



# EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH SOCCER NEWS RELEASE

To: All Members & Affiliates  
From: Chris Branscome, Chief Executive Officer  
CC: Board of Directors  
Date: 28th May 2020  
RE: Restart Soccer & Return to Play Guidelines

As positive results have been showing, Pennsylvania is gradually reopening county by county. Governor Wolf announced all counties will enter the Yellow Phase on June 5th. Five counties in Eastern Pennsylvania will enter the Green Phase on May 29th: Bradford, Montour, Snyder, Sullivan, and Tioga. Return to play guidelines are now available for those counties to restart soccer in Eastern Pennsylvania on June 1st.

## [Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Restart 2020](#)

The PA Department of Health has clearly stated that **no organized sports will be played until a county goes Green**. The remainder of the counties who are now, or about to move into the Yellow Phase on May 29th or June 5th, must still refrain from soccer activity in compliance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Although our state association-wide suspension will be lifted, we cannot sanction activity where the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania prohibits it. Therefore, insurance coverage will not be in effect for soccer activity in the Yellow Phase.

That being said, the Governor has eased restrictions on camps. An advisory on camp activity will be released shortly.

In our document "**Restart 2020**" we provide guidelines to reopen soccer in alignment with various national and state agencies. We include generally accepted and publicly promoted hygiene protocols and safety measures along with return to play guidelines for parents/guardians, coaches and clubs. You can find these protocols on our website as well.

## [Return to Play Protocols](#)

These guidelines will provide direction for the immediate re-opening stages upon a county turning Green. The focus for now is acclimating and reintegrating players, coaches and families. This is a local, club-based restart of training players. Due to the restrictions of no contact, no other sanctioned soccer activity such as tryouts, scrimmages, league games and tournaments are yet to be approved.

The guidance from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the Green Phase still engages in mitigation strategies for COVID-19. It is a cautious and gradual re-opening. Most businesses and programs will operate at limited capacity upon entering the Green Phase. Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer will be no different. As the Governor and Department of Health provide additional information and guidance beyond the initial Green Phase opening, we too will expand and evolve the opportunities/restrictions for youth soccer in the coming months.

We're nearly there. Please take in all the information provided and prepare to guide your friends, families and teams safely and confidently back onto to the soccer fields.

Be well. Stay safe.