



ALBERTA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

The Governing Body of Soccer in Alberta

9023 111 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5B 0C3

Ph: 780 474 2200
Fax: 780 474 6300



RETURN TO SOCCER WEBINAR - FAQ'S

RELATED TO CANADA SOCCER, ALBERTA SOCCER AND/OR GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA REQUIREMENTS

Q: The CSA risk assessment tool is great but why does it have to extend down to each adult team. The tool is what drives mitigation and the Provincial return to play protocols which then should simply be mandated down to districts and in turn mandated to teams.

A: While technically the tool was designed for clubs and organizations to assess their 'return' plans, we feel it can still be utilized by individual 'teams' to do the same. It was created to allow return plans to be self-assessed and evaluated and to provide opportunities for organizations to understand both their level of risk in their province/territory but also the various mitigation strategies available to them.

What we also wanted to do was go beyond simply mandating what we felt clubs needed to do. Like the old saying, "Give a man fish/teach a man to fish", we felt there was more value in having clubs craft their own plans, with guidance, to reflect their local situations and again, self-assess that plan using the tool. One of the challenges we (Canada Soccer) faced in walking back the national suspension of soccer activities - and it is the same in some of the larger provinces like Alberta - was the fact that the risks and in some cases the restrictions were different in some regions. Therefore creating a one-sized fits all return plan was problematic.

Before organizations can access the tool they need to acknowledge that they have both read and agree to their provincial return plan as well as have a plan of their own that has integrated the provincial plan into their local one. So we've tried to accomplish both - insist on elements that are required to be included phase by phase, but also create a self-assessment process that might provide one or two additional mitigation strategies/elements that could further reduce organizational risk and protect their members.

Q: As an ASA member being in British Columbia do, we have to meet minimum requirements for both provinces?

A: The BC health authorities will be the determining factor. Please complete the risk assessment tool and then you can resume activities that follow both BC Soccer and local health guidelines.

Q: Aren't the GoA and AHS the "experts"? If they say it's OK, how is ASA positioned better to make determinations? Sounds like the insurance companies are driving ASA decisions.

A: Adam Berti – BOD: We are evaluating guidelines and working to implement what's best for our members and the association. Similar to the government allowing restaurants and hair

salons to open, the government is not forcing them to open. In Calgary, the ones that just followed blindly and opened were shocked to find they couldn't open and had wasted money on food. We're not coming up with our own restrictions, we're making sure that the information is clear and understandable for all members.

Q: Could you please explain how the following statement on page 5 of the Return to Play Guidelines will work,

A: "Member clubs/zones will complete the Risk Management Tool developed by Canada Soccer, receive feedback on identified risks, and approval from Alberta Soccer and their home District to proceed"?

RELATED TO PHASES

Q: Are we in Phase 1 or 2 ASA by June 12? When will Phase 2 be in effect?

A: Phase 1 is in effect as of June 12th. Phase 2 expected to be on or around June 19th, 2020

Q: When do you expect the Phase 2 document be available? Will it be in time for us to plan for a Phase 2 start on June 19th?

A: Unfortunately, Alberta Soccer will need some extra time to properly develop protocols to enter in to Phase 2 and we expect to get approval to present to the Membership by June 18th, 2020.

Q: As much as we would love to go back to normal stage in soccer, why are we rushing into phase 2 without concluding phase 1 and procedural period of two weeks before moving to the phase 2?

A: Alberta Soccer is responding to Membership requests and AHS is introducing Cohort rules to allow us to enter Phase 2.

Q: How is soccer phase 2 linked to Provincial phase 2, if at all?

A: All Alberta Soccer phases are linked to the **Guidelines** put in place by Alberta Health Services not necessarily the Phase.

Q: Will we have suspension of the soccer activities AGAIN if there is an COVID case (or cases) with any of the soccer participants within Alberta after June 12th?

A: The decision to Progress or Regress in the Return to Soccer Plan is dependent on Alberta Health Services.

RELATED TO PROTOCOLS

Q: With Phase 2 starting on Friday can we start to train our team the following day as long as social distancing and cleaning protocols are followed throughout the session?

A: Phase 2 has been cleared to start on June 19th, 2020

Q: Can I assume TeamSnap or equivalent will suffice for contact tracing?

