



## **ORYA Soccer – Covid FAQs – Phase 2.5**

**9/13/2020**

The leaders of the ORYA soccer program acknowledge these are difficult times. We remain committed to leveraging our unique position to allow our local kids to play youth sports. Following the lead of the other statewide soccer programs we will be resuming normal gameplay the weekend of September 18<sup>th</sup>. Please read the FAQs below to gain a better understanding of the changes made to allow for a Fall soccer season.

### **What guidelines are being followed to keep our families safe?**

ORYA is following the guidance of the governor to determine how our sports can return to play. We currently are restricted to small group outdoor gatherings of 50 people or less. This includes coaches, players, and parents. The fields at the park are large enough to allow 2-4 teams to spread out on each field for practices, and we are moving our fields around so that we can offer safe social distancing spaces for spectators during games.

### **Who decides which facilities are open, and what restrictions are in place?**

The Town of Oak Ridge decides town park availability and works with ORYA to establish guidelines. ORYA also works with Mustang Crossfit and Oak Ridge Military Academy leadership to ensure we are aligned on safe practices.

Currently GCS is not allowing anyone to use the fields at Oak Ridge Elementary school.

### **Will players or coaches be required to wear masks?**

No, ORYA Soccer will not require masks to be worn by players. We do not want our children struggling to practice outdoors in while restricting their breathing area. Coaches will not wear a mask for practices and games against ORYA teams. When playing games against GUSA teams ORYA coaches will be expected to wear a mask. Games played at non-ORYA facilities may have additional safe practices for everyone to adhere to, such as wearing a mask to and from the fields.

### **Will temperatures be taken before practice?**

No, we do not have the budget or personnel to ensure temperature taking would be applied consistently across all teams, for every practice. We are relying on families keeping their ill, or potentially ill, players home. Players with a temperature of 100 or above should not attend practices or games.

### **Do kids need to wear a mask as they walk on and off the field?**

No, this is not required. Families can make their own choices.

### **Will there still be throw-ins or will they be changed to kick-ins?**

Throw-ins will be allowed this Fall.

### **Will there still be group huddles?**

Coaches will be encouraged to maintain safe distances as often as possible.

**Are giving high 5's banned?**

All non-essential contact between players will be discouraged

**Will kids exchange handshakes after games?**

No, in most instances players will bump elbows at the end of games. This will be a coach's choice.

**Are there other measures that ORYA has taken?**

ORYA is a volunteer organization led by local moms and dads. We had multiple meetings where we discussed the best way to reopen our programs. We think it is extremely important for our children's physical, emotional, and social development to fall back into a weekly team practice routine. Each player will be assigned to a team with a volunteer coach, who typically has a child on the team. We are absolutely relying on the parents on each team to speak openly with each other, and with the coach, to ensure everyone agrees on how practices and games are being managed. We expect everyone to be respectful of each other's choices.