



BERMUDA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

P O Box HM 745
Hamilton HM CX
Fax: 441-295-0773

Tel: 441-295-2199

www.bermudafa.com

Covid-19 Match Protocols

(Amended Jan 3rd 2021)

The resumption of the BFA football leagues can contribute many health, social and cultural benefits to a society emerging from the COVID-19 environment. However, all decisions about such a resumption must be made with careful reference to public health guidelines. The important guiding principle is that the resumption of footballing activities should not compromise the health of individuals or the community. Furthermore, the resumption of footballing activities will be based on the Sports Return to Play Guidelines Issued by the Department of Youth and Sport to ensure that activities are conducted safely and do not risk increased COVID-19 infection or transmission rates. These protocols will work in conjunction with the updated Resumption of Training Guidelines that will be re-issued to BFA Member Clubs.

Facility preparedness

Where appropriate the following steps should be taken to ensure the facility preparedness and sanitization:

- Wash stations, hand sanitizer and physical distancing markings at facility entry points.
- Prepare an appropriate amount of pandemic prevention supplies in advance.
 - Examples include face masks, thermometers, soap liquid, cleaning and disinfectant supplies, etc.
- Bathrooms
 - New cleaning schedule in place for bathrooms.
 - The toilets will be cleaned and disinfected. According to the frequency of use and the soiled condition.
 - Toilet seats will be wiped with diluted bleach or hospital grade cleaner and wiped dry.
 - All soap and sanitizer dispensers topped and monitored regularly.
 - Physical distancing markings will be placed in and outside of bathrooms.
 - Signs on bathroom doors for limiting numbers in at one time.
- Regular cleaning of door windows, doorknobs, handrails.
- Signage
 - Information & advice posters/notices displayed.
 - Physical distancing measures, markings and posters put in place.
- Garbage bins will be cleaned and disinfected in a timely manner.



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- Where possible walkways to be designated and marked for one-way pedestrian traffic flow.
- Maintaining doors in the open position to promote fresh air flow.
- Identify an area where a person who has become ill can be isolated until they are able to leave the venue.

Health Standards & Protocols.

Players will:

- Have the health & physical distancing protocols explained to them.
- Players should have their own water bottles.
- Ensure that if they exhibit any of the symptoms listed below that they will advise team management that they are not available to play.
 - This would include symptoms such as – a fever (temperature of 38C or 100.4F), a cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, a headache, loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, congestion or a runny nose and a sore throat.
- If any player or official shows any sign of illness they will get immediate medical attention, report it to their club and will be required to submit a health certificate before returning to training or matches.
- Practice good hand hygiene frequently washing hands (soap and water for 20 seconds when possible, otherwise alcohol hand rub) and avoid touching mouth, nose and eyes and no spitting.
- Coaches/players will be required to declare that a member of their household has tested positive for COVID and be required to withdraw from participating until cleared.

Senior Match Protocols

- Teams should not “mix together” before or after the match.
- All participants must adhere to the pre-match screening (touchless temperature check and hand sanitizing).
- Equipment should be thoroughly sanitized before warm-ups.
- Sharing of water bottles and other personal items should be avoided.

Arrival

- Players will arrive through a separate entrance from spectators.



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- Players and coaches must wear a mask until they have completed the health checkpoint
- Upon arrival at the health checkpoint:
 - Temperature will be taken by a contactless thermometer. Any person whose body temperature is above 38C or 100.4F will be not be allowed to participate and must leave the facility immediately.
 - Symptom screening for a cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, a headache, loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, congestion or a runny nose and a sore throat.
 - Hands will be washed or sanitized
- The team physios should wear PPE when in direct contact with players. (masks, face shield, gloves)

Pre-Match protocols

- There will be no pre-match handshakes
- Match balls sanitized prior to Kick Off of the match.

Outbreak Response

What happens if someone becomes unwell during the match?

- If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and should seek medical advice.
- If a player is awaiting collection, they should be moved to a Quarantine Room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the player and with appropriate adult supervision, if required.
- If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.
- Personal protective equipment should be worn by persons caring for the player while they await collection.
- In an emergency, call 911 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk.
- If a person has helped someone with symptoms, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves or the person subsequently tests positive.
- They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell.
- Cleaning the affected area with disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.



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- The applicable locations occupied by the coaches or player during the day will be sanitized.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of Covid-19 at a club?

- When a player or coach develops symptoms compatible with Covid-19, they should be sent home. They are advised to seek medical advice and self-isolate for 14 days. Their fellow household members should also self-isolate for 14 days.
- All coaches and players are required to get tested in this scenario.
- Contact information should be gathered. This includes the players and coaches who may have come into contact with the person that day and the preceding 7 days.
- Where the player or coach member tests negative, they can return to playing and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.
- Where the player or coach member tests positive, the Club will:
 - Consider immediate closure consulting with the Department of Health, The Executive Committee, the Covid-19 Officer.
 - Contact-trace expeditiously and accurately to identify individuals or groups who may have been exposed.
 - Strongly recommend that all coaches and players who were in contact with the positive case self-isolate and are tested.
 - Perform a sanitizing deep clean throughout the club/facility.
 - Consult with the Department of Health as to next steps.



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Spectators

Each match venue will be assessed to determine the specific layout regarding separation of players, officials, match management team and number of spectators allowed. A specific gathering exemption may be also submitted to the Ministry of National Security,

In addition, Contact Tracing information will be taken either during presale of tickets or at entry. Contact tracing information must be kept for 28 days and be available on request by the Health Department.

Conclusion

These protocols are designed to protect the players, officials and the public alike. The protocols will need to be tailored to match venues where necessary. The protocols will be in place for the duration of the 2020-21 football season unless otherwise stipulated by the BFA Executive Council. The referee, match commissioner and/or COVID-19 Protocol Officer has the ability to abandon the match for safety reasons with the offending team forfeiting the match. If protocols are not met the games should not be played. Until a vaccine is developed for COVID-19, the team environment will be quite different. Every person involved in a football team or game will have a responsibility to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while ensuring continuity of learning to ensure that every player receives the same high-quality training or playing experience.