



MEMO

TO: BCCSL Member Districts, Clubs and Teams
RE: RETURN TO PLAY UPDATES

September 14, 2020

In this very busy time for soccer clubs in BC, we wanted to update the league's members on a few important items:

SCHEDULING

By now you have all been able to view your initial cohort and schedule to start the season. We wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone that these first 3 weeks of the season until Thanksgiving are considered exhibition games. No standings will be kept and we are asking all clubs and teams to compete and work together in the spirit of just getting the kids back on the game field for the first time with a positive experience. Scores must still be reported by the home team as that is needed for any possible re-tiering discussions based around the competitiveness of teams.

While we've allowed teams to withdraw with no penalty until the end of September, now that the schedule is up, we will simply be replacing withdrawn teams with a bye on the schedule. Last week we spent a lot of time on re-setting cohorts when teams withdrew, but from now on the groups won't change and withdrawn teams will simply be a bye on the schedule.

It is important for clubs and teams to know their schedule, and check it regularly for any changes.

Cohorts are locked in. This means that teams can't play any other games outside their cohorts unless approved by their club/district. Any teams playing outside their cohort must quarantine for 14 days prior to participating in an official cohort group again, so changes to cohorts can only be done at the BCCSL level.

Teams not entered to play in this period leading up to Thanksgiving, and that want to participate in BCCSL play after Thanksgiving, need to be submitted by their District Scheduler by **October 3 @ 5:00pm**.

ID CARDS

Due to the difficulty that clubs/districts have had in obtaining photos and creating physical ID cards during this time, the BCCSL will not enforce ID cards until after the Thanksgiving weekend. Referees will be made aware of this so teams can play without ID cards over the first three weekends, granted they ensure their rosters are correct in the scheduling system and that the referee has a printed roster provided at the games as per the BCCSL Administrative Handbook. More info will come as to the date that ID Cards are required.

ROSTERS

Rosters are locked to your team. No permit or pick-up players whatsoever are allowed. Players transferring between clubs are subject to a 14 day quarantine period.

The BCCSL recognizes that during this period when rosters are locked, teams may find themselves with players sick/absent. There may be instances where a team shows up with less than 11 players for 11 vs 11 games or less than 8 for 8 v 8 games. We are asking all teams to keep in mind the spirit of fair play and work together in those situations. Your choices are:

- if team A has a full complement of players and team B is short players, then team A can lend players so a full 11 v 11 game can be played and all players can play longer as a result

- if team A has just over 11 and team B is short, the teams can consult with the ref to move the goals up and the teams can play 10 v 10 or 9 v 9

HEALTH AND SAFETY

We also want to remind everyone that although we have progressed into the game/competition phase of BC Soccer's Return To Play (phase 2) plans, we must all do our best to ensure the safety of all participants. The BCCSL won't police the safety standards at the field of play, as these can vary widely from city to city. Clubs should have their covid safety plans in place for items such as social distancing of players and coaches on sidelines, traffic flow for entering/exiting fields, sanitizing of benches and equipment where required, and designated spectator areas and whether parents are even allowed around the field (some cities don't allow spectators).

Some simple guidelines, based on common sense around covid protocols:

- No handshakes or high-fives at any point, and specifically none at the game's conclusion
- Please respect any directives or policies of the home team/club, as each city and facility might have differing covid protocols
- Make sure your team, players, and any allowed spectators are respecting all social distancing guidelines in and around facilities
- All facilities are capped with a maximum 50 at a time rule. Please do not put this rule at risk by warming up in endzones or sidelines when a game with close to 50 participants is already on

RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES FROM BC SOCCER

The following points in **bold** were in BC Soccer's Return to Play guidelines, but we are getting many questions so please ensure you know these. The BCCSL has provided general commentary after each in *italics*:

- **No throw-ins, kick-ins only. Handled as an indirect free kick.**
 - o *The BCCSL STRONGLY supports fair play with a 10 yard distance given by the opponent, allowing a team to pass in to re-start play rather than kick a long ball that does nothing to promote possession or skill development**
- **Player/Participants are to avoid spitting and nose clearing. • If a player/participant does spit or clear their nose, the coach is required to substitute the player as quickly as possible. The player must sit on the sideline for a minimum of 15% of the total game duration. (For example, the match duration is 50 minutes per the BC Soccer Small Sided Soccer Development Manual, the substituted player would need to sit for 7.5 minutes).**
 - o *Referees will only be administering the Laws of The Game as it applies to spitting. That is, if it's directed at an opponent or official, it will be a red card. Spitting or nose-clearing in one's own area in a non-aggressive way is now meant to result in a substitution by that player's coach, and a self-policed period for that player as per this guideline. Referees will not be enforcing this, so again, the BCCSL STRONGLY supports fair play around this guideline*

POSITIVE COVID CASE PROTOCOLS

If a player, coach or other club official inside a cohort group tests positive for covid, the league should be notified immediately so that we can contact the team/club contacts from the other cohort groups. In this case, we'd take BC Soccer and health official's guidance on next steps.

A link to the full BC Soccer Return to Play guidelines is here:

https://www.bcsoccer.net/files/MemberService/ReturnToPlay/August_2020_Timelines_Member_Club_Recomendations_Return_To_Play_Phase2_cohorts.pdf

We can't wait to see the kids back on the field, and thank the volunteers and club staff throughout the lower mainland who are working so hard to make these games happen!

Regards,

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