

**OWEN SOUND MINOR SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
**RETURN TO PLAY PLAN**

Updated: April 5, 2021



*Pitch in*  
**Play ON!**



## **Return to Play Assessment / Évaluation de retour au jeu**

Risk Assessment Level / Niveau d'évaluation des risques

### **Moderate/Modéré**

Dear Owen Sound Minor Soccer Association

Thank you for completing Canada Soccer's Return To Soccer Assessment Tool. Based on the information provided as of the date of this correspondence, we advise that your risk is assessed as MODERATE. When the Provincial and/or Municipal Public Health Authorities provide permission for sports activities to resume you may determine, together with Ontario Soccer, when you wish to renew your club's activities in accordance with your plan. However, it would be beneficial to revisit the mitigation section of the planning tool to see if there are areas where you may improve select procedures.

You are reminded that should your club decide to return to train when restrictions are lifted, either fully or in part, it is the club's responsibility to ensure that the local conditions for a safe return to the pitch are met and that any impositions set by the local Public Health Authorities are factored into the process moving forward. Further, depending on the timeline between this assessment and when local restrictions are eased, the Club is responsible for the continuing to update its mitigation plan as new information is provided by the local authorities. Constant revision of the mitigation plan factors improve the clubs ability to deliver a 'safe sport' environment.

In addition the, Member Association Technical Directors and/or Canada Soccer Development Department would be happy to discuss with your technical staff alternative training drills that respects social distancing and similar restricted sessions should you wish to take advantage of that opportunity.

Good luck in your return to soccer and stay safe.

Peter Montopoli  
General Secretary  
Canada Soccer

## **Introduction**

The Owen Sound Minor Soccer Association (OSMSA) has developed this plan in consultation with Canada Soccer, Ontario Soccer and the Grey Bruce Health Unit (GBHU). OSMSA home games/activities take place primarily at the Kiwanis Soccer Complex. The Soccer Complex is a multi-use venue with several field facilities contained within it. This plan should be posted on the OSMSA website and made available on social media. The Covid Health & Safety protocols in this document should be communicated in a pre-season orientation to Participants, Coaches, Managers, Parents/Guardians and Match Officials and reinforced throughout the season.

## **Mandatory procedures for all activities**

To ensure the safety of all participants and all stakeholders, these health protocols have been implemented by the OSMSA for the organization of soccer events. Each Participant, Coach, Manager, Parent/Guardian and Match Official must commit to following the requirements for each activity they take part in. If the protocols cannot be committed to, the person may be prohibited from participating in scheduled events. The protocols continue to be revised according to government directives and the evolution of the situation facing COVID-19. The priority will always be the protection of participants and the health and safety of all.

## **Continuous re-evaluation and improvement**

This plan will require regular review and updating as COVID-19 prevention/protection measures evolve. To be effective, any changes will be communicated to OSMSA members by e-mail and social media as soon as practical so changes can be applied.

**ANY PERSON EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS SHOULD NOT ATTEND THE KIWANIS SOCCER COMPLEX.**

As per the **EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN** (page 17), the Designated Point of Contact person must be immediately contacted when the following occurs:

- A person who entered a field facility showcases any symptoms of COVID-19
- A person who entered a field facility tests positive for COVID-19
- A person who entered a field facility was exposed to someone within the last 14 days who tested positive for COVID-19

Ontario Soccer's Return to Play Guide (RTP) has been adjusted to better reflect the new government framework within our Soccer RTP **three-phase** approach:



