



# MALTA FA Return to Play Protocol

**BOV PREMIER LEAGUE AND BOV CHALLENGE LEAGUE**

Measures and guidelines

JANUARY 2022

# Covid-19 Best Practices for Clubs/Associations

These guidelines, intended to help clubs and nurseries, are to be read in conjunction with the latest guidelines published by Public Health and SportMalta.

1

All individuals are encouraged to arrive **separately** (max. 2 persons per car) wearing **face masks**.



2

**Temperature** is to be checked before entry to the sporting facility.



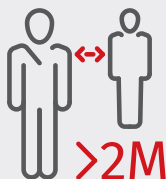
3

Hand **sanitiser** is to be used upon entry to the facility.



4

Social **distancing** applies until training or match starts on pitch.



5

Any persons who are feeling unwell or show **symptoms** should stay at home and get tested before returning to practice.



6

Anyone who feels unwell during training is to stop, leave the pitch, self-isolate and get tested.

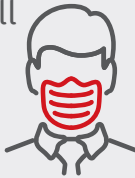




**7**

**Masks/Visors**

should be worn when not doing physical activity. Coaches and all staff must wear a mask or visor.



**8**

Water and any food/snacks must be brought by the players/staff. **No sharing** is allowed.



**9**

Shower facilities and changing rooms remain **closed**.



**10**

Only persons **occupying a role**

in the holding of a training session or a match shall be allowed.



**11**

Balls must be **disinfected** regularly during training.



**12**

**Equipment** e.g. cones should be disinfected before and after use.



# Out of Competition

These guidelines, intended to help clubs and nurseries, are to be read in conjunction with the latest guidelines published by Public Health and SportMalta.

**13**

Clubs must ensure rigorous compliance with obligations related to the annual **medical examination** of players.



**14**

Every club must appoint a **Club Covid Officer**.



**15**

Maximum **cooperation** is to be ensured with Public Health Authorities.



**16**

Clubs are strongly advised to **video record** their training sessions/friendly matches to facilitate factual contact-tracing.



**17**

Players and staff are to avoid **crowded places** at all times.







# Assessment of cases that require self isolation

## Management of Quarantine

The Malta FA has agreed with the Public Health Regulation Department that the impact assessment upon a positive case being identified is made by the Malta FA COVID Officer who would then forward the report to the Public Health Regulation Department to ensure a consistent and coherent approach.

## In the case of a Player or Staff Member who returns a positive COVID-19 test:

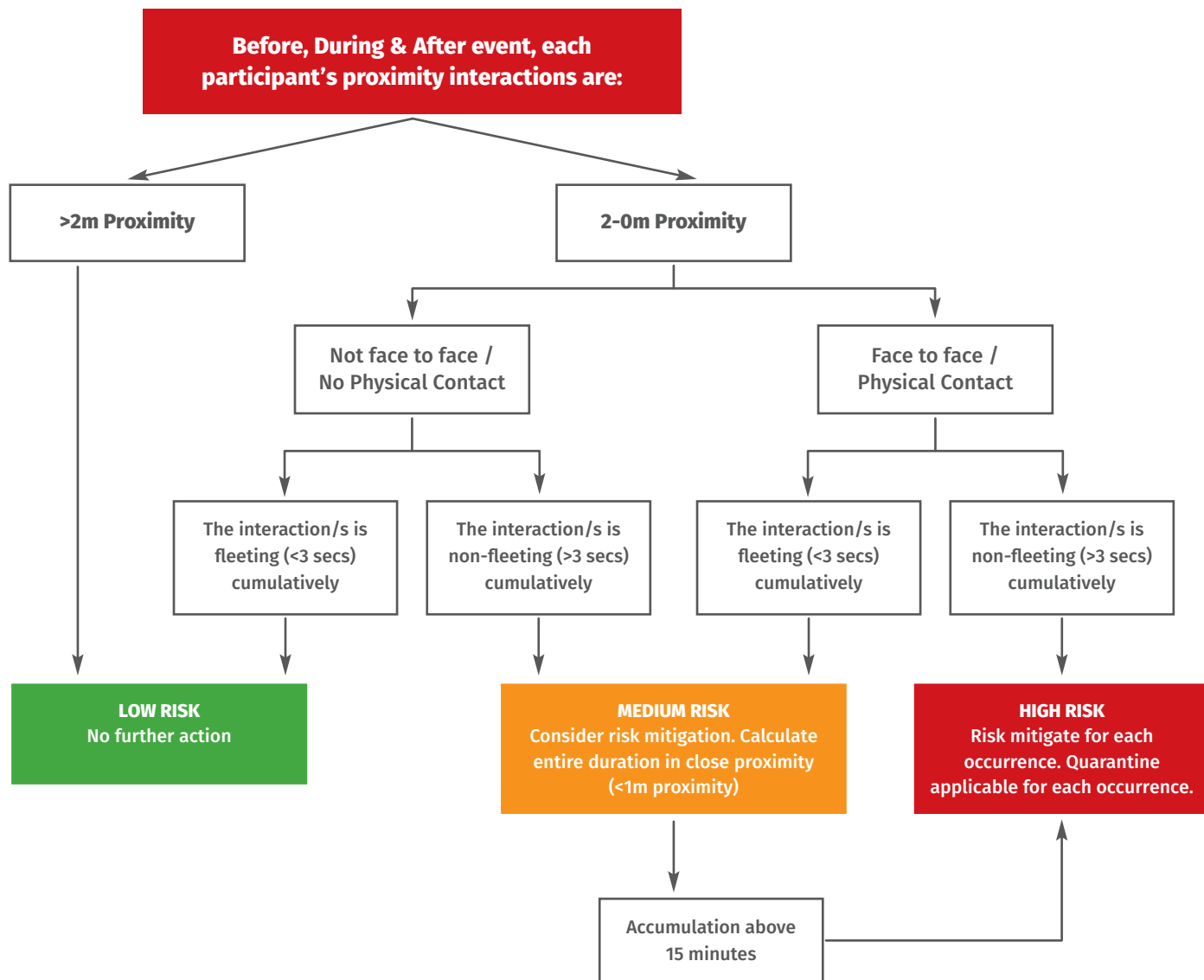
Player/Staff Member shall quarantine as per public health guidelines. Once passed fit to exit quarantine they must undergo a repeat medical examination in conjunction with the Malta FA medical department and follow a gradual return to play protocol.

