



ALLIANCE CUP

November 13-15, 2020

Paradise Coast Sports Complex
& North Collier Regional Park – Naples, FL

RETURN TO COMPETITION

COVID-19 Mitigation & Safety Procedures

Best Practice Guidelines

The Alliance Cup understands that risk of exposure to communicable diseases cannot be 100% eliminated and has compiled the following guidelines and protocols to maximize the safety of all players, coaches, spectators and tournament staff. These protocols are obtained from an extensive network that are the “Best Practices” set forth by health, safety and government agencies. The Alliance Cup primarily used guidance from the CDC and State Health Departments as well as US Soccer, FYSA, US Youth Soccer, USSSA and US Clubs Soccer, the national and state governing bodies for soccer.

General hygiene practices to reduce the risk of spread of infection: The following practices are recommended to mitigate transmission of communicable disease, including COVID-19.

- Avoid touching your face.
- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover mouth and nose (with arm or elbow, not hands) when coughing or sneezing and wash hands afterward.
- Wear a face mask or covering at any time you are in public and unable to maintain social distancing.
- Frequently clean commonly used surfaces (doorknobs, for example) with an antiseptic cleanser.
- Avoid contact with other individuals (shaking hands, for example).
- Maintain a distance of 6 feet between you and others.
- Stay home if you feel sick and contact your health care provider.

Based on over 30 years of soccer tournaments and event management experience, the Alliance Cup stands ready prior, during and after every tournament to revise these procedures with the latest information as needed to deliver the safest gameday and tournament environment possible. Our best practices and the exact methods for implementing these guidelines and recommendations will vary for our tournament, as well as each facility where games are held.

Implementing these Return to Competition initiatives will require a coordinated and cooperative effort between the Alliance Cup, participating clubs/teams, coaches, players and parents, referees and event staff. While we at the Alliance Cup is tasked to create and maintain a safe tournament environment, clubs/teams and parents are the only ones who can make the decision for their player/child to participate.

Tournament Participation Protocol

Clubs/Teams: Coaches & Team Managers:

- Do not allow any team member(s) with symptoms to attend the Alliance Cup.
- If you are sick, feeling sick or have a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, you must not attend.
- Players and coaches should remain in their vehicles until the designated time to enter the facility (to allow teams and supporters at previous games to leave the facility and allow time for sanitation).
- EVERYONE AT THE TOURNAMENT IS ENCOURAGED to wear a face covering upon arrival when walking from their vehicle to the fields; upon departure when walking from the fields to their vehicle; when moving around the facility between fields and through communal areas such as headquarters, bathrooms, and when not properly social distancing.
- Players are required to social distance when not playing and are encouraged to wear face coverings at all times when in the team technical area during games.
- Coaches are encouraged to wear face coverings at all times.
- Specific areas will be marked for players around their team sideline and bench/technical area to provide for adequate social distancing for those players who are not on the field during competition.
- No early arrival and warm up in areas outside of the playing field prior to the game.
- Coaches and players should maintain social distancing during half time, water breaks and at all times when off the field of play.
- Coaches and players should maintain “social distancing” in the “bench area” and in between games (i.e. do not congregate in groups of 5+ on the sidelines and maintain a minimum of 6 ft. apart from other groups).
- Do not share water bottles, drinks or food or any personal items.
- Hand contact of any kind will be prohibited (i.e. handshakes, ‘high fives,’ etc.).
- Soccer balls and equipment will be disinfected by referees before, during and after each game.
- No spitting will be allowed on the field, sidelines, or anywhere on the event premise.
- The Alliance Cup will not be providing hydration stations; players and coaches should bring their own hydration.
- Coaches should possess player passes during the game.
- Teams are encouraged to designate 1 or more adults to pay close attention to players in the technical area to ensure they follow social distancing protocols.
- Tents or tarps may be used only in the technical areas to shield players from the sun and heat -It is recommended to bring enough tents so that all players may be in the shade while still maintaining proper social distancing.
- Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing - recommended into the nape of the elbow
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with hands.
- Players or coach should sanitize their hands each time they come off the field and in between each game.

- All coaches and players should launder clothes, uniforms, and vests after day 1 of the event if the items are to be worn on day 2.