## Reference Guide (Zones) - OVERVIEW

	Grey*	Red*	Orange	Yellow	Green
Completion of Canada Soccer Return to Soccer Assessment Tool	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Organization's own RTP Guide/Plan in alignment to Ontario Soccer's RTP Guide	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age and Stage Considerations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Safety Field Marshal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Physical Distancing for Participants	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Equipment disinfecting after each game/practice	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Change rooms	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indoor Activities Permitted	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Outdoor Activities Permitted	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Games or Scrimmages	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maximum "Competitive Bubble"	N/A	N/A	50 players	50 players	50 players
Team Isolation Period before changing bubbles	N/A	N/A	14 days	14 days	14 days
Travel to other zones <b>Unless otherwise stated by local Public Health Unit</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trials/Tryouts/Open Evaluations	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maximum number of Participants (Players, coaches, match officials) <b>Unless otherwise stated by local Public Health Unit</b>	No indoor or outdoor activities	10 Indoor 25 Outdoor	50 Indoor 100 Outdoor	50 Indoor 100 Outdoor	50 Indoor 100 Outdoor
Maximum number of Spectators <b>Unless otherwise stated by local Public Health Unit</b>	No spectators	No spectators, except for ONE parent per participant	No spectators, except for ONE parent per participant under the age of 18	50 Indoor 100 Outdoor	50 Indoor 100 Outdoor

\*OSMSA will suspend activities under Grey and Red zones. This is only a guide, OSMSA may have specific restrictions.

Review this site to identify any updates to which colour zone the GBHU is in:

<https://www.ontariosoccer.net/rtphealthunits>

**Ontario Soccer's Return to Play Plan consists of a three (3) phase approach.**

## **Phase 1 – Individualized Training**

### **Grey and Red Zones**

Under the current restrictions, any soccer activity that takes place in a Grey or Red zone requires:

- -mandatory physical distancing of two metres during training.
- -games or scrimmages are not allowed
- -only a maximum of 10 participants are allowed.

Given these restrictions, in the event that the Grey Bruce Health Unit is designated as a Grey or Red zone, **all OSMSA activities will be suspended** and re-evaluated when the GBHU re-enters an Orange, Yellow or Green zone.

## **Phase 2 – Group Training and Modified Games**

### **Orange, Yellow and Green Zones**

- Each team shall have, at minimum, an assigned Coach, Assistant Coach and a Covid Reception Manager.
- It is recommended that all people who attend the Kiwanis Soccer Complex complete a self assessment health check:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>

- A contact tracing log must be completed for each session by each team by their respective Covid Reception Manager.

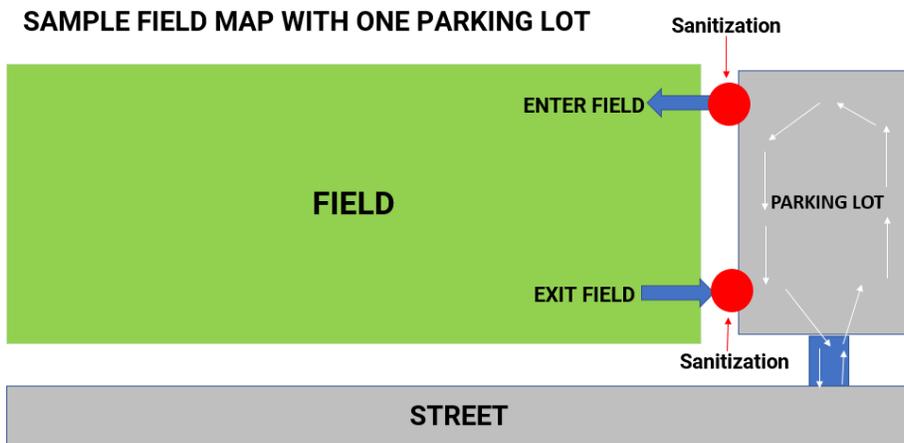
- A verbal, Covid screening health check shall be completed by the Covid Reception Manager for **ALL** people at the time that they enter a field facility (Participants, Parents/Guardians, Coaches, Managers, Match Officials)
- Anyone entering a field facility must enter through the designated entrance.
- Any individual that is exhibiting symptoms related to COVID-19 must not enter the field facility and must be sent home immediately.
- Physical distancing is not required of participants engaged in training or games.
- No spectators are permitted, but TWO parents/guardians may accompany each participant. The total number of parents/guardians must be limited to a number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres from other persons NOT residing in the same household. The total number of parents/guardians at any field facility (not including participants) cannot exceed 100 people.  
*(Special consideration may be extended to substitute a parent/guardian with a sibling required to attend for child care purposes)*
- A physical distance of at least two metres must be maintained between participants and non-participants at any field facility. Non participants (parents/guardians) must maintain a two metre distance between themselves and other persons not residing in the same household.
- A Safety Field Marshal(s) will be appointed for the Kiwanis Soccer Complex venue to ensure compliance with social distancing rules and safety protocols at the various field facilities. The Safety Field Marshal(s) should be a recognized authority within the soccer organization. This is not the role of Match Officials.
- Leagues, exhibition games and tournaments/festivals can be organized under the following conditions:
  - Multiple teams, from the same Clubs/Academies can form groupings (“Competitive Bubbles”) of no more than 50 players to participate in a league or sanctioned competition as per the current government order.
  - Multiple teams, from different Clubs/Academies can form groupings (“Competitive Bubbles”) of no more than 50 players to participate in a league or sanctioned competition as per the current government order.
  - Note: Any government directives which impact bubble size, etc., will be communicated to membership accordingly.
- Teams must observe a minimum of 14 days of “Team Isolation” before playing games within a different team “bubble” or against a new team outside the “bubble”.

