

**SAA Official Practice, Game, and Event Gathering Protocols Policy for “Return to Play”  
during the COVID-19 Pandemic Shutdown of the State of IL  
(First Drafted June 22, 2020)**

Until further notice, and after execution by all participants of any/all SAA sports Program “Return to Play” waiver, the following are the guidelines for conducting practices games and/or other gatherings (including tournaments, uniform fittings, fundraising events, fundraising event product pickups, SAA board meetings (all), SAA parent or team meetings, SAA clinics and training sessions, SPARQ Sessions, and SAA office usage for any aforementioned event) for our teams, commissioners, parents, volunteers, spectators, and players (these guidelines are set by leveraging the IL DCEO guidelines for operation of youth sports in phase 3 and 4 as well as SAA Executive Board determined mandates):

1. Every registered participant that will take part in any SAA sports program practices/games/season that were already registered prior to the date of May 29<sup>th</sup> 2020 (IL Phase 3 start date) MUST sign a printed out version of their sport program “Return to Play” waiver and then provide the signed copy to their SAA coach/commissioner. All registered participants that will take part in any SAA sports program practices/games/season that register electronically for any sports program after June 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 must agree to the “Return to Play Waiver” during registration through SportsConnect or they will not be permitted to participate in the sport programs in Phase 3 or Phase 4 of the IL reopening plan. If any registered participant decides not sign/agree to the “Return to Play Waiver” for their sport program AND they have already paid the registration fee, they are entitled to a full refund for that sport program season.

2. At every gathering/event (all mentioned above) temperature checks will be administered by the coach/commissioner of all participants (coaches/players/officials). Any participant with a temperature of more than 100.3 will not be allowed to partake in the gathering/event, per IL DCEO phase 4 guidelines. The individual must leave the event and cannot return to an SAA event until they have been fever free (100.3 F or less) for 48 hrs without the aid of fever reducing medication.

3. Number of participants that can gather within a 30 foot space for the aforementioned gatherings/events and therefore total number allowed for each of the gatherings/events, including participants Coaches and officials is 10 for phase 3 and 50 persons maximum for phase 4. In addition to the participant/coach/official (those required to be involved in said event) all SAA spectators for the event will follow the same phase 3 or phase 4 IL DCEO guidelines. Therefore additional gatherings with 10 or 50, phase 3 or 4, persons maximum in the designated spectator areas, as well as any individual SAA sport social distancing requirements set forth by the SAA sports “return to play” Protocol policy. Furthermore, all parks, gyms, other facilities cannot operate at a capacity of greater than 50% normal capacity and spectator/seating areas cannot operate at greater than 20% of normal capacity, per IL DCEO phase 4 guidelines.

4. Sanitation of Dugouts, bathrooms, concession stands, gyms, location of gathering/event to occur before every event, and to be kept on a recorded and well maintained cleaning/sanitation schedule. Each SAA sports program will detail this in their programs “return to play” Protocol policy.

5. Supply of additional disposable facemasks and gloves will be available for all Participants (coaches/players/officials) ONLY during gatherings/events (all mentioned above) in case of need. SAA will not provide back-up masks and gloves for additional persons beyond participants, i.e. spectators. SAA is NOT the main supplying source of PPE for participants, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to send PPE with participants, and SAA will have back up supplies for emergency need only.

6. ALL participants, coaches, officials, and spectators MUST follow the IL DCEO guidelines for wearing a mask at any/all SAA gathering/event (all mentioned above) if a social distance bubble of 6 feet cannot be maintained. This excludes immediate family interaction (for example a parent and their participant and or parent and another child or spouse that are 6ft away from anyone else are not required to wear a mask within 6ft of each other). Participants are NOT required to wear a mask during competitive activity (exercise related), and wearing of a mask is up to parent discretion for their participants during this time. It is expected that the players wear masks, per the phase 4 guidelines, when not participating in the act of competitive activity (exercising). For example, a player should wear a mask (as able) when on a bench or in a dugout, or in a team meeting where they are not running around or participating in a competitive activity, then at their parents discretion, may remove it when the physical activity that the sport demands occurs.

