



**ALBERTA SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
*The Governing Body of Soccer in Alberta*

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**Memorandum**

**Date: July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**To: Alberta Soccer Districts, Alberta Soccer Referees**

**From: David O'Neill; Alberta Soccer Referee Development Officer**

**Re: Modified Games – Spitting Rule**

Dear Members,

Alberta Soccer's Rules of Play for Modified Games were developed with strong adherence to the Government of Alberta and Alberta Health Services guidelines relating to spitting or clearing of nasal passages. This is important to ensure that we can continue to play in Stage 2 of Return to Play.

However, as directed by Canada Soccer (July 2<sup>nd</sup>) and FIFA (May 27<sup>th</sup>), the following change has been made to the Alberta Soccer Rules of Play for Return to Modified Games.

**Rule 12 – Spitting Offences**

There will be ZERO tolerance for spitting or clearing of nasal passages on or around the field of play. If spitting or clearing of nasal passages by a player, substitute or team official is seen by a match official, the following procedure will be followed:

If aimed/directed towards any person, it is an automatic Red Card and Send Off as per IFAB Laws of the Game.

For all other types of spitting, if a player, substitute or team official is seen to be spitting or clearing nasal passages on or around the field of play, or if a goalkeeper is seen to be spitting on their gloves:

- The first incident will result in a verbal warning to the individual.
- The second incident by that same person will result in a Yellow Card (Caution) for Unsporting Behavior.
- The third incident by the same person will result in a second Yellow Card (Caution) and therefore a Red Card and dismissal from the game.

Coaches are responsible for ensuring that players are aware of the Spitting Zero Tolerance requirement and the importance of following Covid-19 guidelines.

Please direct any questions to:

David O'Neill, Referee Development Officer

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