

MAY 22ND, 2020 LEAGUE UPDATE

It was inconceivable to me when [CSA announced on Friday, March 13th](#) that all sanctioned soccer across our nation was suspended indefinitely that we would still be on the sidelines as we near the end of May but yet here we are. We have seen a number of very positive steps in the past week with CSA announcing their [Five Criteria for Return to Play](#); City of Calgary easing some of the restrictions for [access to playfields and sport fields](#) (June 1st permitting opens) and with Alberta Health Services agreeing to [Relaunch Phase 1](#) for most of Alberta – we will be there on Monday the 25th! While all this is very positive, it does not mean that sanctioned soccer programs can resume – yet. We are getting close, but still have lots of work to do before players, coaches and officials can get back on the field and train. Games, be it scrimmages or league play, are still far down the path on the relaunch.

Today, Alberta Soccer released this [latest update](#) on the status of the sport within Alberta. The graphic below outlines the 5 criteria that must be met before organized team activities can resume.



Alberta Soccer is working on the completion of their Return to Play Strategy (RTP). As indicated in the above graphic Phase 1 of this RTP involves training only with the 2 meter social distancing requirements in place. Once developed it will still need to have the approval of the ASA Board, CSA and AHS. Canadian Soccer must release their Risk Assessment Tool as well. Early indications are that this process may not be completed until middle of June.

What can teams and players do while waiting? CUSA is encouraging all teams to do their own Risk Assessment and develop their protocols that they will want their players, coaches and spectators to adhere to. CUSA is working on generic one that teams can use as a reference and encourage teams to share with us what they have developed for others to consider as well. To help you get started on this task we have found some excellent resources that Sport Calgary have put together: [COVID-19 Risk Assessment Tool](#) and [Sample Return to Sport Protocols](#). There is additional guidance for outdoor recreation opportunities is posted on www.alberta.ca/biz-connect, and outdoor recreation businesses should also follow workplace guidance for business owners. If you have some creative ideas on how to keep your team connected and fit for resume of play that you want to share we will promote your team through our social media channels. We will be happy to help you out!

We must continue discourage Clubs and Teams from organizing Team activities until all five of the criteria outlined in Canada Soccer's Return to Soccer Guidelines are achieved in Alberta and in Calgary. We are close, we just need to be patient a little longer and then we anticipate that the ability to start to train will be reached. Games and organized competition do remain further out in the Relaunch and when introduced will still require modifications from what was the traditional formats.

PLAYER REGISTRATION / INSURANCE

CUSA is working with ASA and our colleagues locally on what the process will be for player registration when the Return to Train stage of the Soccer Relaunch is reached. We will have further details on this process in the coming days. Be prepared that there will be a registration process for some, if not all players, to ensure that they are eligible for the participant insurance through Alberta Soccer.

FIELD PERMITS

Teams or Clubs that hold City of Calgary field permits for playfields or athletic parks should be being contacted by the City to confirm your permit status. If you do not currently hold a field permit and are interested in obtaining one watch for Public Day (June 1st) where you can contact 311 and book your fields and times. We are aware that City By-Law and CPS are responding to complaints of sport activities on the City owned playfields and athletic parks. We encourage you to conduct yourself accordingly and align activities with those guidelines in place including practicing social distancing and refraining from any scrimmage styled drills where physical contact may occur.

TEAM REFUNDS

We are pleased to say *"the cheque is in the mail!"* You should be receiving the cheque and a letter outlining how the refund was calculated. If you have questions or concerns on this please send them directly in writing to patti@cusa.ab.ca

SHOP LOCAL SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Two of Calgary's own local businesses are open and ready to assist you get the gear you need. Their Yellow Card - COVID Reopening Sale continues until the 31st.

Your two favorite Calgary Soccer stores are teaming up, to bring you great savings!

FISHER'S SOCCER SHACK
CALGARY'S #1 SOCCER STORE

KICKS SPORTS

YELLOW CARD - COVID REOPENING SALE

May 14 - 31

- 20% off all Footwear
- 25% off all Apparel
- 25% off Cavalry Jerseys
- 50% off all club/country Jerseys

Fishers Soccer Shack - Riverbend
Kicks Sports - Varsity
Kicks Sports Southland

Special hours
Wed - Fri 12 - 6; Sat - Sun 12 - 5

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KICKS SPORTS

COVID REOPENING INFORMATION

- Limit of 3 buying groups in the store at any one time
- Maintain physical distancing at all times
- Hand Sanitizer on site for staff and customers
- Preferred method of payments ... Credit or Debit
- We ask that you limit unnecessary touching of store products
- Curbside pickup orders can still be phoned in.

CUSA is committed to assisting out membership navigate the vast volume of information that is coming forward, from a range of sources, as it relates to the safe and measured return to training and playing the sport of soccer. At each step along the way the risk of choosing to participate in the activity ultimately remains with each participant to determine their comfort level. CUSA continues to be part of the conversations with Alberta Soccer, City of Calgary and our colleagues with CMSA and CWSA working towards resuming the game.

Stay safe and healthy. If you have other questions don't hesitate to reach out. You can reach any staff member by email. General questions can be sent to info@cusa.ab.ca and will be directed to the staff member responsible to respond.

CUSA