Injured Players

- If a player is injured on the field, the referee will signal for the coach to come onto the field. Only one coach wearing a mask should enter the field.
- If an additional person is required to help the player off the field, the coach needs to select a player from his/ her own team to help.
- If athletic trainers are present for the game, he/she should be treating the injured players at their respective team areas.
- If the athletic trainer has a golf cart, it should only be used to move players in an emergency situation. Players with minor injuries should be moved from the field by the coach.

Spectators: Parents

- The Alliance Cup strongly recommends family units should sit together and socially distance from other family units before, during and after the event.
- It is strongly recommended that people over 65 and/or with pre-existing conditions do not attend.
- Anyone with symptoms (fever, cough, etc.) must not attend any event.
- Spectators and guests should bring personal hand sanitizer and wipes to the event.
- All spectators are encouraged wear a face covering while walking between the parking lots and the fields.
- Face coverings are encouraged to be worn when traveling through common areas (going to porta pots, moving from one field to another between games, etc.).
- Spectators must follow clearly marked directional signage entrances and exits to the facility and at the fields to maintain proper social distancing
- Spectators will be separated in clearly marked areas to comply with all social distancing guidelines (6 feet apart).
- All supporters should maintain “social distancing” (i.e. do not congregate in groups of 5+ (families only) on the sidelines and must maintain a minimum of 6 ft. apart from each other).
- Everyone is expected to cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing - recommended into the nape of the elbow.
- Anyone feeling sick should leave the facility immediately and go home or seek a healthcare facility.
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with their hands whenever possible.
- It is strongly recommended that players have minimal number of supporters on site.

Referees

- Anyone with symptoms must not work the Alliance Cup.
- All referees will have their temperature taken prior to their first game each day of the event.
- All referees are required to wear face coverings while moving between the parking lot and the fields.
- Referees in common areas must wear masks at all times, unless during gameplay or while properly social distancing as an alternate referee.
- Referees must cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing - recommended into the nape of the elbow.
- Physical contact of any kind will be prohibited (i.e. handshakes, “high fives”, etc.).
- May use artificial or electronic noise makers rather than whistles.
- Soccer balls and equipment will be disinfected by referees before, during and after each game.
- All referees should launder clothes and uniforms after activities each day.
- Referees should not exchange documents with the coaches or team managers—Coaches should possess player passes during the game.

Tournament Staff

- Anyone with symptoms must not work the Alliance Cup.
- All staff will have their temperature taken as soon as they report to the site each day of the event.
- Anyone feeling sick during the tournament must leave immediately after informing the tournament director.
- All Alliance Cup staff must wear protective face coverings throughout the event, changing them as needed.
- All Alliance Cup staff must cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing - recommended into the nape of the elbow.
- Assigned staff will be responsible for sanitizing all defined public areas (i.e. restroom handles/doors, tents, golf carts, etc.).

Covid-19 & Health Resources

- Centers of Disease Control & Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- Florida Department of Health: <http://www.floridahealth.gov>
- US Soccer: <https://www.ussoccer.com/playon#additional-resources->
- Florida Youth Soccer Association: <https://www.fysa.com/fysa-on-the-coronavirus/>
- USSSA: <https://usssa.com/coronavirus>
- US Club Soccer: <https://www.usclubsoccer.org/coronavirus>

Planning: Weeks/Days Prior to Participating in the Alliance Cup

- Help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by doing your part. Be prepared by knowing our protocols and training your players, parents and spectators before they arrive onsite.
- Please share the resources that we will be providing throughout our Return to Play campaign.

DISCLAIMER: The health, safety, and welfare of all event participants is the top priority of the Alliance Cup. This plan is dynamic and a work in progress. It will be adjusted and updated regularly to reflect new information and guidance from federal and state governments, as well as health organizations, and soccer governing bodies. All communicable disease mitigation recommendations and best practices outlined within are intended to deliver the safest game day and tournament environment possible. However, following these guidelines does not eliminate 100% of the risk and potential for exposure. Please check with you sanctioning/association body (US Soccer, USSSA, US Youth Soccer, US Clubs Soccer, AYSO) guidelines before participating in soccer tournaments.

By registering for the Alliance Cup, attending, and entering event facilities, all participants, including, but not limited to, coaches, players, parents, spectators, event staff, vendors, partners, medical and training staff, facility staff, public safety, and administrators agree to follow all national, state, and local guidelines, and assume all responsibility of risk in attending the Alliance Cup. By entering the facilities where the Alliance Cup is held, participants agree to not indemnify the Alliance Cup or its staff nor hold them responsible for any sickness or health conditions that may result from attending the tournament.