



Southern Nevada Soccer Association

Spring 2021 Match Procedures U7-HS Divisions

All coaches, players, spectators, league officials and referees will observe the following match procedures for SNSA Spring 2021 youth recreational league games:

PRE-GAME PROCEDURES

- 1. AT HOME:** Conduct a Health Assessment Survey and temperature check for the player and any family members attending the game. *Current COVID restrictions limit spectators to 2 per player.*
- 2. WHAT TO BRING:** Each player should bring a ball, water, face mask and hand sanitizer to each game.
- 3. FACEMASK/DISTANCING:** All participants must wear face masks and observe a minimum of 6ft physical distancing at the field. Players and referees are not required to wear a face mask while involved in active play but may do so if they wish.
- 4. ENTRY/CHECK-IN:** All participants enter as designated on the field layout map; players and coaches check-in at the field marshal station:
 - a. Anthem Hills Park: station on the field at the south entrance
 - b. Heritage fields 1/2: station at the north gate between fields 1 & 2
 - c. Heritage fields 3/4: station at the north gate between fields 3 & 4
 - d. Heritage fields 7/8: station at the south gate between fields 7 & 8
 - e. Olympia Park: station at the west entrance to field 1
- 5. HEALTH ASSESSMENT:** Players/coaches may be subject to a health survey and/or temperature check.
- 6. WRISTBAND:** Field marshals will check the player's or coach's name on the game card. Checked-in players will be issued a wristband to indicate approval to play.
- 7. FIELD ACCESS:** Participants shall not go to their field until within **15 minutes** of scheduled kickoff.
- 8. SIDES OF THE FIELD:** The Home team and its spectators sit along the North or East sideline; the Visiting team and its spectators sit along the South or West sideline.
- 9. SEATING:** The sidelines will be marked to designate a physically distanced seating area for each player & associated spectators; there is no technical area. Team staff shall sit at marks closest to the halfway line. Each player will sit or stand at his or her marked location when not involved in active play.
- 10. STAFF ID CHECK:** All registered team staff shall have their staff ID cards available for presentation to the referee prior to the start of the game. If a registered staff member does not have his or her ID card, a valid photo ID (driver's license) may be presented to confirm identity. If a registered coach is unavailable for a game, he or she may designate a parent to serve as acting coach on a temporary basis, with prior notification to the league. The parent will need to show a photo ID to the referee.
- 11. GAME CARDS:** Game cards will be pre-printed and kept in the possession of the referee.
- 12. EQUIPMENT CHECK:** The referees will line up the players (with distancing) to check for shin guards and for any illegal items (jewelry, hard casts, illegal shoes etc.). The referee will enter the players' jersey numbers on the game card.
- 13. JERSEY COLOR CONFLICTS:** Due to COVID no pinnies will be available at the field to distinguish jersey colors. Teams within each division have been assigned unique jersey colors. Goalkeepers should bring an extra shirt to avoid a color conflict with the opposing team.