A: Yes an online tracing app can be used as per the information required by Alberta Health Services.

Q: Do parents have to be in attendance when completing the health checklist for younger kids?

A: Parents must be in attendance to correctly answer questions on behalf of younger children.

Q: The ASA Phase 1 plan says distance to 2 metres. No heads, hand or chest on the ball. No goalkeepers. The Government announcement yesterday says a cohort of 50, with distancing where possible. Which one are clubs supposed to be following?

A: The ASA Phase 1 Plan until the Phase 2 Plan comes in to effect.

Q: Would we have to expand the 2m distance if players start to breathe heavily, of so, is there a recommendation of distance?

A: Not necessary at this point.

Q: Do parents have to be in attendance when completing the health checklist for younger kids?

A: Parents must be in attendance to correctly answer questions on behalf of younger children.

RELATED TO SYMPTOMS

Q: If one of my players had COVID a couple of months ago but has since quarantined, can they practice?

A: If they have recovered from COVID-19 and have been given the all clear then yes they can practice.

Q: Are players with pre-existing conditions i.e. asthma, allergies excluded until Phase 2 or 3? If they get symptoms (runny nose, cough) should they then be told to stay away until 14 days after symptoms are gone? Same with coughs related to a workout, weather etc. Hard to monitor.

A: Pre-existing conditions will not eliminate them from participation rather unusual symptoms will. A family decision should be made regarding Asthma or other similar pre-existing conditions. If the condition is under control it should not preclude players from participation.

Q: How about people who suffers seasonal allergies, symptoms resemble COVID such as runny nose - should we ask them to wear face mask or are they not allowed on site?

A: Pre-existing conditions will not eliminate them from participation rather unusual symptoms will. A family decision should be made regarding Asthma or other similar pre-existing conditions. If the condition is under control it should not preclude players from participation

Q: What is the probability that COVID will be spread even with all the protocols in place?

A: There is always a risk that there could be spread but the risks should be mitigated as much as possible by adhering to the protocols.

RELATED TO WAIVERS/DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE/LIABILITY

Q: Should waivers be signed before training? is there a generic waiver available that would cover organizers?

A: Yes waivers need to be signed prior to participating. A generic waiver has been provided to all Districts.

Q: If the waiver is online will a checkbox indicating "I agree" suffice or is a written signature required?

A: Steven Indig - Sport Law & Strategy Group - I would say that is the minimum standard...best practice would be a unique signature either by mouse or signature upload

Q: Do online portals where the user must sign in with a password and an IP is tracked add additional protection?

A: Steven Indig - Sport Law & Strategy Group - For sure that helps...we want to be able to prove they executed and how executed if possible. You have to remember that all of this is really relevant before a judge, a signature (electronic or not) is easier to argue than log-in and password. The recommendation is that the signature be as distinctive as possible.

Q: Could you please explain how the waivers should be signed? I read that for instance CMSA require parents to sign the waiver and Declaration of acknowledgement electronically. If so, when will these documents be available to sign?

A: The waivers are now with the districts and some districts are creating online waivers.

Q: You mentioned that all parties involved should be named on risk documents (waivers & notification of compliance). ASA sent out these documents for us to use as part of our registration process specific to the COVID 19 risks. Should clubs and Districts be adding their names to these documents? They are not on the documents presently.

A: Best practice, would be to add the district and club name if possible.

Q: What protection/how does the corporate shield apply for an individual who registered a team - usually adult, that isn't incorporated?

A: If a league is offering adult programming, the teams would be registered with the league and covered by the league's corporate shield. Basically the teams would be members of the league.

Q: Can you please repeat the 4 pillars of the breach of standard of care?

A: Written rules, trends in the industry, gut (common sense), case law.

Q: Are clubs covered through ASA insurance for COVID?

A: This is a very complex question with very many potential outcomes. Even though there is not an exclusion on the insurance policy we still do not know the outcomes in the world of a COVID liability claim. Our insurance company that is providing coverage has not excluded yet, but if guidelines are not followed as set out by ASA and approved by the insurer then they believe this is a "material change in risk" and then can jeopardize coverage for the entire association for COVID. The way that it would work is that the insurer would provide legal defense for the person requiring to be defended, but they would go through the proper process to see where the potential could be for contracting the disease.