- During the “Team Isolation” period, only activities within the team can take place (i.e. training, inter-squad games.)
- For all 11v11 games, the IFAB 2019/2020 Laws of the game shall be enforced. Under the new Framework, throw-ins and headers are permitted in accordance with Laws of the Game.
- Modified rules to avoid physical contact between players must be in place, including:
  - 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.
  - Use of Ball Boys/Girls is not permitted.
  - 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 at someone it is an automatic red card and send off as per IFAB Laws of the Game.
    - If spitting at equipment, playing surface or elsewhere, a yellow card for unsporting behaviour will be issued.
  - Coaches are responsible for ensuring players are aware of the Spitting Zero Tolerance requirement, and the importance of following Covid-19 guidelines.

### **Phase 3 - Return to Soccer** **(regular competition, games and training)**

All restrictions have been lifted and regular competition and training can resume.

Note: As of April 5, 2021 there are no Zones, Districts or Regions in Ontario in this phase.



### Kiwanis Soccer Complex – Facility Guidelines

- It is strongly recommended that face coverings be worn at all times, except when playing.
- Multiple groups, from different organizations, may use the venue at the same time so long as they do not intermix.
- Change rooms and the Referee room are closed
- The canteen is closed
- The water fountain is not operating
- Multiple games on the same field facility must have staggered start times to allow for a transition time/ buffer between games.
- Each field shall have a designated entrance and exit.
- Anyone entering a field facility must enter through the designated entrance.
- The washrooms will be cleaned and sanitized daily.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be set up throughout the venue.
- Avoid touching gates, fences, benches, etc.
- Spectator stands are to be taped off and not used.

## Recommendations and Guidelines for Players

- It is recommended that all people who attend the Kiwanis Soccer Complex complete a self assessment health check:
  - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>
- A verbal, Covid screening health check and contact tracing log shall be completed by the Covid Reception Manager for **ALL** people at the time that they enter a field facility (Participants, Parents/Guardians, Coaches, Managers, Match Officials)
- If you experience any of the symptoms, please follow recommendations and contact your medical health provider.
- Of primary importance is taking every precaution to help keep all participants safe.
- It is strongly recommended that face coverings be worn at times, except when playing.
- Always follow the instructions from coaches and respect physical distancing.
- Arrive at the field no more than 15 minutes prior to an activity commencing. For Representative team players, arrive at the field no more than 30 minutes prior.
- Anyone entering a field facility must enter through the designated entrance.
- Do not enter a field facility until the previous activity has ended and the participants have left. Do not congregate near the field entrance.
- Arrive prepared to train – changing rooms will not be in use.
- Bring your own water bottles clearly labelled with your name.
- Do not share water bottles.
- Physical distancing of two (2) metres (6 feet) must be maintained when not playing.
- All “non-essential” contacts should be avoided (NO handshakes, high 5’s, etc.).
- Only use your own equipment.
- Wash hands with hand sanitizer immediately before leaving home, after soccer activities, and during scheduled breaks.
- Do not spit at any time.
- Any individual equipment used should be taken home and washed separately from others in the household (e.g. uniform).
- Carry hand sanitizer in order to enable good personal hygiene.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid the use of public toilets, however if necessary, ensure hands are washed thoroughly.

- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth.
- Shower at home before and after training.
- Avoid touching your face after handling a ball, or other equipment. Wash your hands promptly if you have touched your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Do not share food, drinks or towels.
- With the exception of throw-ins, as much as possible, avoid using your hands directly to pick up the ball.
- Remain 2 metres apart from other players when taking a break.
- All players should leave the field facility immediately after play.
- Please take all garbage/recyclables home with you.

## Recommendations and Guidelines for Parents

- It is recommended that all people who attend the Kiwanis Soccer Complex complete a self assessment health check:
  - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>
- Of primary importance is taking every precaution to help keep all participants safe.
- Avoid congregating at facility entry points.
- A verbal, Covid screening health check and contact tracing log shall be completed by the Covid Reception Manager for **ALL** people at the time that they enter a field facility (Participants, Parents/Guardians, Coaches, Managers, Match Officials)
- Remind players to arrive to training dressed and ready, as change rooms will not be available.
- It is strongly recommended that face coverings be worn at all times.
- Maximum of TWO parents/guardians attending soccer activities.
- Parents/guardians to keep a minimum of 2 metre distance from the field.
- Exercise physical distancing (2 meters) at all times
- Have your child arrive at the field no more than 15 minutes prior to an activity commencing. For Representative team players, arrive at the field no more than 30 minutes prior.
- Anyone entering a field facility must enter through the designated entrance.
- Do not enter a field facility until the previous activity has ended and the participants have left. Do not congregate near the field entrance.
- At home, ensure all the player's equipment is washed separately from the other household items.
- Ensure child is healthy and has no sign of COVID-19 symptoms.
- Pick-up/drop-off of players should be coordinated to ensure health safety. Stay in the parking lot and do not leave your vehicle and enter the field facility unless you are staying to watch the game/activity.
- Please take all garbage/recyclables home with you.

## Recommendations and Guidelines for Coaches

- It is recommended that all people who attend the Kiwanis Soccer Complex complete a self assessment health check:
  - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>

- Of primary importance is taking every precaution to help keep all participants safe.

A verbal, Covid screening health check and contact tracing log shall be completed by the Covid Reception Manager for **ALL** people at the time that they enter a field facility (Participants, Parents/Guardians, Coaches, Managers, Match Officials)

- Coaches should hold a pre-activity orientation with players and parents regarding safety protocols– i.e., social distancing, any modified training, pick up and drop off, hand washing, cough suppression, no spitting or nose clearing, etc., prior to your first activity. Coaches should monitor and reinforce these protocols throughout the season. Assistant Coaches are to help monitor and reinforce these protocols. If a Coach, Assistant cannot attend, a replacement should be found.
- Have your players arrive at the field no more than 15 minutes prior to an activity commencing. For Representative team players, arrive at the field no more than 30 minutes prior.
- Anyone entering a field facility must enter through the designated entrance.
- Do not enter a field facility until the previous activity has ended and the participants have left. Do not congregate near the field entrance.
- Coaches should wipe down personal and field equipment using disinfected swabs or towels, before and immediately after each session (do not go home and then clean – contaminated items may travel into the home environment).
- Only Coaches/Assistant Coaches/ Managers should handle equipment.
- Avoid using shared pinnies or any other additional equipment. Have players bring both a red and white shirt for scrimmages, for example.
- It is strongly recommended that face coverings be worn at all times.
- Structure activities to maximize physical distancing.
- Limit hand contact to equipment.
- Regular sanitization breaks combined with water breaks.

