

London Minor Football 2020 return to football guidelines

The LMFA is committed to safely return to football by closely following the regulations set out by the provincial government, the local government(s), and the recommendations set out by Football Canada and the Ontario Football Alliance. We will begin on August 18 with non contact skills based practicing.

As the situation with the COVID-19 virus can and will change often, we will constantly monitor the latest developments and updates provided by the government.

The Ontario government's current (as of July 2020) Stage 3 protocols allow non contact outdoor practices and scrimmages to begin with the following limits:

1. Outdoor gathering limit of 100 people
2. Players do not have to social distance on the field, however any spectators from different families must be 2 meters apart. Practices are non contact as per the government regulations.
3. There will be detailed attendance and screening questions for all players at every practice or scrimmage.
If you do not feel well, STAY HOME. This applies to all players, coaches, and managers.
4. We will use best practices to keep equipment clean, and players can not share water bottles. No hand shakes or high fives before or after any practice or scrimmage.
We will strictly follow any and all regulations as set out by the TVDSB, the City of London and or the city of St Thomas.
5. Limit of 50 players in a section of the league. This means, since we have more than 50 players, we will create "sections" where a maximum of 50 players and coaches would interact.
In practice, this means we will have a hard cap of 20 players and 5 coaches per team.
The team will practice for the first 3-4 weeks without scrimmages as we have in the past.
Then, assuming the current rules are still in place, that team can scrimmage vs. 1 other team.
This creates the maximum 50 person "section" as mandated by the Ontario government.
6. There are 2 possible paths after the first few weeks of practice.

If/when the current rules change and contact is allowed we will practice full contact for a minimum of 2 weeks before deciding on any games.

Should the current rules not change, we will transition into flag football for the fall season.

The deadline for deciding on which path we take will be early / mid September.

Path one – Contact not allowed.

We have purchased flag belts and each team of 20 players can be divided into two teams of ten players each. This way, there could be four teams playing flag football (either 7 on 7 or 5 on 5) in each 50 person "section". We would then publish a schedule of flag games at Citywide Park finishing with a championship on November 8th.

Path two – Contact is allowed by the government.

We would issue equipment to players after the confirmation from the government that contact is allowed. Then there will be a minimum of two weeks of full equipment contact practice before any scrimmages or games are scheduled.

A schedule of games would be published for games at Citywide Park on Sundays finishing on November 8th.

7. Reminder: all of our plans for September and October are **tentative** and subject to change. Our all star games in November are canceled for certain this year. We appreciate your patience and understanding during these difficult times. By working together, we will get thru this stronger than ever.

8. As we will not issue full equipment in August, the first nine practices will be focused on getting the kids active again and teaching football skills in a safe, fun relaxed environment. Players do not need any special equipment or supplies to get ready for August 18th. Ideally, players should have cleats, a water bottle labeled with their name, and outdoor gym / athletic clothes. (dress for the weather)

Pre Labour Day practice time has been booked at various TVDSB schools (as in past years) and we have practice and “game” time booked tentatively with the City of London.

We will try to keep everyone updated on schedules but as of now:

Practice before Labour Day is Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 6pm from August 18 to September 3rd.

After Labour Day, practices will be Tuesday and Thursday evenings (no Saturday bookings are available from TVDSB at this time).

Sunday starting on September 13th thru November 8th is booked at Citywide Park in London.

Registration is open at www.lmfafotball.ca until August 4.

Coaches will get rosters and procedures in early August and will email their teams before August 18.

In conclusion:

We are committed to the safety and well being of the community. We know some people may not be comfortable coming back this year and if that is the case we hope to see you in 2021.

We hope to see and welcome new players, as this is the perfect time to get an introduction to our great sport.

