



# ALBERTA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

*The Governing Body of Soccer in Alberta*

9023 111 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB Y5B 0C3

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## Return to Play – 2020-21 Indoor – Referee Considerations

### Referee Requirements

- Referees 14 years or older, who have completed an Entry Level course, may be used but they **MUST** be working with a referee 18 years or older. Referees younger than 18 years old may **NOT** be assigned to games where they are the only official. This is in alignment with our Return to Play Guidelines, which state that *“The activity must be overseen by a responsible person over the age of 18 who must ensure public health guidelines are adhered to”*.
- To be eligible, all referees will need have paid their annual registration fee, attend a mandatory online webinar for Indoor and submit a signed waiver to Alberta Soccer. Referees who submitted a waiver for outdoor will need to do so again as working conditions relating to cohorts have changed since outdoor.

### Eligible List of Officials

**Boarded Soccer** – Referees will appear on the Eligible List of Indoor Officials in Refcentre once they have completed all webinar and waiver requirements.

**Boardless Soccer** – A manual list will be sent out of referees who have completed all webinar and waiver requirements and updated once a week as necessary.

**Futsal** – A manual list will be sent out of referees who have completed all refresher, webinar and waiver requirements and updated once a week as necessary.

### Cohorts

For Indoor 2020-21, referees can be removed from the cohorts under the following conditions:

#### Boarded Soccer

- The referees and assistant referees do not need to be counted in the cohort numbers, as they will be trained to physically distance during play. If they are unable to physically distance for short periods (dealing with players, coaches etc.), they will be required to use a mask or buff.

#### Boardless Soccer

- If a two-referee system is used (see diagram), referees do not need to be counted in the cohort numbers as they will be physically distanced from players and benches. If they are unable to physically distance for short periods (dealing with players, coaches etc.), they will be required to use a mask or buff. Spectators will need to be located at least 4 meters away from the field to enable physical distancing from referees. This system may not be possible at all facilities.



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- If a single referee system is used, referees will need to be counted in the cohort numbers as they cannot maintain physical distancing.

## Futsal

- If the standard two-referee system is used, referees do not need to be counted in the cohort numbers, as they will be physically distanced from players. If they are unable to physically distance for short periods (dealing with players, coaches etc.), they will be required to use a mask or buff. Bench placement may need to be adjusted to enable physical distancing from referees.

## Game Sheets & Player Cards

In all games where the referee is not included in the cohort numbers, teams will check each other's player cards and then hand off the game sheets to the referee. Masks should be worn by both parties at this hand off. At the end of the game, the referee will record the score, scorers and any misconduct and hand the sheets off to the teams, again with masks worn. Referees may keep a copy of the relevant game sheet if there are any misconduct reports required.

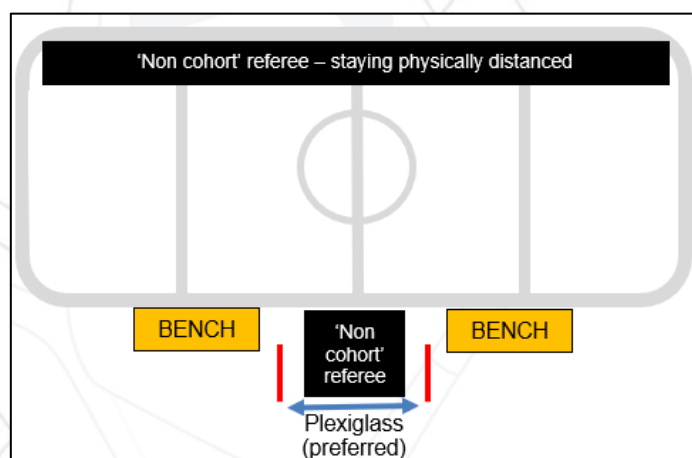
In games where the referee IS included in the cohort, the game sheet and player cards procedure will be as outlined on page 33 of the September 15<sup>th</sup> Return to Modified Games document.

## Referee Systems

The following referee systems are permitted:

### Boarded Soccer

- Standard system of Referee (field) and Assistant Referee (box) with duties as per the Rules of Indoor Soccer. Time penalties will be served by a player going to their own bench, unless the facility has provided a physical barrier that can be used in the referee box.
- Single Referee system (field), with no official in the box. In this system - there will be no 'stop time' in the last minute of each half, the score will not be displayed on the clock and there will be no time penalties 'served'. Players who are cautioned or sent off will have their offences recorded on the game sheet but will not serve any time penalty, just like outdoor soccer.



