



# Football Re-Opening in Alberta





## Football Re-Opening in Alberta

### **The Plan for the Roll Out of Football during the Alberta Government's Stages of Relaunching**

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

The membership of Football Alberta wants to return to play the sport of football. Football Alberta will make all reasonable efforts to prevent the spread of any infectious disease, including the COVID-19 virus.

Rules will be put in place and reviewed and revised from time to time to try to minimize the risk that players and other participants, including spectators, will be infected with the COVID-19 virus or other infectious diseases.

Some people may think the rules are "overkill" and others that they do not go far enough. Please understand that it is not in the short or long-term interests of any of the players for there to be unnecessary tension or stress over the monitoring or enforcement of the rules. Try to be compliant with the rules and if you notice a lack of compliance that you think presents a real risk be positive in any steps you take to try to ensure compliance.

Football Alberta cannot ensure that their members will not be infected while participating in the sport of football, which is a contact sport. While Football Alberta will make all reasonable efforts to put into place and oversee rules intended to minimize the risk of transmission, it is up to all leagues, teams, and participants to take precautions as necessary to protect themselves and others from the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus and other infectious diseases.

Insurance helps organizations such as Football Alberta manage the risk associated with organizing and staging events that are inherently dangerous. Football is a contact sport and there is always a risk of injury. Historically, Football Alberta has been able to put insurance in place that protects the organization in the event someone is injured and sues the organization. Fortunately, it is there if we need it.

#### **COMPLIANCE:**

Our current understanding is that insurance coverage for claims against Football Alberta related to infection of the COVID-19 virus or other disease is not available. Therefore, all participants who wish to participate as a member of Football Alberta during the declared pandemic must confirm their understanding of the increased risk and the unavailability of insurance for a COVID-19 related claim by signing an Informed Consent Form (Appendix "A") These forms must be supplied to the teams/cohorts at registration and be kept on-site. Confirmation of their acceptance of this Informed Consent will be required for Football Alberta on-line registration and the hard copies of the executed form must be kept with the teams/cohorts and available to be produced to Football Alberta upon demand.

Each team/cohort will have to assign a RESPONSIBLE PERSON who will ensure their team/cohort is meeting all standards set for re-opening. The duties of the RESPONSIBLE PERSON will be listed within this document.

## MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT:

Football Alberta expects all of those who participate in Football Alberta sanctioned events to self-monitor their own behavior and conduct to ensure that they are at a minimum complying with the rules set out within this document and any other rules or recommendations published from time to time by Football Alberta, facility providers or local municipalities.

Football Alberta further expects those organizing and staging events at a league level to be aware of the rules related to minimizing the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus or any other infectious disease and to monitor and enforce compliance with those rules.

Football Alberta does not have the resources to monitor all of the participants or to enforce compliance. It will be the expectation of each team/cohort to do so via their RESPONSIBLE PERSON and file a Compliance Form (see Appendix “B”) with their league and Football Alberta.

Football Alberta will, upon receiving notice of a lack of monitoring or enforcement of compliance with the rules, take appropriate measures and impose penalties and sanctions which may include, but not be limited to: suspension of practice rights, forfeiture of a result from a game that has been played, or suspension or disqualification of the right to play future games, including at the provincial playoff or championship level.

## ALBERTA RE-OPENING STAGE 2 (as of October 16, 2020):

During Stage 2 teams may register and commence regular activities with the following restrictions:

- The maximum number of individuals that can form a cohort is 50.
- The 50-person maximum includes any coaches/staff, instructors, participants, officials, and volunteers who consistently and routinely engage with participants at a distance of less than 2 metres.
- **For Football only: to ensure play is not prohibited, two teams are allowed to cohort together under this guidance with no maximum number of players.**
- Cohorts (a football team) must ensure there is a 14 day period between completion of play with another cohort before they play against a new cohort.
- If Officials maintain physical distant of 2 metres from the cohort participants, they can remain outside of the cohort numbers. Officials must follow the Guidelines outlined in Appendix F below to be approved.
- Individuals should **limit** the number of cohorts/mini leagues they are involved in.
- Cohorts are permitted to travel outside of their Health Region for the purpose of competition.
- High School football teams may proceed under the Football Alberta Rules and Guidelines of this Stage within this document, but they must receive approval from their Superintendents and Principals to do so as well as follow the ASAA Policies on Seasons of Play.

