



RETURN-TO-SOCCER GENERAL GUIDANCE

The Alberta Soccer *Return to Soccer Plan* is a group of documents developed in alignment with Alberta Health guidelines to support the safe return of soccer activities as permitted through the government of Alberta. This document is meant to assist Alberta Soccer members in understanding their role and responsibilities in providing a reasonable standard of care while facilitating soccer programming to their registrants, coaches, volunteers, and staff.

Requirement	Description / Application
Conditions	<p>ALL conditions must be fully met and maintained for soccer activities to be considered sanctioned by Alberta Soccer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Alberta Health Services lift applicable restrictions, AND ✓ Municipalities / Regions lift applicable restrictions, AND ✓ District Members support modified season in their jurisdiction, AND ✓ CSA Risk Assessment* submitted and accepted, AND ✓ Alberta Soccer Return to Soccer Guidelines implemented and maintained. <p><i>*CSA Risk Assessment once accepted is active for the duration of the pandemic response.</i></p>
Overview	<p>Applicable to Alberta Soccer members, Health Order 25-2020 sets out that entities MUST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among attendees; ✓ provide procedures for rapid response if an attendee develops symptoms of illness; ✓ ensure that attendees maintain high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene; and ✓ comply with all applicable current public health measures, COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance, and current Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation. <p>In addition to following the Government of Alberta’s guidance, those participating in organized activities sanctioned by a provincial or national organization are to comply with their governing bodies guidelines.</p>
Permitted Activities	<p>Sanctioned soccer activities are limited to those outlined in Alberta Soccer’s current Guidelines published in alignment with the current step in Alberta’s Path Forward strategy.</p> <p>Any member found to be in breach of the <i>Return to Soccer Guidelines</i> will be subject to minimum disciplinary measures.</p>
Education	<p>Activity organizers must reasonably ensure that all relevant organizers and responsible staff/volunteers are informed about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current Public Health Measures, ▪ Isolation & Quarantine Requirements, ▪ Contact Tracing Notification Process, ▪ current Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation, and ▪ Return to Soccer Guidelines. <p>Relevant organizers and responsible staff/volunteers should also be reasonably aware of General Infection Prevention Measures.</p>
General Infection Prevention Measures	<p>COVID-19 enters the body through the eyes, nose or mouth when an individual touches their face.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participants should refrain from touching their eyes, nose, mouth, and face during activities. ▪ Hands should be washed or sanitized before and after each activity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Washed with soap for minimum 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. ▪ Respiratory etiquette is important to prevent the spread of droplets that may contain the COVID-19 virus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sneeze/cough into elbow



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refrain from spitting or clearing of nasal passages during activities ○ Eliminate celebration gestures such as handshake, high fives, fist bumps, chest bumps, that bring participants within 2 metres or promote physical contact.
Communication	<p>Activity organizers must reasonably ensure that participants are aware of the health measures and safety requirements outlined in the current <i>Return to Soccer Guidelines</i>.</p> <p>Activity organizers should ensure that participants are aware of applicable Rapid Response and Positive Case Response plans.</p>
Health Check	<p>Health Checks for symptoms must be completed prior to every session, including coaches, officials, trainers, managers, and players as per a "COVID-19 Symptoms Checklist" to ensure they are not experiencing any symptoms related to COVID-19.</p> <p>If an individual is exhibiting symptoms related to COVID-19 they must be sent home immediately as per the Rapid Response Plan.</p>
Rapid Response Plan	<p>Activity organizers must develop a Rapid Response plan to manage symptomatic individuals in attendance at their activity. Plans should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) how symptomatic individuals will be safely isolated, (2) how they will travel home, (3) cleaning & disinfecting of equipment, (4) hygiene for remaining participants, and (5) recording of the names of all participants in which the sick individual has been in contact with. <p>Provided that all health guidance is being followed, there is no need to cancel the current activity.</p>
Contact Tracing in Soccer	<p>When an individual in soccer tests positive for COVID-19, they will be contacted by an Alberta Health Services Contact Tracer. Alberta Health Services Contact Tracers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ are responsible for identifying Close Contacts of an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, ▪ are responsible for managing contact tracing activities within soccer, ▪ will use the contact information provided by the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 to notify soccer organizers of any event-based exposure in soccer, ▪ may ask soccer organizers to assist them in notifying individuals within their organization who are considered Close Contacts to provide them with instructions for quarantine and seeking a COVID-19 test. <p>All members of Alberta Soccer are expected to fully cooperate with AHS Contact Tracers.</p>
Positive Case Response Plan	<p>Alberta Soccer recommends that Districts and/or Clubs provide their members with a Positive Case Response plan to manage the communications of a positive COVID-19 case in their organization. A Positive Case Response Plan should include, but may not be limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The name & contact information to be provided to AHS Contact Tracers (i.e., Coach, Manager, Club, Zone, or District) in the event that an individual tests positive for COVID-19. (2) Instructions for the organizational contact in (1) for what to do IF an AHS Contact Tracer contacts them regarding a positive case in their organization. Such as, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure they have access to the necessary records to assist AHS Contact Tracers. b) Ensure they know who else in the organization needs to be contacted for risk management purposes. c) Ensure they have procedures in place to maintain the confidentiality of the individual who tested positive.



