

***YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS EMAIL BECAUSE YOU STARTED A REGISTRATION IN THE SOCCER PORTAL AFTER FEB 1ST, 2020. IF YOU ALREADY CANCELED NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED.**

Return to Soccer Update Mill Woods Soccer Association

Hello All members!

The information below will cover a variety of topics concerning the outdoor season and we ask you to read in full before actioning anything. We will talk about the new stages put into place for sports and more specifically soccer. The timelines for an anticipated start date, Mill Woods Soccer Association requirements, Coach requirements, Player requirement as well as information regarding refunds.

As we all are anxious to get back out we have to make sure safety is a top priority. This email is intended to shed some light on the most recent developments as it concerns the Return to Soccer and the measures that Mill Woods Soccer Association is taking and requirements that must be met prior to starting back up.

Please remember that you are unable to practice or play with your team until the Mill Woods Soccer Association has advised that we have met all requirements as a league. Failure to abide by this will be at your own risk as our activities are not sanctioned therefore are not insured until the requirements for Return to Activity are met.

As a reminder, we must follow our governing body's direction on best practices as they are who insures our players and coaches and they are in discussions with the health professionals. Canada Soccer realized that each province is in a very different state in regards to the pandemic so they set out general guidelines and worked individually with each provincial body to further assist in the development of their Return to Soccer. Our provincial body is Alberta Soccer (ASA).

Alberta Soccer (ASA) is implementing a 3 stage process:

- **Stage 1:** Return to Train (practices with social distancing measures in place) – earliest June 12th
- **Stage 2:** Return to Modified Games (small-sided scrimmages with Cohort teams in place – cohorts is described further in the communication) – earliest June 19th
- **Stage 3:** Return to Soccer (regular competitions and training) – no date at this time

See the very swift timeline of events below:

- **June 5th** the Alberta Soccer released its standard for RETURN TO TRAIN ([Click Here to review](#)) with the information that each club/association must meet in order to Return to Train, as long as regional conditions were met. Part of this process was attending an Alberta Soccer Webinar on June 10th to further discuss and clarify this new normal. Each club/association had to also complete a Return to Play risk assessment with Alberta Soccer and Canada Soccer.
- **June 9th** The Mill Woods Soccer Association Completed the risk assessment to Return to Play and was granted LOW RISK status, which meant that as long as we put all measures in place we could Return to Train. This same day the Alberta Government pushed up Phase 2 of their launch ([Click Here to review](#)) allowing sports teams to play in Cohorts (ASA's phase 2 approach) to June 12th. However, the City of Edmonton still had a ban on user groups using their fields.
- **June 10th** the clubs and leagues all met with ASA to further discuss and receive clarity on the Return to Play guidelines. We were informed if our club had met all guidelines we could proceed to Phase 1 (Return to Train) on June 12th. As most clubs are working hard to meet the requirements and city fields at this point remained closed to users this date was a bit too soon in Edmonton. ASA did also inform us that we should expect to see the Stage 2 (Return to Modified Games) which will closely mirror the Alberta Government Phase 2 approach on or after June 19th, pending approval from all authorities. The full Phase 3 approach does not yet have an implementation date since this situation is so fluid and ever changing.
- **June 11th** the City announces to the public they are opening the fields to user groups June 15th.
- **June 12th** the city sends information to all user groups advising we can now ask for field bookings to accommodate our delayed season on June 15th. Mill Woods Soccer Association has sent the request for our league in.

So what does this mean for us today?

Now that we have been provided with guidelines (some that still need to be met) and some dates on openings, we are anticipating **skipping** the **Return to Train** phase and moving right into Phase 2 **Return to Modified Games**.

We are anticipating a start date for this of July 6th

What does Return to Modified Games mean?

Although the details on this still have to be officially released by Alberta Soccer we can anticipate it to mirror

the Alberta Government Phase 2 approach. This approach allows for games between teams so as long as they are part of the same Cohort group. This means that teams will be playing modified/scrimmage style games within their cohort only during the duration of this phase, scores and standings will not be kept.

For Leagues, a Cohort is described as:

A group of no more than 50 individuals who participate in the same sport activity and remain together for the duration of phase 2.

