



Arkansas Valley Soccer Association
905 Lock and Dam Rd.
Russellville, AR 72802

CLUB UPDATE ON COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

May 8th, 2020

Parents, Players, Sponsors, Spectators, and Partners,

THANK YOU for being a part of our association.

In response to comments by Governor Hutchison in last week's Covid-19 Updates, the AVSA Board of Directors met to discuss returning to play. Governor Hutchison announced we can resume youth sports practices as of May 5th. Our Russellville city parks and rec department will be re-opening the soccer complex as of today. As a club, we must wait to resume practices until May 18th due to club insurance guidelines set forth by the Arkansas State Soccer Association. This extra week will give AVSA staff time to install measures that will allow us to follow the State's guidelines for outdoor venues.

AVSA will resume practices beginning the week of May 18th. Player safety is our number one concern at AVSA. We will take the following steps to ensure players are kept as safe possible.

- *All coaches and trainers will wear face masks in accordance with the phasing measures recommended by the State of Arkansas and abide by social distancing guidelines with respect to players.*
- *Hand sanitizing stations will be located at or very near each field of play and players will be required to use sanitizer prior to entering the field and again upon exiting the field.*
- *Cones or visual markers will be used to indicate six feet spacing for social distancing so the players will have physical reference points to maintain space between them.*
- *Soccer drills will be organized in a way that promotes and encourages distancing between players.*
- *Parents of U4, U6, and U8 will be allowed to be on the sidelines of practices, but must social distance and wear face masks until phasing requirements deem otherwise.*
- *Parents of U10 age groups and above will be asked to remain in their vehicles during practice sessions.*
- *The walking trail will not be regulated by AVSA as it is a city park and open for use.*
- *Parents, please use your best judgment with regard to players who may have symptoms. If any Covid-19 symptoms are present in a player, sibling, parent, or other member of the household please stay home.*

We anticipate our return to game play will be June 1st. This is subject to change based on Governor Hutchison's directives for the State.

For our U10, U8, and U6 groups, the Board of Directors has decided to play a shortened 4-week season that will consist of 7 games, utilizing week nights during regularly scheduled practice times, and Saturdays. This proposed season would run from Saturday June 6th – Saturday June 27th.

The U11 and above competitive and recreational level age groups will also be playing during this time. Specific information for these teams will be provided by the coaches of each team when they are informed of a definite schedule.

Our goal is to get our members as many opportunities to play soccer as possible given the shortened time frame. Player development is one of AVSA's critical goals, and we do not want miss an entire Spring season worth of development for our players.

The Board and I want to thank you for all your patience and understanding. All of the information above is subject to change based on the State and local rules expected later this month, however, we are providing this information to help our members prepare for the upcoming months.

Sincerely,

Nate Harrison

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Acting AVSA Board President

Cc: Kevin Rogers, Linsey Gjerstad, Jeremy Keaster, Jared Fuller, Richard Payne, Josh Crane, Sloan Bertke, Chris Olson