

Memo



To: Zone Registered Players
From: SYSI Office
Date: May 3, 2021
Re: **2021 Outdoor Season – Zone Players**

Good afternoon ZONE registered soccer players and families;

Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. (SYSI) hopes this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well! We'd like to make you aware of the following Outdoor 2021 season information.

Game Formats and Fields:

Under-7 (4v4) – all city grass fields (teams provide flags for goals)

Under-9 (5v5) – all city grass fields (teams provide flags for goals)

Under- 11(7v7) – all city grass fields modified half fields (16 foot goals)

Under-13 (9v9) – all city grass fields half fields (18 foot goals)

U15-U19 (9v9) – U13 city grass fields & Saskatoon Sports Centre (SSCI) outdoor turf half fields (24 foot goals)

Change for U11-U13: The U11-U13 teams will not be scheduled any games at Saskatoon Sports Centre as these have traditionally been indoors and it is uncertain whether indoor games will be allowed at the same time as outdoor games. The outdoor turf at SSCI will be split into half field formats for the U15-U19 with full size goals (24 feet wide) which are too large for the U11 and U13 teams; therefore all U11-U13 games will take place on city grass fields.

Change for U15-U19: Games for U15-U19 will not be 11v11 full field format and have been changed to half field 9v9 in order to make teams and pool sizes more viable for the Outdoor 2021 season. Games will take place on U13 pitches with 18 foot wide goals as well as the Saskatoon Sports Centre on the outdoor turf half fields with full size 24 foot goals.

U5-U9 Mini FOS June 25 - 27, 2021 has been cancelled. 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.

Training starts this week 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 six training groups of 5 players; five training groups of 6 players; four training groups of 7 players; three training groups of 8 players; and so forth (or a combination of these so long as the field size does not exceed a total of 30 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 Zone, or SYSI if requested.
- **Locations:** SYSI has communicated suggested field usage to each Zone who will inform your team coach of available fields.

The positive side for preseason training is that this allows for a longer preseason for 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; and
- Provides a weekly outdoor activity for all players to look forward to.

SYSI remains optimistic that we will be returning to games this season and will share any updates as soon as we hear more from the government. **Game schedules will be provided on Wed May 12**, unless the start date for games requires an adjusted.

Until then we hope all participants have fun on the pitch in a training capacity!

Sincerely,
Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.