

Response to COVID-19 in Soccer Phase 1.

RETURN TO PLAY - For more details please visit BC Soccer's website at:

<https://bcsoccer.net/return-to-play-information>

Return to Modified Training as per BC Soccer Guidelines:

https://bcsoccer.net/files/MemberService/ReturnToPlay/June_2_2020_Timelines_Member_Club_Recommendations_Return_To_Play_Phase1_Canada_Soccer_Approved.pdf

https://bcsoccer.net/files/MemberService/ReturnToPlay/June_2_2020_BC_Soccer_Return_to_Play_Phase_1_Technical_Resources_Canada_Soccer_Approved.pdf

https://bcsoccer.net/files/MemberService/ReturnToPlay/June_2_2020_Timelines_Participant_Recommendations_Return_To_Play_Phase1_Canada_Soccer_Approved.pdf

https://bcsoccer.net/files/MemberService/ReturnToPlay/BC_Soccer_Return_to_Play_Phase_1_Referee_Resources.pdf

BC Soccer's Basic Guidelines (condensed)

To see full Return to Play guidelines please visit this link below:

https://bcsoccer.net/files/MemberService/ReturnToPlay/June_2_2020_Timelines_Member_Club_Recommendations_Return_To_Play_Phase1_Canada_Soccer_Approved.pdf

ORGANIZING SOCCER ACTIVITY

Comply with the distancing measures and gathering restrictions issued by the **(provincial government health authorities)**, including arrival and departure of players (except for family members or persons residing in the same household).

- o 6 feet between people and gatherings of 50 people or less.
- Clearly layout, communicate, and mark player drop-off and pick-up protocol for arrival and departure.
- Limit your activities to small groups.
 - o Up to 50 people per regular 11 v 11 full size soccer field.
- Limit the number of team staff (coaches, managers, etc.) that are on-field.
- Consider the comfort level of all your volunteer coaches under the current situation.
- Include the daily requirement for all staff/coaches and participants to verbally confirm they are not experiencing any symptoms related to COVID-19.
- Make sure to stagger training session times between different groups to create a buffer between sessions and avoid an overlap of players on the field.
- Limit all occasions for gatherings.
- Communicate all hygiene measures in advance to all your players.
- Provide protective items required by the health authorities and ensure that each member of your staff washes their hands regularly.
- Participation should be limited to the ages and levels that understand and can adhere to the distancing measures and recommendations issued by the provincial government health authorities.
 - o Please see the Canada Soccer's Technical Committee "Age & Stage Considerations – Phase 1".
- All participants must be registered per the normal process under BC Soccer.
- From a process perspective, if conducting registration, do so only online (no cash).
- Ask parents and guardians to provide written consent for players U18 and younger authorizing them to participate in soccer activity.
- Keep a record of participants that are participating and when, so that you can contact them if needed, for example, if an infected person is identified.
- Adhere to ViaSport's Emergency Response and Outbreak Plan.

https://www.viasport.ca/sites/default/files/ReturntoSportGuidelines.pdf?utm_source=PSO+Connector&utm_campaign=f182dbdffe
[Sportscape 2019 COPY 01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9305c55a53-f182dbdffe-384327377](#)

- If operating referee specific training, guidelines must be adhered to.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Comply with the distancing measures and gathering restrictions issued by the (**provincial government health authorities**), including arrival and departure of players (except for family members or persons residing in the same household).
 - o 6 feet between people and gatherings of 50 people or less.
- Use cones and other equipment to ensure appropriate spacing is in place to support distancing.
- Remind coaches and players of the distancing requirements.
- Recommend that only one parent/guardian accompany their child/player to the session.

COACHING

- Comply with the distancing measures and gathering restrictions issued by the (**provincial government health authorities**), including arrival and departure of players (except for family members or persons residing in the same household).
 - o 6 feet between people and gatherings of 50 people or less.
- Position players in designated and well spaced-out stations/areas on the field.
- Do not let players manipulate the practice equipment.
- Coaches should take charge of set up and collecting equipment.
- Ensure players do not touch the ball with their hands, or head, and Goalkeepers must not share gloves.

EQUIPMENT

- Exercise caution with all equipment that is being used.
- Ask players to avoid touching equipment with their hands.
- Try to restrict soccer ball use, one per player or in small groups. Perhaps, if the session is solely individual skill development, each player could bring from home their own ball for them to solely use at the session.

- If equipment is manipulated by participants, hand sanitation and ball washing is required. PROVIDE A CLEAN AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The following guidance is being provided to ensure operational security procedures are in place during the crisis related to COVID-19. These procedures must also be well displayed and communicated to all users.

- Limit all occasions for gatherings by making all communal or public areas in your facility inaccessible.
- Delimit closed areas or the ones where a maximum number of people is required.
- Use markings on the ground to indicate proper distancing from staff.
- Frequently clean all surfaces, including counters, door handles, benches, toilets, etc.
- All chairs and tables in communal areas must be inaccessible or removed to avoid all gatherings.
- All doors accessible to the public must remain open to avoid contact with door handles.
- Soap or hand sanitizer must be made available to all people in various locations throughout your facility.
- Regularly remind and encourage people to wash their hands and adopt proper hygiene practices.
- Do not use any locker/change rooms and request all participants to change at home prior to and after sessions.
- Close all water fountains and ask that all players bring their own refreshments and do not share water bottles.

OTHER PRECAUTIONS

Should any member organization and/or affiliated club wishing to add stricter guidelines, measures, and precautions they are able to do so for the soccer activity they oversee within their specific organization.

CLOSING COMMENTS

BC Soccer thanks all members, affiliated clubs, and individuals across BC for your patience and for the work you are doing to support soccer and importantly for your understanding as we navigate through this challenging time. Of importance, if your organization does look to offer soccer activity in the short-term, we ask that you be respectful and responsible in doing so. Organizations that do offer soccer activity and do not comply with these recommendations and guidelines may be subject to sanctioning.

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS The following two appendices accompany this document: - Canada Soccer's "Age & Stage Considerations – Phase 1" - ViaSport's Emergency Response and Outbreak Plan

Following the appendices are the below supporting documents: - Technical resources providing sample sessions that fall within the recommendations and guidelines to support members and affiliated clubs that want to offer soccer activity. We encourage our members and affiliated clubs to use, tailor as appropriate, and share with each other to support soccer activity for your organizations.

- Timelines, recommendations, and guidelines for participants. **DISCLAIMER** It is important to note that this document is not a legal document and is not a substitute for actual legislation or orders of the Provincial Health Office. Links to third party web sites are provided solely for convenience.