



July 19, 2021

COVID Precautions for Summer 2021 EMSA Games*

All Match Officials, players, coaches and managers must be registered with Ontario Soccer before participating in any soccer activity and should adhere to the following COVID precautions for games:

- ◆ Regularly use the “Self-Check” on Ontario COVID-19 Self-Assessment App. Teams are responsible for their own COVID screening and tracking for each game.
- ◆ All match officiating activities must be aligned with Canada Soccer/Ontario Soccer recommended Return to Play guidelines and game rules.
- ◆ The normal Thunder and Lightning Policy is in effect. The match may or may not be rescheduled due to the availability of fields and officials.
- ◆ When travelling together, physical distancing must be maintained and masks are recommended if physical distancing is not possible.
- ◆ When a player is injured, Match Officials may only observe and refer assistance to the applicable team bench. There is to be no Match Official contact with the player. Only team officials may assist the injured player.
- ◆ 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 will address with the parent(s).
- ◆ Parents/Guardians of youth Match Officials are considered general spectators, therefore at any facility, they must adhere to 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).
- ◆ Team coaches and/or team field marshalls are responsible for monitoring spectator capacity of 75% for outdoor facilities or 50% for indoor facilities. This responsibility does *not* fall on the Match Official.
- ◆ Spectators should be 4 metres from the field, must wear masks (exceptions apply) and be physically distanced.
- ◆ Match Official assessors and mentors need to respect social distancing guidelines. These activities should take place away from the spectator side of the field of play.
- ◆ Wash equipment, towels, clothes, bags, water bottles, and other items after use.
- ◆ Home Team is responsible for providing and sanitizing the game ball or any other game equipment.
- ◆ Individuals to bring a full personal use water bottle(s) and avoid touching or using public water fountains. Water bottles that are left behind should be discarded.
- ◆ Do not share pens, cards etc. Minimize touching of gates, fences, benches and any facility surfaces.
- ◆ Refer to league protocols for Match Official payment options. Recommendation is to use an envelope for cash.
- ◆ Coaches/Match Officials should consider wearing a mask or a face shield during games when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Players are not required to wear a mask while on the field or bench but must wear masks entering or exiting the field.
- ◆ Wash hands prior to leaving for games; bring personal use hand sanitizer to the fields. Each team is responsible to bring hand sanitizer for their bench.
- ◆ Any type of spitting should be avoided (i.e. goalie into their gloves, player on a bench).
- ◆ All players, coaches, spectators & Match Officials must leave the field as soon as reasonably possible after games and maintain physical distancing upon entering/exiting fields.
- ◆ 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 a Special Incident Report to the appropriate authorities.
- ◆ All concerns of non-adherence to COVID precautions should be directed to the local Health Unit not EMSA.

*This document is to be used as a quick reference. Refer to the Ontario Soccer Return to Play Guide for further details.