



PUMA FC RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



STRONGER TOGETHER.

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OPEN LETTER FROM ROB & VLAD

Puma FC Families,

Thank you for being patient and believing in Puma FC and our staff and coaches in this unprecedented time. It has been an exceptionally long 80+ days, and we are all very eager to get back to our normal lives in a safe and responsible way.

The COVID-19 pandemic caught all of us by surprise and affected each of us one way or another. As a club, we did our best to quickly create a plan and program to keep all players active and engaged, and ready to play in case the return to play call was made. We also viewed it as our responsibility as leaders and role models for your children to keep their minds and spirits positive.

Obviously a new normal has been created through this process. As a youth soccer organization, we are working hard to embrace this through all the local state and national entities and provide the safe and secure environment for all the soccer players in the community.

We promise to continue providing soccer programs and opportunities for success for all our players and we thank you for being the most important part of Puma FC.

Sincerely,

Vladimir Roganovic and Rob Million

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

From the moment we were forced to stop outdoor practice and playing games, all the Puma FC staff started collaborating and creating a plan for our players. Group zoom meetings, group texts, phone calls were introduced very quickly. Here are the most important details that our coaches have been providing for our players during the COVID-19 shut down:

- Written individual training session (7v7, 9v9, 11v11)
- Weekly team zoom training sessions
- Facebook Live lessons/discussions
- Video demonstration
- Homework assignments (specific to the team)
- Facebook Video Challenges
- FIFA Video Game Weekly Tournament (PlayStation and Xbox)

With this curriculum, it was our goal to provide a physical, technical, tactical, and a psychological aspect of the game. Obviously, we would not be able to do it without you, so a HUGE THANK YOU for being involved! With combined efforts we kept the kids engaged as well as motivated to take advantage of this time and improve individually at their own pace.

Club leadership has also been hard at work trying to plan for when we are able to return to some form of normality (the timeline of which we know has been one of great uncertainty). At this time, we finally do have a clear picture provided by Heartland Soccer Association, Kansas State Youth Soccer Association, US Soccer, Johnson County and Governor Kelly of a return date, but at the same time it is still tentative and details are changing daily. There are strict and detailed instructions on how to proceed with returning to the soccer field, but we are happy that the entire community is moving forward in the right direction.

During the COVID-19 shut down, we also focused on the future of our club. There have been exciting developments over the past few weeks that mean great things for Puma FC moving forward. We were accepted into the National Premier League (NPL) and will be joining the Central States conference in Fall 2020 (BOTH Boys and Girls Programs). Over the past number of years Puma FC has developed and evolved into the club it is today and we are very excited and proud to be an official NPL member club. Puma FC will now be able to consistently provide a high-level platform for our top U13-U19 players. This will allow our players the opportunity for greater college exposure and will allow us to continue to develop them to the next

level through quality training environments and meaningful high-level games.

Our players will continue to play in local Heartland League, local tournaments, but at the same time we will be able to provide additional competition and exposure to players regionally & nationally while playing within the NPL league.

FINANCIAL POLICIES

It has been incredibly challenging to provide updates and accurate information on the finances for families during the Spring season. Why was it so challenging?

As a youth soccer organization, we register teams and play games through many different governing bodies. KSYSA, we pay most of our expenses upfront. For example, we must pay winter leagues in the month of August to secure all our teams' participation spots. We must register for tournaments two months in advance to have the opportunity to guarantee acceptance. We were waiting to hear directions from Kansas State Youth Soccer Association, Heartland Youth Soccer Association, United States Youth Soccer, specific out of town tournament organizations, as well as Kansas State.

At the same time, we have part time and full-time coaches and for some of them their only source of income is coaching soccer, and we wanted to make sure to take care of our coaches and staff. We are very thankful that we were able to keep everyone employed and pay salaries to coaches, and obviously we could not do it without your commitment to the club. THANK YOU for that, we all deeply appreciate it!

Heartland Soccer Association will be issuing partial credits for the spring season and for tournaments, but we still do not know those details yet. All we know is that it will be a credit and it will only be a small portion of the credit. However, we wanted to begin to take control of this situation to provide value for our members.

