

2021 Covid Protocols Video



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Anticipating Stage 2 sports (return to games) in mid June

Even though Government of Alberta has announced 'no restrictions', this applies to the onfield activities only.

Off field and around the game, we will have safety protocols in place to be followed by – teams, officials and any spectators allowed.

This video is based on current information, as we have seen throughout the pandemic, things can change at any time and you will be informed if this is the case.

2021 Covid Protocols Video

Please read the following carefully:

It is important that you review and make notes if needed on ALL protocols. Following the protocols will allow us to continue playing the 'beautiful game' as long as possible.

There are also 5 verification questions at various parts of the video that we provide the answers to. You will need to note these answers and enter them in a Refcentre quiz to become eligible to referee this season. You will be allowed unlimited attempts, but **MUST** get a 5 answers correct.

Return to Play Timeline

Proposed Timeline

- Stage 1 – June 1st
- Stage 2 – possibly mid-June, based on vaccination and hospital numbers.
- Stage 3 – possibly early July, based on vaccinations only



Return to Play Timeline

How it relates to referees

- Stage 1 – June 1st – ‘distanced training’, only referee involvement is Entry Level practical sessions.
- Stage 2 – possibly mid-June – game play is allowed as districts start to schedule. Travel unlikely to be allowed
- Stage 3 – possibly early July – ‘unrestricted’ by Government of Alberta.

How will soccer work in Stage 2 & 3?

- Return to 'normal' rules of play as far as possible
- All outdoor formats allowed – 11v11, 9v9, 8v8, 7v7 and Mini Soccer
- Rules/Laws will follow:
 - 2020-21 IFAB Laws of the game for 11 v 11
 - 2021 Alberta 8v8 Outdoor Rules – for 9v9, 8v8, 7v7 (not Mini)
 - 2021 Alberta 7v7 Outdoor Rules & Mini Referee Guide – for 7v7 'Mini' Soccer

Any 'modifications' required will be published and sent out

Cohorts

Current information is that there will be no cohorts for players or officials in 2021

This makes life a lot easier for the assigners!

You will be informed if this changes at any time

Waivers explained – you signed the waiver in your Refcentre registration process

- **Purpose of waiver**
 - Clarifies that you cannot take legal action against Alberta Soccer or a member association if any risk that you have ‘assumed’ takes place. e.g. being infected with COVID
- **What does it mean to you?**
 - You can still take action against a responsible party. Simplest example is - you are assaulted by a player – you can still press criminal charges against the player and you could also sue them for any damages, lost wages etc. as they are the ‘responsible party’.
- **Does it affect your protection/coverage?**
 - This waiver does NOT affect your standard insurance coverage with Alberta Soccer, details of which are on our web site.

Referee requirements – eligibility

- Registered for 2021 and have completed Outdoor Refresher Online Modules
- Attended a Refresher Online Webinar
- Reviewed the Covid Protocols Video and answered the 5 quiz questions in Refcentre – this is the stage you are completing right now
- Stage 2 & 3 will only involve referees who are 14 or older
- Mini referees who are now 14 can participate, but there will be no new Mini referee courses until 2022.

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

- 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.

Additional Advice to Referees

- The game ball and two spares will be sanitized by the home team in view of the players and the referee and will be re-sanitized at half-time or any other time that the referee deems necessary. Players may request that the ball be re-sanitized or that a spare, sanitized ball be used if the game ball has been touched frequently by players' hands (throw ins, saves etc.)
- No spitting, clearing of nasal passages, handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, chest bumps, or group celebrations allowed.
- Wherever possible, referees should NOT blow their whistle within 12 feet of any player.

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 requirements – before

Covid-19 Symptoms Checklist for Staff / Coaches / Participants

1. Do you/your child have any new onset (or worsening) of any of the following symptoms:	CIRCLE ONE	
Fever	YES	NO
Cough	YES	NO
• Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing	YES	NO
• Sore throat	YES	NO
Chills	YES	NO
• Painful swallowing	YES	NO
• Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion	YES	NO
• Feeling unwell / Fatigued	YES	NO
• Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea	YES	NO
• Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
• Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
Muscle/ Joint aches	YES	NO
• Headache	YES	NO
• Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye)	YES	NO
2. Has the person attending the activity/facility travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3. Have you/your child had close <u>unprotected*</u> contact (face-to-face contact (within 2 meters/6 feet) with someone who has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days and who is ill**?)	YES	NO
4. Have you/your child attending the program or activity had close <u>unprotected*</u> contact (face-to-face contact within 2 meters/6 feet) in the last 14 days with someone who is ill**?)	YES	NO
5. Have you/your child or anyone in your household been in close <u>unprotected*</u> contact in the last 14 days with someone who is being investigated or confirmed to be a case of COVID-19?	YES	NO

- *If an individual answer 'YES' to any of the questions above, they are not permitted to participate in training/games for a minimum of 14 days UNLESS a negative Covid-19 test result is received after answering 'Yes' to the above.*

Referee requirements – before

Before you Leave Home

- DO NOT leave home if you are feeling unwell or showing signs of COVID-19 Symptoms (Fever, Cough, Shortness of Breath, Sore Throat or Runny Nose). You MUST contact your referee assignor with as much notice as possible in this case.
- Check for fields closures.
- Eat before your come as food may be discouraged on premises.
- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and warm water.
- Thoroughly wash water bottles with soap and warm water.
- Clean and sanitize your referee equipment. (whistle, card wallet, pen/pencil)
- Use the washroom.
- Register your attendance for contact tracing. (This takes place when you accept your assignment).

