

2021 Covid Protocols

- Rules of Play – Modifications
- Game Sheet and Player Card Check
- Players Respecting 2 Metres Distance
- Referee Pre-game Script

Rules of Play - Modifications

- Spitting AT any person will remain a sending off offence, as per the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- For all other types of spitting, if a player, substitute or team official is seen to be spitting or clearing nasal passages on or around the field of play, or if a goalkeeper is seen to be spitting on their gloves:
 - The first incident will result in a verbal warning to the individual.
 - The second incident by that same person will result in a Yellow Card (Caution) for Unsporting Behavior.
 - The third incident by the same person will result in a second Yellow Card (Caution) and therefore a Red Card and dismissal from the game.

Rules of Play - Modifications

- Yelling or shouting at ANY person will be a minimum YELLOW CARD and, at the referee's discretion may be a RED CARD if considered excessive. This does not include yelling instructions etc., which are a normal part of soccer, but should be used when the yelling is considered a health risk under COVID-19.
- If there is a physical altercation involving no more than two players, those players will receive a RED CARD and be required to leave the field.

Rules of Play - Modifications

- If there is a physical altercation involving more than two players, the game may be terminated.
- The game may be – stopped, suspended or terminated by the referee for any breach of the requirements of the Return to Play plan by participants or spectators. In the case of spectators, the referee will work in conjunction with the team officials to resolve any such situation.

Game Sheet and Player Card Procedures

Prior to the match.

- The game sheets will be presented to the referee with as little interaction at less than 2 metres as possible
- If player cards are required to be shown to the referee, they will be shown by a team official, with the player being checked maintaining 2 metres physical distance.
- Both parties will wear a face mask or buff at this time
- Referees will NOT retain player cards. If cards are needed after the match to be submitted to the league (red cards e.g.), a team official will provide any such cards to the referee. If the cards are laminated or plastic, they should be sanitized

Game Sheet and Player Card Procedures

After the match.

- The referee will complete the game sheets for each team, which will then be submitted by either the referee or the teams, as per each league's normal procedures.
- Both parties **MUST** wear a face mask during this procedure.

Players Respecting 2 metres distance

To provide a degree of protection to all participants, an amendment to the Alberta Soccer Discipline Policy has been approved by the Board of Directors.

Overview

Alberta Soccer provides the following information to clarify the new expectation that players will not intentionally enter within 2 meters distance of a Match Official (Referee) for any reason.

Players Respecting 2 metres distance

Clarifications

- This includes but is not limited to discussing, disputing, or arguing decisions of the Match Official.
- Providing game sheets, game balls and other materials pre or post game should be done with both parties wearing a mask
- This does not include moving past the Match Official in the run of play to challenge for the ball, mark a player or other natural movements during open play.
- The Match Official will remind both teams of the expectations for distancing during the pre-game speech

Players Respecting 2 metres distance

The Match Official will be instructed to follow an escalation protocol;

- Warning, if a player enters the 2 meter distance intentionally
- If the player stops but does not back-up in a reasonable time it would be Yellow Card for USB
- If the player does not stop and continues to close the space the official could give a straight Red Card for OIAL OR if the player, after given the first yellow continues to stay within the space a second Yellow Card could be given for USB to cause a Red Card.
- A verbal warning is not required if the Match Official deems the initial breach to be an unsporting (Yellow) or Abusive / Excessive (Red) breach of the 2 Meter Distancing rule

Referee Pre-game Script

Welcome to the game!

Even though we are now under less restrictions, we are still taking Covid precautions. Please ensure that your teams follow precautions that have been sent to you by your leagues.

- Of particular importance is the requirement for players NOT to be deliberately any closer to the referee than 2 meters, other than in the normal course of play.
 - A verbal warning, if a player enters the 2 meter distance intentionally
 - If the player stops but does not back-up in a reasonable time it would be Yellow Card for Unsporting Behaviour
 - If the player does not stop and continues to close the space the official could give a straight Red Card for OIAL OR if the player, after given the first yellow continues to stay within the space a second Yellow Card could be given for USB to cause a Red Card.

Do you have any questions?



ALBERTA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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