccer Club event has been sanctioned by the Maryland State Youth Soccer Association, pending approval of this waiver request.

## **BACKGROUND**

For the past nine months there has not been any soccer showcases for the older age groups. Showcases are used primarily for college coaches from all divisions to have the opportunity to evaluate players that could play on the collegiate level either through scholarships or admittance. This becomes particularly important/critical for lower income/minority teams/clubs in Montgomery County who do not have the ability to travel to other showcases outside of the county for this recognition. While normally we would have college coaches on site, this year the club has secured NextPro from California to tape all of the recruitable eligible games during the tournament so that college coaches can on-demand the tapes to look at teams and individual players off-site. This option will also be available to families of players which will help limit the number of attendees that would normally attend.

### **About the Maryland SoccerPlex**

The Maryland SoccerPlex is a 160-acre outdoor facility with 21 natural grass fields and 3 artificial turf fields located in rural Montgomery County in the town of Boyds. The Championship Stadium sits in a natural bowl with a paved lit plaza surrounding. There is seating at the stadium for 4,000 spectators. Fields are situated in a pod system of 4-5 fields surrounding a parking lot, each with its own restroom facility.

### **Waiver Request Items**

#### **Exemption from restriction that all teams be from MD, VA, DC**

A major component of this tournament is to provide competition from teams outside the DMV area. As a college showcase event, it is important to provide top level competition for the teams in the event. This requires that teams from outside the region be accepted into the tournament. As previously stated, the tournament will monitor case level activity from and around the country. If there is a spike in cases from a given state, the tournament will exclude teams from that given State. The tournament will also abide by all travel restrictions that may be enacted by the State and/or County. The game and facility procedures outlined below will also aid in reducing interactions between teams beyond those players on the field.

#### **Expansion of Capacity Limit**

This is also a request for a Letter of Approval of the Executive Order 114-20 Section I(viii) restrictions limiting the number of people to 50 per field. This Letter of Approval request is specific to the Maryland SoccerPlex. Maryland SoccerPlex facility, design and layout that provides adequate spacing and social distancing to support a larger number of people while still maintaining a safe environment for players, coaches, referees, spectators, and venue staff. This request is specific to the outdoor multipurpose fields at the Maryland SoccerPlex only.

## Safety Plan

### Game Procedures:

- Teams and limited spectators will be directed to remain on opposite sides of the field, this will limit interactions between teams from different areas/states to on field contact only.
- Will provide additional trainers (with proper PPE) to tournament sites. Trainers will be provided with masks, gloves, gowns, and specifically trained in handling patients in COVID-19 conditions. There will be a designated medical professional onsite to be the COVID manager. The COVID-19 Manager will oversee all COVID-19 medical incidents including suspected infectious cases, isolations, and evaluations.
- Each team will be required to designate a COVID-19 manager. The COVID-19 manager will be responsible for overseeing the implementation and enforcement of COVID-19 procedures, such as health checks, by all persons associated with that team.
- Health check/waiver for each individual participating in the tournament are to be completed daily
- Balls, goals, and all other field equipment will be wiped down before, at halftime, and at the end of each match
- Starting game times staggered; teams/age groups will be kept in pods
- Game time lengths reduced to limit any potential exposure time.
- Bethesda Soccer Club in conjunction with the Maryland SoccerPlex will provide pre-event communications regarding expectations and protocols
- Teams must leave bench area immediately at the conclusion of the match; teams for the next match cannot come to the field area until the bench area is completely cleared
- No sharing of water bottles, drinks, food, or personal items.
- Hand contact of any kind such as hand checks, fist bumps, etc. is not permitted
- We will have rosters with all players information to facilitate contact tracing if needed. Lists the players actually attending with contact information.

### Facility Procedures

- Bathrooms and high touch areas cleaned every hour, hand sanitizer stations throughout site
- Benches removed during tournament
- Separate 6-foot area designated for each player on sideline
- Spectators limited to one per family and must remain in designated areas marked on the sidelines.
- Masks – players must wear a mask when traveling to and from field, on sideline; coaches and spectators must wear mask at all times.
- Will enforce social distancing rules, when possible
- Signage has been added throughout site concerning protocols (Please see the attached samples)
- All event staff will receive pre-event training on protocols and guidelines
- Any onsite food vendors, if any are used, will be able to provide pre-packaged food and drinks only.
- Communal water sources such as water fountains, large coolers, etc. will be disabled or removed from field areas.