The first major thing we have done to help families is reduce prices on average of 10% across the board. We have reviewed all expenses and cut everything we could while still being able to continue to bring the best soccer experience in the Kansas City metro area. In addition, we are offering these additional programs for FREE to all club members:

- 10 % MEMBERSHIP FEES REDUCTION (approx. \$200)
- FREE PRE-TRYOUT CAMP (\$50 value)
- FREE SUMMER TRAINING (\$200 value)
- Additional CREDIT FOR UPCOMING SEASON (\$150 value) to be applied after registration is complete.
- Uniforms: we have reduced the number of required items for our uniform kits

This equates to a minimum of 600\$ in savings in the coming year.

TOURNAMENTS: Families that paid tournament fees will receive credit to their account in addition to all credits listed above proportionate to the amount that was refunded to Puma FC by the tournament.

** Families with scholarships will not receive any tournament refunds.

**If a family has an outstanding balance, they will not receive credit for the upcoming season, and any additional outstanding balance will be transferred to the upcoming season in an amortized amount across all future payments.

RECREATIONAL SOCCER: All recreational players will also be able to sign up for ALL free summer training/camps. In addition, recreational league fees for the upcoming season will be significantly lowered by over 50% for PreK-2nd Grade.

The current situation and this plan will affect the way our club functions for many years to come. We want to thank you for believing in us, and we want to thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's development. Thank you for being part of the Puma FC Family.

FUTURE PLANS

We are looking forward to the time when we can get back to the soccer fields and resume soccer activities. At the same time, we fully understand the severity of the current situation and the health and safety of our staff, players and parents remains at the forefront of any decision we make. It is also important to understand that the situation is extremely fluid and is evolving week to week.

Here is what we do know as far as what you can mark on your calendars -

FREE Age Group Training @ SCHEELS OP Soccer Complex (Field 6)

June 8th, June 9th, June 10th and June 11th:

4:00pm-5:00pm:	U8-U12 Players
5:30pm-6:30pm:	U13-U19 Players
7:00pm-8:00pm:	U8-U12 Players
8:30pm-9:30pm:	U13-U19 Players

** FREE to current Puma FC players. Registration is now open.

** Players can sign up for a MAXIMUM of two sessions.

** **Number of participants is limited due to "Return To Play Guidelines", so ALL players MUST REGISTER. Once a time slot is full there will be no exceptions given.**

FREE Pre-Tryout Camp - June 15th, 16th, 17th

@ SCHEELS OP Soccer Complex (Fields 10,11 and 12)

U8-U12 boys and girls: 9:00am-10:30am

U13-U19 boys and girls: 11am-12:30pm

<https://pumafc.leagueapps.com/events/1616179-2020-puma-fc-pre-tryout-camp>

Discount Code: **DISC-SOCC963**

** FREE to current Puma FC players. Registration is open.

** **Number of participants is limited due to Return To Play Guidelines, so ALL players MUST REGISTER PRIOR MONDAY JUNE 15th.**

NPL ID Clinics

(Players that are interested to hear more about NPL teams are welcome, offers can begin for current members as early as 6/1)

Tues 16th June @ SCHEELS OP Soccer Complex

U13 (08), U14 (07) and U15 (06) Boys and Girls - 6-7:15pm

U16 (05), U17 (04) and U19 (03/02) Boys and Girls - 7:45-9pm

Wed 17th June @ Garmin Olathe Soccer Complex

U13 (08), U14 (07) and U15 (06) Boys and Girls - 6-7:15pm

U16 (05), U17 (04) and U19 (03/02) Boys and Girls - 7:45-9pm

**** Number of participants is limited due to Return To Play Guidelines, so ALL players MUST REGISTER PRIOR TO JUNE 16th at 2PM (for Tuesday attendees) or JUNE 17th at 2PM (for Wednesday attendees)**

<https://pumafc.leagueapps.com/events/1636795-2020-puma-fc-npl-id-clinic>

TRYOUTS - June 19-21

Fri 19th June @ SCHEELS OP Soccer Complex (Fields 10,11 & 12)

Age groups and times TBA

Sat 20th and Sun 21st June @ GARMIN Olathe Soccer Complex

Age groups and times TBA

**** Tryout Registration and Age Group Tryout Schedule to be announced soon**

**** Number of participants is limited due to Return To Play Guidelines, so ALL players MUST REGISTER PRIOR TO JUNE 19th TO ENSURE THEY WILL HAVE A FIELD SPOT.**

FREE Summer Training Program

@ GARMIN Olathe Soccer Complex (Field #3)

We will be offering a FREE summer training program open to ALL Puma FC players that are registered for the 2020/21 season. These sessions will take place on the following Wednesdays:

June 24th , July 1st , July 8th , July 15th , July 22nd

5:00pm-6:45pm: U8-U12 Boys and Girls

7:00pm-8:45pm: U13-U19 Boys and Girls

** Registration will be required and will open soon

** **Number of participants is limited due to Return To Play Guidelines, so ALL players MUST REGISTER.**

RECREATIONAL LEAGUE REGISTRATION:

Is currently open for all Pre K- 2nd grade players. Registration for players 3rd - 6th grade will be open by mid-June.