IN-GAME PROCEDURES

- 1. IN-GAME COVID SAFETY** – The following safety protocol shall be observed during the game:
 - a. Coaches and spectators must wear a face mask at all times. Players and referees shall wear a face mask except when involved in active play, at which time wearing a face mask is optional.
 - b. Limit the handling of the game ball to the goalkeeper or throw-ins. If a dead ball needs to be moved or a stray ball returned to the field, do so with the feet. Teams should disinfect game balls before the start of each quarter or half.
 - c. Players should not share water bottles or any food.
 - d. Players should use hand sanitizer during game breaks and when substituted.
 - e. Avoid high-fives, handshakes or any unnecessary form of touching.
- 2. GAME BALL:** The home team shall supply the game ball and locate spare balls near each goal.
- 3. GAME DURATION:** The duration of the game is as follows:
 - a. 4v4 Format: four 9-minute quarters with a 1-minute interval between the 1st & 2nd quarters, a 5-minute halftime interval, and a 1-minute interval between the 3rd & 4th quarters.
 - b. 6v6 Format: four 12-minute quarters with a 1-minute interval between the 1st & 2nd quarters, a 5-minute halftime interval, and a 1-minute interval between the 3rd & 4th quarters.
 - c. 7v7 & 8v8 Formats: two 30-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime interval.
- 4. KICK-OFF:** The Home team shall kick-off to start the game; the Visiting team shall select the side of the field to defend. For 4v4 and 6v6 formats the Home team kicks off for the 1st and 3rd quarters, and the Visiting team kicks off for the 2nd and 4th quarters. For 7v7 and 8v8 formats the Home team kicks off to start the game and the Visiting team kicks off to start the 2nd half. Teams change ends after halftime.
- 5. SUBSTITUTIONS:** Rules allow unlimited substitutions on any dead ball. Coaches must ask and receive permission from the referee before making a substitution. The substitute shall proceed from his or her designated seating area to the halfway line. The substituted player may leave the field at the closest sideline or goal line and return to his or her designated seating area. League rules require all players who attend practice regularly receive at least half of the game minutes (or equal minutes, if you have more than 2x the number of players on the field at the game). A coach may reduce playing time for disciplinary reasons with prior notification to the league.
- 6. REFEREE COMMUNICATIONS:** Referees are instructed to limit communications to only registered team staff. Refrain from persistently questioning a referee's calls or verbally abusing the referee in any way. Wait for a dead ball to make a polite inquiry if seeking an explanation about a call or making a rules inquiry. Show respect for the referees at all times.
- 7. REFEREE ISSUES:** If a coach believes a referee is failing to ensure the safety of the players or is misinterpreting the laws of the game, do not engage in verbal abuse of the referee. Ask the field marshal on duty for rules clarification, or to observe the game if necessary.
- 8. SPECTATOR CONTROL:** It is the responsibility of the head coach to make an effort to control the behavior of the spectators along his or her team's sideline. Remind parents that they are to limit their communications to positive encouragement of the players on the field. Spectators shall not make comments to or about the referee in an audible manner, and shall refrain from speaking to the players, coaches or parents of the opposing team. Spectators who engage in such conduct may be asked to leave the field; failure to do so may result in forfeiture of the game.

POST-GAME PROCEDURES

1. **HANDSHAKE/TUNNELS:** Handshakes with players and coaches from the opposing team and with the referee after the game are prohibited for the Spring 2021 season, as is setting up a parent tunnel for players to run through. Hopefully we will be able to resume these traditions next fall.
2. **SNACKS:** Another tradition that is prohibited for the Spring 2021 season is the distribution of post-game snacks. Each player may bring his or her own snack, but do not share even pre-packaged snacks among the team.
3. **CLEAN-UP:** Have your players and spectators clean up litter along the sideline and exit the area in a timely manner so the team with the next schedule game can get set up. If you wish to have a post-game meeting with your team, find an alternate location in the park, wear face masks and observe social distancing.
4. **DEPARTURE FROM THE FIELD:** All participants shall leave the field at the exits designated on the field layout map:
 - a. Anthem Hills Park: use the north walkway to exit to the parking lot.
 - b. Heritage Park fields 1 & 3: exit through the East gate.
 - c. Heritage Park field 2 & 4: exit through the West gate.
 - d. Heritage Park field 7: exit through the West gate.
 - e. Heritage Park field 8: exit through the South gate next to field 9.
 - f. Olympia Park field 1: exit along the North perimeter, away from the check-in area.
 - g. Olympia Park field 2: exit on the south side of the field 1 fence, away from the check-in area.

COMPLIANCE

Hosting league play with the current COVID safety restrictions presents significant challenges. We need all league officials, referees, coaches, players and parents to work together if we are to be successful. While some may think the COVID safety protocols are extreme or unnecessary, our approval to play is predicated on cooperation from all participants. SNSA will have league staff at the field to assist with compliance; any participant who refuses to follow safety protocols will be asked to move outside the perimeter of the field. A game may be suspended (with clock running) or abandoned if participants fail to comply with safety protocols. Based on past experience, we believe that our SNSA members will always act in the best interests of the players and will work with league officials to provide a positive environment for our kids to learn and enjoy the game of soccer.

Thank you for your cooperation in complying with league safety protocol and match procedures. Have a safe and fun Spring 2021 season!