## HANDLING A POSITIVE COVID TEST

- If a player or coach tests positive, Alberta Health Services will be in charge of how to handle the cohort and will only request information about the attendee’s participation if they deem a potential exposure is likely to have occurred during your activity.
- AHS investigators will determine if there are close contacts that should be made aware/notified based on the period of infectivity and the organization’s compliance with public health guidance.

The restrictions set out in Football Alberta's Stage 2 plan are the equivalent of those at the **Level 4** section of Football Canada's National Reopening Plan. It is our hope that if things continue to improve during the pandemic in the areas of reduced infections, increased mitigation from health care, or vaccination, that our sport may progress to competitions between team/cohorts at Stage 3 but that will be a decision for Alberta Health Services and the Alberta Government to make.

Make no mistake, these restrictions in Stage 2 recognize that in our **sport it is not always possible to maintain Physical Distancing**. Through **adapted practice sessions**, team/cohorts will do their best to comply with the 2 Meter rule. However, the very nature of the sport which involves contesting for an implement of play (in our case a football) and also playing defense makes that impossible to do all the time. As well, the **vast majority of skills that need to be taught and the conducting of the competition itself will require a breaking of that barrier**. By following the above restrictions and guidelines set out in this document, the requirement of Alberta Health Services Guidelines will be met for re-opening in Stage 2 of Alberta's Relaunch.

## **FOOTBALL ALBERTA RESPONSIBLE PERSON**

While there will be a much greater emphasis placed on cleanliness and physical distancing, normal activities will

Each team/cohort's RESPONSIBLE PERSON will have the following duties:

- Ensure each registered member (including all associated adults) with the team/cohort fills out and signs the Informed Consent Form (see Appendix "A") prior to entering the field of play. These must be available to be produced upon demand from their league/association or Football Alberta for the next seven years.
- Ensure a Compliance Form (see Appendix "B") is filled out and signed on behalf of the team/cohort and filed with their league/association and Football Alberta within two weeks of commencement of any team/cohort activity. Failure to do so may result in Insurance being withdrawn from the team/cohort.
- Ensure a Cohort List (Appendix "C") is created and maintained for the duration of team/cohort activities for 2020. This may be used to assist contact tracing should there be a positive case or outbreak within the team/cohort. This document must be available upon demand to the league/association or Football Alberta.
- Screen each participant each day using the Screening Checklist (See Appendix "D") and take appropriate action if anyone answers "Yes" to any of the questions.
- Ensure that Membership/Insurance is acquired and paid from Football Alberta within two weeks of the start of activity for their team/cohort and that on-line registration is completed as well. Details on how that will occur for 2020 will be sent to all teams by the end of June, 2020.
- Ensure all sanitation and cleaning requirements are conducted as listed below each day and follow any guidelines set out in that area by the municipality or school providing the facility.
- Ensure all participants and their parents/guardians are fully aware of the General Safety Guidelines listed below.

## GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

Regardless of when your team/cohort begins activity, the RESPONSIBLE PERSON must ensure:

- Equipment handouts for Stage 2 will be scheduled appointment to make sure the numbers are kept as low as possible (under 15 people Physically Distanced together at any given time). All personnel handing out equipment will be wearing PPE's as well as gloves and wipe down the space used to equip at the end of each session. Proper Physical Distancing of 2M, will be practiced as much as possible.
- Post practice all communal equipment (i.e. blocking dummies, footballs, pylons) will be wiped down with a disinfectant.
- All coaches will attempt as much as possible to keep Physically Distant (2M) from the participants and fellow adults during any team/cohort gathering. Team huddles and group gatherings will be as limited as possible and spread 2M apart when possible.
- Any time the team/cohort is using the sideline for a gathering place, all participants will maintain 2M distancing unless player safety or well-being requires otherwise (i.e. a trainer assessing an injured player).
- As a rule, all adult medical or equipment personnel on the sidelines that will possibly have close contact with the athletes should wear PPE's.
- No off-field team/cohort gatherings will be permitted. Any "film work" or strategy sessions will be done on-line.
- Carpooling to practices/team events will be discouraged but family cohorts will be on their own to monitor their behavior in this circumstance.
- Spectators (excluding parents and guardians where necessary for player support) will be kept out of participant spaces (e.g., fields of play, sidelines). **No spectators/parents will be allowed at practice unless the facility can allow for proper Physical Distancing in seating or areas away from the field of play or sidelines.** The maximum number of spectators is determined by how many people the space can hold while keeping two meters of distance between attendees from different households/cohort families, up to a maximum of the current AHS indoor/outdoor guidelines. Unless from the same household, spectators should maintain a minimum two-meter distance from one another at all times, whether the activity is indoor or outdoor. It is strongly recommended that all spectators wear masks. Cheering and yelling is strongly discouraged at this time as it presents a high risk of spreading droplets and no gathering of spectators will be allowed at practice sessions. Spectators at any permitted competitions will be regulated by the Stay and Play guidelines.
- There will be no team water stations or shared water bottles. Players will be 100% responsible for their hydration needs and must mark their own water bottles clearly and ensure it goes to and from the on-field session with them.
- Locker room gatherings will be discouraged as well as all players and staff will come dressed for play to the game or practice site. Any halftime meetings in competitions will have to be done on the sidelines.
- To protect vulnerable populations such as people with compromised immune systems, underlying health problems or seniors; team/cohorts may consider some type of virtual method of engagement to discourage them from attending to watch their child. This may include FaceTime or Zoom type broadcast monitored by the Responsible Person.
- Participants will be encouraged to wipe down and disinfect their equipment after each session – particularly the helmet.



## APPENDIX A: INFORMED CONSENT FORM

# Football Alberta Informed Consent Form

Football Alberta **INFORMED CONSENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT** (to be executed by parents/guardians of Individuals who are under the age of majority) **WARNING!** By signing this document, you will assume certain risk and responsibilities. Please read carefully!

Individual's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. This is a binding legal agreement. Clarify any questions or concerns before signing. As an Individual in activities, programs, classes, services provided and events sponsored or organized by Football Alberta and its affiliated districts, leagues, clubs and teams (collectively the "Organization") and the sport of football, which includes but is not limited to: games, tournaments, practices, training, personal training, dry land training, the use of strength training and fitness conditioning equipment, machines and facilities, nutritional and dietary programs, orientational or instructional sessions or lessons, and aerobic and anaerobic conditioning programs (collectively the "Activities"), the undersigned, being the Individual and Individual's Parent/Guardian (collectively the "Parties"), acknowledge and agree to the terms outlined in this agreement.
2. I am the Parent/Guardian of the Individual and have full legal responsibility for the decisions of the Individual.