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	<p>(3) Instructions for the organizational contact in (1) for what to do IF an individual voluntarily discloses* a positive COVID-19 test result AND AHS Contact Tracers DO NOT contact the soccer organization.</p> <p>(4) Communication procedures identifying who is responsible for contacting the appropriate governing soccer authorities in the event of a positive COVID-19 case.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) Positive cases of COVID-19 identified within the Alberta Soccer membership should be reported to Alberta Soccer by email and include the following: District, Club/Community, Age Level (U5, U17, Adult, etc.)</p> <p>(5) Identify under what circumstances the organization will require a temporary suspension of soccer activities due to a positive COVID-19 case in their soccer community.</p> <p>*Individuals are NOT required to directly disclose to soccer organizers that they have tested positive for COVID-19.</p>
Contact Tracing Logs	<p>To support public health contact tracing efforts in the event an attendee tests positive, activity organizers should collect the name and contact information of attendees (Contact Tracing Log).</p> <p>Contact Tracing logs can be managed online or completed onsite by a responsible adult. Records must be maintained for a minimum of 4 weeks.</p> <p>Reasonable security arrangements must be in place to protect personal information collected for contact tracing purposes, including safe disposal.</p>
Privacy	<p>Providing activity organizers personal information is voluntary for attendees. An organization must obtain an individual's consent and notify them about the purpose and legal authority for the collection.</p> <p>Personal information that is collected for COVID-19 contact tracing must only be used for this purpose, unless an individual provides their consent.</p> <p>An individual who tests positive for COVID-19 is under no obligation to report the positive result to soccer organizations.</p> <p>The identity of an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 must be kept confidential during contact tracing activities.</p>
First Aid	<p>Activity organizers must ensure personal protective equipment is immediately available IF first aid treatment is required.</p> <p>Recommendation that a family member attend to injured player, if available. If not possible, attending person must wear medical gloves and mask when 2 metre distance cannot be maintained.</p>
Parents / Guardians	<p>For safety reasons, parents may be asked to remain nearby in vehicles and/or designated areas. Designated areas must adhere to Spectator & Gathering restrictions.</p>
Spectators & Gatherings	<p>Spectators are permitted within the limits of gathering size, physical distancing requirements and subject to any additional facility and/or program restrictions.</p> <p>Spectator areas must allow for 3 metres distance to be maintained from players, coaches, and referees AND allow 2 metres distance between individual spectators.</p> <p>The activity must comply with current gathering restrictions issued by Alberta Health Services.</p>
Coaches	<p>Ensure enough team officials are assigned to a team to maintain adherence to the THE RULE OF TWO and the minimum coach training standard has been achieved for the age group the coach is working with</p>
Referees	<p>Only referees 14 years and older on the 2021 Outdoor Eligible Referee List are permitted to be used in sanctioned soccer activities.</p>
Equipment	<p>Recommend that equipment not be shared between teams.</p>



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	All equipment must be cleaned and sanitized before and after each activity. Recommend that one individual be assigned responsibility for management of equipment.
Facility	Alberta Soccer members and affiliated clubs who own facilities and/or operate office space must familiarize themselves with and abide by Alberta's General Workplace Relaunch Guidance and all Active Public Health Orders applicable to their facility / workplace.

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.

INSURANCE DISCLAIMER

As of September 2020, Alberta Soccer's insurance policy includes a Contagion Exclusion, which is in alignment with industry standards. The Contagion Exclusion means that there is no insurance coverage available for any claims related to COVID-19. As such, 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.

All Participants (or parents/guardians if under 18 years of age) must sign the [Informed Consent – Assumption of Risk Waiver](#) plus provide a [Declaration of Compliance](#) prior to participating in any sanctioned soccer activity.

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.