



Game Day Logistics

**TO REDUCE THE RISK OF
COVID-19 SPREAD**

UPDATED May 17, 2021

*In effect until further notice

Laws of the Game Adjustments:

Drop ball: The drop ball requirement has been removed to reduce handling of the ball and has been converted to an indirect free kick. If the drop ball is inside the penalty area after hitting the Referee, the ball automatically goes to the Goalkeeper - the Referee leaves the ball on the ground, and the Goalkeeper picks it up.

Coin toss: No coin toss. The Home team chooses, every game, at every level.

Discipline Adjustments:

Automatic cautions for any players who are involved in face-to-face (but non-mass confrontation) confrontations. Jostling and 'fighting' for space will result in a straight Yellow Card for Unsporting Behaviour.

Physical altercations "away from the ball" will result in an automatic **suspension from the match**. *eg. two players come together and push each other. * **A suspension from the match does not put a team down a player.**

Players should refrain from spitting on the field. If a player spits on the field, the referee will issue a verbal warning. If the player spits a second time it will also result in an automatic **suspension from the match**.

* The suspension from the match is used to discipline a player for infractions as they pertain to Modified Rules which under normal circumstances does not warrant a caution or ejection.

The procedure to suspend a player from the match is simply to identify the player and verbally advise that they are being removed from the match for an infraction of the Modified Rules. The player is not red carded and the suspension from the current match does not impact their ability to play in future matches.

Process Adjustments:

- The Thunder and Lightning Policy will be adjusted to read that if the game is stopped for severe weather, then the **game is over** in order to avoid gathering of participants in confined areas.
- Players must come dressed in appropriate gear to the game/training as dressing rooms are closed during this stage.
- With modified games, a **field marshal** must be appointed to ensure compliance with social distancing rules and safety protocols. The field marshal should be a recognized authority within the home teams' soccer organization. This is not the role of Match Officials.
- When a player is injured, only team personnel, following proper health and safety protocols, may assist the injured player.
- There will be no handshakes or high 5's between players, match officials, coaches before, during or after the game.
- Parents are not permitted to enter the playing field at the end of game or during training. If this occurs, it is an expectation that the team coach/field marshal will address with the parent(s).
- All cash/cheque payment to Match Officials at games must be in an envelope/sealed bag.
- Parents/Guardians of youth Match Officials are considered general spectators, therefore at any facility, they must adhere to social distancing rules and all other health and safety protocols. Parents of Match Officials are not permitted to enter the field of play at any time (before, during or after games).

Safety Adjustments:

- All game participants – match officials, players, coaches, managers, field marshals - to regularly complete the COVID-19 Self-Assessment.

*If showing symptoms of Covid-19, contact assignor and cancel your assignment and call 811.

- All team player benches must be a minimum of 10 feet from the touchline.
- Team staff must remain 10 feet from the touchline.
- Do not share pens, cards etc.
- Wash hands prior to leaving for games.
- Before, during and after games, limit your distance to two (2) meters (6 feet) from others.
- No contact with others, such as hand shaking, fist bumps and high fives.
- Leave the field as soon as reasonably possible after the game.
- Avoid post game socializing in parking lot.
- Match Officials have the right to abandon any game where the required COVID-19 protocols are not being followed. In these cases, it must be reported on the game sheet and to the Field Marshal.
- No goal celebrations are permitted which incorporates physical touching. Verbal warnings will be issued.
- Hand sanitization must take place upon arrival before warmups take place.
- Any substitute entering the game must sanitize hands.
- Players being substituted must hand sanitize upon exiting field.
- Game Sheets: All those handling the game sheet must do so after having thoroughly washed hands and/or hand sanitized within the last five minutes. Limit handling of game sheet to one person per team and the match official.

Officiating Adjustments:

- Pre-game meetings with Coaches and/or Assessors can take place, if done with physical distancing.
- Player inspections may still be completed, but must be at a distance of no less than two (2) meters (6 feet).
- Assistant Referees must stand a minimum of two (2) meters (6 feet) from the kicker during corner kicks.
- Match Officials are to use their foot to pass the ball when transferring to a player (i.e. free kicks), or direct the player to retrieve the ball themselves.
- Leagues may determine they need to reduce number of Match Officials needed for a game.

Please remember to be patient and respectful at all times.

Covid-19 has provided challenges and everyone is trying to make sure the players have a fun and safe experience. It might never be perfect but everyone is working hard to make adjustments as needed to ensure the safety of all participants.

Enjoy the game.