- Cohorts will include players, coaches and officials
- Each person can only be a part of one cohort
- If a player is multi-sport or multi activity individual and both activities fall into the cohort guideline they must choose only 1
- Exceptions will be made for coaches of multiple teams so as long as they socially distance while coaching and wear masks.
- If a player wants to leave their cohort group to play somewhere else or with another cohort they must self-isolate for 14 days before switching cohorts.
- Spectators are not considered part of a cohort and are allowed in phase 2 up to 100 people outdoor so as long as social distancing measures are put into place. Spectators will not be encouraged to stay as part of Mill Woods Soccer Return to Training program for U9 and up. Guidelines will be put in place for spectators should we return to phase 3 games.
- For the U4/U5 program, 1 parent will be required to stay and participate in each session as required. This will need to be the same person as you will form part of the cohort.
- For U7 we will encourage 1 parent to stay and observe the session under the spectator rules. This should be the same person for all sessions.
- Members of the same household may participate in different cohorts as long as each member only participates in one.

When will stage 3 begin?

A date has still not be set for this stage as this is will be determined as we advance through and provincial guidelines are further relaxed.

What will happen to my player fees?

In the event this proposed season will not work for your family you will have up until **June 19th** to request a full refund by emailing socceroffice@millwoodssoccer.ca along with the player full name, please specify your request in the email.

In the event you would like to continue to participate in the season, we have acknowledged that this is not what soccer usually looks like. We are unable to anticipate the future at this time but will honor our commitment to working to get kids playing a sport they love at a fair price.

If you have not paid for soccer this season, those fees must be paid to the office over the phone at 780-468-5233 ext 2 or ext 1 by June 19th. If you have paid for soccer this season and there is a difference between the new fees that will be refunded by the end of July.

What will the new season look like?

COMMUNITY Program

10 sessions over 8 weeks. Sessions will start July 6th and will be on the same nights as the regular season was planning. The fees will be \$110 for U4, \$120 for U5 & U7, \$150 for U9 – U19.

Sessions will be skills focused and be overseen by the MWSA technical team. There will be strict protocols for players/coaches/parents upon arrival to the session. These will be a verbal COVID screening, contact tracing log information recorded, sanitizing of hands, set up of player and team equipment. Upon completion of the session, all player/coaches/parents will sanitize hands while exiting the field. Separate areas for arrival and exit will be in place. All participants will be asked to arrive and exit promptly so that cohorts do not overlap. More detailed information to follow.

Should stage 3 go forward and full games be possible. Extra Fees will apply to those players that wish to be involved in league gameplay. Should gameplay start while the Return to Training phase is still in effect, fees will be prorated and applied towards to the game fees.

SELECTS FC Program

24sessions over 8 weeks. Sessions will start June 27th and will be held during the week and some Saturdays. The fees will be \$300 for U9 – U17.

Sessions will be skills focused and be overseen by the MWSA technical team and Selects FC coaches. There will be strict protocols for players/coaches/parents upon arrival to the session. These will be a verbal COVID screening, contact tracing log information recorded, sanitizing of hands, set up of player and team equipment. Upon completion of the session, all player/coaches/parents will sanitize hands while exiting the field. Separate areas for arrival and exit will be in place. All participants will be asked to arrive and exit promptly so that cohorts do not overlap. More detailed information to follow.

Should stage 3 go forward and full games be possible. Extra Fees will apply to those players that wish to be involved in league gameplay. Should gameplay start while the Return to Training phase is still in effect, fees will be prorated and applied towards to the game fees.

What has Mill Woods Soccer Association done to prepare for the Launch of Phase 2 return to modified games?

1. Completed the and scored low risk on the Return to Play risk assessment
2. Requested field contracts for our delayed season through the city of Edmonton
3. Attended the Alberta Soccer Webinar
4. Established Return to Play Guidelines for Coaches, Players & Parents
5. Established a verbal symptoms checklist for coaches to ask of participants
6. Establish a COVID-19 symptoms and reporting process
7. Order the coach PPE supplies

What is Mill Woods Soccer Association currently working on that is not yet completed?

1. Work with Team Snap to establish as simple of a contact tracing process as possible
2. Set Finalized teams up with Team snap and provide instructions on use
3. Receive the approved request of fields from the city and issue contracts to users
4. Receive the coach PPE supplies and package them for distribution
5. Tryouts will not be held this season. Anyone wanting to tryout for Selects FC will be accepted for training this season (As long as space is available in the appropriate training group). Should stage 3 go forward and games be possible teams will be selected from those players in the training program. Extra Fees will apply to those players involved in league (game) play.
6. Track COVID-19 waivers and disclaimers that must be signed
7. Work with community age directors to finalize teams after the refund deadline

What must coaches do in order to coach in Phase 2?