<http://pumafc.leagueapps.com/leagues/soccer/1601593-puma-fc-recreational-league--fall-2020>

PLAYER PLACEMENT AND TRYOUTS (2020/21 SEASON)

Puma FC and its staff are constantly evaluating players and we strive to always improve upon our player evaluation and player placement process. You can expect to hear from the player's current coach in the coming weeks to talk about your child's development and what you can expect from us moving forward. The coaches within our program have a deep understanding of their players abilities and we trust our coaches to make the right decisions when it comes to tryouts and player placement.

Kansas State Youth Soccer Association (KSYSA) have made several changes to the tryout process for this year following the shut-down of all soccer activities over the past few weeks.

On June 1st Puma FC is able to formally offer current Puma FC Players a roster spot for next season (2020/21). You will be able to accept and secure your child's spot before tryouts even take place the weekend of June 19th. Players outside our club must attend a tryout on June 19 (or beyond) in order to receive an offer to play for Puma FC.

ALL players attending Tryouts June 19-21 MUST register for the tryout process and at this time all players may be contacted by a Puma FC representative and formally offered a roster spot.

** Tryout Registration and Age Group Tryout Schedule to be announced soon

** **Number of participants is limited due to Return To Play Guidelines, so ALL players MUST REGISTER PRIOR TO JUNE 19**

LOOKING FORWARD

Puma FC will be working to keep all players in the soccer community safe by following all procedures as outlined by the different governing bodies. In addition, we will provide a commonsense approach to everything we do as always with the club member first and foremost in our thoughts.

KSYSA RETURN-TO-PLAY GUIDELINES

Kansas Youth Soccer Return-To-Play guidelines are in accordance with the State of Kansas "[Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas](#)" time frame and following its guidance through each phase of the plan beginning with Phase Two.

Many county and city governments have different dates, definitions requirements for group gatherings. KSYSA member clubs will need to understand their local policies and restrictions to insure staying in compliance with all government standards before returning to play.

The state of Kansas Ad Astra plan is the regulatory baseline in each phase of this framework, with Kansas local governments retaining authority to impose additional restrictions that are in the best interest of the health of their respective residents, consistent with the decentralized public health system outlined in Kansas law.

- Example: If a county decides to impose a local "Safer at Home" order beyond May 4th or impose additional restrictions not outlined in the Ad Astra plan, they are permitted to do so under certain conditions.
- If local governments choose NOT to impose any additional restrictions, then they are required to operate within the regulatory baseline of the Ad Astra Plan for each phase.

REGARDLESS of phase, the State Health Officer retains the authority to impose additional public health interventions in any area that contains an emergent and significant public health risk as determined by the Officer.

Specific business and activity restrictions in each phase were determined by assessing the contact intensity of the service provided, the number of contacts generally possible, and the ability to modify the risk of activities and services.

Throughout every phase of Ad Astra, the Kansas soccer community should:

- Maintaining social distancing
- Practice good hygiene

- Remain home when sick
- Follow isolation and quarantine orders issued by state or local health officers
- Use cloth face masks when leaving their homes
- Continue to clean and disinfect surfaces

Mass gathering limits for each phase were determined by considering the growing capacity of our public health infrastructure and a measured, gradual approach for loosening restrictions. The Governor reserves the right to loosen or strengthen these restrictions in subsequent phases based on the state's health progress.

Any specific guidelines NOT OUTLINED in the Ad Astra plan are the jurisdiction of each local government.

Ad Astra: Phase Two (2) Details & Application to Youth Soccer Begins May 22, 2020 as directed by Governor Executive Order 20-34. and if allowed by City, and/or County Governments.