Q: If we do not want to jeopardize coverage for all of ASA, should ASA not provide clear and explicit training rules for all clubs? Rather than leaving it up to each club/academy to decide which training or risk they can tolerate?

A: Alberta Soccer has provided sample sessions that recognize the need for Physical Distancing. Clubs should develop practices that are of a similar type set-up to recognize the Physical Distancing Requirements.

Q: Is the COVID insurance coverage only till September when it renews, at which time an exclusion will be applied?

A: That is correct most likely an exclusion on COVID-19 will be applied in September.

RELATED TO PLAYERS

Q: Are callups/trialists permitted in cohorts or for training?

A: Call-ups and trialists for Stage 2 Modified Games would defeat the purpose of the Cohort concept, in that the participants would need to Self-isolate for 14 days before being allowed to change Cohorts.

Q: So, we do not have to have U5 and U7 social distance in phase 2?

A: That is correct Cohorts will need to be formed.

RELATED TO AGE RESTRICTIONS

Q: What is the minimum age that can be included in the Phase 2 return to play plan?

A: U5 players

RELATED TO COHORTS/COHORT PARTICIPANTS

Q: What do we do with players that play multiple sports and train in a different cohort group?

A: Parents/Players will need to select the Sport Cohort group that the player wishes to participate in.

Q: 50 people cohort family per player, what would happen if they want to play with their team and also join their academy? Can we make sure to social distance every player so they can train with both their teams and academy?

A: Players are only allowed to be a member of 1 cohort group. Players can only participate in an Academy or another sport if they adhere to Physical Distancing in those activities.

Q: Can a single household have two players in different cohorts (i.e. U10 and U7) or do they have to be in the same cohort? Does this that apply to adult soccer too?

A: A single household can have different players in different cohorts. Cohorts apply to adult soccer as well.

Q: If each player is allowed 50 people in their cohort family circle, can the player play for their club as well as their academy as long as they social distance safely?

A: Players are only allowed to be a member of 1 cohort group. Players can only participate in an Academy or another sport if they adhere to Physical Distancing in those activities.

Q: Can 2 U15 teams of 18 each train together and be considered one cohort?

A: Yes two teams of 18 can each train together and be considered one cohort.

Q: If your cohort is limited to 50 and each of those people have their own cohort of 50 how do you expect to limit contact? You can't expect people to keep their contacts to only soccer people.

A: The guidelines Alberta Soccer is putting in place from Alberta Health Services are specific to Sports Cohorts.

Q: I coach three teams. Will I have to give up two of the teams because of the Cohort rule?

A: Coaches may coach more than one cohort, as long as they do not belong to a cohort. They must physical distance if coaching more than one cohort.

Q: Do cohorts from phase 1 have to stay together in phase 2?

A: Cohorts should only be formed as of Phase 2 and should stay within that cohort for the duration of Stage 2. If cohorts are switched, the participants should quarantine for 14 days in between.

Q: I play men's will I have to also give that up as well?

A: You can play in a cohort as long as you physical distance while coaching.

Q: So, if you're training as a group in phase 1, you are not a cohort and you can move to a cohort in stage 2?

A: The training group in Phase 1 is not a cohort as they have been training while maintaining Physical Distancing.



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RELATED TO TRAINING/GAMES

Q: Are scrimmages permitted?

A: Scrimmages are not permitted in Phase 1 and are only permitted within cohorts in Phase 2.

Q: Can Provinces make some temporary laws of game changes in interest of safety such as kick ins instead of throw ins?

A: For small-sided games Provinces can make temporary Laws of the Game changes but for 11-a-side games permission from Canada Soccer would be required.

Q: I have seen teams already practicing, I thought there is NO training?

A: Teams should not be practicing until after June 12th, 2020 following Physical Distancing Protocols

Q: What is the modified game we keep referring to?

A: Modified games in Phase 2 will be amongst Cohort Groups.

RELATED TO CAMPS

Q: Why are camps limited to 10 players when training sessions can be up to 25 on a full-sized pitch? Please also clarify if it is 10 players per group in camps or 10 players total?

A: Alberta Health Services Guidelines on Camps had an initial cap on groups of 10