### Rationale for Request

The Maryland SoccerPlex is uniquely designed to allow for the increased capacity around its outdoor fields in a controlled and organized manner. The fields at the SoccerPlex incorporate additional space between fields as well as changes in elevation. This additional room allows us to limit spectators field side in designated spaces marked on the ground that utilize social distancing requirements. Having marked dedicated spaces also allows for more accountability for those that are not following the rules

and guidelines. It also takes away any personal interpretation about what an acceptable distance for social distancing is. The request is also based on the guidelines that were developed for religious services within the County. The basis for 120 persons is based on the following;

	Per Team	Total Per Field
Max Roster Size	22	44
Max Coaches/Team Officials	3	6
Referees		3
Venue Staff		1
Spectators (Parents, Siblings, College Scouts, Admins)	22- 33	44-66
	Total	120

It should be noted that even though individuals would be required to remain 6 feet apart for social distancing on the sidelines, the SoccerPlex would still require all individuals to wear masks while at the SoccerPlex.

We are using the guidance provided to religious activities as the basis for this request. While religious activities have been cleared for indoor services with increased capacity, we are looking to apply those same principals to outdoor sports. We will have marked seating areas that are six feet apart, require masks, and modify ingress and egress to minimize or eliminate crossover between groups. We also have implemented health screening protocols including temperature checks prior to the activities. Also, through the registration process and rostering, we have the ability to facilitate contact tracing and notification in the occasion that an infected person was present on property.

While it may sound counterintuitive, allowing more than 50 people at and around the field in a controlled environment will provide a safer alternative to limiting spectators to their vehicles and parking lot where to risk of lack of compliance increases.

**Compliance with State Guidelines**

An increase to 120 for outdoor sporting events at the SoccerPlex would still comply with the current State Guidelines. This would also bring us closer to the surrounding jurisdictions that do not currently have limitations on the number of people present for sporting events.

**Implementation Plan**

The SoccerPlex will provide modified rules for games at the SoccerPlex. While traditionally teams would be located on one side of the field with spectators on the opposite side, we will segregate teams so that teams and their spectators will occupy their own sides of the field. This will limit the interaction of the two groups. Teams will occupy an area along each sideline, 6 feet from the sideline to provide proper spacing from the field. Players and coaches on the bench will be spaced 6 feet apart and will be required to wear masks while on the sidelines. The Maryland SoccerPlex has already removed all player benches and permanent seating from the fields. Parents for each team will be placed 6 feet behind the team bench area in designated spaces marked by painted boxes on the ground. Boxes will be placed 6 feet apart from each other and at least 6 feet behind the players area. Spectator boxes will extend the length of the sideline but not beyond the end line. Behind one end line, furthest from any ingress/egress area will be a referee area. Please see the attached diagram for the proposed layout.

**Ingress/Egress**

The SoccerPlex controls the scheduling for all fields at the venue. The Tournament will work with the SoccerPlex to generate a schedule that minimize crossover of teams coming and going from the facility. Staggered start times allow us to minimize crossover of teams entering and exiting on adjacent fields. We have also added buffer periods between games on a given field so that teams can completely exit

the field prior to teams from the following games from entering the playing area. The SoccerPlex is designed in a 'pod' system with fields grouped in 4-5 fields around a central parking lot. Besides staggering game times within a given pod the game times of adjacent pods will also be staggered. Each pod has its own restroom building that will limit the movement of people from pod to pod. Teams will be scheduled, as much as possible, to stay within the same pod of fields throughout the weekend.

**Monitoring and Enforcement**

The Tournament and Maryland SoccerPlex will have additional staffing to monitor compliance with mask and social distancing rules. Staff patrol the playing areas and parking lots to remind visitors that they must wear masks while not playing in a game as well as must maintain social distance. Enforcement of these policies would be simplified by having all spectators and participants in a designated space with additional markings and signage.

**Signage**

The Maryland SoccerPlex has added various signage when entering the field are as well as in restrooms regarding restrictions on entering if you have symptoms, masks requirements, and social distancing reminders. Please see the attached for signage samples.

**Mask Requirements**

The Maryland SoccerPlex has adopted a policy that all visitors must wear masks, even when outdoors and social distancing. The only exception is for those players actively involved in sports activities.

