

October 5, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
The State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

The California State Soccer Association – South (Cal South) is a 501c(3) California public benefit corporation and is the official youth and adult state soccer association of the United States Soccer Federation, US Youth Soccer, and the United States Adult Soccer Association. The organization, with a service area that extends from San Luis Obispo to San Diego, provides rewarding recreational and competitive opportunities for players of all ages, genders and skill levels. Our member leagues and clubs provide recreational, athletic, and development programming that helps to ensure physical and mental health, and emotional well-being of people across all socio-economic backgrounds. Our membership includes:

- 300+ Affiliate Member Leagues and Clubs across Southern California
- 12,000+ Youth and Adult Soccer Teams
- 115,000+ Active Family Households
- 170,000+ Youth and Adult Soccer Players
- 34,000+ Coaches, Referees, Volunteers and Administrators

We are writing on behalf of our member leagues, clubs and families to ask that the State of California and constituent counties move forward to release outdoor sporting activities from quarantine restrictions. Following establishment of the quarantine, Cal South suspended all activities in observance of your order and in compliance with Federal, State and Local directives including associated County Public Health Orders. Amid a global pandemic, an economic depression, and a reported increase in cases of mental health issues, it has never been more important to make programs available to families that support the health and well-being of our communities.

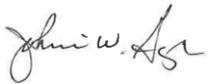
The health and safety of our participants is of upmost concern. As the State established guidelines for approved activities, “Day Camps” and “Youth Sports” we have established Return to Play policies and protocols for associated Cal South sanctioned events to reduce the risk of spread of COVID. Since that time, our member leagues and clubs have conducted hundreds of thousands of drills which focused on individual skills, conditioning and best practice for training. To date, we have not received any reports of individual infection or outbreak as a direct result of soccer or sport related activities.

Other states are advancing reopening sports to include conducting scrimmaging and gaming activities under guidelines designed to continue to manage the risk of COVID. We recognize that the California Department of Public Health guidelines and the State’s tiered process for reopening provides a framework for permissible activities based on the statistics associated with COVID issues by county and although California has recently supported opening of parks and playgrounds, allowance for extended sporting activities has not been addressed. As reported by US Youth Soccer (USYS) and numerous other states, these activities have been successfully reopened and have not directly resulted in an increase in infection or outbreak (i.e. Arizona, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Utah & Washington). Some states, such

as New York, recognize the difference in the types of activities whereby they allow reopening for those sports which involve outdoor activity, low exposure and/or minimal contact.

We urge you to provide a clear pathway and a timeline for return to play that would allow sports to provide this vital service. Allow scrimmages and gaming to take place under appropriate restrictive guidelines which we can provide. By doing so, organizations can once again offer families the essential programming that has been largely absent for the last seven months. Moreover, youth sports represent a multi-billion-dollar industry nationwide. If you or someone from your office wishes to discuss this further, we are ready to offer any, and all support.

Sincerely,



Johnnie W Garza
Chief Executive Officer
Cal South

Cc: Cal South Board of Directors