



OFA Town Hall Meeting Summary – May 28, 2020

The OFA Return to Play (R2P) Protocol is intended to facilitate clubs to reopen and restart business in a safe manner. The Return to Play Protocol is a *live* document that will be amended and updated based on new Federal, Provincial, and Scientific developments as they are announced.

1. Gathering Restriction

No congregation over 5 individuals, including sports. This is not an OFA opinion, this is a Provincial mandate. The new Return To Play Protocol addresses this limit while still allowing clubs to maintain business.

2. Risk Assessment and Mitigating Checklist

[Appendix A Risk Assessment](#): This document is more geared toward larger, shared facilities like the CSIO. Computing a facility’s risk assessment mostly depends on the answers from the initial 6 questions. Clubs should only reopen when they are able to receive a “very low”, or “low” risk score.

Risk Assessment	
Will the training be held in a region that has documented active local transmission of COVID-19 (community spread) in the last 14 days?	Yes <input type="text"/>
Will the training be held in venues/facilities with access by multiple groups?	Yes <input type="text"/>
Will the group include team members relocating from areas outside the training location that have documented active local transmission of COVID-19 (community spread)?	Yes <input type="text"/>
Will the group include participants (athletes or coaches) at higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease (e.g., people over 65 years of age or people with underlying health conditions)?	Yes <input type="text"/>
Is the training considered at higher risk of spread for COVID-19 (eg, contact sport, indirect contact through training equipment eg balls, landing pits etc)?	Yes <input type="text"/>
Will the training be held indoors?	Yes <input type="text"/>

Many clubs will likely answer “yes” to #1, 5 and 6, which will result in a “low” risk score. More than 3 “yes” answers, in general, will generate “moderate” or “high” scores. Some clubs may have to answer “yes” to #2 if they share the facility (or washrooms/entryways) with other groups.

Clarification question: “active local transmission” is not dependent on the number of new cases each day - if there are new cases, the answer to #1 is “yes”.

Clarification question: “access by multiple groups” includes not just the gym, but changerooms, washrooms, as well as entrances/exits. However, with larger facilities such as universities, other protocols put in place may still result in a “low” score despite having 4 “yes” answers in the initial 6.

[Appendix B OTP Mitigating Checklist](#): More geared towards sports clubs and independent facilities. It is a clearly-delineated list to start from to prepare the club and staff to return to



play safely, and many of its list items are consistent with steps outlined in the OFA R2P Protocol.

3. Return To Play Protocol

Based on the gathering size clarification, the phases and class #s have been updated in the amended R2P protocol. The phases are set up as a means to balance feasibility, practicality, safety, and business continuity.

Phase 1 : starts when the first class of athletes **start training** in the club. This will likely vary between clubs based on location, resource gathering, and feasibility.

Clubs can decide, after meeting the minimum time frame per phase, to move to the next phase. The duration of each phase is to provide members time to adjust to the new training setup, in addition to allowing observation time to prevent any community spread.

No combat training, no private combat lessons for the first 2-3 weeks to account for the initial incubation period of COVID-19. Athletes and coaches will likely be breathing heavily during vigorous training, so it is best to limit any risks of breaking the physical distance of 2 meters during combat. This also allows athletes and coaches to adjust to a new “normal” in practice safe training during a global pandemic.

Signing In: Every person who enters and exits the facility must sign in/out. This allows clubs to keep track of individuals inside the facilities, and to expedite communication to members and provincial healthcare authorities in the case that a positive case arises within the club.

There should be a designated individual recording all relevant information outlined in Section 3 of the Protocol, to both maintain record consistency, as well as avoiding passing writing utensils back and forth between individuals.

Designated groups: 5 individuals, including coach. This is to help minimize full-club shut downs should an individual become infected, resulting in all members returning to self-isolation.

If a coach is in more than **one** designated group, **all** groups affiliated with the coach must self-isolate. This does mean that, for smaller clubs with a single coach who work with all the athletes, there is the possibility that the entire club could shut down for 14 days should an individual become infected.

Coaches who live together in the same household are **considered as a single unit**. This means that, should one coach or an athlete from one group be infected, **all athletes** that both coaches work with must return to self-isolation.

Similarly, athletes and, where possible, coaches should train at **one single club** for the time being to minimize spread.



If, at any point, a new individual or individuals are introduced into an existing designated group (athlete or coach), the entire group *must* all return to **phase 1** to allow for the incubation time of 14 days to pass, at a minimum (even if the additional members share the same coach as the existing group members). This may very well be the case once gathering restrictions are modified so that designated group sizes can increase. It may be possible to expedite through phases 2+ after the initial 14-day period, depending on circumstances.

Communal equipment: Club equipment *can* be used, but only as assigned equipment to individual athletes. For the duration that the athlete uses the equipment, there is no sharing with another athlete, and the athlete must wash and clean the equipment between classes, everyday.