**Cleaning and Sanitation**

The Maryland SoccerPlex has added maintenance staff during all activities at the Maryland SoccerPlex. The maintenance staff works on a perpetual cleaning cycle moving from restroom to restroom in a continuous cycle of cleaning and sanitation. The MD SoccerPlex has also added hand sanitizer dispensers at all fields and restrooms.

**Health Checks and Contact Tracing**

All participants at the SoccerPlex must consent to and undertake a health check prior to participating in activities. These health checks are required each individual daily. The health check asks a series of questions regarding COVID-19 symptoms as well as a temperature check. The MD SoccerPlex also requires a waiver form which contains contact information of participants that can facilitate contact tracing in the case of an infected person entering the SoccerPlex.

**Similar Events Hosted in Other Jurisdictions**

**Long Island, NY**

Long Island Junior Select Tournament	August 2020	28 teams
East Meadow Soccer Tournament	August 2020	350 teams
Long Island Soccer Classics	September 2020	463 teams

**New Jersey – all at Tuckahoe Turf Farm, Hammonton, NJ**

EDP Memorial Day Classic	July 2020	106 teams
EDP Cup Spring	July 2020	64 teams
Central Jersey Invitational	July 2020	32 teams
EDP Summer Classic	July 2020	152 teams
EDP Showcase	August 2020	152 teams
EDP Fall Kickoff – Girls	August 2020	115 teams
EDP Fall Kickoff – Boys	August 2020	172 teams

**Local – Soccer**

MSYSA Festival Howard County	July 2020	50 teams
Gettysburg Tournament moved to Howard County MD from Gettysburg PA	August 2020	325 teams
Olney Tournament moved to Howard County from Montgomery County	September 2020	410 teams

**Local – Lacrosse**

Hogan Lax-Summer Exposure Anne Arundel and Queen Anne’s County	July 2020	200 teams
Lax Splash Baltimore County and Harford County	July 2020	250 teams
Laxing Out Loud Harford County, was scheduled to be at the SoccerPlex	July 2020	200 teams

In all of the events listed above, no COVID positive tests were traced back to transmission from the event.



A Proud Member of US Soccer  
 Affiliated with the Federation International de Football Association



Please Type or Print Clearly - Do Not Staple

### APPLICATION TO HOST A TOURNAMENT OR GAMES

Name of Tournament or Games PREMIER CUP Website URL: http://premiercup.bsctournament.com/

Hosting Organization Bethesda Soccer Club Type of Tournament:  Select  Recreation  Select & Rec

Designate Official of Hosting Organization Mario Ortega Title President Phone 240 224-7363 W

Address 8655 Govemont Circle Email Mortega@bethesdasoccer.org Phone ( )  H

City Gaithersburg State MD Zip Code 20877 Phone 240 224-7508 FAX

State Association or Affiliate MSYSA Guest Referees Applications Accepted  Yes  No

Location of Tournament or Games Montgomery County **TEAM ENTRY DEADLINE:** September 26, 2020

Date(s) of Tournament or Games November 13-15 & 20-22 Estimated # of Teams 1000

Tournament or Games Director or Contact Person Brad Roos Phone 240 224-7363 W

Address 8655 Govemont Circle Email Broos@bethesdasoccer.org Phone 240 344-4943 H

City Gaithersburg State MD Zip Code 20877 Phone 240  FAX

Age Groups Accepted	Type(s) of Team Accepted *	B	G	Roster Size	# Guest Players Allowed	Length of Games	# Players on Field	Awards	Minimum # of Games	Entry Fee	Bond
U- 09	1/1/ 12	S1	X	X	14	3	50 MIN	7	X	3	800
U- 10	1/1/ 11	S1	X	X	14	3	50 MIN	7	X	3	800
U- 11	1/1/ 10	S1	X	X	16	3	60 MIN	9	X	3	950
U- 12	1/1/ 09	S1	X	X	16	3	60 MIN	9	X	3	1050
U- 13	1/1/ 08	S1	X	X	22	3	60 MIN	11	X	3	1270
U- 14	1/1/ 07	S1	X	X	22	3	60 MIN	11	X	3	1370
U- 15	1/1/ 06	S1	X	X	22	3	60 MIN	11	X	3	1470
U- 16	1/1/ 05	S1	X	X	22	3	70 MIN	11		3	1495
U- 17	1/1/ 04	S1	X	X	22	3	70 MIN	11		3	1495
U- 18	1/1 03	S1	X	X	22	3	70 MIN	11		3	1495
U- 19	1/1/ 02	S1	X	X	22	3	70 MIN	11		3	1495

\*List of types of teams and tournaments is on reverse side of this form.

