



# Southern Nevada Soccer Association

## Spring 2021 Match Procedures MK, U5-U6 Divisions

All coaches, players and spectators 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 6 ft 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. **FIELD ENTRY:** All participants enter the field along the central sidewalk between the east and west multipurpose fields as designated on the Acacia Park field layout map.
5. **FIELD ACCESS:** Participants shall not go to their field until within **15 minutes** of scheduled start time.
6. **MINI KICKERS SKILLS COMPONENT:** Mini Kickers gather near field AC1 for the skills training component; maintain social distancing for skills training.
7. **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.
8. **SEATING:** The sidelines will be marked to designate a physically distanced seating area for each player and 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.
9. **STAFF ID CHECK:** All registered team staff shall have their staff ID cards available for presentation to a league official upon request. 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.
10. **EQUIPMENT CHECK:** Prior to the start of the game, inspect your players to ensure they are not wearing any jewelry, and that they are wearing shin guards and proper footwear.
11. **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.

### 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 shall wear a face mask except when involved in active play, at which time wearing a face mask is optional.
  - b. Kick-ins are recommended as an alternative to throw-ins for the 3v3 play format. If a dead ball needs to be moved or a stray ball returned to the field, do so with the feet instead of the hands.
  - 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. **U5-U6 OFFICIATING:** For the U5-U6 divisions one adult from each team (usually the coach) serves as acting referee for the game. This role is a coaching/educational role in which the acting referees teach the players the rules of the game and keep the game flowing (not every double-kick or handball needs to be called!). For safety we recommend kick-ins instead of throw-ins for balls out of bounds of the sidelines. Acting referees have full authority to enforce the laws of the game and remove an abusive spectator if necessary. If the acting referees have a disagreement, request that the field marshal on duty resolve any disputes.

3. **GAME BALL:** The home team shall supply the game ball and locate spare balls near each goal.
4. **GAME DURATION:** The duration of the game is as follows:
  - a. Mini Kickers: a 20-minute skills session is followed by game play consisting of two 8-minute halves, with a 5-minute halftime interval.
  - b. U5-U6: four 8-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.
5. **KICK-OFF:** The Home team shall kick-off to start the game; the Visiting team shall select the side of the field to defend. The Home team kicks off for the 1st and 3rd quarters, and the Visiting team kicks off for the 2nd and 4th quarters. Teams change ends to start the 3rd quarter.
6. **SUBSTITUTIONS:** Rules allow unlimited substitutions on any dead ball. The substitute shall proceed from his or her designated seating area to the halfway line and may enter the field as the substituted player leaves. 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.
7. **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 refrain from making comment to or about 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 this 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 leave the field at the exits designated on the field layout map:
  - a. Fields AC1 & AC2 exit via the sidewalk along the east perimeter of the field.
  - b. Fields AC3 & AC4 exit via the sidewalk along the west perimeter of the field.

### **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 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!**