

Newberry County Recreation
Return to Play Guidelines – Soccer



These guidelines were written in accordance with the *Guidelines for Re-opening County, Municipal, and School Athletic Fields & Resuming Youth Sports Events* published May 20, 2020 by the state of South Carolina.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- Continued monitoring of national, state, and local guidelines related to limitations on the size of gatherings.
- Continued monitoring of current conditions, cases, and hot spot areas when deciding whether to postpone, cancel, or significantly reduce the number of attendees for events.
- Consider CDC guidance and White House guidance when making decisions about whether to proceed with, postpone, or cancel an event.
- Signs and posters will be placed throughout the parks to remind visitors to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc>)
 - Stay home if you are feeling sick or not feeling well.
 - Use social distancing (maintain six feet between individuals) practices in all areas of the park.
 - Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue when possible or cough/sneeze into your arm.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the restroom, before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - Use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Restrooms will remain open. Frequent cleaning and disinfecting practices will be followed along with ensuring soap and materials for drying hands or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol are available.
- Staff will monitor areas to support social distancing practices.
- Individuals, including players, coaches, parents, and spectators who have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms should stay home. Do not attend any team meetings, practices, or competitions.
- Individuals, including players, coaches, parents, and spectators who have recently had a close contact with a person with COVID-19 should stay home and monitor their health.
- Players are strongly recommended to travel to the venue only with members of their immediate household, if possible. Face coverings are strongly recommended for individuals traveling to and from the venue.

SOCCER GUIDELINES:

(Beginning as soon as May 31, 2020)

*Effective May 31, 2020, athletic fields may be opened for public use and event organizers and recreation departments may begin holding **practices** for youth sports without spectators other than one parent or guardian per participant, as needed.*

Games/Scrimmages (Beginning as soon as June 15, 2020)

*Effective June 15, 2020, youth sports organizers and recreation departments may begin holding **games or similar competitions**, with or without spectators.*

- Players who are sick or not feeling well should not attend practices/games and will NOT be permitted to participate in practices/games. If others in the household have tested positive or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, the player should remain home.

- Coaches will focus on individual skill building versus competition. Coaches will keep players in small groups to allow for physical distancing. Multiple coaches and coaches' assistants will be available to assist with small group drills that promote physical distancing. Coaches will keep players in small groups that remain together and work through stations, rather than switching groups or mixing groups.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for players and coaches to use before and after practices/games, during scheduled water breaks and as needed. However, parents/guardians are encouraged to supply their players with antibacterial wipes and/or hand sanitizer as well.
- Players should NOT share equipment. Coaches will use sanitizing spray at the end of each practice/game on soccer balls and other equipment as necessary.
- Coaches/coaches' assistants will monitor the use of equipment and implement disinfecting efforts when necessary.
- Group meetings should adhere to social distancing guidelines of maintaining 6 feet of distance between individuals. Players should maintain social/physical distancing practices when possible. Players will be encouraged to maintain six feet of physical distance while coaches are explaining drills, conducting warmups, conducting skill building activities, conducting simulation drills, etc.
- Players should bring their own individual drinks. When possible drink containers should be labeled with the players name. Team drink coolers are NOT allowed.
- Player equipment should be kept to a minimum and kept spaced out thoroughly from others.
- Personal protective equipment such as face-coverings and gloves may be worn by coaches, coaches' assistants, and players whenever applicable and as long as it does NOT interfere with the safety of themselves or others.
- Coaches and coaches' assistants should ensure players discard their trash into available trash receptacles.
- Players should avoid handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, or any other celebratory practices that do NOT promote social distancing. Coaches will need to find alternative ways to promote sportsmanship.
- If food is offered at any event, have pre-packaged boxes or bags for each attendee instead of a buffet or family-style meal. Avoid sharing food and utensils. Offer hand sanitizer or encourage hand washing.
- Spectators should remain in their personal vehicles when possible and must adhere to posted social distancing practices.
- Players are encouraged to wait in their cars with a parent/guardian until just before practice/game start time.

RESOURCES/REFERENCES:

CDC Guidance for Administrators in Parks and Recreational Facilities, (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/park-administrators.html>)

CDC Print Resources, (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc>)

CDC Considerations for Youth Sports (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>)

South Carolina United FC (https://scunitedfc_travel.demosphere-secure.com/_files/competitive/SCUFC%20Return%20to%20Play.pdf)