### Description of Risks

3. The Parties understand and acknowledge that:
  - a) The Activities have foreseeable and unforeseeable inherent risks, hazards and dangers that no amount of care, caution or expertise can eliminate, including without limitation, the potential for serious bodily injury, permanent disability, paralysis and loss of life;
  - b) The Organization may offer or promote online programming (such as webinars, remote conferences, workshops, and online training) which have different foreseeable and unforeseeable risks than in-person programming;
  - c) The Organization has a difficult task to ensure safety and it is not infallible. The Organization may be unaware of the Individual's fitness or abilities, may give incomplete warnings or instructions, may misjudge weather or environmental conditions, and the equipment being used might malfunction; and
  - d) The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization and COVID19 is extremely contagious. The Organization has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, the Organization cannot guarantee that the Individual will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, attending the Activities could increase your risk of contracting COVID-19.
4. The Individual is participating voluntarily in the Activities. In consideration of that participation, the Parties hereby acknowledge that they are aware of the risks, dangers and hazards and that they may be exposed to such risks, dangers and hazards. The risks, dangers and hazards include, but are not limited to:
  - a) Contracting COVID-19 or any other contagious disease;
  - b) Executing strenuous and demanding physical techniques;
  - c) Vigorous physical exertion, strenuous cardiovascular workouts and rapid movements;
  - d) Exerting and stretching various muscle groups;
  - e) The failure to properly use any piece of equipment or from the mechanical failure of any piece of equipment;
  - f) Spinal cord injuries which may render the Individual permanently paralyzed;
  - g) Serious injury to virtually all bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, tendons and other aspects of the Individual's body or to the Individual's general health and well-being;
  - h) Abrasions, sprains, strains, fractures, or dislocations;
  - i) Privacy breaches, hacking, technology malfunction or damage;
  - j) Concussion or other head injuries, including but not limited to, closed head injury or blunt head trauma;
  - k) Physical contact with other Individuals, spectators, equipment, and hazards;
  - l) Not wearing appropriate safety or protective equipment,
  - m) Failure to act safely or within the Individual's ability or within designated areas;
  - n) Grass, turf, and other surfaces including bacterial infections and rashes;
  - o) Collisions with fences, poles, stands, and football equipment;
  - p) Negligence of other persons, including other spectators, Individuals, or employees;
  - q) Weather conditions; and
  - r) Travel to and from competitive events and associated non-competitive events which are an integral part of the Activities

\_\_\_\_\_ (initials) We have read and agree to be bound by paragraphs 1 to 4.



### Terms

5. In consideration of the Organization allowing the Individual to participate in the Activities, the Parties agree:

- a) That the Individual’s mental and physical condition is appropriate to participate in the Activities;
- b) That when the Individual practices or trains, the Parties are responsible for the Individual’s surroundings and the location and equipment that is selected for the Individual;
- c) To comply with the rules and regulations for participation in the Activities including the additional General Safety Guidelines listed in Football Alberta’s Reopening Plan as enforced by the RESPONSIBLE PERSON in their club/team/cohort;
- d) To comply with the rules of the facility or equipment;
- e) That if the Individual observes an unusual significant hazard or risk, the Individual will remove themselves from participation and bring such to the attention of an Organization representative immediately;
- f) The risks associated with the Activities are increased when the Individual is impaired, and the Individual agrees not to participate if impaired in any way;

- g) That it is the individual’s sole responsibility to assess whether any Activities are too difficult for the Individual. By the Individual commencing an Activity, they acknowledge and accept the suitability and conditions of the Activity;
- h) That COVID-19 is contagious in nature and the Individual may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 and such exposure may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability or death and voluntarily agree to assume all of the foregoing risks.

6. In consideration of the Organization allowing the Individual to participate, the Parties agree:

- a) That the Parties are not relying on any oral or written statements made by the Organization or their agents, whether in a brochure or advertisement or in individual conversations, to agree to be involved in the Activities; and
- b) That the Organization is not responsible or liable for any damage to the Individual’s vehicle, property, or equipment that may occur as a result of the Activities.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initials) We have read and agree to be bound by paragraphs 5 and 6.

### General

7. The Parties agree that in the event that they file a lawsuit against the Organization, they agree to do so solely in the province of Alberta, Canada and they further agree that the substantive law of Alberta will apply without regard to conflict of law rules.

8. The Parties expressly agree that this Agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by law and that if any of its provisions are held to be invalid, the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

### Acknowledgement

9. The Parties acknowledge that they have read this agreement and understand it, that they have executed this agreement voluntarily, and that this Agreement is to be binding upon themselves, their heirs, their spouses, parents, guardians, next of kin, executors, administrators and legal or personal representatives.

