

Recommendations for Clubs and Academies

- Ensure information included on this document is widely available to your members. All Club/Academy officials, coaches and anyone coordinating the training sessions must have read and be familiar with these guidelines.
- It is recommended that all participants utilize the “Self-Check” on [Ontario COVID-19 Self-Assessment App](#)
- Ensure all players and coaches are appropriately registered in OSCAR, Ontario Soccer’s official participant registry.
- Prioritize use of online registration for programs to reduce gathering at Club/Academy office and/or handling of hard copies.
- Communicate all hygiene measures in advance to all your players, parents, match officials and coaches.
- Provide your employees with any protective items required by the health authorities and ensure that each member of your staff washes their hands regularly.
- Contact health authorities if an athlete, coach or match official has contracted COVID-19 and support them with contact tracing. Commence and activate your Club/Academy [COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan](#)
- Verbal and/or documented health checks for symptoms and Contact Logs/Tracing should be completed prior to every training session. [See appendices section of the Guide for checklist.](#)
- If an individual is exhibiting symptoms related to COVID-19, they must be sent home immediately. If an individual is experiencing symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat, they are legally obligated to self-isolate. As per the Declaration of Compliance, they are NOT permitted to return to training for 14 days from the day they last experienced symptoms.
- Source written approval (permit) from the landlord of your training facility (e.g. Municipality or Private Owner).
- Comply with any additional requirements imposed by the landlord.
- Ensure the venue meets all conditions in this document particularly the hygiene protocol.
- For modified games, a field marshal should be appointed to ensure compliance with social distancing rules and safety protocols. The field marshal should be a recognized authority within the soccer organization.
- Ask parents and guardians to provide written consent for players authorizing them to participate in soccer training, and ensure they understand hygiene protocol. [See Appendices for example of waiver.](#)
- Participation should be limited to the ages and levels that understand and can adhere to the distancing measures and recommendations issued by the provincial government health authorities. [See Canada Soccer’s Age/Stage Recommendations included in the section.](#)
- Stagger activity times between different groups to create a 15-minute buffer between sessions and avoid an overlap of players on the field.
- Limit gatherings based on restriction imposed by Government of Ontario orders.
- Recommend that only one parent/guardian accompany their child/player to the session or modified game and avoid mass gathering of parents. Parents should however remain nearby in the event of injury or emergency.

- Limit the number of team staff (coaches, trainers, etc.) that are on field, noting the requirement to have a specific number of coaches to lead the session while adhering to the Rule of Two.
- Consider the comfort level of all your volunteer coaches under the current situation. Perhaps, in the first instance, limit sessions being led by a select core group of coaches.
- Ensure that first aid materials and an AED are available at all times and are accessible.
- Game sheets must have an area where the coach will confirm that players have acknowledged no COVID-19 symptoms.
- Regularly remind and encourage people to wash their hands and adopt proper hygiene practices.
- Do not use any locker/change rooms and request all participants to change at home prior to and after sessions.
- Close all water fountains and ask that all players bring their own refreshments and do not share water bottles.
- Establish protocol for attendance to be taken at each training session.
- Option to remove age group identifiers and provide flexibility for family scheduling so players can join in with different age group or genders.
Recommendation: This is the time to promote soccer for all and to alleviate logistical burdens on families so siblings can potentially participate on the same time, same day and same group.

Note: It is important for insurance and risk management, all participants are registered in OSCAR, Ontario Soccer's official participant registry.

- Consider shortening the length of matches and reduction in number of players assigned to teams (max roster).
- Provide information to coaches, match officials and parents about each facility, which field entrances will be for [entrance and exit](#) of the field to reduce bottlenecks. Implement screening and cleaning protocols as well as pick-up, drop-off and spectator procedures.
- Adhere to facility restrictions or maximum capacities for facilities. Prioritize small game formats where possible.
- Hand washing/sanitizer station(s) onsite. Provide coaches with necessary sanitization equipment.
- Consider cancelling activities where the forecast calls for thunder/lightning.
- Complete an online pre-activity orientation regarding safety – hand washing, cough suppression, no spitting or nose clearing for players, coaches, match officials and parents.

Other Precautions

Should any member organization and/or affiliated Club/Academy wishing to add stricter guidelines, measures and precautions they are able to do so for the soccer activity they oversee within their specific organization.