Referee requirements – before

Arrival at Field/Facility

- Respect physical distancing guidelines, prior to game.
- Consider bringing personal hand sanitizer.
- Perform standard field/net check, maintaining/requesting physical distancing as needed. Check in particular for any items that may endanger health (e.g. discarded medical gloves, masks etc.)
- Assist coaches with checking of game sheet and player cards
- Oversee sanitizing of game ball and 2 spares. Then check and adjust ball pressure BEFORE it has been touched by any other person. Avoid touching the ball with your hands unnecessarily after this step.
- Read the supplied pre-game script to both team captains immediately prior to kick-off.

Referee Pre-game Script

- To ensure that ALL participants are aware of their requirements and responsibilities in Stage 2 Return – referees are required to read a pre-game script to the team captains immediately prior to kick-off
- This is not ‘optional’
- Teams will let us know if you don’t do this and if you don’t, your participation in games will be reviewed.

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?

Referee requirements – during

During activity at Field/Facility

- Practice respiratory etiquette (sneeze/cough into arm, no spitting, no clearing nasal passages)
- Where possible, do NOT blow your whistle within 12 feet of any player.
- Refrain from shaking hands, fist bumps, or high fives.
- Refrain from touching face, eyes, nose, mouth with hands;
wash/sanitize hands regularly
- Maintain 2 meters distance when speaking to a player or showing a yellow or red card. **Wear a face mask or buff during this interaction**
- Maintain 2 meters distance from any physical altercation.
- Maintain 2 meters distance when managing a defensive wall.
- Stop, suspend or terminate the match for any violation of COVID related guidelines.
This must be reported to the league.

Referee requirements – after

After activity is Complete

- NO LOITERING.
- Follow the 'Post Game Procedure' for completing the game sheet.
- Respect physical distancing guidelines.
- Use hand sanitizer if available.
- Leave facility parking lot.
- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and warm water at earliest opportunity.
- Clean and sanitize your referee equipment and uniform at the earliest opportunity.
- Complete 'feedback form' and submit as per the next slides

Feedback

Team and Referee Feedback

- To ensure that teams and referees are complying with all COVID-19 precautions relating to modified games, both parties are required to fill out a feedback form, to be submitted to Alberta Soccer within 48 hours after each game.
- This form will be supplied in electronic format by Alberta Soccer. There will be a link on the Covid Protocols page at www.albertasoccer.com as well as in the 'News Articles' in your Refcentre account.

Feedback

Feedback Provided by Teams

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the referee in terms of their overall diligence in applying COVID-19 precautions. 1 being little or no diligence, 5 being a high degree of diligence.

Please check off each of the following responsibilities that were carried out by the referee:

- Arrived at the facility with enough time to carry out pre-game duties and kick off on time.
- Followed the game sheet and player card checking procedure before and after the game.
- Oversaw the sanitizing of the game ball and spares.
- Read the pre-game script to team captains
- Maintained physical distancing when off the field.
- Refereed the match in accordance with COVID Guidelines.
- Dealt appropriately with any COVID related issues.

Please provide any additional comments:

Feedback

Feedback Provided by Referees

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate both teams individually in terms of their overall compliance with COVID-19 precautions. 1 being little or no compliance, 5 being a high degree of compliance. One rating for 'Home', one rating for 'Visitor'.

Please check off any or all of the following that applied in the game:

- The game proceeded smoothly with no COVID related issues.
- I had to STOP the game at times to deal with MINOR COVID related issues (ball re-sanitizing etc.)
- I had to STOP OR SUSPEND the game to deal with SIGNIFICANT COVID related issues (removal of symptomatic players, minor spectator issues etc.)
- I had to TERMINATE the game due to MAJOR COVID related issues (persistent team non-compliance, physical altercations, major spectator non-compliance etc.)

Please provide a detailed report for any reason that you had to TERMINATE a game due to COVID related issues.

Please provide any additional comments:

- Please monitor your email for any updates to the Covid Protocols or adjustments to the rules of play
- Once you have finished viewing this video and have the answers to the 5 random questions –
 - Complete the quiz for the 5 questions in Refcentre.
 - If you have completed all other registration and refresher steps, you will now be on the eligible list of referees for outdoor 2021.
 - If not done so already, you should contact your assignor and let them know you are ready to accept games.
 - If you have graduated from an Entry Level course in 2021, review your handout for instructions on how to get games and a list of assignors in your area.

- Q & A
 - There will be a link placed in Refcentre where you can submit Covid questions, which will be answered in an FAQ section on the Alberta Soccer web site



Thank you!
Best of Luck for your season!



ALBERTA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

The Governing Body of Soccer in Alberta

www.albertasoccer.com