



## RETURN TO SOCCER BEST PRACTICES

Effective "September 3, 2021"

Guidelines as per [Government of Alberta](#)

Requirement	Description / Application
<b>REQUIREMENTS, BEST PRACTICES &amp; RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>Permitted Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All ASA sanctioned activities</li></ul>
<b>Registration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li><li>All Participants must sign the <a href="#">Informed Consent – Assumption of Risk Waiver (age of majority)</a> or for youth their parents / guardians must sign the <a href="#">Informed Consent – Assumption of Risk Waiver(youth)</a>.</li><li>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.</li></ul>
<b>Hygiene</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Activity organizers must communicate appropriate <a href="#">hygiene measures</a> for the activity in advance to all participants as per Government of Alberta.</li><li>No spitting, clearing of nasal passages, etc. AND it is strongly suggested to limit handshakes, high fives, chest bumps etc.</li><li>No sharing Water bottles</li></ul>
<b>Contact Tracing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Contact Tracing Logs</b> must be kept for all games or training sessions for a minimum of 4-weeks with reasonable security measures in place to protect the personal information collected (Name &amp; Contact Information).</li><li>Training sessions must be known to the Club, and/or District.</li><li>All training schedules and attendance lists must be available to the Club and/or District for contact tracing purposes.</li></ul>
<b>Screening &amp; Response Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Health checks are not required.</li><li>Individuals exhibiting <a href="#">COVID-19 symptoms</a> MUST not participate in games or training.</li><li><a href="#">Access Your Risk</a></li></ul>
<b>Positive Tests &amp; Isolation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All positive Covid-19 tests are required to follow <a href="#">Alberta Health Services isolation requirements</a> and directives</li></ul>
<b>Facility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All games/ training sessions must also adhere to safety protocols developed by the facility.</li><li>All facility rules must be followed, including capacity limits, to meet Government of Alberta Standards.</li></ul>
<b>Referees (REQUIRED)</b>	<b>Interaction with referees MUST always be limited and kept to 2 meters distancing with the following exceptions:</b>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-game exchange of game sheets – both referee and coach / manager.</li> <li>• In-game situations like wall management, free kick management, drop ball management or other management decisions as determined by the Referee.</li> <li>• This does not include players moving past the Referee in the run of play to challenge for the ball, mark a player or other natural movements during open play.</li> <li>• Mask wearing is a personal choice.</li> <li>• ASA Members are to be respectful of personal choice and comfort levels.</li> </ul> <p>Any players who intentionally breach the 2 meters distance during the game to interact with the referee will be subject to the appropriate discipline action including warnings, Yellow Cards and Red Cards</p>
<b>Coaches with players 18 years and under</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A minimum of two coaches 18 yrs+ must be present and participating in the group. All coaches MUST have a valid CPIC including Vulnerable Sector Search on file with their district / club.</li> <li>• It is strongly recommended that at least one coach per group be trained, at minimum, at the appropriate NCCP Coaching level.</li> </ul> <p>For the safe training of players under the age of 18 years, the following safety requirements <b>must</b> be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Rule of Two</a> maintained at all training sessions</li> <li>• Including at least one coach who is of the same gender as the players</li> </ul>
<b>Travel &amp; Tournaments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel within the province for games against registered opponents is permitted</li> <li>• Travel out of the Province is subject to restrictions in both provinces and should be monitored</li> <li>• Tournaments are permitted</li> </ul>
<b>Scheduling</b>	<p>Games/Training should be scheduled to allow sufficient time between activities to allow for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the sanitization of all shared equipment,</li> <li>• the coach to wash or sanitize hands if participating in subsequent training sessions</li> </ul>
<b>Equipment</b>	<p>All shared equipment should be cleaned and sanitized before and after each group training session or game.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment cleaning is the responsibility of the home team when participating in games. Games balls should be sanitized before they are provided to the referee</li> <li>• Equipment including, but not limited to, balls, cones, pinnies (bibs), pop up goals and corner flags.</li> <li>• Recommend that one individual be assigned responsibility for management of equipment.</li> <li>• Goalkeeper gloves should not be shared</li> </ul>
<b>Masks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks wearing provincial government, local government and/or facility mandates.</li> <li>• Masks are <b>mandatory</b> when not on the field of play</li> <li>• Players may remove masks during active training/play but are to wear masks until they enter the field of play as well as when entering / exiting the field/facility</li> <li>• Coaches may remove masks while actively coaching if maintaining the 2 metres physical distancing from players but must wear a mask if entering physical distancing space for brief interactions</li> <li>• INDOORS: Mask should be worn at all times except on the field of play.</li> </ul>
<b>Spectators &amp; Gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The activity must comply with current <a href="#">gathering restrictions</a> issued by Alberta Health Services.</li> </ul>

**CONTENT DISCLAIMER**

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 protocols 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.