**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](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/)

* 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](#ERP)
* 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.](#Contracing)
* 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](#Waivers).
* 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.](#Agestages)
* 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](#DropoffPickup) 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.