Two referee or single referee system for boarded soccer.

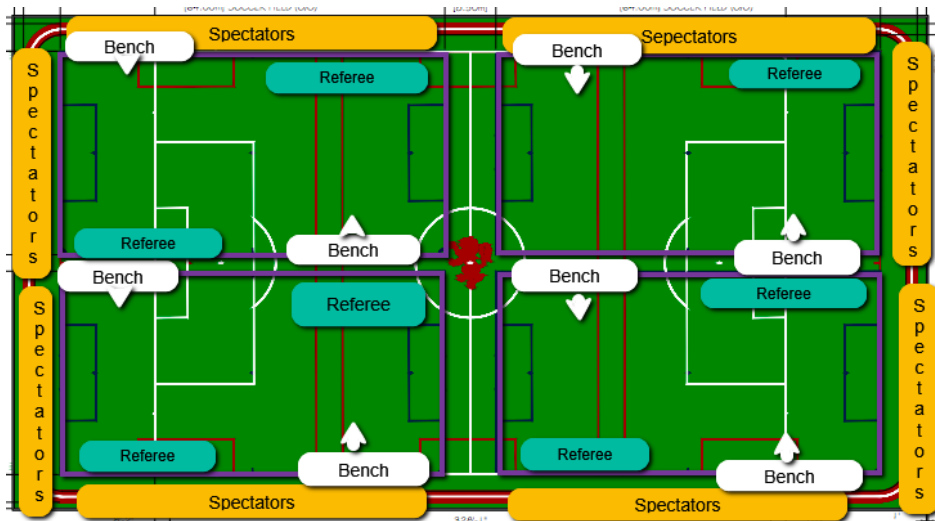
(non-cohort)

Note – if a single referee is used, they **MUST** be on the field.

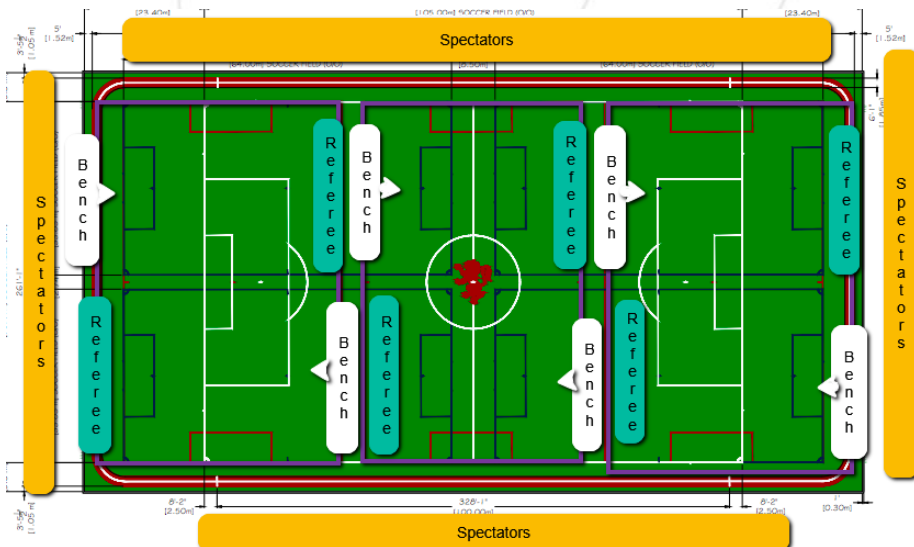


### Boardless Soccer

- Option 1 - Two referee system as per the following diagrams – under this system the referees are NOT considered part of the cohort. Note – this system may also be used for modified outdoor games.



