Last Thursday, June 18, the California Department of Public Health issued updated guidance for the use of face coverings that included more stringent guidance on wearing face masks when participating in outdoor recreational activities when it is not feasible for persons who are not from the same household to maintain 6 feet of distance.

Given this new guidance from the State, we felt we needed to update our camp policy on face masks to remain in compliance. Ultimately, we determined that **players should wear masks only when they are actively participating in contact drills that require them to come within 6 feet of teammates who are not from the same household, but when not actively engaged in the drill, players can and should remove their masks while waiting in line between turns while.** During these waiting periods, we are instead asking our coaches to encourage the kids to maintain 6 feet while waiting in line so that they do not need to wear a mask.

We recognize that the presence of masks during contact drills requires us to adjust our curriculum and the expectations we set for the players under these conditions. We have instructed our coaches to be mindful of this when planning and running camp sessions by modifying the intensity of drills, setting up exercises that will only require players to wear their masks for short work intervals followed by appropriate rest intervals where they can remove their masks and enforcing physical distancing while players are not actively engaged in contact drills in place of wearing masks.

Our camp guidelines have been developed to comply with state and local guidelines for day camps and youth sports. We will continue to evaluate and update our respective policies in accordance with changes to guidelines and recommendations from our governing organizations as new information continues to become available. We realize this can create some confusion as things may change week to week and we appreciate all of the support and flexibility we have seen from our players and parents as we navigate a return to more normal soccer activity.