RT RESTRICTED TOURNAMENT -Open only to members of US Youth Soccer and its State Associations.

Team will be restricted to teams within the state association  Teams will be invited from all US Youth State Associations/Affiliates only.

**UT UNRESTRICTED TOURNAMENT** Other US Soccer Members as listed: U.S. Club

International

Teams as listed: \_\_\_\_\_

The Hosting Organization agrees to be bound by and comply with the terms contained in the TOURNAMENT AND GAMES HOSTING AGREEMENT and all applicable rules of the approving State Association or Affiliate.

Signature of Designated Official of Hosting Organization

  
 Mario Ortega, President

Date 7/23/2020

### APPROVAL

(For Official Use Only) STATE ASSOCIATION OR AFFILIATE

MSYSA

Date 9/22/2020

By G. FRENCH

Title PROGRAMS DIRECTOR



**CAPITOL AREA SOCCER  
REFEREES ASSOCIATION**

Mark Jennings,  
Acting Exec. Director  
12090 Sand Hill Manor Dr  
Marriottsville, MD 21104  
(301) 503-3533 (Cell)  
casramanager@gmail.com

July 20, 2020

Gandalf French  
Programs Director  
Maryland State Youth Soccer Association  
3221 5th Ave. SE  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Dear Gandalf:

Bethesda Soccer Club, has selected the Capital Area Soccer Referees Association, Inc. to provide referees for its "**Bethesda Premier Cup**" Tournament to be held the weekends of November 13-15 and 20-22, 2020. CASRA's Lead Assignor for this tournament is Missy Lambert.

CASRA certifies to MSYSA and the United States Soccer Federation that all of the referees assigned to the tournament matches will be USSF registered referees. All matches assigned by CASRA will employ either the diagonal system of control or a single center referee as appropriate for the age group, in accordance with our contract.

Please contact me at (301) 503-3533, if you have any questions or concerns regarding assigning this Tournament.