Two referee system on 4 field layout (non-cohort)



Two referee system on 3 field layout (non-cohort)



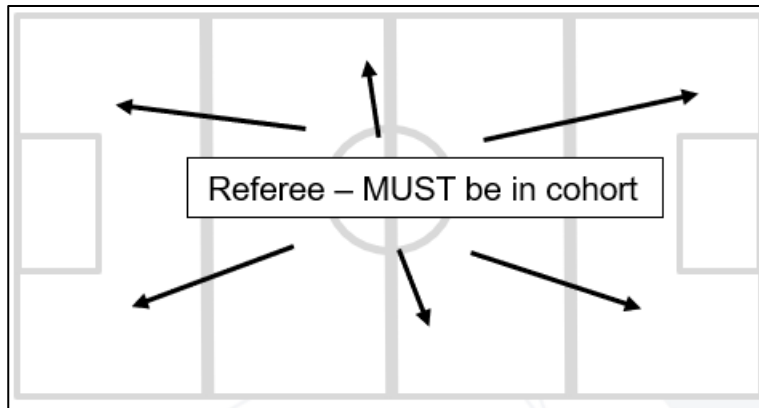
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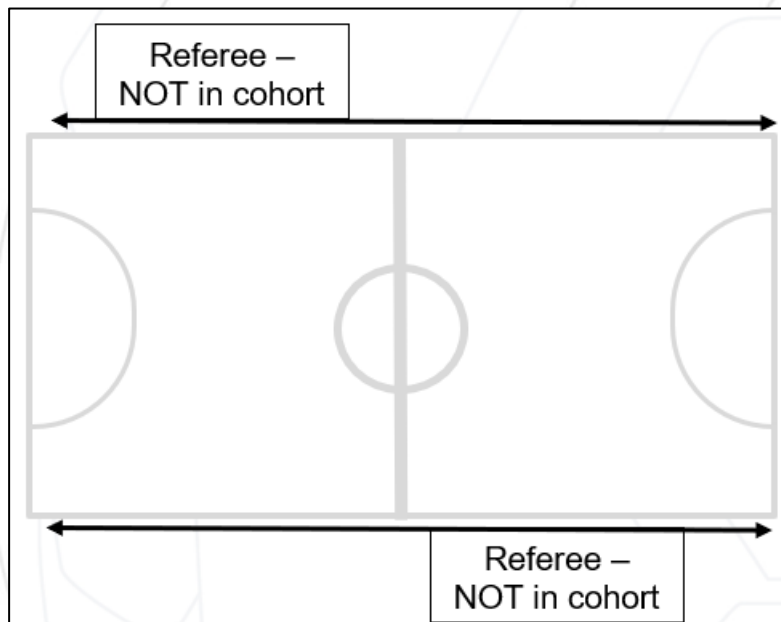
Option 2 - Single referee system with the referee on the field and using normal running patterns – under this system the referee IS part of the cohort, as physical distancing is not possible.



One referee system in boardless or modified outdoor games

**Futsal**

The standard two referee system should be used and the referees are NOT considered part of the cohort.



Standard two referee system in Futsal (non-cohort)



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## Referee Courses & Training

### Mandatory Indoor Refresher Webinar

All refresher webinar courses will be hosted online by Alberta Soccer. This will be for all formats – boarded, boardless and Futsal. There will be no in person offerings.

### Conversion Courses

An online Conversion course is being developed and would be hosted by Alberta Soccer. The demand for this will need to be determined, as most of the students in these courses are graduates of Spring Entry Level courses, which were not able to be held in 2020.

### Entry Level Courses

All Entry Level courses that are on hold in Refcentre will remain there for the time being, unless the host specifically cancels them. Alberta Soccer is not in favor of opening up these courses until the 'back to school' situation in the province has stabilized.

Options:

1. Hosts cancel their course(s) in Refcentre and administers any refunds etc.
2. Existing course is rescheduled for 2020 with online modules and 7-hour class/field session. This is dependent on – the stabilizing of the 'back to school' situation and the 'need' for such a course in your district or club. There needs to be work available for any graduates.
3. Existing course is rescheduled for 2021 once the pandemic situation at that time is known.

### Mini Referee Courses

As referees younger than 14 years old are not permitted in the Alberta Soccer Phase 2 Return to Play Plan, Mini Referee Courses will NOT be held until Spring 2021 at the earliest.

Options:

1. Hosts cancel their course(s) in Refcentre and administers any refunds etc.
2. Existing course is rescheduled for 2021 once the pandemic situation at that time is known.

## Rules of Play

Boarded – will follow the 2020-21 Rules of Indoor Soccer, with published adjustments for Covid 19.

Boardless – will follow 2020 Alberta Return to Modified Games rules, with published adjustments for Covid 19.

Futsal - will follow the 2020-21 Futsal Laws of the Game, with published adjustments for Covid 19.

*Updated: September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*