

## Return to Play Phases

Ontario Soccer's Return to Play Plan consists of a three (3) phase approach that includes:

**Phase 1: Return to Training (modified training)**

*Conditions: All Phase 1 Return to Training conditions are met.*

*Restrictions: No contact, no league, exhibition, festival or tournament games.*

**Phase 2: Return to Training and Modified Games (enhanced training & modified games)**

*Conditions: All Phase 2 Return to Train conditions are met.*

*Age and Stage modified competition between Clubs/Academies permitted for Inter-Squad play AND/OR within the same Region.*

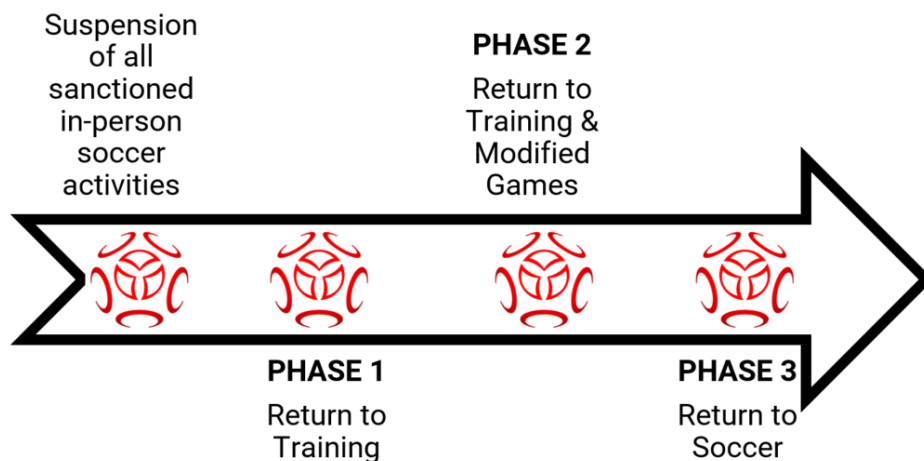
*Restrictions: League, exhibition, festival or tournament games within the Club/Academy AND/OR Region only and following conditions as set out in Phase 2.*

**Phase 3: Return to Soccer (regular competition, games and training)**

*Conditions: Social distancing restrictions have been lifted*

*Restrictions: None*

**Ontario Soccer will determine timelines for each Phase in alignment with the Province of Ontario provincial health authorities involving government orders, restrictions and guidelines.**



**Training and Competition Recommendations and Guidelines for Soccer Organizations**

## **1. Phase 1: Return to Training (modified training)**

*Conditions: All Phase 1 Return to Train conditions are met.*

*Restrictions: No league, exhibition, festival or tournament games.*

- Social Distancing Measures are still in place - Introduction of Small Group Activities respecting physical distancing measures of 2M (6 ft.).
- Soccer organization to complete 'Canada Soccer Return to Soccer Assessment Tool'
- Ensure alignment with Ontario Soccer's Return to Play Guide & Provincial Government guidelines prior to resuming soccer.
- Please see the Canada Soccer's "Age & Stage Considerations – Phase 1" document included in this section.
- Aim to keep players in small groups respecting physical distancing measures of 2M (6 ft.) so that they work with similar players. Constantly mixing players can increase the number of players interacting with an asymptomatic COVID-19 carrier.
- No games during this phase.
- Any soccer activity must comply with the social distancing measures and recommendations, along with any gathering restrictions issued by the provincial government health authorities, including the arrival and departure of players (except for family members or persons residing in the same household).
- Await confirmation from Ontario Soccer before moving to next phase.

**Phase 2: Return to Training and Modified Games (enhanced training & modified games)**

**Conditions:** *All Phase 2 Return to Training conditions are met.  
Age and Stage modified competition between Clubs/Academies permitted for Inter-Squad play AND/OR within the same Region.*

**Restrictions:** *League, exhibition, festival or tournament games within the Club/Academy and/or Region only and following guidelines below conditions as set out in Phase 2.*

Note: In the following section, “participant” means players, team officials and Match Officials

- Soccer Organization entering enhanced competitions must complete – ‘Canada Soccer Return to Soccer Assessment Tool’ and create a Return to Play plan for their organization.
- Ensure alignment with Ontario Soccer & Provincial Government guidelines prior to resuming soccer.
- Any soccer activity must comply with physical distancing measures and recommendations, along with any gathering restrictions issued by the provincial government health authorities.
- Enhanced training and modified games now include broader group interactions.
- Modified game formats include 1v1 to 7v7 for U10 and under; 1v1 to 9v9 for U11 and U12 and 1v1 to 11v11 game formats for U13 and over. **See Match Officiating section ([Phase 2 Modified Games - Rule Adjustments](#)) of this guide for modified rules pertaining to modified games if/when Match Officials are being utilized.**

Regions are defined by the boundaries set out in Ontario Soccer’s Operational Procedures:

- **West Region:** District Associations of Elgin Middlesex, Essex County, Lambton Kent and South-West Regional;
- **South Region:** District Associations of Hamilton and District, Niagara, and Peel Halton.
- **Central Region:** District Associations of Durham Region, East Central Ontario, Toronto, Huronia District, North York, Scarborough, and York Region
- **East Region:** District Associations of Eastern Ontario District, and Southeast Ontario.

- **North Region:** District Associations of Sault Amateur, Soccer Northeastern Ontario, Soccer North, Soccer Northwest, and Sudbury Regional.

Clubs/Academies can participate in modified exhibition games, tournaments and leagues under the following conditions:

- **For Outdoor and Indoor Soccer:** Multiple teams, from different Clubs/Academies within the same region can form groupings (bubbles) of no more than 50 players to participate in a league or sanctioned competition as per the current government order. Note: Upon any further government order changes to player size, membership will be advised accordingly.
- As part of this enhancement, teams must observe a minimum of 14 days of “Team Isolation” before playing games within a different team “bubble” or against a new team outside the “bubble”.
- During the “Team Isolation” period, only activities within the team can take place (i.e. training, inter-squad games.)
- The total number of **spectators** permitted to be at the facility at any one time must be limited to the number that can maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person in the facility, and in any event cannot exceed:
  - i. 50 spectators for indoor soccer activities
  - ii. 100 spectators, for outdoor soccer activities
- It is highly recommended that a **field marshal** be appointed to ensure compliance with social distancing rules and safety protocols. The field marshal should be a recognized authority within the soccer organization. This is not the role of Match Officials.

### **Trials/Tryouts/Open Evaluations**

These activities can be executed during Phase 2 **within each Region only** (see page 9). Organizations must focus on ensuring the health and safety of participants attending their sessions.

### **The following must be adhered to:**

- Players not registered for outdoor 2020 in OSCAR, Ontario Soccer’s official registry must complete the Informed Consent and Assumption of Risk Agreement, for each clubs sessions they attend, to be eligible for insurance coverage;
- Players must complete the Declaration of Compliance at each session;

- A Contact Tracing Log must be completed for each session;
- Players can participate in tryouts within one region only.

**Await confirmation from Ontario Soccer before moving to next phase.**

