



Langley United Return To Play – Covid19

26 May 2021

For the attention of Township of Langley

Considering a gradual and phased-in return to playing soccer may start to occur across BC as health authorities look to lift restrictions in a controlled and responsible way, BC Soccer and ViaSport have provided recommendations and guidelines for members, affiliated clubs, administrators, coaches and anyone organizing soccer related activity under the umbrella of BC Soccer (i.e. sanctioned soccer activity).

The following timelines are ONLY able to be implemented if the BC health authorities soften restrictions and we are collectively able to get back to some form of soccer activity. Early indication suggests that there may be a softening of restrictions in the near-term, therefore, the following is being shared as we collectively work to prepare accordingly:

- ~~April 1, 2021 – Return to Modified Training (Phase 1 for soccer)~~
- May 25, 2021 – Return to Games and / or Competition Structure (Phase 2)
- Date TBA – Return to the NEW Regular Type Training & Games / Competition Structure (Phase 3)

The outline from BC Soccer in regard to organizing soccer activities include but not limited to:

- ❖ The activity must always comply with the distancing measures and recommendations, along with any gathering restrictions issued by the provincial government health authorities, including the arrival and departure of players (except for family members or persons residing in the same household).
- ❖ 9 feet between people (unless on field in games) and gatherings of 50 people or less (for soccer, unless otherwise stated by the municipality/city, this is 50 people per regular full-sized soccer field). The Willoughby Community Park field South East is limited to 2 groups of 40 participants (80) excluding coaches.
- ❖ NO SPECTATORS
- ❖ Clearly layout, communicate, and mark (in consultation with municipality/city/facility owner) player drop-off and pick-up protocol for arrival and departure.
- ❖ Limit the activities to small groups, solely to in-Club/organization activity.
- ❖ Limit the number of team staff (coaches, managers, etc.) that are on-field, noting the requirement to have a specific number of coaches to lead the session and all while adhering to the Rule of Two.
- ❖ Include the daily requirement for any and all staff/coaches and participants to verbally confirm they are not experiencing any symptoms related to COVID-19.
- ❖ Make sure to stagger game play times between different groups to create a buffer between sessions and avoid an overlap of players on the field.



- ❖ Limit all occasions for gatherings.
- ❖ Communicate all hygiene measures in advance to all players, coaches parents and other people who may be responsible to transportation of youth.
- ❖ Provide your employees with any protective items required by the health authorities and ensure that each member of your staff washes hands regularly.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ All participants must be registered per the normal process under LUSA and ultimately with BC Soccer.
- ❖ Parents and guardians must provide written consent for players U18 and younger authorizing them to participate in soccer activity.
- ❖ Keep a record of participants that are participating and when, so that you can contact them if needed, for example, if an infected person is identified.
- ❖ Adherence to ViaSport's Emergency Response and Outbreak Plan.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- ❖ While not playing or involved in games, members must comply with the distancing measures and recommendations, along with any gathering restrictions issued by the provincial government health authorities, including the arrival and departure of players (except for family members or persons residing in the same household).
- ❖ 9 feet between people and gatherings of 50 people or less (for soccer, unless otherwise stated by the municipality/city, this is 50 people per regular full-sized soccer field).
- ❖ Use cones and other equipment to ensure appropriate spacing is in place to support distancing.
- ❖ Remind coaches and players of the distancing requirements.
- ❖ Recommend that only one parent/guardian accompany their child/player to the session.

COACHING

- ❖ Position players in designated and well spaced-out stations/areas on the field.
- ❖ Do not let players manipulate the practice equipment.
- ❖ Coaches should take charge of set up and collecting equipment.
- ❖ Ensure players do not touch the ball with their hands, or head, and Goalkeepers must not share gloves.

EQUIPMENT

- ❖ Exercise caution with any and all equipment that is being used.
- ❖ Players must avoid touching equipment with their hands.
- ❖ Try to restrict soccer ball use, one per player or in small groups.
- ❖ If equipment is touched or manipulated by participants, hand sanitation and ball washing at Ingress/Egress is required.



Following guidance is being provided to ensure operational security procedures are in place during the crisis related to COVID-19. These procedures must also be well displayed and communicated to all users.

- ❖ Limit all occasions for gatherings by making all communal or public areas in the facility inaccessible.
- ❖ Delimit closed areas or the ones where a maximum number of people is required.
- ❖ Use markings on the ground to indicate proper distancing from staff.
- ❖ Frequently clean all surfaces, including counters, door handles, benches, toilets, etc.
- ❖ All chairs and tables in communal areas must be inaccessible or removed to avoid all gatherings.
- ❖ All doors accessible to the public must remain open to avoid contact with door handles.
- ❖ Soap or hand sanitizer must be made available to all people in various locations throughout your facility.
- ❖ 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.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Mark Parker".

Mark Parker
Langley United Technical Director