



## RETURN TO SOCCER - BEST PRACTICES GUIDELINES

Effective "March 3, 2022"

	Description / Application
<b>Permitted Activities</b> <b>(REQUIREMENTS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>INDOOR and OUTDOOR contact activities are permitted for games, scrimmages and contact play without on field restrictions.</b></li><li>- <b>All personnel and players on the field or on the bench must adhere to these requirements.</b></li></ul> <p>ALL activities and ALL Ages can continue without restrictions except MASK wearing is required off the field where required by municipalities.</p>
<b>Registration</b> <b>(REQUIREMENTS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- All Participants must be registered for the current season as per the established process with their Club/Community, District and Alberta Soccer. Participant is defined as player, coach, trainer, and/or referee.</li><li>- All Participants must sign the <a href="#">Informed Consent – Assumption of Risk Waiver (age of majority)</a> or for youth their parents / guardians must sign the <a href="#">Informed Consent – Assumption of Risk Waiver(youth)</a></li><li>- Prior to participating, Participants must be made aware and acknowledge that although exposure to COVID-19 is unlikely, it is possible, and Participants are participating voluntarily in Alberta Soccer activities with a foreknowledge of the risks.</li><li>- INDOOR and OUTDOOR guidance correlates to the season the team is registered in.</li></ul>
<b>Hygiene</b> <b>(REQUIREMENTS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Activity organizers must communicate appropriate hygiene measures for the activity in advance to all participants.</li><li>- No spitting, clearing of nasal passages, handshakes, high fives, chest bumps, etc. permitted.</li><li>- Pre-game and post-game handshakes should be replaced by a walk by, socially distanced, between the teams.</li></ul>
<b>Masks</b>	<p><b>INDOORS:</b> Masks are <b>mandatory</b> off the field where required by a municipality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>OUTDOORS:</b> Programming can proceed without restrictions; ASA Members are to be respectful of personal choice and comfort levels.</li></ul>
<b>Physical Distancing</b> <b>(BEST PRACTICE)</b>	<p><b>INDOOR:</b> Physical distancing of <b>2 metres</b> is recommended between all participants when not actively on the field of play which includes the bench area. Coaches/trainers may enter physical distancing space for <u>brief interactions</u> with participants to correct form or technique and provide guidance during games/training sessions</p> <p><b>OUTDOOR:</b> Training can continue without restrictions.</p>

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<b>Screening &amp; Response Plan</b> <b>(BEST PRACTICE)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>INDOOR:</b> Individuals exhibiting <a href="#">COVID-19 symptoms</a> may not participate in games or training.</li> <li>- <a href="#">Rapid Response plans</a> are required to ensure the safe isolation of and swift departure from the facility of a Participant who becomes sick (symptomatic) while participating in a group session.</li> <li>- <b>OUTDOOR:</b> Training can continue without restrictions</li> </ul>
<b>Equipment</b> <b>(BEST PRACTICES)</b>	<p>All shared equipment should be cleaned and sanitized before and after each group training session or game.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equipment cleaning is the responsibility of the home team when participating in games. Games balls should be sanitized before they are provided to the referee and sanitized during stoppages in play, if possible, including halftime.</li> <li>- Equipment including, but not limited to, balls, cones, pinnies (bibs), pop up goals and corner flags.</li> <li>- Recommend that one individual be assigned responsibility for management of equipment.</li> <li>- Goalkeeper gloves cannot be shared</li> </ul>
<b>Scheduling</b> <b>(BEST PRACTICES)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training sessions should be scheduled and approved by a Club, and/or District.</li> <li>- All <b>INDOOR</b> training schedules and attendance lists should be shared with Club and/or District for contact tracing purposes.</li> <li>- A training group must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two coaches (minimum) for all youth sessions and/or sessions where youth are present - both registered and meeting <b><i>minimum standards</i></b> outlined in the section “Coaches with players 18 Years and under”</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Games/Training must be scheduled to allow sufficient time between activities to allow for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the sanitization of all shared equipment,</li> <li>• the coach to wash or sanitize hands if participating in subsequent training sessions,</li> <li>• physical distancing of 2 meters to be maintained during entry &amp; exit of training/facility.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Travel &amp; Tournaments</b> <b>(REQUIREMENT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Travel within the province for games against registered opponents is allowed.</li> <li>- Travel out of the Province is subject to restrictions in both provinces and should be reviewed.</li> <li>- <b>INDOOR</b> Tournaments are permitted at all age groups</li> <li>- <b>OUTDOOR</b> Tournaments are allowed at all age groups.</li> <li>- Facility requirements <b>MUST</b> be adhered to as per below.</li> </ul>
<b>Referees</b> <b>(REQUIREMENT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>ALL</b> Interaction with referees should be limited and kept to 2 meters distancing at all times with the following exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pre-game exchange of game sheets.</li> <li>- In-game situations like wall management, free kick management, drop ball management or other management decisions as determined by the Referee.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- This does not include players moving past the Referee in the run of play to challenge for the ball, mark a player or other natural movements during open play.</li> <li>- Any participant who intentionally breach the 2 meters distance during the game to interact with the referee will be subject to the appropriate discipline action including warnings, Yellow Cards and Red Cards or <a href="#">ASA Discipline</a> as applicable.</li> </ul>

