

CAF Safety Guidelines for Teams and Team Officials

It is great to have the Beautiful Game back! We want this return to play and reintroduction of soccer activity to occur in a cautious manner, optimizing participants and community safety. This document was developed following the public health safety and provincial guidelines, with the priority at all times to preserve public health, minimizing the risk of community transmission. Please help us to succeed in bringing soccer back.

- **Game sheets** are (MUST) as they always are, but now even more (for tracking and recording). No game sheet, no game.

- There is **NO heading** the ball in U12 and under. First time it happens, refs will remind players (give a verbal warning). If it happens again, it's an indirect free kick to the other team. The ref will be provided with a spare (disinfected) ball available to replace the ball that was headed or handled.

- **No throw-ins** in U12 and under. If the ball goes out it will be a **kick-in** for the other team. For U13 and up there will be throw-ins, and there will be disinfected balls around the field that players may use for the throw-in. The previously used ball will be disinfected and made available immediately by volunteers or coaches.

(Touching the ball with hands should be minimized, if at all, in order to keep players safe as much as possible. Please remind your players about this very important safety measure.)

- **Deliberate contact** is not allowed.

(We know that soccer is in itself a contact sport, and we are trying to adapt it to be socially distanced. This means that we are trying to keep all players 2 meters apart. We understand that there will be times when it is hard to enforce this. Please speak to your players and remind them that even in soccer, we need to respect social distancing as much as possible.)

Example: Defenders are allowed to "stand their ground" and the attackers should be trying to pass or go around them. If players are close to each other by accident, they can **interact with their feet alone**. Refs are instructed to remind players to avoid any contact (accidental or deliberate). Please speak to your players about "contactless" soccer (with minimum contact-as much as possible) that will make playing much safer.

- On **corner kicks**, contact between attackers and defenders is prohibited. This means that the **jostling and jockeying for position is not allowed**. First time is a verbal warning, second offence is an indirect free kick against the team whose player made contact first. If both attacker and defender made contact at the same time-a goal kick is awarded.

- **No deliberate contact** between attackers and defenders **in a wall**. First offence is a verbal warning, second time is an indirect free kick to the other team.

- **No drop balls**. Refs will award an indirect free-kick ALTERNATING (first drop ball given to team A, second to team B, etc.) If the drop ball is in the penalty area for the defending team, the ball can go to the goalkeeper who can pick it up.

- **No celebrations** for goal scoring that has physical contact. "Tap elbows" or "tap cleats" instead of high five.

- **No coin tosses!** The choice will always just go to the "right team" (team on the right side of the field.)

- **Social Distancing** when communicating with the referees is mandatory and will be required all the time.

(Keep in mind that the new FIFA rules give refs power to caution (issue a yellow card) to any team official (coaches, managers, etc), or dismiss them (issue a red card) and ask them to leave the field of play.

- **No food allowed (consumed) on the field and around the field.**

Have a safe and enjoyable season!