Sincerely yours,

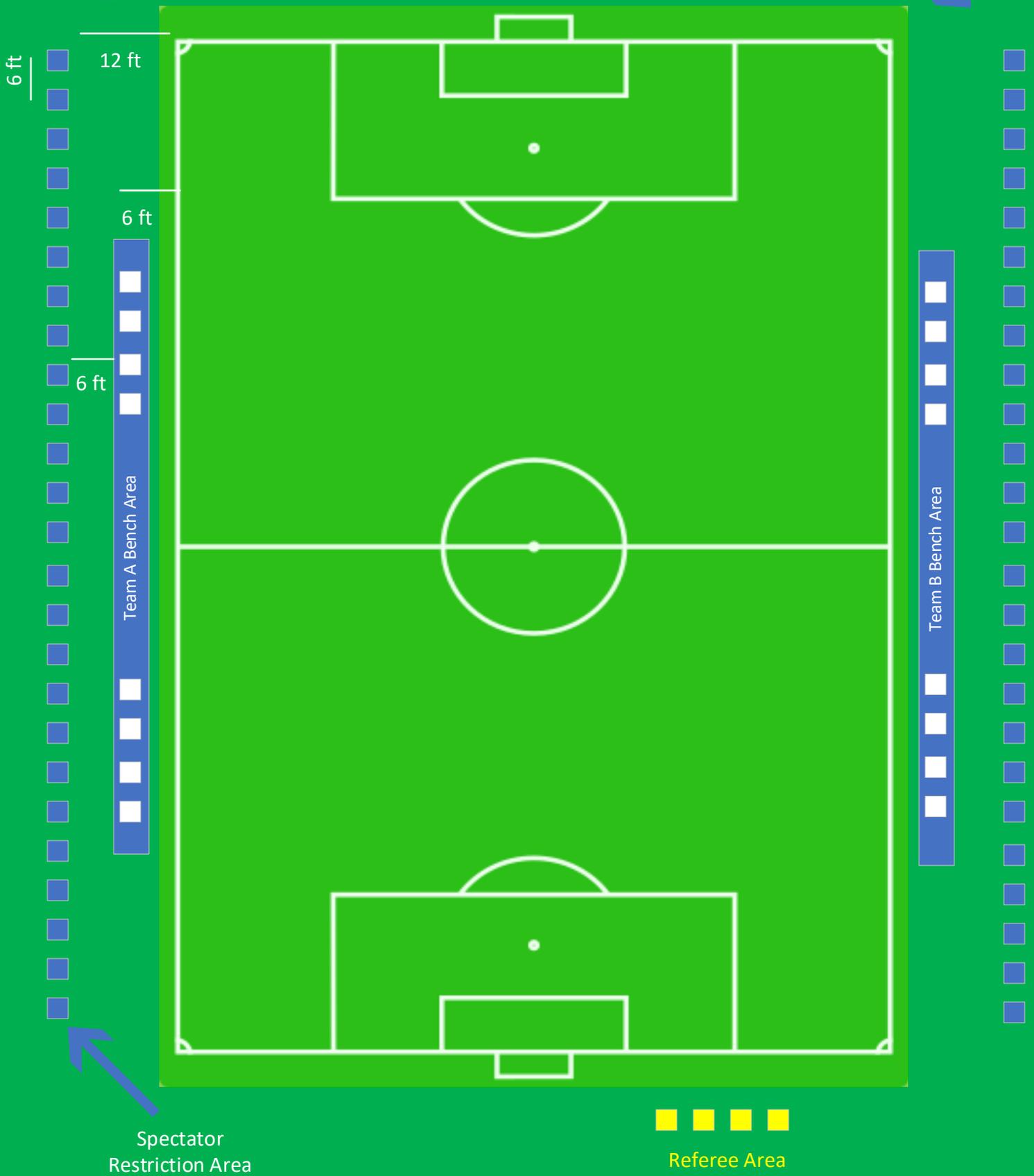
*Mark A. Jennings*

Mark A Jennings  
Acting Executive Director

cc: Brad Roos, Tournament Director

Not Drawn to Scale

Teams are separated to opposite sides of the field to reduce crossover between groups.

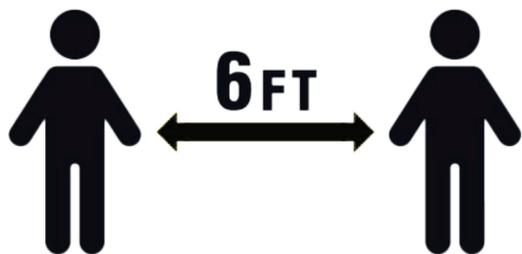




# ***Prevent the spread of COVID-19!***



**Facemasks are required**



**Remain 6 feet apart from others at all times**



**Use hand sanitizer or wash your hands before and after training**



**Avoid sharing of equipment and water bottles**

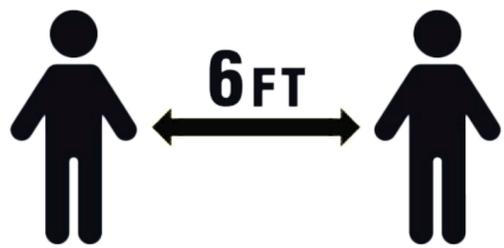
**No spitting**

***YOUR HEALTH IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY***

# ***Por favor, observen estas reglas para mantener el Plex sano y seguro para todos:***



**Máscara es obligatoria**



**Permanezcan a seis pies de otros espectadores a todo momento**



**Usen sanitizante de manos o lavense las manos antes y después de entrenar**



**Eviten compartir equipamiento y botellas de agua**

**No escupir**

**SU SALUD ES SU RESPONSABILIDAD**



**DO NOT ENTER IF:**

**You have 1 of the following symptoms in the past 24 hours:**

- **Fever**
- **Cough**
- **Shortness of Breath**
- **Loss of Taste and Smell**

**You have been exposed to COVID 19 in the past 14 days**

**YOUR HEALTH IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!**



**NO ENTRE SI:**

**Ha tenido uno de estos síntomas en las últimas 24 horas:**

- **Fiebre**
- **Tos**
- **Dificultad respirando**
- **Ha perdido el sentido de saber y de oler**

**Ha estado expuesto a COVID 19 en los últimos 14 días**

**SU SALUD ES SU RESPONSABILIDAD!**



US Youth Soccer National Office  
9220 World Cup Way  
Frisco, TX 75033

Date: September 24, 2020

To: Political Leaders  
Re: Save Our Sports

Amidst this global pandemic, thousands of Americans are struggling to find work, protect their health, and ensure their family's wellness and security. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every facet of daily life and sport is no exception.