1. Read through all this information and if you cannot confirm you will be able to coach due to the new situation please let your age director know no later than June 19th.
2. Register online in the EMSA Soccer Portal as a team official if you are not already
3. Completely Sign the Return to Train & Declaration of Compliance waiver in the EMSA Soccer Portal. If you have not registered as a team official yet, then these waivers will appear when you register, if you have already registered as a team official then the instructions below are what you will follow to sign the waivers now:
 - a. To access the waivers, login into the EMSA Soccer Portal – CLICK PERSONAL ROLE
 - b. On the left hand side select “Review Waivers”
 - c. It will show which waivers need to be signed please click, read and sign all
 - d. Special Note: If you coach more than one team you will have to sign 2 waivers for each team that you coach.
4. ASA has made is mandatory for all coaches to listen to the June 10th webinar in order to Return to Play, if you were not in attendance at this event please follow both links below to listen and follow along on this webinar.
 - a. <https://albertasoccer.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Return-to-Train-Webinar-full-video.mp4>
 - b. <https://albertasoccer.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-Return-to-Train-Webinar-Slides-June-10-2020.pdf>
5. Please review the following Policies below so that you are completely up to speed with the new procedures concerning the start of the season. Please note that these policies are based on the information that we know so far from ASA and the Alberta Government these requirements may change slightly as we move towards phase 2 and ASA’s phase 2 is approved, if they do change we will notify our members immediately:
 - a. [Policy: Coach Return to Play Guidelines](#)
 - b. [Policy: Player Return to Play Guidelines](#)
 - c. [Policy: Parent, Guardian & Spectator Return to Play Guidelines](#)
 - d. [Procedure: COVID-19 Verbal Symptom Checklist](#)
 - e. [Policy: COVID-19 Response Plan](#)
6. We recommend that you review the Albert Government documentation on how to properly wear a mask. [CLICK HERE](#) to view.

7. Coaches must be certified by our Technical Director on protocols.

What must parents and players do to participate in phase 2?

1. If you have reviewed all the documentation regarding the opening of the season and its requirements and you feel that this will not work for your family based on dates, health concerns etc. **You MUST inform the Mill Woods Soccer Association office by June 19th** in order to be eligible for a refund as our age directors will require a drop dead date to reformulate teams for the season. If you choose to cancel and do not notify us by this date then no refund will be provided. Please email the player's full name and request a refund to socceroffice@millwoodssoccer.ca by **June 19th**.
2. **For those players that have not paid or completed their registration process all fees must be paid by June 19th. Those players who have not paid will not be placed in a training group.**
3. Register player online as in the EMSA soccer portal if you have not already or finalize any incomplete registrations.
4. Completely Sign the Return to Train & Declaration of Compliance waiver in the EMSA Soccer Portal. If you have not registered as a player yet, then these waivers will appear when you register, if you have already registered as a player then the instructions below are what you will follow to sign the waivers now:
 - a. To access the waivers, login into the EMSA Soccer Portal – CLICK PERSONAL ROLE
 - b. On the left hand side select “Review Waivers”
 - c. It will show which waivers need to be signed please click, read and sign all
 - d. Special Note: Parents must sign for all minors however there is a section for a minor to sign as well as long as they are over the age of 13, it is highly recommended that you review these waivers with your player.
5. Please review the following Policies below so that you are completely up to speed with the new procedures concerning the start of the season. Please note that these policies are based on the information that we know so far from ASA and the Alberta Government these requirements may change slightly as we move towards phase 2 and ASA’s phase 2 is approved, if they do change we will notify our members immediately:
 - a. [Policy: Player Return to Play Guidelines](#)
 - b. [Policy: Parent, Guardian & Spectator Return to Play Guidelines](#)
 - c. [Procedure: COVID-19 Verbal Symptom Checklist \(Team Staff to ask upon arrival\)](#)
 - d. [Policy: COVID-19 Response Plan](#)
6. We recommend that you review the Albert Government documentation on how to properly wear a mask. [CLICK HERE](#) to view.
7. Would you be willing to be a Coach who is certified in all protocols to run training/scrimmage sessions? Please contact socceroffice@millwoodssoccer.ca

We want to thank all our members for being so great through these unprecedented times and sticking with us as we try to navigate these new realities. Please note that email is the preferred method of contact when reaching out to the Mill Woods Soccer Association Office, we have also been very busy this week with the new information that has come out.

The office will remain closed until we get proper PPE and safety measures in place. Please email or call. Please leave a voice mail if needed clearly with your phone number and name.

**Thank you,
Mill Woods Soccer Association**

