



**September 9, 2020**

**Attention:** BC Soccer Members/Affiliated Clubs and Head Referees  
**From:** Lori D’Andrea, Director of Community Development, BC Soccer  
**Subject:** Phase 2 Return to Play for Referees & Clinic Updates

Dear BC Soccer Members/Affiliated Clubs and Head Referees,

On August 24, 2020, BC Soccer was pleased to share its Phase 2 Return to Play Guidelines, which detailed the cohort model for game play, to members and affiliated clubs.

As we look forward to returning to game play, there have been a number of referee-specific related questions regarding referee participation in cohorts, referees that are also players, use of equipment, officiating in multiple leagues, etc. Answers to these types of questions, along with others and clarification regarding kick-ins replacing throw-ins, are provided in the document, “BC Soccer Return to Play Phase 2 – Referee FAQ” found on BC Soccer’s website: <https://bcsoccer.net/return-to-play-information>. We believe this is helpful information not only for referees, but also for all members, affiliated clubs and the personnel within, therefore, encourage you all to review.

#### **REFEREE CLINIC UPDATES**

Over the past few months, following guidance from its governing bodies (viaSport and Canada Soccer), BC Soccer has been working to reformat how referee clinics are delivered so referees are educated in an engaging way while their physical contact and interaction is limited.

#### **Refresher Clinic 2020/2021 - Coastal**

The 2020-2021 Refresher Clinic will be delivered online and “in-person” via Zoom. Referees will log into their RefCentre account and register for a Refresher Clinic. Upon completing registration and payment, referees will complete a short online module by watching a video and answering questions at the end. The questions are straightforward; however, to ensure referees have reviewed the material, a mark of 80% is required to complete the module. Following this, referees will attend the session they’ve signed up for (via Zoom) with a BC Soccer Referee Instructor. This session will be approximately 2-hours in length; changes to the Laws of the Game will be reviewed in more detail with an extra focus on offside. Based on the timeline provided from E2E, the developer of RefCentre, the 2020/2021 Refresher Clinic will be available to referees to sign up for by the end of September.

With there being no “host requirements” to deliver the Refresher Clinic, BC Soccer will not be accepting requests in RefCentre, rather, will be coordinating Refresher Clinics directly. All Refresher Clinics will be Open/Student pays.

#### **Refresher Clinic 2019/2020 – Interior**

In April, to ensure Interior-based referees did not miss out on the updates to the Laws of the Game, BC Soccer provided the 2019-2020 Refresher Clinic in an online format using the E2E RefCentre system. While some referees completed the online session, others held off because, at the time, there was still a lot of uncertainty if/when soccer activity would resume in any capacity. Now that we are in Phase 2 of

BC Soccer's Return to Play Plan, some Interior members and affiliated clubs are returning and including game play within their programming. With the progression to Phase 2 Return to Play, some referees have yet to complete the 2019/2020 Refresher Clinic. The Refresher Clinic for Interior-based referees is typically only offered until June/July as the overlap between the Interior and Coastal seasons begins in August and new updates to the Laws of the Game are implemented for Coastal play. (The Interior implements these the following April.) To ensure referees are registering for the correct Refresher Clinic; the 2019/2020 Refresher Clinic is no longer available in RefCentre; however, given the circumstances, to support referees who still need to complete the 2019/2020 Refresher, BC Soccer will be providing it through an alternative online platform. Upon completion, referees' status will be updated in RefCentre. BC Soccer will provide more detailed instruction on how to complete the 2019/2020 Refresher Clinic directly to referees and keep their respective Head Referee informed.

**Please note, referees registered from last year may officiate while they await or seek to take the Refresher Clinic.** In the meantime, Interior referees are encouraged to review and implement IFAB's 2019/2020 Law Changes and Clarifications and Coastal referees are encouraged to review and implement IFAB's 2020/2021 Law Changes and Clarifications. Both of these are available on BC Soccer's website: <https://bcsoccer.net/referee-rules-regs>

### **Small Sided Clinic**

Students seeking to become Small-Sided Referees will continue to register for the Small-Sided Clinic through RefCentre; however, the delivery of the current Small Sided Clinic has been revised to consist of two 2-hour Zoom sessions and one 2-hour on-field session with a BC Soccer Referee Instructor. Following attendance at all three sessions, students will be provided access to the Small Sided Referee exam by their Referee Instructor. Students will be given 48 hours to complete the exam. Students that receive the passing mark of 70% will receive their Small-Sided Referee badge in the mail.

BC Soccer will provide updated Small-Sided Clinic Host requirements (as there is no classroom required right now) in the coming days. Following this (by the end of September), BC Soccer will begin accepting Small Sided Clinic requests.

### **Entry Level Clinic**

As noted in the [July 9, 2020 memo](#), in conjunction with Canada Soccer, we have been working to revise the 17-hour in person Entry Level Clinic. The updated delivery of the Entry Level Clinic now consists of 17 Law-based modules, followed by a 7-hour in person session. Similar to the other clinics, to limit physical interaction, the 7-hour in person session will be delivered by a BC Soccer Referee Instructor through two 2-hour sessions via Zoom and one 3-hour on field session.

Students will register for the Entry Level Clinic via RefCentre. Upon completion of the 17 law-based modules, students will complete the first part of the Entry Level exam. Following this, students will attend the Zoom and on-field sessions and then take the second part of the Entry Level exam. Students who successfully complete the Clinic with a passing mark of 80% or higher will receive their referee badge in the mail.

BC Soccer will provide updated Entry Level Clinic Host requirements (as there is no classroom required right now) in the coming days. To accommodate the revised Entry Level Clinic, updates to the RefCentre



platform are still in development. BC Soccer has been advised that the updates are to be completed by mid-October; therefore, will begin accepting Entry Level Clinic hosting request at that time.

#### **PRIVACY CONCERNS FOR ZOOM CLINIC SESSIONS**

It has come to our attention that some students/parents may have concerns regarding the video-display required for delivery of referee clinic sessions via Zoom; the concern is that the session may be recorded or “screen shots” may be taken and then distributed or posted to social media channels. While BC Soccer will not be recording Referee Clinics delivered via Zoom, participants will be required to display their video so the Instructor can verify attendance and participation in the Clinic. Students will be reminded that they are not to record or take screen shots as they will be provided the necessary materials prior to the clinic; however, BC Soccer is not able to guarantee compliance. Any alleged unethical use and/or distribution of any recording or screenshots will be addressed through BC Soccer’s judicial processes. While we do anticipate returning to in-class sessions when we are able, if a potential student is not comfortable participating in referee clinics delivered through Zoom, BC Soccer understands that it might be better for the student to attend a referee clinic in the future when we can be back in a classroom environment.

#### **FEEDBACK SURVEY FOLLOW UP**

In the July 9<sup>th</sup> memo, we provided a link to a survey targeted at Head Referees and Referee Scheduler/Assigners. I’m pleased to share that the survey had 31 respondents who provided valuable information on refereeing activity at local levels, insight on areas where BC Soccer can improve and what is needed in terms of support. A more detailed summary of the survey results will be circulated next week.

As we continue to navigate through returning to the field and match play, we’d like to thank members, affiliated clubs and specifically their Head Referees and Referee Scheduler/Assigners, for their continued patience and understanding. I recognize that it may be frustrating and confusing at times so this support is greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards,

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