As leaders of our respective sport organizations, we are constantly pursuing ways to better ourselves, and our members, through the innumerable benefits of sports. With millions of American children and their families participating in sports, our efforts significantly impact American society. Study after study shows the benefits of sport are critical to human development and it is our responsibility to advocate for sport as a critical factor for the successful resurgence of our country.

We affirm that it is in our national interest to maintain open access to sports and ensure the survivability of our sports institutions. Not only will millions of jobs be saved, but we can regain the important physical, social and emotional benefits that are lost to haphazard sports and facility closures and shut-downs. Sports help shape who we are by teaching values like perseverance, determination, fair play, work-ethic and the pursuit of excellence. These values can help our country navigate the current challenges we face by emphasizing that we are all on one team working toward one goal...the safety and betterment of all Americans.

In that spirit of unity and teamwork, we must ask why local, state and national government policy makers are not crafting their policies based on input from the organizations that are best equipped to support and defend these decisions? Youth sport organizations across the country are the most experienced and capable groups to support research and analyses that could uniformly guide the development of safe, fact-based Return-to-Play guidelines. Many sport National Governing Bodies are actually empowered by Congress through the Amateur Sports Act to oversee all development activities around their specific sport from pure recreational play to international and Olympic teams.

Government officials are being challenged to make critical decisions in areas that may not be their core expertise. To help, our ask is simple. Invite us to have a seat at the table. Allow us to discuss, share and educate on the positive benefits of sport and why it's needed now more than ever. Let us create together a science-based formula that create benchmark guides for when kids can and can't play. In short, why stop critical youth and adult programming with all of its positive physical, mental, and social impact without seeking out guidance from those who know their market best?

Current federal legislative initiatives have provided temporary financial help during this crisis, but without a plan to provide uniform guidance on a Return-to-Play, many sports organizations will not survive much



US Youth Soccer National Office  
9220 World Cup Way  
Frisco, TX 75033

longer. Varying local, state and federal guidelines have created a fragmented environment that limits organizational effectiveness and the ability to maintain programming and keep doors open. Parents are confused by varying local policies and regulations. Closed doors at athletic facilities, parks and recreation centers means lost jobs, missed rents/mortgages, and millions of insecure households. A lack of future preparedness and unification will make any resumption of sports sluggish, and in some communities, non-existent.

Please help us maintain and deploy safe programming, full employment, and open facilities so we can sustain the athletic dreams of millions of Americans. When the GO button is pressed, youth sports can be an essential part of our national rebuilding.

Collectively, we encourage local, state and federal authorities to seek out and leverage the best information to guide their decisions. Reach out to those organizations that understand sport best. We hope you will work collaboratively with us to enact the following common-sense components to pending and future legislation:

These are examples of the elements that we are prepared to address now:

- Creation of a youth sports COVID-19 task force to generate unified federal/state/local standards and guidance for safe sports activity based on collaborative discussions with health professionals, scientists and sports subject matter experts
- Development of uniform, national Return-to-Play guidelines by sport, developed with the full input from their respective sports NGBs, related sports organizations and health and industry experts
- Increased terms for loan repayment from two years to five
- Redirected sporting goods retailer, manufacturer and supplier taxes to a centralized sports grant fund
- Immunity for volunteers who follow established and posted guidelines for safe Return-to-Play but who could be subject to lawsuits

We are confident that our collective organizations, including many national governing bodies, can provide helpful input and guidance for the development of sound, science-based local, state and national government policies. Please reserve a seat at the table for any member of our coalition or use our website resources on COVID to help you make the kinds of decisions that could potentially impact nearly 100 million Americans. The future of our country, and the future of our next great generation, depends on it.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Skip Gilbert  
CEO  
US Youth Soccer Association

# SAVE OUR SPORTS CONTACTS & RESOURCES

(LINKS GO TO SPORTS' COVID RESOURCE PAGES)



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## SAVE OUR SPORTS CONTACTS & RESOURCES (LINKS GO TO SPORTS' COVID RESOURCE PAGES)



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Visit [\*\*http://bit.ly/SaveOurSportsCoalition\*\*](http://bit.ly/SaveOurSportsCoalition)  
and sign the petition asking all politicians  
to either include our national sport  
organizations in their return-to-play  
discussions or use our web-based  
resources to chart a logical course.