



PHASE 2 - RETURN TO MODIFIED GAMES- FAQ

As of September 29, 2020

This FAQ was developed in support of Alberta Soccer's *Phase 2 – Return to Modified Games* (RTMG) which are the minimum standards required for a return to any sanctioned soccer activity in Alberta.

The RTMG and this supporting FAQ will be updated, subject to changes made by federal, provincial, local health authorities and/or Canada Soccer.

As per the RTMG plan, should any member organization and/or affiliated club wish to add stricter guidelines, measures, and/or precautions they are able to do so for the soccer activity they oversee within their specific organization.

1 COHORTS/COHORT PARTICIPANTS

1.1 CAN INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATE IN MORE THAN 1 SPORT COHORT?

Yes, but current AHS guidelines state that individuals should limit the number of cohorts they participate in.

Individuals should make themselves aware of the responsible management of cohort participation by familiarizing themselves with [AHS Guidance for Cohorts](#).

Alberta Soccer strongly recommends that organizations have a response plan prepared for how they would manage a possible change in AHS guidelines that would require individuals to only participate in one sport cohort.

1.2 CAN MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS CHOOSE TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF COHORTS THEIR MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN?

Yes. Member organization and/or affiliated club may add stricter guidelines, measures, and/or precautions for the soccer activity they oversee within their specific organization.

1.3 CAN A TEAM BE INVOLVED IN MORE THAN ONE COHORT / MINI-LEAGUE AT THE SAME TIME?

No, unless a 14-day cohort/mini-league break is observed as teams that belong to other mini-leagues should not play each other.

1.4 CAN EXHIBITION GAMES BE SCHEDULED BETWEEN TEAMS FROM DIFFERENT COHORTS / MINI-LEAGUES?

No, see response in 1.2

1.5 DO COHORTS HAVE TO STAY TOGETHER FOR THE DURATION OF PHASE 2?

Cohorts / mini-leagues may be changed during Phase 2 **IF** a two-week cohort break is observed **AND** the new cohort / mini-league being formed is not for a short-period (i.e. weekend).

1.6 CAN 2 TEAMS OF 18 PLAYERS TRAIN TOGETHER AND BE CONSIDERED ONE COHORT?

Yes, two teams of 18 can each train together and be considered one cohort. The maximum number of participants in a cohort is 50. Sport cohort teams cannot participate in more than one cohort / mini league.

1.7 ARE WE ABLE TO BRING OUTSIDE GROUPS IN TO WORK WITH OUR COHORT?

Yes, if the individual(s) from the outside group maintain physical distancing of 2 metres at all times. They should be required to have a mask and practice hand hygiene in the event that they need to temporarily interact with the cohort group at a distance of less than 2 metres.

1.8 IS A COACH REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CALCULATION OF THE COHORT / MINI-LEAGUE COUNT (50 PERSONS MAXIMUM)?

Yes, if the coaches consistently and routinely engage with participants at a distance of less than 2 metres.

No, if the coach primarily interacts with individuals/team at a distance of 2 metres or greater. Note, these individuals are required to wear a mask and perform proper hand hygiene if it becomes necessary to temporarily interact with cohorting participants at a distance of less than 2 metres.

2 GAME DAY

2.1 IF THE COACH IS NOT PART OF THE COHORT, CAN THEY BE ON THE BENCH WITH THE PLAYERS DURING A GAME?

Yes, **IF** the coach consistently and routinely engages with participants at a distance of greater than 2 metres during all other activities, the coach may be on the bench with the team **IF** the coach (1) wears a mask, (2) practices hand hygiene, and (3) is separated from the players in the bench area as much as possible.

For example, within an indoor boarded facility, the coach should stand at the opposite end of the bench (box referee side) while the players remain at the other side.

2.2 IF A PLAYER IS INJURED DURING PLAY, CAN THE COACH OR OTHER IDENTIFIED ADULT ON THE ROSTER GO ONTO THE FIELD OF PLAY?

Yes, if the coach or identified adult on the roster is part of the sport cohort AND the referee has signaled them onto the field.

Yes, if the coach or identified adult who is NOT part of the sport cohort **wears a mask and practices proper hand hygiene** AND the referee has signaled them onto the field.

3 CALLUPS/TRIALISTS

3.1 ARE CALLUPS/TRIALISTS PERMITTED IN SPORT COHORTS TEAMS / MINI-LEAGUES?

No, call-ups and trialists for Stage 2 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.

Guest players who are duly registered (including waiver) for Phase 1 programs (physically distanced training) would be permitted as physical distancing is being maintained in these programs.

Trialist / Call-up players who are members of the same sport cohort (one of the 50 individuals assigned to a sport cohort/mini league) may be used.

3.2 ARE CALLUPS / TRIALISTS PERMITTED TO BE INVITED TO TRAINING?

No, call-ups and trialists for Stage 2 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.

