

JUNIOR, COLLEGIATE AND UNIVERSITY LEAGUE GUIDANCE

Overview

Under current CMOH Orders, businesses and entities are required to:

- implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among attendees;
- provide procedures for rapid response if an attendee develops symptoms of illness;
- ensure that attendees maintain high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene;
- comply, to the extent possible, with the COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance and any other applicable Alberta Health guidance found at: alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx.

This document has been developed to support junior¹, collegiate and university leagues (leagues) in returning to play and reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19. **These leagues are distinct from recreational play/leagues and minor sports because they have the operational and financial sophistication required to ensure enhanced health screening of players, cohort management, private COVID testing and other facility-based requirements.**

This guidance **does not include** minor amateur sport leagues, high school athletics, senior leagues and/or other forms of organized recreational sport; the Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation sets out requirements for this level of play. Major professional sporting leagues such as the National Hockey League and Canadian Football League will be supported under specific guidelines applicable to their specific context and decisions on their overall league model of play.

In addition to this guidance, leagues must comply with their governing body's protocols, procedures, rules of play, assuming they meet or exceed this and other related provincial guidance.

This guidance is subject to change and will be updated as needed. Current information related to COVID-19 can be found on alberta.ca/covid-19-information.aspx.

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

League Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leagues may consist of a single league cohort or multiple league cohorts.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ League cohorts may consist of up to a maximum of 150 participants, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Players, coaches/instructors and staff (trainers, medical staff, equipment managers, team media, etc.), officials, volunteers who interact routinely at a distance of 2 metres or less.▪ Any number of teams can be in a league cohort, as long as the total number individuals is no more than 150.
---------------------------	---

¹ For the purposes of this guidance, junior leagues include as examples, Alberta junior hockey (e.g., AJHL), major junior hockey (e.g., WHL), Alberta junior football (e.g., Prairie Football Conference), and Alberta Junior Baseball (e.g., Junior AAA baseball).

JUNIOR, COLLEGIATE AND UNIVERSITY LEAGUE GUIDANCE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leagues can operate with multiple league cohorts (e.g., divisions), as long as the total number of individuals in each cohort does not exceed 150. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For Football only: to ensure play is not prohibited, the total number may exceed 150 players provided no more than two teams are in the cohort. More than two teams are permitted only if the total number of individuals in the cohort are less than 150. • Leagues are only allowed to change cohorts throughout the season in accordance with the next section. <p>Note: individuals who do not come into regular, close contact with individuals in the league are not part of the cohort, and do not count in the 150 individuals (e.g., General managers, team education staff, and front-end office staff). If these individuals must come within 2 metres of the league participants, they should wear a non-medical mask, and keep their interactions as short as possible. Hand hygiene is strongly encouraged prior to and following the interaction.</p>
<p>Changing League Cohorts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is strongly recommended that all participants obtain a COVID test result (using private testing²) 24-48 hours before initially entering a league cohort. • If a new cohort is required to be formed to facilitate season play (e.g., teams are shuffled into new cohorts), the following options are available to engage in play: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pause the league for 7 days³ before cohorts reset, or ○ Obtain negative test results for all cohort members within 24 hours of any new cohort interaction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leagues cannot access publicly-funded testing for this purpose.
<p>League Responsibilities</p>	<p>Leagues are responsible to ensure teams have appropriate mechanisms to ensure safety of the participants and integrity of league play.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each league is responsible to develop written protocols for the team and participant responsibilities, in accordance with this provincial guidance. The protocols should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overall schedule and league format, testing protocols, response planning, travel and billeting, environmental standards for play, participant code of conduct, disciplinary actions for non-compliance and team-sanctioned social activities.

² Private testing should follow the available guidance; positive COVID cases must be reported. Contact tracing must be coordinated with Alberta Health Services, per an agreed upon method.

³ Formal leagues must have systems to monitor for cases through daily symptoms checks, and an ability to quickly intervene to prevent further spread into the new cohorts (central oversight and control). Therefore, a reduced timeframe of 7 days between cohorts can be supported under this guidance.

JUNIOR, COLLEGIATE AND UNIVERSITY LEAGUE GUIDANCE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leagues must ensure teams implement the league-developed protocols, and are responsible for compliance across the spectrum. • Leagues must have a medical director or consultant to support health decisions for participants, teams, to work with team Designated Compliance Officers and implement this guidance. • The medical director must develop, coordinate and oversee testing protocols for the League including ensuring reporting positive COVID-19 cases and supporting Alberta Health Services contact tracing efforts. • Leagues should retain a record of the names of all individuals in each team in the league-related game to assist AHS should an individual test positive for COVID and contact tracing is necessary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is recommended that rosters be kept for each event/activity (including practice) so there is a record of which individuals were present.
<p>Team Responsibilities</p>	<p>Teams are responsible to ensure the safety of the players and to implement protocols as set out by the League.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocols should also include facility oversight (cleaning and disinfecting) and equipment management. • No participant with COVID symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID is allowed to attend league-related activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Teams that have more than one participant with COVID symptoms should postpone game activity. ○ Teams with one participant that has tested positive for COVID will be required to postpone game activity, follow recommendations for isolation and quarantine set out by Alberta Health Services. • Teams must record and maintain the names of all individuals at each league-related activity to assist Alberta Health Services (AHS) should an individual test positive for COVID and contact tracing is necessary. <p><i>Designated Compliance Officer (DCO)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every team is required to have a designated compliance officer (DCO), responsible for ensuring that the players and team officials comply with all requirements in this and applicable provincial guidance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DCOs are required to report player health information to the league medical director or consultant. ○ Protocols for if the DCO becomes symptomatic or tests positive for COVID should be developed. • The DCO must ensure that participants undertake a self-assessment every day. • The DCO must ensure all players and team officials screen for COVID symptoms before they enter the facility or participate in a sports event.

