

Considerations for Planning for a Return to Play (RTP) to Soccer in 2021

Reference Guide for EMSA Organizations

When planning and transitioning through a 2021 season, all organizations will need to consider the following:

1. All clubs, academies, and leagues must complete the [Canada Soccer Risk Assessment Tool](#) and receive a LOW or MODERATE rating. This district will be advised by email from Ontario Soccer and only at that time will start to approve players/staff in OSCAR (SportsEngine)
2. Ontario Soccer Return to Play Guide as well as Bulletins, Webinars etc. (accessible on the [OS webpage](#) and [EMSA Webpage](#))
3. Creating and updating your Organization's RTP Guide as the OS RTP Guide is updated during the evolving pandemic.
4. Provincial and Local Health Unit recommendations/mandates (reference to regions on the EMSA Webpage under the Covid-19 tab or visit [Find your local COVID 19 zone](#))
 - Consider Covid-19 Ontario Framework
 - Local measures that may be in addition to the Ontario Framework measures
5. EMSA policy/procedures (encouraging members to reach out **first** to your Public Health Unit and/or Municipality and then contact EMSA if there are questions or concerns and referring to the FAQ section on the web). **Please note that EMSA is currently working on a date in March to host a ZOOM call to discuss administrative processes for Outdoor 2021**
6. Organization's comfort and knowledge of how to proceed during the pandemic;
 - Reaching out to EMSA or the COVID Response Committee Chairs admin@emsadistrict.com, eliana@emsadistrict.com, michelle@emsadistrict.com
 - Accessing a *RTP Collaborative Program* for Leagues, Clubs, Match Officials (TO BE DISCUSSED by the Committee)
 - Contacting Ontario Soccer for more information as needed.
7. When scheduling soccer training and games, based on OS RTP Guidelines and Provincial/Local measures consider the **fluidity/changes** occurring of:
 - Social distancing/bubbles for players, match officials, coaches etc.
 - Isolation periods
 - Periods of Lockdown
 - Travel
 - Field scheduling/space
 - Refund Policies and Financial costs/expenditure.
 - Emergency Response Plan (ERP)-who, when, what, how (procedures when positive cases have been identified or situations when members are asked to isolate and monitor symptoms). *Guidance should first come from your Local Health Unit. Refer to OS Guidelines for the steps required in these situations. CLUB ALSO IS REQUIRED TO email pforbes@ontariosoccer.com and admin@emsadistrict.com DIRECTLY*

8. Player/Team Retention and Promotion for Guidelines for Returning to Play.

- What information do families and/or players need to make informed decisions and promote the RTP?
- What is your organization doing to ensure your members have confidence in your ability to minimize risks, follow guidelines and measures etc.?
- What other resources/strategies can be used to ensure that members are adhering to OS, Provincial and Health Unit and/or Municipalities measures/guidelines?

MARCH 15, 2021

Feb 2021 – COVID 19 Committee