Yes, if the trialist / call-up player is a member of the same sport cohort (one of the 50 individuals assigned to a sport cohort/mini league) may be used.

Yes, if the training session is physically distanced as per Phase 1 programs.

4 TRAINING

4.1 MY TEAM IS ONLY TRAINING THIS WINTER WITHIN MY CLUB ENVIRONMENT. CAN WE ARRANGE SCRIMMAGES AGAINST OTHER TEAMS IN OUR CLUB THIS WINTER?

Yes, if your club forms an internal sport cohort within your club. Cohort / mini-league rules will apply such as, a maximum of 50 individuals per sport cohort and a two-week cohort break required if any changes to the cohort are made.

5 WAIVERS

5.1 SHOULD WAIVERS BE SIGNED BEFORE PARTICIPATION IN A PHASE 2 PROGRAM?

Yes, waivers **MUST** be signed prior to participating. A generic waiver has been provided to all Districts.

6 CONTACT TRACING / HEALTH SCREENING

6.1 CAN AN APP BE USED FOR CONTACT TRACING AND/OR HEALTH SCREENING?

Yes, so long as the records are traceable. Organization must be able to access a record that indicates the Daily Screening was done prior to attending the activity in the event that this information is required by AHS investigators during contact tracing.

6.2 DO PARENTS HAVE TO BE IN ATTENDANCE WHEN COMPLETING THE HEALTH CHECKLIST FOR YOUNGER KIDS?

Yes, children and youth will need a parent to assist them when completing the screening tool.

6.3 THE FACILITY MY TEAM PLAYS IN CONDUCTS HEALTH SCREENING AND / OR CONTACT TRACING, DO WE AS A TEAM HAVE TO DO OUR OWN CONTACT TRACING AND / OR HEALTH SCREENING?

Yes, contact tracing and health screening records cannot be delegated to a facility. In the event of an AHS investigation, the mini-league coordinator must be able to provide these records upon request. AHS investigators will not call a facility when completing an investigation at a team/mini-league level.

7 SYMPTOMS, RESPONSES, POSITIVE TESTS

7.1 ARE PLAYERS WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS I.E. ASTHMA, ALLERGIES ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE? IF THEY GET SYMPTOMS (RUNNY NOSE, COUGH) SHOULD THEY THEN BE TOLD TO STAY AWAY UNTIL 14 DAYS AFTER SYMPTOMS ARE GONE?

Pre-existing conditions will not eliminate them from participation, rather atypical/unusual symptoms would. 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.



7.2 IF ONE OF MY PLAYERS HAD COVID A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO BUT HAS SINCE QUARANTINED AND HAS NO MORE SYMPTOMS, CAN THEY PRACTICE?

Yes, the isolation period for an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 is for 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.

See: [AHS Guidelines for Isolation Requirements](#)

7.3 IF SOMEONE WITHIN A COHORT SHOWS SYMPTOMS, DOES THE REST OF THE COHORT NEED TO STOP PARTICIPATION?

Provided that the AHS Guidance is followed, there is no need to cancel an activity, or postpone the undertaking of a cohort, in the event that an individual becomes sick. It is important that all cohorts keep daily program attendance to share with AHS if tracing is required.

7.4 IF SOMEONE WITHIN A COHORT TESTS POSITIVE DOES THE COHORT NEED TO STOP PARTICIPATION?

Yes, if AHS investigators contact the sport cohort / mini-league and require that the group isolate for a determined period.

No, if AHS investigators do not contact the sport cohort / mini league.

As per AHS guidelines, if an attendee tests positive, AHS will only request information about the attendee's participation in sport, physical activity or recreation if it is deemed that a potential exposure is likely to have occurred during such activity.

When interviewing a person who has tested positive, AHS public health investigators will determine if there are close contacts that should be made aware/notified based on the period of infectivity and the organization's compliance with public health guidance.

This might involve a call to the team representatives or players, but only if necessary.

It is important that all cohorts keep daily program attendance to share with AHS if tracing is required.

7.4.1 IF an attendee voluntarily reports to their mini-league coordinator that they have tested positive for Covid-19, Alberta Soccer recommends that AHS (811) be contacted for any additional instructions.

Note: member organization and/or affiliated clubs are permitted to add stricter guidelines, measures, and/or precautions for the soccer activity they oversee within their specific organization. In the event of a voluntary report of a positive Covid-19 test, a member organization may decide to temporarily cease team / mini-league activity without an AHS investigator contacting the group as part of their response plan.



8 FACILITIES

Establishing a single protocol that captures the variances of indoor facilities across the province is not feasible.

Individuals / teams must follow the individual safety protocols in place at the facilities they access. Due to the varied sizes and layouts of facilities, they may have different guidelines for areas such as but not limited to;

- arrival times, loitering restrictions, spectator management, concessions, etc.

9 REFEREES

9.1 SEE THE [INDOOR REFEREE GUIDELINES](#)