7. Every participant, parent/guardian/spectator, coach, commissioner, volunteer and official will also comply with each individual SAA sport program “Return to Play” protocol. This will have details surrounding unique guidelines for the participants sport program and will be provided by the sport to every participant. For example, this can include details around positioning of officials on a field or in a gym during an event, sanitizing a ball or other equipment a certain number of times or frequency of sanitizing said equipment before, during, and after an event and/or details around spectator rules during an event and guidelines..etc. In the event a conflict arises between the SAA main policy and the Individual Sports Policy, the controlling policy will be the one that is more stringent and stipulates additional requirements for the detailed guideline.

8. ALL SAA participants, spectators, officials, coaches, commissioners, volunteers will do everything in their power to always practice safe social distancing, cleanliness, and respect for others while SAA and the state of Illinois are under strict guidelines for operation of youth sports programs.

9. NO SAA participant is required to participate in any individual activity/gathering/event if they do not feel comfortable with the risk associated due to possible exposure to COVID-19. The participant, even after signing a “Return to Play” waiver, may still decide to not participate in individual activities/gatherings/events without any repercussion. No refund, beyond final published refund end dates, will be provided for these instances.

10. It is up to the parents/guardians of all participants to actively take temperatures at home, and or watch for COVID-19 related symptoms and to not send their player to participate in an SAA event (all mentioned above) if their participant is not fever free of a 100.4 F or higher temperature for 48 hrs and have no COVID-19 symptoms or have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

11. All coaches/commissioners responsible for a team/squad etc... During an SAA event must take ATTENDANCE of all coaches, players, and officials for every event. Practice, clinics, uniform fittings, games, et al. The attendance is for trace back purposes only, and will not be shared with anyone besides SAA League Commissioners or Officers, and used solely for the purpose of informing those that attended of any possible COVID-19 exposure, in the event that a COVID-19 positive case is reported to SAA involving a participant at one of the events.

12. All SAA participants and participant guardians are required to inform their coach and/or league commissioner of any positive COVID-19 test results for a participant and/or immediate family member/friend that is actively in the participants non-social distanced contact circle that has been actively participating in SAA sporting events. They must report this within 24 hrs of a positive test result.

13. In the event that a participant has had close contact with someone (more than 15 minutes) that tests positive for COVID-19, the participant will be required to quarantine for 14 days from the point of possible exposure to the positive tested individual and must take a test near the end of the quarantine period (suggested to take the test earlier than the end of the quarantine period in order to have results in a timely fashion, results timing is based on medical professional feedback) ; if negative the individual can return to participate in SAA events after their 14 day quarantine period is complete, following the same guidelines as stated in this document and their individual sport. If positive, the participant must quarantine from SAA sport participation for 14 days after symptom free from COVID-19. If the participant does not get tested, or refuses to be tested, then they will not be permitted to return to the SAA activity until they have a test completed with a negative result.

14. All SAA sports programs are required to report any COVID-19 positive case of any participant, coach, commissioner, official, and/or spectator ASAP to the head commissioner of that sports program. In the event that a person that attended an SAA gathering/event has tested positive for COVID-19 then it will be investigated as to where the infected person was participating in/at an SAA gathering/event (hence attendance is taken for all events) and trace back all possible events others could have been exposed at. The information must be shared with that SAA sports program participants that attended these particular events “ not the identity of the infected person ” but that someone has tested positive and was at X, Y, Z events at X, Y, Z times. Then there will be a 14-day quarantine from SAA events for the infected person from the last day they are symptom free from COVID-19. Further participation for all of those that had any possibility of being exposed will be up to those individuals, and it strongly recommended that any possible exposed participant watch their health, possibly symptoms, and take temperature regularly.

15. ALL guidelines set forth by SAA for “ return to play ” must be met to participate in an SAA sports program during this time, as well as adhere to the IL DCEO Youth and Recreations Sports Guidelines. <https://dceocovid19resources.com/assets/Restore-Illinois/businessguidelines4/youthsports.pdf>

THESE PROTOCOLS are established within the IL Phase 4 opening plan guidelines as published by the IL DCEO and ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS CIRCUMSTANCES DEVELOP MOVING FORWARD.

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