_____	_____	_____
Name of Individual (print)	Signature of Individual	Date

_____	_____	_____
Name of Parent/Guardian (print)	Signature of Parent/Guardian	Date



APPENDIX B: DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE – COVID 19

# DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE – COVID-19

Team/Association/Cohort (print): \_\_\_\_\_

RESPONSIBLE PERSON (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Football Alberta, and \_\_\_\_\_ (name of Team/Association/Cohort collectively the “Organization”) require the disclosure of exposure to illness in order to safeguard the health and safety of all participants and limit the further outbreak of COVID-19. This Declaration of Compliance must be returned to the Team/Association/Cohort’s league as well as Football Alberta within two weeks of the start of activities and will not be disclosed unless as required by law or with your consent.

Individuals (or the individual’s parent/guardian, if the individual is younger than 18 years old) who are unable to agree to the terms outlined in this document are not permitted to enter the Organization’s facilities or participate in the Organization’s activities, programs, or services.

I, the undersigned being the RESPONSIBLE PERSON above, hereby acknowledge and agree to the terms outlined in this document:

1. The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization and COVID-19 is extremely contagious. The Organization has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and requires all individuals (or their parent/guardian, when applicable) to adhere to the compliance standards described in the Football Alberta Reopening Document (as written below).

**RESPONSIBLE PERSON:**

Each team/cohort’s RESPONSIBLE PERSON will ensure the following:

- Ensure each registered member (including all associated adults) with the team/cohort fills out the Informed Consent Form (see Appendix “A”) prior to starting on-field. These documents will be held in their possession for the season and then filed with the team at the conclusion of activity for 2020 to be secured for the next seven years. These must be available to be produced upon demand from their league/association or Football Alberta.
- Ensure a Compliance Form (this form) is filled out on behalf of the team/cohort and filed with their league/association and Football Alberta within two weeks of commencement of team/cohort activity. Failure to do so will result in Insurance being withdrawn from the team/cohort.
- Ensure a Cohort List (Appendix “C”) is created and maintained for the duration of team/cohort activities for 2020. This will be put into use to assist contact tracing should there be a positive case or outbreak within the team/cohort. This does not need to be filed with any other group just maintained and available upon demand.
- Screen each participant each day with the Screening Checklist (See Appendix “D”) and take appropriate action if anyone answers “Yes” to any of the questions.
- Ensure that Membership/Insurance is acquired and paid from Football Alberta within two weeks of the start of activity for their team/cohort and that on-line registration is completed as well. Details on how that will occur for 2020 will be sent to all teams by the end of June, 2020.
- Ensure all sanitation and cleaning requirements are conducted as listed below each day and follow any guidelines set out in that area by the municipality or school providing the facility.
- Ensure all participants and their parents/guardians are fully aware of the General Safety Guidelines listed below.





## **GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES**

Regardless of when your team/cohort begins activity the RESPONSIBLE PERSON must ensure:

