



RETURN TO PLAY

FC Europa protocol
for re-opening in
Green Phase



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Return to Play Protocols

Introduction (EPYSA)

The focus for now is on acclimating and reintegrating players, coaches and families. This is a local, club-based restart of training players. Due to the restrictions of no contact, no other sanctioned soccer activity such as tryouts, scrimmages or other competition has been approved.

The guidance from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the Green Phase still engages in mitigation strategies for COVID-19. It is a cautious and gradual re-opening. As the Governor and Department of Health provide additional information and guidance beyond the initial opening, we too will expand the opportunities for youth soccer.

These guidelines were created in consultation with those developed by the US Olympic Committee, US Soccer, US Youth Soccer, the CDC and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is a collection of best practices for carefully moving forward in the COVID-19 world. We encourage you to follow all aspects set forward in this document.

The conditions during this pandemic have continually evolved and changed regularly. We know additional information and new guidelines are forthcoming. They will change at any time, so we must be flexible. ***These guidelines will be updated as necessary.***

This document does not replace the advice or direction of medical professionals. The risks of infection still exists. Until a vaccine or cure is developed for COVID-19, we must proceed cautiously and continue to monitor and comply with the Governor's office, PA Department of Health, CDC and any other federal or local regulations.

Please recognize that many families and individuals will have reservations about re-opening and reintegrating. We must be respectful, sensitive and flexible as we restart. If a parent, child or coach is not comfortable returning to play, they shouldn't.





General Hygiene and Safety Protocols

- Wash your hands frequently
- Have hand sanitizer available for all at times
- No sharing of water, snacks or equipment
- No shaking hands, high fives, fist bump, hugs, etc.
- Social distancing = six (6) feet apart
- No player or coach can attend if they are feeling sick
- Sick players or coaches must quarantine as required by CDC/PA Dept. of Health. They can only return with a Doctor's approval and must show notice to the club.
- Disinfect all training equipment- cones, goals, flags etc. Only coaches can touch or move equipment.
- Coaches to wear a face mask as per CDC/PA Dept. of Health at all times
- Players to wear face masks when not involved in soccer activities or on the bench.
Players may wear masks during activity at parents or players discretion.
- Scrimmage vests washed after every session. Should consider it personal equipment, and provide each player with their own.
- Each ball sanitized before/after every practice or game
- Only one coach may attend to an injured player and they must wear mask and gloves
- Minimize contact with other teams before, during and after each session





Return to Play Protocol – Green Phase

Information for FC Europa

- Activity may begin **only** within your club and your local community
- No contact training, no games and no interaction with other organizations
- Individuals must comply with restrictions of their home county
- Engage with management of your practice facilities to learn and comply with their policies and procedures
- Fields must be legally open - no training on a space/field without insurance certificate issued (standard regardless COVID-19) or permission from the facility
- Create Action Plan:
 - Communicate plan and distribute to families, coaches, and admins
 - Actions upon notification of a positive test result for a club member
 - Be prepared to shut down and stop operations if necessary
- Develop a plan for social distancing and adequate field space
 - Minimize interactions among teams
 - Consider field/training area lay out, entrance and exit from fields, managing training schedules
 - Social distancing required in all areas, but not limited to side-lines, bench areas, clubhouse, parking lot
- The parent determines participation
- Spectators are not essential to training and not recommended to attend, however, it may be necessary for younger players
- Green Phase will be further determined with additional guidelines from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania





Return to Play Protocol – Green Phase

Information for FCE COACHES

- Comply with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, EPYSA and any additional club directives or requirements
- Reinforce directives, policies and protocols as necessary with parents and children
- Inquire how players are feeling on arrival - if they are ill or appear to be ill, send them home (isolate from group and contact parent/guardian)
- Supply your medical kit or bag with gloves, extra masks, sanitizer, and facial tissues
- Implement social distancing at all times - each player and their equipment must be at least six (6) feet from the next player
- Coaches wear masks at all times
- Players may wear masks during training at their discretion, but must wear when not engaged in soccer activity
- Only coaches may touch or move equipment - players must not touch or move equipment (cones are classed as equipment)
- No bodily contact in training
- Avoid activities involving lines, maintain social distancing in training
- Sanitize all equipment after training – Clorox wipes or similar
- Only one coach can attend to an injured player – mask/gloves must be worn
- Pinnies/vests are not to be used (all FCE players have red/black/white jerseys)
- Minimize interaction with other teams that train before or after you - emphasize that players should go straight to their cars (transition flow protocol)
- Player to coach ratio must not exceed 9:1 – advance planning to achieve this
- Be positive, fun and engaging - help the children acclimate and reintegrate



Return to Play Protocol – Green Phase

Information for FCE PARENTS

- Comply with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer and any additional club directives or requirements - share information with your son or daughter
- Ensure player has no signs of COVID-19 for the past 14 days and no known exposure before sending them to training - sick players and coaches must stay at home and follow appropriate health guidelines
- Determine if you want your child to wear a face mask during training
- Sanitize and wash all equipment and uniforms after training
- Pack hand sanitizer and a face mask in his or her bag
- Spectators are not recommended to attend, however, you may feel it necessary for younger players – apply common sense and physically distance yourself
- Comply with all social distancing and mask directives and adhere to rules of the club regarding attending training session (traffic/drop off/transit protocols)
- Instruct your child to never share water, snacks or equipment
- Notify club and coach should your child become ill
- Do not assist coach or coaches with equipment at the beginning or end of practice
- Allow players or coach to retrieve the ball if it goes off touchline or end line
- Parents make the ultimate decision on their child's attendance participation