- Use cones and other equipment to ensure appropriate spacing is in place to support distancing.
- Hand sanitizer should be made available to players.
- Please ensure you are aware of the Modified Rules outlined each Phase and Zone.
- Please take all garbage/recyclables home with you.

## **Recommendations for Match Officials**

All Match Officials must be registered with Ontario Soccer before participating in any soccer activity.

- It is recommended that all people who attend the Kiwanis Soccer Complex complete a self assessment health check:
  - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>
- A verbal, Covid screening health check and contact tracing log shall be completed by the Covid Reception Manager for **ALL** people at the time that they enter a field facility (Participants, Parents/Guardians, Coaches, Managers, Match Officials)
- Please ensure you are aware of the Modified Rules outlined each Phase and Zone.
- Of primary importance is taking every precaution to help keep all participants safe.
- Enforce the modified playing rules, as outlined on this document.
- All match officiating activities must be aligned with Canada Soccer/Ontario Soccer recommended safety guidelines
- Any soccer activity must comply with the social distancing measures and recommendations, along with any gathering restrictions issued by the Province of Ontario health authorities, including the arrival and departure of players (except for family members or persons residing in the same household).
- 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 MAY not be rescheduled due to availability of fields/officials etc.
- Match Officials must arrive in appropriate officiating gear to the game/training.
- With modified games, a Safety Field Marshal and Covid Reception Manager should be appointed to ensure compliance with social distancing rules and safety protocols. The Safety Field Marshal should be a recognized authority within the soccer organization. This is not the role of Match Officials.
- When travelling together, physical distancing must be maintained.
- 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.

- 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).
- ONE Parent/Guardian of a youth Match Official is allowed to accompany their child, therefore at any field facility they must adhere to all rules and other health and safety protocols in this document (they must be included in the health safety check and contact tracing log). Parents of Match Officials are not permitted to enter the field of play at any time (before, during or after games).
- Match Official assessors and mentors need to respect social distancing guidelines. These activities should take place away from the spectator side of the field of play.
- Postgame discussions between the officiating crew must respect social distancing rules and be conducted outside the facility.
- Take the necessary safety precautions to limit the risk of infection for themselves. Match Officials may use the COVID-19 self-assessment App.
- Wash equipment, towels, clothes, bags, water bottles, and other items after use.
- Individuals to bring a full personal use water bottle(s) and avoid touching or using public water fountains.
- Use new grip or fresh tape on flags if possible.
- Do not share pens, cards etc.
- Consider wearing a mask or a face shield when you are officiating.
- Wash hands prior to leaving for games; bring personal use hand sanitizer to the fields.
- Consider wearing gloves to the field. Avoid touching gates, fences, benches, etc. Wear latex (or similar) gloves and discard after each game, or purchase gloves that can be washed.
- After games and at half time, limit your distance to two (2) meters (6 feet) from others.
- Leave the field as soon as reasonably possible after training or games.
- Avoid post training/game socializing as much as possible.
- Match Officials have the right to abandon any game where the required COVID-19 protocols are not being followed. In these cases, it must be reported on a Special Incident Report to the appropriate authorities.
- It is recommended that hydration breaks be increased to allow for players and match officials that may be wearing masks/shields to take time to refresh. Please ensure coaches are aware at the start of each game as to the timing of the breaks.
- Officiating Adjustments
  - Player inspections may still be completed, but must be at a distance of no less than two (2) meters (6 feet).

- Assistant Referees must stand a minimum of two (2) meters (6 feet) from the kicker during corner kicks.
  - Match Officials are to use their foot to pass the ball when transferring to a player (i.e. free kicks), or direct the player to retrieve the ball themselves.
  - It is optional for Assistant Referees to wear face shields/masks as they are positioned closer to spectators and benches. This provides an additional level of protection.
  - Clubs/Districts/Academies/Leagues may determine they need to reduce number of Match Officials needed for a game. League1 Ontario, League1 Ontario Reserve, OUA, OCAA, OPDL, Ontario Cup Semi-finals and Finals will have priority for three (3) officials.
- Please take all garbage/recyclables home with you.

