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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

**Bulletin #:** I2020-071  
**Date:** June 24, 2020  
**To:** Ontario Soccer; District Membership, ORA and Associate Members  
**CC:** Ontario Soccer Board of Directors, Staff  
**From:** Johnny Misley, Chief Executive Officer  
**Subject:** Government of Ontario Announces Further Regions Moving to Stage 2 of their Provincial plan

Ontario Soccer, in consultation with Canada Soccer and governmental sport and public health advisors, continues to monitor the most recent developments surrounding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Government of Ontario announced recently that it is increasing the social gathering limits from 5 to 10 people and that it will be taking a regional approach, in their Stage 2 plan, for the re-opening of the economy.

Also included in this announcement was the directive that **Outdoor Amateur Team Sports** can begin “training” under Ontario Soccer Phase 1 in specific regions of the province.

In this latest announcement today, from the Government of Ontario, **Essex County Soccer Association** has been deemed eligible to enter Stage 2 (Ontario Soccer’s Return to Play Phase 1) for the re-opening of the economy. However, the Government of Ontario has noted that the cities of Leamington and Kingsville, within the Essex County Soccer Association, will remain in Stage 1 until further notice.

**As of June 25, 2020, the following Districts are able to enter Phase 1 of the Ontario Soccer Return to Play plan:**

- Durham Region Soccer Association
- East Central Ontario Soccer Association
- Eastern Ontario District Soccer Association
- Elgin-Middlesex Soccer Association
- **Essex County Soccer Association NEW (Except Leamington and Kingsville)**
- Hamilton Soccer
- Huronia District Soccer Association



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- Lambton-Kent Soccer Association
- Niagara Soccer Association
- North York Soccer Association
- Peel Halton Soccer Association
- Sault Amateur Soccer Association
- Scarborough Soccer Association
- Soccer Northeastern Soccer Association
- Soccer Northwestern Soccer Association
- Soccer North
- Southeast Ontario Soccer Association
- Southwest Region Soccer Association
- Sudbury-Regional Soccer Association
- Toronto Soccer Association
- York Region Soccer Association

The following cities will remain in Stage 1 of the **provincial governments plan** until it is safe for them to move into Stage 2:

- The cities of Leamington and Kingsville, in the Essex County Soccer Association,

The cities have not been cleared by the Public Health Authority and therefore cannot enter Ontario Soccer's Return to Play "Phase 1 Return to Training".

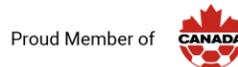
Ontario Soccer is mirroring the Government of Ontario's regional approach for the restart to sports this summer, with 34 Public Health Units now cleared to move to Stage 2 of the government's plans.

**Please be advised of the critical sport specific steps that your organization must take to begin the implementation of Ontario Soccer's Return to Play plan.**

1. Ontario Soccer has now been provided, through the Government of Ontario, direction on Return to Play safety protocols and guidelines.
2. Canada Soccer and the Ontario Soccer Board of Directors have both signed off on Ontario Soccer's Return to Play Guide and Plan. The plan can now be implemented by Ontario Soccer affiliated Clubs and Academies where regionally permitted to do so.
3. All affiliated Clubs and Academies must read and understand Ontario Soccer's Return to Play Guide (the plan) – Protocols and Recommendations document.
4. All affiliated Clubs and Academies must prepare their own Return to Play Plans for use within their membership. Use of Ontario Soccer's Return to Play Guide (the plan) is encouraged.



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5. All affiliated Clubs and Academies must complete *Canada Soccer's Risk Assessment Tool*. **Please do not complete this tool until you have completed step 3 and 4 above. Access by each Club and Academy must be done so by one single source.**

**The Canada Soccer Online Risk Assessment Tool was sent directly to Club and Ontario Registered Academy Administrators last week. If you believe your Club or Academy Administrator has not received the Online Risk Assessment Tool, please contact Patty Forbes, Director, Administration**

The Ontario Soccer Return to Play Guide/Plan consists of a three-phase approach that includes:

- Phase 1: Return to Training (modified training)**  
*Conditions: All Phase 1 Return to Train conditions are met*  
*Restrictions: No contact, no league, exhibition, festival or tournament games*
- Phase 2: Return to Training and Modified Games (enhanced training & modified games)**  
*Conditions: All Phase 2 Return to Train conditions are met*  
*Inter-squad and Intra-squad modified games permitted (only within the Club/Academy)*  
*Restrictions: No league, exhibition, festival or tournament games*
- Phase 3: Return to Soccer (regular competition, games and training)**  
*Conditions: Social distancing restrictions have been lifted*  
*Restrictions: None*

The phases outlined above apply equally to all recreational, competitive and high performance level soccer.

**Note: Ontario Soccer will determine timelines for each Phase in alignment with the Government of Ontario provincial health authorities involving government orders, restrictions and guidelines. This will be communicated via future Action Bulletins when applicable.**

**Return to Play Education Webinars** for Ontario Soccer membership continue to be held this week. They include a 30-minute presentation on the Return to Play Guide and 30 minutes for questions and answers. Please ensure you register for a session ahead of time to secure your space and submit your questions.



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For further questions, please refer them to the latest bulletin, the [COVID-19 Updates](#) page, which has all the latest information from Ontario Soccer, as well as resources for your members. Please consider placing a dedicated link to the [COVID-19 Updates](#) on the homepage on your website.

If you have not subscribed to our weekly e-Newsletter, [please do so here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact [Patty Forbes](#), Director of Administration.

