



Club Protocol Guideline Considerations

- 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 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.
 - 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.