### **Covid Reception Manager role**

Individuals (parents or volunteers) must be appointed for each team to perform the following functions:

- Track attendance on the form provided for the purposes of contact tracing. This form should be kept on hand for 6 weeks.
- Ask health screening questions related to the symptoms of Covid-19.
- Ensure all Participants, Coaches, Managers and Parents/Guardians enter the field through the designated entrance.
- Has the right to refuse any person entry into the field facility if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19. The Safety Field Marshal should be contacted to assist, if required.
- Email a photo of the contact tracing form to the designated authority immediately after the game or activity
- A face covering **MUST** be worn when you are greeting people at the field entrance.

## Emergency Action Plan

EAP Lead	E-mail	Phone
OSMSA Board Member Jim McManaman	<a href="mailto:jkmcmaman@rogers.com">jkmcmaman@rogers.com</a>	519-374-1218

### Overview

As a commitment to keeping our membership safe, the OSMSA has developed a Response Action Plan in the case that a member of our organization tests positive and ensuring the infected person(s) is removed and receives immediate care from health professionals and the virus does not spread any further.

**Member:** a player, coach, match official, guardian/spectator, staff member, board member

### PHASES

### EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

DESIGNATED POINT OF CONTACT (POC)	<p>In the event a member tests positive or showing symptoms during an activity, please ensure communication is immediately made to the Club's <u>Designated Point of Contact</u>:</p> <p>Jim McManaman  <a href="mailto:jkmcmaman@rogers.com">jkmcmaman@rogers.com</a>            519-374-1218</p> <p><u>ALTERNATE Designated Point Of Contact</u>:</p> <p>Jason Dantas  <a href="mailto:vphouseleague@owensoundminorsoccer.ca">vphouseleague@owensoundminorsoccer.ca</a></p>
COMMUNICATION	<p>The POC must be immediately contacted when the following occurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A member showcases any symptoms of COVID-19</li> <li>A member tests positive for COVID-19</li> <li>A member was exposed to someone within the last 14 days who tested positive for COVID-19</li> </ul>

**PHASES****EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**

ADVISE TO STAY HOME	<p>The EAP Lead will advise members to stay home until they are well enough based on Public Health Agency of Canada and Provincial Health Authority guidelines.</p> <p>Members are reminded that sick individuals are not permitted to attend any Club activities and must notify the Club if any members are sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed/suspected case.</p>
ISOLATE & TRANSPORT THOSE WHO ARE SICK AT A CLUB ACTIVITY	<p>A member at any Club activity who shows COVID-19 symptoms (i.e. fever, cough, shortness of breath) must immediately be separated and isolated at the fields exit area. In the case the participant is under 18, they will wait with a responsible adult following social distancing rules. Team officials will contact the family to arrange an immediate pick up and the member be taken home or to a healthcare facility. If an ambulance must be called, they must be notified that the person may have COVID-19.</p> <p>Members who had close contact with the person must be separated and sent home as well. Members may not return to training until a negative test result or 14 days after the symptoms have stopped.</p>
CLEAN AND DISINFECT	<p>Immediately after symptoms or a sick person has been confirmed, the training area and equipment must be temporarily closed off for the duration of that activity. The area and equipment must be immediately disinfected and safely stored away after for later use. It is to be noted that equipment will be cleaned and disinfected before and after each session.</p>
NOTIFY LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS AND CLOSE CONTACTS	<p>In accordance with privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations, the Club will immediately notify appropriate local health officials, Club staff, team officials and members (families) immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality. OSMSA will use a Contact Tracing Log to and a communication plan to notify all close contacts should there be a reported case of COVID-19. This log will be kept on file for a minimum of 6 weeks and used at all OSMSA activities to trace all members who enter the field. It is to be noted that members must enter a field through the designated entrance.</p>

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## COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN (ERP) Communications Flow Chart

