NCYRU Statement on USA Rugby Return to Play Guidelines

May 28, 2020 by Steve Grill

On May 26, USA Rugby released their Return to Play (RTP) Guidelines. The NCYRU Transition Taskforce has reviewed them in detail, alongside World Rugby guidelines and governors' orders from North Carolina.

Although we're all anxious to get back on the pitch in some form, given that our sport involves a high level of contact even for contact sports, the rugby community must remain patient and considerate throughout the process of resuming play. The well-being of our friends, family, co-workers and teammates must remain the priority. It is on all of us to act responsibly and do our part to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Effective on **June 1, 2020**, all NCYRU locations will be in **Stage 3** according to the USA Rugby COVID-19 Stages (page 6). Note that CIPP accident and liability insurance will NOT be active until **June 1**, and Stage 2 will remain in effect until that date.

All NCYRU Club Coaches and Administrators are expected to review the USA Rugby Return to Play Guidelines in their entirety, and utilize the checklists contained in that document, in connection with a return to any organized rugby activities. We're also **requiring all club coaches and administrators** to complete the World Rugby COVID-19 Return to Play Awareness Courses listed under the "Required Materials" header below. **Before beginning any activity, please send your completed WR certificates to NCYRU1789@gmail.com.**

Stage 3 activities are summarized by USA Rugby as follows:

| STAGE THREE
SMALL GATHERINGS
NO CONTACT | • Group size under local government approved amount
• Non-contact drills and activities
• No participation of players or coaches experiencing symptoms within previous 14-days
• Temperature check all participants on arrival must register lower than 99.6 F
• No use of communal equipment, including balls | • All communication and interaction done via virtual method or at distance of 6ft
• Coaches: Permitted on site, continue to adhere to social distancing protocols | • No competition or inter-squad rugby activity | • Accident and Liability Insurance claims accepted |

Stage 3 will allow for small gatherings with no contact to occur. But please take special notice of the below provisions:

- Group size will be determined by state and local government whichever is more stringent. Each NCYRU Club is responsible for adhering to the city and county directives applicable to it.
- Non-contact drills and activities WITHOUT communal equipment (balls, water coolers or bottles, hit shields, etc.) are permitted.
- Coaches are permitted on site, but social distancing protocols must be followed. It is recommended that other attendees adhere to state social distancing guideline.
- Upon arrival, all participants must have a temperature check at each gathering.
- Each club will keep a list of all attendees of each practice. Date and names of attendees should be maintained for 30 days.

The Taskforce will continue monitoring state government orders in our Union and will provide periodic return to play updates on Social Media.

We appreciate your patience, leadership, and willingness to act responsibly and utilize common sense as we navigate our way back to full play.

Resources

- USA Rugby Return to Play Guidelines
- Local Health Department Directory
- General Health Guidelines
- Cleaning & Disinfecting Community Facilities
- World Rugby COVID-19 Symptom Checker Form
- NC Department of Health and Human Services interim guidance for youth sports

Resources

- World Rugby COVID-19 Return to Play Awareness for Coaches & Players
  - Coaches – Send completed certificate to ncyru1789@gmail.com.
- World Rugby COVID-19 Return to Play Awareness for Administrators
  - Administrators – Send completed certificate to ncyru1789@gmail.com.
- Utilize USA Rugby Administrator Checklists – pages 7-9