

July 9, 2020

Attention: BC Soccer Members/Affiliated Clubs and Head Referees
From: Lori D’Andrea, Director of Community Development, BC Soccer
Subject: Return to Play for Referees, Clinic Updates and Survey

Dear BC Soccer Members/Affiliated Clubs, Head Referees,

Since Phase 1 of BC Soccer’s Return to Play Plan began June 12th, it has been very encouraging to see over 85 organizations have, or have started to, take the required steps to return to play.

BC Soccer Return to Play – Phase 1 - Referee Sample Sessions

Like players and coaches, referees also have a strong desire to get back to the pitch. To assist with this, BC Soccer is pleased to share Return to Play Phase 1 – Technical Resources – Sample Sessions for Referee Training (provided separately). Aligned with BC Soccer’s Return to Play Phase 1 - Guidelines and approved by Canada Soccer, this resource provides sample sessions within the recommendations and guidelines to support members and affiliated clubs that have returned to play and, are seeking to offer referee training. We encourage members, affiliated clubs and Head Referees to use, tailor as appropriate, and share with each other to support referee training among your organizations.

Referee Clinic Delivery and Next Steps

Some Head Referees have also inquired about when referee clinics will resume, how they will be delivered and what guidance BC Soccer has in terms of planning referee programming over the coming months. Currently, without matches taking place, Head Referees are encouraged to continue engaging referees by hosting online education sessions, quizzes, and, providing training on field in alignment with Return to Play Phase 1 Guidelines. Currently, BC Soccer is not scheduling requests to host clinics; however, intends to begin doing so as a part of BC Soccer’s Return to Play Phase 2 Plan, which Jason Elligott is leading the discussion on with primarily ViaSport regarding timelines. As you may or may not be aware, BC Soccer is working to take a staggered approach in Phase 2 of Return to Play whereby, in the first instance, limited contact in-club training could take place and potentially be followed by small-sided games with a regionalized focus. From a refereeing perspective, BC Soccer would like to begin hosting clinics when limited contact training can take place. This will enable returning referees time to attend a Refresher Clinic and, new referees will be able to put their knowledge to practice within, hopefully, a reasonable time after completing a clinic. When small-sided games can take place, referees will also be able to officiate, following any travel limitations or other guidelines in place. We are currently awaiting confirmation from Canada Soccer on whether this approach is agreeable.

Entry Level Clinic

In terms of clinic delivery, Canada Soccer is in the process of revising the Entry Level Clinic whereby, instead of a 17-hour, in-person clinic, students will complete a series of self-guided online modules, followed by an in-person component. The in-person component will be approximately 7 hours in duration and focus more on Law 11 (Offside) and Law 12 (Fouls and Misconduct). Currently, the online modules have been developed and the in-person component is still to be finalized.



Refresher & Small Sided Clinic

Following the above noted lead, BC Soccer is working to prepare the 2020-2021 Refresher Clinic to be delivered online and in-person. We are also reviewing the Small-Sided Referee Rules and Clinic to follow suit. For all clinics, completion of the online modules will be required prior to signing up for an in-person component. The aim of moving a portion of the clinics online is to provide referees more flexibility to complete the theory/classroom component of the course in their own time and at their own pace; as well as, to have the time spent learning in-person be more engaging, interactive and focused on the foundational elements of officiating on field.

We are currently working with our developer, E2E, to see if/how the updates to clinic delivery can be facilitated through the RefCentre platform.

Planning with the Uncertainty

Despite all of the work towards these items, the uncertainty of the current situation remains, which BC Soccer can appreciate, makes it difficult to plan and book facilities to host referee training or clinics. Therefore, where possible, Head Referees are encouraged to plan for their referee training, educational activities, and clinics as they typically would so the sooner we are able to move forward, the better clubs are prepared.

Feedback Survey

Lastly, as BC Soccer looks to better meet the needs of members, affiliated clubs, and referees, we are seeking feedback from Head Referees, Referee Schedulers/Assignors, or others who perform related functions, to find out more about their respective roles, challenges, and ideas for where BC Soccer can assist via a survey, provided at the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/bcsoccer-referee-development-survey>

Please note: The survey will be open until end of day, Thursday, July 23rd, 2020.

Kind Regards,

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Director of Community Development
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CC: Jason Elligott, Executive Director, BC Soccer
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