State of Kansas Ad Astra Plan Phase Two Restrictions:

1. No mass gatherings of more than 15 individuals allowed
2. Face Mask or coverings are strongly encouraged in public settings
3. Maintain social distancing of 6 feet between participants
4. Any employee/volunteer (i.e. Coach, Manager, board member, etc.) exhibiting symptoms should be required to stay home.
5. Minimize or avoid nonessential travel

Kansas Youth Soccer Training Restrictions:

- Limited to 15 or less players/coaches/mangers, etc.
- Zero tolerance non-contact policy (coach/player or player/player)
- No spectators allowed
- Must maintain social distancing minimum of 6 feet between participants throughout training
- Practices must be conducted outdoors
- Any players or coaches with any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 are not permitted to participate
- Players/coaches must use hand sanitizer before, during breaks, and after practice
- Players are not allowed to carpool to and from practice
- Players should wear PPEs (masks) when not actively training
- No Congregating Policy for players or parents in parking lots, at drop off zones, at entrance / exit areas of facility, or before or after training session

Kansas Youth Soccer Members & Club Recommendations:

- Assign a COVID-19 Safety Officer who will communicate policy club-wide to coaching staff, parents and players, and provide regular updates and reminders
- Assign each team a coordinator to oversee compliance at the team level during training
- Provide coaches and team coordinators with PPEs (masks) and sanitizing products
- Communicate immediately with the local health department in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case within a team and cancel all training sessions for that team and any team associated with that coach.
- Schedule training sessions so that one team/group is able to conclude and depart prior to the next team / group arriving, avoiding high traffic times
- Establish designated drop off and pick up zones for each field

Kansas Youth Soccer Coach Guidelines:

- Wear PPEs (masks) at all times
- Limit equipment brought to practice, disinfecting all equipment before / after use
- Do not allow players to share pennies, other equipment, or water bottles
- Encourage players to bring their own balls to training
- Require parents to confirm their child is symptom free before attending training
- Report confirmed cases of COVID-19 to member organization immediately and cease trainings
- Compliance with all local and state guidelines

Kansas Youth Soccer's Introduction of Club, Coach, and Player Principles & Responsibilities

Club Responsibilities:

- Create and distribute protocols to its members.
- Contact insurers to ensure all coverages.
- Have an effective communication plan in place, identify strategies for working with public health to notify adult leaders, youth and their

families if the organization learns a participant or adult leader has developed COVID-19 and may have been infectious to others while at a youth activity, while maintaining confidentiality.

- Be sensitive and accommodating to parents that many be uncomfortable with returning to play too quickly. Have an action plan in place, in case of a positive test.
- Train and educate all staff to protocols and requirements, including state and local regulations, CDC recommendations and other necessary information.
- Be prepared to shut down and stop operations. Develop plans for temporary closure of indoor facilities and cancel outdoor activities or camps to properly disinfect and ensure other adult leaders or youth are not infected.
- Provide adequate field space for social distancing.
- Provide hand sanitizing stations and waste receptacles at fields.
- Develop a relationship and a dialog with health local officials. (Identify Risk Tolerance)

Coach Responsibilities:

- Ensure the health and safety of the Athletes.
- Inquire how the athletes are feeling, send them home should you believed they act or look ill.
- Follow all state and local health protocols.
- Ensure all athletes have their individual equipment (ball, water, bag etc.) Coach is the only person to handle cones, disk etc.
- All training outdoors and ensure social distancing per state or local health guidelines.
- Always wear a face mask, when not actively coaching, maintain social distance requirements from players based on state and local health requirements.
- Have fun, stay positive – players and parents are looking to you to stay calm, supportive and caring during this time.
- The use of scrimmage vest/Bibs is not recommended at this time.

Parent Responsibilities:

- Ensure child is healthy, check your child's temperature daily.
- Limited or no carpooling.
- Stay in car or adhere to social distance requirements, based on state and local health requirements, when at training wear mask if outside your car.
- Ensure child's clothing is washed after every training session.

- Ensure all equipment, cleats, ball, shin guards etc. are sanitized before and after every training.
- Notify club immediately if your child becomes ill for any reason.
- Do not assist coach with equipment before or after training.
- Be sure your child has necessary sanitizer with them at every training.

Players Responsibilities:

- Take temperature daily.
- Wash hands thoroughly before and after training.
- Bring and use, hand sanitizer with you to every training.
- Wear mask before and immediately after all training.
- Do not touch or share anyone else's equipment, water, snack or bag.
- Practice social distancing, place bags and equipment at least 6 feet apart.
- Wash and sanitize all equipment before and after every training.
- No group celebrations, no high 5's, Hugs, handshakes etc.