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<b>Coaches with players 18 years and under</b> <b>(REQUIREMENT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A minimum of two coaches <b>18 yrs+</b> must be present and participating in the group. All coaches <b>MUST</b> have a <b>valid CPIC</b> including Vulnerable Sector Search on file with their district / club.</li> <li>- It is recommended that at least one coach per group be trained, at minimum, at the appropriate NCCP Coaching level.</li> </ul> <p>For the safe training of players under the age of 18 years, the following safety requirements <b>must</b> be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Rule of Two</a> maintained at all training sessions</li> <li>• Including at least one coach who is of the same gender as the players</li> </ul>
<b>Players and Team Staff</b> <b>(BEST PRACTICES)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No loitering before or after games / training sessions for <b>INDOOR</b>.</li> <li>- No interacting with players or coaches not in your group while at the field/facility.</li> <li>- Arrive no more than 10-15 minutes before access to field, dressed and ready to participate.</li> </ul>
<b>Spectators &amp; Gatherings</b> <b>(BEST PRACTICES)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spectators are permitted within the limits of gathering size, physical distancing requirements and subject to any additional facility and/or program restrictions.</li> <li>- No loitering before or after games / training sessions for <b>INDOOR</b>.</li> <li>- Spectator areas must allow for 2 metres distance to be maintained from players, coaches, and referees AND allow 2 metres distance between spectators from different households.</li> <li>- The activity must comply with current <a href="#">gathering restrictions</a> issued by Alberta Health Services.</li> </ul>
<b>Facility</b> <b>(REQUIREMENT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All games/ training sessions must also adhere to safety protocols if implemented by the facility.</li> <li>- All facility rules must be followed, including capacity limits, to meet Government of Alberta Standards.</li> <li>- <b><i>This document is supplementary and should be viewed as additional guidance to support facility and regional requirements.</i></b></li> <li>- <b>“Each facility and jurisdiction can determine the entry requirements to play sport and the restrictions may differ at each facility”</b></li> </ul>
<b>Non- Compliance</b> <b>(REQUIREMENT)</b>	<p>As per <a href="#">ASA Rules &amp; Regulations</a> the following sanctions may be applied for non-compliance:  Appendix C:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">5.2 Breach of ASA Health &amp; Safety Protocols – including but not limited to the Covid-19 Safety Guidelines, Canada Soccer Lightning Policy, Field Safety Checklist and Air Quality Guidelines.</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">a. Individuals</p> <p style="padding-left: 120px;">1. 1st Offence Minimum 1 Month and up to 1 Year Suspension</p> <p style="padding-left: 160px;">1. Must include a minimum \$100 Fine, and \$500 Bond</p> <p style="padding-left: 120px;">2. 2nd Offence Lifetime Ban</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">b. Clubs</p> <p style="padding-left: 120px;">1. 1st Offence Warning</p> <p style="padding-left: 120px;">2. 2nd Offence \$1,000 Fine and;</p> <p style="padding-left: 160px;">1. Discipline Hearing for consideration of sanctions against the Club, Club Leadership (President, ED, GM etc) and/or Board of Directors</p>

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	<p>3. 3rd Offence - \$2,000 Fine, Removal from Provincial Competitions for 1 season and;</p> <p>1. Discipline Hearing for consideration of sanctions against the Club, Club Leadership (President, ED, GM etc) and/or Board of Directors</p>

**CONTENT DISCLAIMER**

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak is an ongoing, rapidly developing situation. Alberta Soccer encourages its membership to monitor publicly available information and to always follow federal, provincial and local health organization guidance and government mandates. This information is intended to assist Alberta Soccer members with guidance when dealing with return to play guidelines related to COVID-19.

The information provided herein in part is obtained from publicly available sources, including federal and provincial governmental entities and other leading trade associations and consultants. This information may vary and will be updated depending upon current situations.

Further, the information contained herein are recommendations and protocols only and should not be construed as legal advice on any subject matter.