

Memo



To: Community Registered Players
From: SYSI Office
Date: April 30, 2021
Re: **2021 Outdoor Season 2021 – Community Association Players**

Good afternoon COMMUNITY registered soccer players and families;

Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. (SYSI) hopes this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well!

With the latest announcement of continued restrictions preventing league games until May 10, we have determined the necessary step of extending the start of the **league games to commence on Mon May 17**, pending the lifting of government restrictions. The season will still be slated to end on June 30 with the first couple weeks of games moved to a couple Fridays in May or June. If the government places further extensions on the start of league games SYSI will re-evaluate at such time. **Once a start time for games has been announced, SYSI will provide a game schedule no later than one week prior to the start date of games.**

Mini FOS June 25 - 27, 2021 has been cancelled due to the condensing of the game schedule into 7 weeks opposed to 9 and the need for additional Friday games. Teams were not charged for the potential of three additional weekend games with Mini FOS on city grass fields therefore the cancellation of these games will not result in any sort of refund.

Timbit medals for U5-U7 will be provided to teams who commit to the season and more details for coaches to pick-up medals prior to the end of the season will be communicated at a later date.

In the meantime, community team coaches are welcome to **start training as early as Mon May 3** while adhering to the following guidelines:

- **Not Well:** If you or your child are not feeling well or have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 you or your child are not to attend the soccer event.
- **Sanitize/Disinfect:** All players and coaching staff are to use hand sanitizer prior to and after taking part in a practice and are to come in a freshly laundered clothes for each event. Any equipment that is shared among participants must be disinfected after each practice.
- **Masks:** While outdoors, masks are not required for players or spectators but are recommended. Masks are strongly encouraged for younger age groups who have difficulty socially distancing themselves. Non-medical masks are required for all team coaches providing instruction. If a coach is coaching more than one team or is coaching two groups at once they must wear a medical grade mask. If any soccer events are taking place indoors, masks of all persons is required.
- **Groups of 8:**
 - Group training may take place in groups of eight (8) players or fewer and the training group size may not exceed 10 (for example no more than 8 players and 2 coaches).
 - More than one group may share a field so long as the groups are separated with cone markings to maintain five (5) meters of space between the groups at all time and players from each group are not to mix for the duration of the practice.
 - Total field capacity is 30 players plus coaches -- this means no more than four training groups of 7 players or three training groups of 8 players. Coaches and spectators do not count in the player number.

- If a team has 12 players the team could be split into two groups of six players each with five meters spacing between the two groups. The coach may provide instruction to both groups while wearing a medical grade mask. Alternatively the coach could put an assigned rotation of players into place so that only 8 players come to any given practice time. The group of eight (8) or fewer players must remain consistent throughout the scheduled practice session.
- **Social Distancing:** During the practice or training session all participants are to maintain three (3) meters of distance between each other at all times.
- **Spectators:** In order to ensure the gathering size is not exceeded teams are to have one parent per player attend soccer events and are strongly discouraged from bringing other children. Spectators are to socially distance by two metres at all times.
- **Contact Tracing:** All teams are to track attendance of players, coaching staff, and spectators at each soccer event and are to provide it to Public Health Authorities, the Community Association, or SYSI if requested.
- **Locations:** SYSI has communicated suggested field usage to each community coordinator who will inform your team coach of available fields.
- **Game Days:** SYSI has communicated which day of the week your team has been assigned for game days with your community coordinator however the game days could change. As such your team coach may try to train on the game night (or an alternate night) until we get back to games.

SYSI is excited to kick off the Outdoor 2021 preseason training Mon May 3 with Community league games commencing Mon May 17 (pending the lifting of government restrictions). Although not the news we were hoping for, the positive side is that this allows for a longer preseason for Community teams to get back to match readiness. This is beneficial for the players for several reasons:

- Builds up endurance gradually and reduces the chance of injury
- Reduces chances of player burnout
- Allows players on new teams to become familiar with coaches and team mates before competitive games commence
- Provides a weekly outdoor activity for all players to look forward to

Community registered players will receive group training information from their Community Coordinator or coach in the coming days or week.

If your family also has children registered in the Zone soccer league your activities are slated to run May 3 - July 18 with league games commencing Mon May 17 pending the lifting of government restrictions.

SYSI remains optimistic that we will be returning to games at some point and will share any updates as soon as we hear more from the government. Until then we hope all participants have fun on the pitch in a training capacity!

Sincerely,
Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.