

Ontario Soccer
Phase 2 COVID-19 RULE ADJUSTMENT

The Rules and Guidelines listed below supersede the rules and actions listed in “2020 MEN’S RECREATIONAL LEAGUE RULES AND GUIDELINES”

COVID-19 Precautions

- A Field Marshall will be assigned to each field
- Maps of fields will be sent out prior to the start of the season, with clearly marked entrance and exit points
- Temperatures will be taken of each player prior to entering the field and to ensure that each player completes the required COVID-19 Symptoms Check List, to ensure they are not experiencing any symptoms related to COVID-19
- A contact tracing log will be kept - Players must sign in at the designated entrance and must sign out at the designated exit
- If a player is not listed on the roster, they are not permitted on to the field
- At this time, spectators will not be permitted on the field and limited spectators will be allowed outside/around the field
- For further details, please review the VSC Return to Play: Phase 2 document on our website

Discipline Adjustments

- Automatic cautions for any players who are involved in face-to-face (but non-mass confrontation) interactions. Shoving, jostling, and fighting for space will result in a straight Yellow Card for Unsportsmanlike Behavior. Match Officials should stay away and allow the emotional situation to deescalate before engaging from a safe distance.
- Serious physical altercations will result in an automatic red card.
- Mass confrontations will result in automatic dismissals for all involved.
- There will be ZERO tolerance for spitting on or around the field of play. If spitting is seen by one of the match officials, the following procedure will be followed:
 - If aimed/directed towards an individual it is an automatic red card and send off as per IFAB Laws of the Game.
 - For all other types of spitting, if a player or technical staff is seen to be spitting on or around the field of play:
 - The First incident will result in a verbal warning.
 - Second incident by that same person, a Yellow Card/Caution for Unsporting Behavior will be issued.
 - Third incident by the same person will result in a second yellow card and therefore dismissal from the game. Coaches are responsible for ensuring

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players are aware of the Spitting Zero Tolerance requirement, and the importance of following Covid-19 guidelines.

Modified Game Rule Adjustments (to be used with Laws of the Game 2019-2020)

- To reduce body fluid transfer onto ball surface, heading of the ball has been removed for Phase 2. After the first verbal warning, heading of ball will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team.
- Walls for Free Kicks – Defender and attacker deliberate contact is not permitted when creating a wall. After the first verbal warning, failure to comply will result in an indirect free kick to opposing team.
- Throw-ins are not permitted. The ball must be kicked into play (kick-in). All other requirements of Throw-In Law will still be applied. After the first verbal warning, failure to comply will result in a kick-in to opposing team.
- Corner kicks: Defender and attacker deliberate contact is not permitted. After the first verbal warning, failure to comply will result in a goal kick to the defending team.
- The drop ball requirement has been removed to reduce handling of the ball and has been converted to an indirect free kick. If the drop ball is inside the penalty area after hitting the Referee, the ball automatically goes to the Goalkeeper. The Referee leaves the ball on the ground, and the Goalkeeper picks it up.
- There will be no gathering at a Coin toss. The Home team chooses, every game, at every level.
- Match Officials will allow substitutes to wear non-clashing colours (to the players on the field of play). They are not required to be official pinnies.
- No goal celebrations are permitted which incorporates physical touching. First violation is a verbal warning; second violation by the same team will result in a caution to the goal scorer.

Process Adjustments

- The Thunder and Lightning Policy will be adjusted to read that if the game is stopped for severe weather, then the game is over in order to avoid gathering of participants in confined areas, and will not be rescheduled due to availability of fields/officials etc.
- Teams are permitted unlimited player substitutions. The Coach will be responsible for tracking substitutions. The Coach can take a photo of the sub-sheet and submit to required authorities. Match Officials do not have to touch substitution forms.
- It is recommended that when travelling together to games, maximum in a car is two individuals; one in the front seat and one in the back seat.

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- 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 medical personnel, following proper health and safety protocols may assist the injured player.
- There will be 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).
- Players are therefore responsible for retrieving out of play balls.
- It is recommended that spectators need to be six (6) meters back from the touchlines. This allows room for the Assistant Referee to run the full line and still have the required two (2) meters distance.