- Equipment handouts for Stage 2 will be scheduled by appointment to make sure the numbers are kept as low as possible (under 15 people Physically Distanced together at any given time). All personnel handing out equipment should be wearing PPE's as well as gloves and wipe down the space used to equip at the end of each session. Proper Physical Distancing of 2M, will be practiced as much as possible.
  - Prior to practice the Athletic Therapist or Responsible Person (or assigned individual) will do a roll call of participants to apply the Screening Checklist. If there is any doubt to whether any participant may be sick, they must then follow AHS protocols.
  - Post practice all communal equipment (i.e. blocking dummies, footballs, pylons) will be wiped down with a disinfectant.
  - All coaches will attempt as much as possible to keep Physically Distant (2M) from the participants and fellow adults during any team/cohort gathering. Team huddles and group gatherings will be as limited as possible and spread 2M apart when possible.
  - Any time the team/cohort is using the sideline for a gathering place, all participants will maintain 2M distancing unless it is necessary (i.e. a trainer assessing an injured player).
  - As a rule, all adult personnel on the sidelines that will possibly have close contact with the athletes (i.e. athletic therapists, equipment manager) should wear PPE's.
  - No other team/cohort gatherings will be permitted. Any "film work" or strategy sessions will be done on-line.
  - Carpooling to practices/team events will be discouraged but family cohorts will be on their own to monitor their behavior in this circumstance.
  - Spectators (excluding parents and guardians where necessary for player support) will be kept out of participant spaces (e.g., fields of play, sidelines). **No spectators/parents will be allowed at practice unless the facility can allow for proper Physical Distancing in seating or areas away from the field of play or sidelines.** The maximum number of spectators is determined by how many people the space can hold while keeping two meters of distance between attendees from different households/cohort families, up to a maximum of 100 persons. Unless from the same household, spectators should maintain a minimum two-meter distance from one another at all times, whether the activity is indoor or outdoor. It is strongly recommended that all spectators wear masks. Cheering and yelling is strongly discouraged at this time as it presents a high risk of spreading droplets and no gathering of spectators will be allowed at practice sessions. Spectators at any permitted competitions will be regulated by the Stay and Play guidelines.
  - There will be no team water stations or shared water bottles. Players will be 100% responsible for their hydration needs and must mark their own water bottles clearly and ensure it goes to and from the on-field session with them.
  - Locker room gatherings will be disallowed as well as all players and staff will come changed to the game or practice site. Any halftime meetings will have to be done on the sidelines.
  - To protect vulnerable populations such as people with compromised immune systems, underlying health problems or seniors; team/cohorts may consider some type of virtual method of engagement to discourage them from attending to watch their child. This may include FaceTime or Zoom type broadcast monitored by the Responsible Person. (Note: this does not mean parents can enter the field of play to broadcast – everything must be done from off-field and with proper Physical Distancing.
  - Participants will be encouraged to wipe down and disinfect their equipment after each session – particularly the helmet. Washing of the jersey and pants should be done at least once a week if not after every session.
  - **Anyone found on in any club to have a positive test for COVID – 19** and have been exposed to the remainder of the participants in that club will cause **the club to immediately be shut down** and everyone who could have potentially been exposed required to arrange for a test. Only those who receive a negative result will be allowed to return and there will be no club activity until over 10 players per "team" are deemed to have tested negative.
2. This document will remain in effect until the Organization, per the direction of the provincial government and provincial health officials, determines that the acknowledgements in this Declaration of Compliance are no longer required.
  3. The Organization may remove an individual from the facility or from participation in the activities, programs or services of the Organization at any time and for any reason if the Organization believes, in its sole discretion, that the individual is no longer in compliance with any of the compliance standards described in this document.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_







## Appendix D: Screening checklist

# Football Alberta Screening Checklist

If an individual answers YES to any of the questions, they must not be allowed to participate in the sport or activity. Children and youth will need a parent to assist them to complete this screening tool.

1. Does the person attending the activity, have any of the below 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 **YES NO**
2. Have you, or anyone in your household, returned from travel outside of Canada in the last 14 days? **YES NO**
3. Have you or anyone in your household been in close unprotected contact in the last 14 days with someone who has a positive COVID test? **YES NO**

If you have answered “YES” to any of the above questions do not participate. Proceed home and use the AHS Online Assessment Tool to determine if testing is recommended or call 811 to make an appointment.



Appendix E: ASAA Memorandum

## ASAA Seasons of Play for Football

### August 11 Update to ASAA Fall Seasons of Play

🕒 August 11, 2020

**Category: ASAA News and Information**

The start date for the season of play for the sports of golf, cross country, and football have been adjusted from August 16th to September 1st for the 2020-21 school year. At this time, the start of the volleyball season of play will remain the first operational day of classes. The cheer season remains the same, with season of play starting on September 1st.