JUNIOR, COLLEGIATE AND UNIVERSITY LEAGUE GUIDANCE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DCO must use the Alberta Health Daily Checklist and temperature checks for screening. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If a player/official screens positive for one or more COVID symptom, the individual must immediately isolate; the individual must comply with CMOH Order 05-2020. A COVID test is recommended. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A symptomatic Team member may access the public health system for testing.
<p>Participant/Player Responsibilities</p>	<p>League participants are expected to commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following team protocols, including testing and code of conduct measures. • Minimize the number of cohorts they belong to outside of the league. Personal cohorts should be limited to a family/core cohort and school/work cohort if applicable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specifically, players in this level of sport cannot engage in other sport or activity cohorts (e.g., dual sport, musical groups, theatrical performance). • Engage in daily screening, conducted by team officials, which may include temperature screening, per the team/league protocol. • Conduct and submit daily self-assessments, per team protocols, and inform the team of any symptoms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Symptomatic individuals are required to abstain from attending facilities and the field of play if they show any signs and/or symptoms of COVID (per CMOH Order 05-2020). ○ Any participant with COVID symptoms or known illness must be isolated to protect the health of the teams and their families/billet families, and the integrity of the league schedule. • Abide by the personal hygiene related expectations and observe personal hygiene and other precautions set out in this guidance, the team and the league at all time.
<p>Response Plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each league and team must have a response plan in place, which outlines the process when a participant develops symptoms or is identified as symptomatic when attending the sport event. • Plans must include potential for safe transport if a participant develops symptoms on the road, and consider risks associated with billeted players not living in their own home. • If a participant becomes symptomatic, the following requirements apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ While preparing to immediately leave the facility or event, symptomatic individuals should perform proper hand hygiene, put on a non-medical mask, and maintain at least 2 metres distance from all others. ○ The individual should arrange, with assistance from team officials or the facility as applicable and necessary, for immediate transportation

JUNIOR, COLLEGIATE AND UNIVERSITY LEAGUE GUIDANCE

	<p>to their home/residence to begin isolation. Public transportation must not be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leagues should ensure that contingencies and discussions with billet families occur prior to the formation of cohorts and play commencing. ○ Once the individual has left the facility or event, team officials should ensure all surfaces and areas that the individual may have come into contact with are cleaned and disinfected. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any individual that becomes symptomatic with fever, cough, shortening of breath/difficulty breathing, runny nose or sore throat (or a combination therein) should be tested immediately. ● As all individuals who play in a game would be considered close contacts, leagues should pause or postpone team play if one or more players become symptomatic.
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There must be a designated dressing/locker room for each team that is under the control and supervision of the team/league. Teams are accountable for ensuring general public dressing/locker rooms are cleaned and sanitized appropriately prior to occupation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limit and control entry and exit of players and officials in the locker rooms. No one except players and team officials should access the locker and change rooms. ○ Provide hand sanitizer throughout the locker room and ensure that hand washing sinks are supplied with soap and paper towels. ● Participants should wear non-medical mask throughout the facility, except when engaging in play or training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A separate and dedicated entrance/exit in the facility is recommended to limit interaction with spectators or facility staff. ● Dedicate times and rooms for dryland/weight training/classroom/video review with enhanced cleaning and disinfecting that is separate from any public access areas; minimize any interactions with the public if facilities cannot be dedicated solely to the cohort. ● Increase the frequency of sanitation of locker room amenities and high touch surfaces such as water fountain handles, doorknobs, handrails, light switches, countertops, tables and audio-visual equipment. ● Remove unnecessary communal items such as pens and magazines.
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wherever possible, teams should ensure players have their own designated equipment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any shared equipment should be cleaned and sanitized at an increased frequency, and between each use. ● Where applicable, have processes to ensure enhanced cleaning and disinfection of shared fitness equipment between each use by having readily available supplies and cleaning reminders and instructions located in accessible places.

JUNIOR, COLLEGIATE AND UNIVERSITY LEAGUE GUIDANCE

Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teams are responsible for implementing participant travel arrangements that comply with provincial guidance for minimizing the risk of COVID transmission.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ This includes, but is not limited to: participants wearing masks for the duration of travel; completing frequent hand hygiene (e.g., hand sanitizing) and maintaining as much physical distance as possible.• Non-participants, including family and league officials/staff not within the cohort, should not travel in the same vehicle as league participants.
---------------	---