



R2O: RETURN TO OFFICIATING COVID 19 SAFETY PLAN

LMFRA has developed the following guidelines to provide a safe working environment for our return to duty for the fall 2020 VMFL and VCFL seasons. The focus of the LMFRA Executive Committee is to provide our membership with the knowledge and protocols required to ensure a SAFETY-FIRST philosophy towards other LMFRA members, players and assigned on field staff members. LMFRA guidelines have been developed in conjunction with the BCPFA, CFOA, ViaSport and the BC Provincial Health Office and adapted for LMFRA football officials to meet the role LMFRA plays within community sports.

The LMFRA Return to Officiating (R2O) Plan is based upon a risk assessment and analysis of our on-field duties. The BCPFA has initiated guidelines for other member organizations to follow as they develop their own Return to Play (R2P) protocols. The LMFRA has provided input for these guidelines as a means of protecting the LMFRA football officials from the risk of exposure to COVID-19 prior to the game, during the game and post game.

LMFRA is developing protocols to ensure that LMFRA members are protected while performing their on-field responsibilities.

- 1) Wellness Checks (Health of Participants), and acknowledgement and adherence to the LMFRA Illness Policy
- 2) Physical distancing from players and following recommended procedures for handling footballs and other on field equipment
- 3) PPE-personal protective equipment guidelines [LMFRA recommended] as well as VMFL, VCFL and Provincial requirements.
- 4) Acceptance of the LMFRA [R2O] Return to Officiating Plan and Participant Agreement or Waiver

1.0 Wellness Checks (Health of Participants)-LMFRA Illness Policy

1.1 Prior to attending an assigned game each member shall conduct a health screening protocol for COVID 19 symptoms which may include but not be limited to:

- 1.1.1 Checking for a body temperature over 38C
- 1.1.2 Dry cough
- 1.1.3 Headache
- 1.1.4 Chills
- 1.1.5 Shortness of breath



R2O: RETURN TO OFFICIATING COVID 19 SAFETY PLAN

1.1.6 Sore throat or difficulty swallowing

Or any other currently listed symptoms as indicated on the self assessment tool at:

<https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>

- 1.2 If you are feeling unwell, the LMFRA has initiated a zero-tolerance policy for “Officiating while sick”.
- 1.3 If you are feeling sick with any of the COVID-19 symptoms you should remain at home and contact Health Link BC at 8-1-1.
- 1.4 If you are at a game and you feel sick and/or are showing any symptoms you should go home immediately and contact 8-1-1 or a doctor for further guidance.
- 1.5 An official shall not accept any game assignments if they are symptomatic.
- 1.6 LMRFA guidelines for COVID-19:
 - 1.6.1 The official must advise the LMFRA Member at Large if they believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 and/or are symptomatic.
 - 1.6.2 The exposed official will be requested to self-isolate for 14 days and decline any game assignments.
 - 1.6.3 If an official has been tested and is waiting for the results of a COVID-19 test they will not be assigned or allowed to accept any game assignments.
 - 1.6.4 If an official has received a positive COVID-19 test that member will not be permitted to return to the field until they are certified free of the COVID-19 virus or until the diagnosis of COVID-19 is ruled out by health authorities.
 - 1.6.5 If an official has come in to contact with someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19 they will not be assigned or allowed to accept any game assignments until they have been tested and certified free of the COVID-19 virus.
 - 1.6.6 Other crew officials who may have come into close contact with the symptomatic official, shall be informed by the Member at Large and will not be assigned or allowed to accept any game assignments. They shall be asked to self quarantine until they have been tested and certified free of the COVID-19 virus for at least 14 days.
 - 1.6.7 Any official from a household with someone showing symptoms of COVID-19 should voluntarily decline any assignments until those household members have been tested and certified free of the COVID-19 virus.



R2O: RETURN TO OFFICIATING COVID 19 SAFETY PLAN

- 1.6.8 Any official who is in quarantine or self-isolating because of contact with an infected person or in families who are self-isolating, will not be assigned or allowed to accept any game assignments until they have been tested and certified free of the COVID-19 virus.

2.0 Physical Distancing

LMFRA has been in discussions with the VMFL on proposing protocols that will result in fewer interactions with shared equipment, namely the football. As our duties as officials involves bringing the football back into play, a few recommendations have been made to limit the amount of contact with the ball, these are both from the BCPFA and from LMFRA input:

- 2.1 The ball shall be sanitized before the commencement of each play.
- 2.2 All players shall wear gloves and be equipped with full size face shields within their helmets.
- 2.3 All team players shall be attired in apparel so that no uncovered skin is evident.
- 2.4 There will be no huddling of players on the field
- 2.5 Each team will have to supply two footballs for the game. On offensive series the offense must use their own team balls. On kick plays the ball shall be changed out before the offense takes possession.
- 2.6 Each team shall be responsible for providing a ball person to collect the ball, disinfect it and hand it to the umpire. The umpire will be responsible for ball placement.
- 2.7 Stick crew members must now be assigned from the association before game time and cannot be volunteers. Stick crew members must also adhere to the requirements of Section 3.0 below.

3.0 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- 3.1 Officials are to wear PPE during the game. This PPE may include but not be limited to:
 - 3.1.1 A hat mounted LEXAN/Plexiglass shield or Safety glasses/goggles.
 - 3.1.2 Gloves and these shall be sanitized between games.
 - 3.1.3 Disposable or fabric mask
- 3.2 The LMFRA will provide further information as to whom is responsible for the purchase of PPE during the season.
- 3.3 The membership is to inform the Member at Large or the Executive of any physical impediments that may result from wearing the apparel during a game.



R2O: RETURN TO OFFICIATING COVID 19 SAFETY PLAN

3.4 Failure to arrive at the assigned game without the required PPE will result in the member not being allowed to participate and be fined one game fee as per Section 5.0, Actions, of the Bylaws.

4.0 Acceptance of the LMFR Return to Officiating Plan [R2O] and Participant Agreement or Waiver

LMFRA will work to provide a safe work environment for all on field football officials. Working with: ViaSport, CFOA, BCCFA and BCPFA your LMFRA Executive will ensure that all LMFRA members have up to the date information on the requirements for participating in all football games during this COVID-19 crisis.

All members have a "RIGHT TO REFUSE" any assignments based on the current pandemic.

The LMFRA looks forward to welcoming all members safely back to ensure that football can continue during this period.

Please read and sign the attached Participant Agreement or Waiver and return it to either Greg Geub or Mark Fontana via email, mematlarge@lmfra.ca prior to July 31st, 2020.