From September 1st and onward, only in-school practices are permitted.

The seasons of play for fall sports will be:

**Golf:** Sept. 1-29

**Cross Country:** Sept. 1-Oct. 29

**Football:** Sept. 1-Nov. 28

**Volleyball:** First operational day for teachers-Nov. 28

**Cheerleading:** Sept. 1-Apr. 30

If there are to be any further postponements relating to any ASAA fall sport, an announcement will be made before September 1st. Please note that any directives provided by the ASAA are subject to change as new information becomes available, and schools must always ensure their activities are in compliance with local school jurisdictions and provincial health guidelines which may be more restrictive than the ASAA policy.

More information from us on COVID-19 protocol and return to sport resources to come soon.



## Appendix F: Officials

# Officials Return to Play

- If Officials maintain physical distant of 2 metres from the cohort participants, they can remain outside of the cohort numbers. This will allow officials to referee different games and multiple games in a day.
- The officials will limit communication with the players as much as possible and will attempt to be greater than 2m away when communicating with each other. It is recommended REFcom be used when possible.
- It is recommended officials travel to games individually and arrive dressed, no more than 15 minutes prior.
- Officials will not be able to use dressing rooms and should bring their own water or other fluids to drink.
- Officials must follow all local municipal mask regulations before and after the game.
- No officials should sign any paperwork on-site unless proper 2m distance can be maintained.
- It is recommended that officials wear a neck buff. If any emergent situation arises where they would need to be closer than 2m to cohort participants on a temporary/limited basis, they could pull the buff up over their nose and mouth, acting as a mask. "For example, in the event of a fumble, the officials may need to be closer than 2 M to determine which team has possession of the ball".
- Officials must sign the Informed Consent Form and submit it to your local FOA.

### Game Changes:

- The team benches will be 2m back of the regular out of bounds line of a regular 65 yard field. The coaches must remain in the coaching area between the 40-yard lines. The players may be outside the 40 yard lines if this is required in order to maintain social distancing.
- Prior to the game, the coin toss will have one Coach from each team standing on the 50-yard lines the Referee will be on the 55-yard line.
- There will be no pregame meeting with the coaches, that discussion can take place during the coin toss.
- Officials must only touch their own flag and bean bag.
- One designated Offensive Player will bring their own clean ball in for each series of downs.
- One designated Offensive player will be responsible to retrieve the ball after each play and spot it at the appropriate location prior to each play. The Officials will direct this player where to place the ball.
- In order to remove 3 people from the cohorts it is recommended to not use yardsticks. Instead the Down Judge on first down will place his bean bag 10 yards from the initial line of scrimmage. The Down judge will make the sole determination from their position on the sideline whether a first down has been gained or not. The down judge will also be the official responsible to record what down it is. All the officials will confirm the down prior to every play, as they normally would.

### Example of Officials Mechanics with Social Distancing for 9-A-Side Football:

- Referee located in the Offensive backfield, this official will begin the play a minimum of 2M behind and or to the side of the deepest offensive player (QB, RB, Punter or Kicker)
- The 2 Line of scrimmage officials (Down Judge and Line Judge) are on opposite sides of the field and will be in the 7.5 yard area between the normal sideline of a Canadian Football Field (65 yard width) and the pylon marking the sideline of the 50 yard wide 9-a-side field. These two officials will always stay in this area. They will make sure that they are at least 2m away from any wide out players.
- The fourth official (if used) will be the back umpire this official will be located at least 2m behind the deepest player in the defensive secondary, typically the safety They will always give every effort to maintain this distance.
- The two line of scrimmage officials will spot the football with their foot to mark the forward progress on each play, so the referee or back umpire can maintain their 2m distance. The designated offensive player will align the ball up with the official's foot and the opposite sideline official will signal to the referee that the spot is correct.

