



TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING APPROVAL (UNRESTRICTED)

We recognize that different parts of the country have been affected to varying degrees the impact of COVID-19. Therefore, effective May 18, US Club Soccer lifted its national suspension of activities and delegated return-to-play decision making to our members. To be clear, this decision by no means is a blanket permission to return to play. For activities to be sanctioned with the normal US Club Soccer-provided insurance coverage in effect, members returning to play must be in compliance with the requirements established by the [applicable local and state public health authorities](#). If members are not in compliance, the activities are unsanctioned and US Club Soccer-provided insurance coverage is not in effect.

Beyond the requirements, we also encourage you to follow optional guidelines or recommendations established by local and state public health authorities, as well as the return-to-play resources linked below, to the extent applicable and possible. Members are always expected to err on the side of caution in health and safety matters and at all times defer to local and state public health authorities

Return-to-play resources:

- CDC's directory of local, state and territorial health departments ([in English](#) / [en Español](#))
 - [CDC's COVID-19 Considerations for Youth Sports](#)
- [U.S. Soccer PLAY ON: Return-to-Play Guidelines](#) (Phases 1, 2 & 3 are all available)
 - ECNL's Return-to-Play Recommendations:
 - [For returning to training environments](#)
 - [For returning to competitions](#)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Fact Sheet for Tournament Participants / U.S. Soccer Federation Policy 601-7 [\[link\]](#)

Please review and send this attachment to all participating teams. Among other items, it includes important information for non-US Club Soccer teams.

2. U.S. Soccer Federation Bylaw 603 [\[link\]](#)

Per this bylaw, on the tournament website, post the US Club Soccer sanctioned tournament logo as well as following verbiage: *"This tournament is unrestricted. Teams registered in good standing with any U.S. Soccer Federation affiliate are eligible to apply."*

3. US Club Soccer sanctioned tournament logo

This is attached for use in accomplishing #3 above. If you need the logo in a different format, please contact communications@usclubsoccer.org.

4. US Club Soccer inclusion in tournament program and team registration packet

Please include this file in the tournament program and each team's registration packet.

5. Team Attendee List Template [\[link\]](#)

Please submit a list of attending teams and contact information to tournament@usclubsoccer.org within 10 days of the tournament's conclusion. Minimally, this shall include coach and manager names and e-mail addresses, as well as states, of all attending teams. A template is attached if you wish to use it. Otherwise, you may send an export from your tournament registration system in Excel format.

6. Sanctioned Tournament Supplemental Insurance Form [\[link\]](#)

Supplemental tournament insurance is offered to hosts of US Club Soccer-sanctioned tournaments in order to obtain liability and accident insurance coverage for all non-US Club Soccer participating teams. (Teams using US Club Soccer passcards already have insurance coverage.) This simplifies attendance for teams, especially if a number of non-US Club Soccer teams are not able to obtain insurance from their state association or other U.S. Soccer Federation member organization. To do so, please complete and follow the instructions on the attached form.

Please reference [this recent Member Update](#) that outlines the U.S. Soccer Federation Player Development Initiatives (PDIs) that became effective as of Aug. 1, 2017. These include small-sided games standards, concussion protocols and heading, modified substitution rules, certified athletic trainers and birth-year registration.

RECOGNIZE TO RECOVER / CERTIFIED ATHLETIC TRAINERS AT SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS:

U.S. Soccer developed its [Recognize to Recover initiative](#) in December 2015, which serves to promote safe play and reduce injuries in soccer players of all ages. Recognize to Recover is evolving, and while some information is currently available – certified athletic trainers (see below) and modified substitution rules ([article](#)) – the Federation will continue to release more protocols in the future. US Club Soccer will provide updates as new guidelines are announced.

Certified Athletic Trainers at Sanctioned Tournaments:

Pursuant to the U.S. Soccer player safety campaign, any tournament projected to have 64 or more teams at U-11 and older age groups must have an adequate number of certified athletic trainers or other healthcare professionals in attendance. They must be accessible to coaches, referees and athletes as needed during play. A major tournament means all of these:

- a tournament played over multiple days;
- where age-group-based champions will be determined;
- in which 64 or more teams (excluding teams U-10 and younger) are entered.

The individual should be a licensed healthcare professional (HCP), such as an athletic trainer certified (ATC) or a physician (MD/DO), with a skill set in emergency care and sports medicine injuries, and with knowledge and experience related to concussion evaluation and management.

Each “major youth tournament” hosting entity should collaborate and communicate with an HCP, if available, on an overall emergency action plan and discuss the management of environmental injuries, injury prevention, head injury management and return-to-play matters.

A certified athletic trainer means a person who has credentials from the Board of Certification and/or has the appropriate license from their state.

The trainer or other healthcare professional must be able to conduct SCAT3 and modified BESS concussion tests on the sideline .

Determining the “adequate number of trainers” depends in part on the total number of teams, field layout, etc. For example, a ratio of one trainer to four or six fields may be adequate. More than one trainer would be required if the tournament fields are spread out over a large area, or if the tournament is held at different locations.

For general information on athletic trainers, please visit this [National Athletic Trainers Association Web page](#).

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS:

Approval from the U.S. Soccer Federation must be obtained for any game or tournament involving international teams.

In order to do so, the following process must be completed at a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the start date of the event:

1. You must have obtained Sanctioned Tournament approval from US Club Soccer or respective State Association.
2. Follow instructions provided by the U.S. Soccer Federation to host international teams here: <https://www.ussoccer.com/federation-services/youth-permission-travel-hosting/hosting-process>
3. If you require assistance in obtaining a Certificate of Insurance for liability coverage as outlined by the U.S. Soccer Federation, please visit our insurance page here.
4. The application fee is \$200 to be collected as the last step during the application process by the U.S. Soccer Federation.

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please direct them to hosting-travel@ussoccer.org.