The established '*High Risk*' contacts of a positive player or staff member shall quarantine as per applicable regulations issued by the health authorities. with a swab test taken at the end of this mandatory period prior to re-integration with the rest of the team in the absence of any symptoms.

The established '*Medium Risk*' contacts of a positive player or staff member shall take a swab test on day 4/5 from last contact.

The rest of the squad not deemed as close-contacts can resume regular training.







# In Competition

BOV Premier League & BOV Challenge League 2020-21

## a. Additional Competition Rules related to COVID-19

Every team will be required to submit a squad list of a minimum of 25 players clearly indicating goalkeepers and players.

The Malta FA may request nasopharyngeal swab testing by RTPCR of a representative sample from each squad, including coaches and other staff.

For season 2021/22, the Malta FA, in line with FIFA's temporary allowance, is allowing up to 5 substitutions per team in a match even at Premier League level.

Reference should be made to the Malta FA Regulations section V Competition Rules, Annex 1 for special regulations applicable to competitions due to Covid-19.



A photograph of a row of red plastic chairs on a football pitch. A yellow circular sticker is placed on the back of the chair in the foreground. The sticker has a black border and contains the text 'SEAT OUT OF USE' at the top, a crossed-out icon of a person sitting in a chair in the center, and 'Prevent the spread of COVID-19' at the bottom. The background shows the stadium seating and a white wall.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

<b>MATCH OPERATIONS</b> <a href="mailto:footballoperations@mfa.com.mt">footballoperations@mfa.com.mt</a>	<b>MEDICAL DEPARTMENT</b> <a href="mailto:medical@mfa.com.mt">medical@mfa.com.mt</a>	<b>MEDIA OPERATIONS</b> <a href="mailto:communications@mfa.com.mt">communications@mfa.com.mt</a>
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# In Competition

BOV Premier League & BOV Challenge League 2020-21

## b. Disciplinary matters

1. A registered football player or club staff member is to inform the Malta FA COVID officer of any COVID testing undertaken by not later than 24 hours from such testing;

The registered football player or club staff member is thereafter to inform the COVID officer of the official result immediately, and by not later than three (3) hours following the issuance of such result;

2. The registered football player or club staff member is to adhere to all instructions issued by the Health Department and the Malta FA COVID officer, without reservations and to the fullest extent possible;
3. Every club must ensure that all its registered players or club staff members that have undertaken COVID testing inform the Malta FA COVID officer within 24 hours from such testing;



4. Every registered player or club staff member who test positive for COVID-19, shall self-isolate and consequently is not to participate in any football activity, up until such person has been given clearance by the Public Health Authorities to end the self-isolation period;
5. Every club must ensure that any of its registered players or club staff members who tests positive for COVID-19, shall self-isolate and consequently is not to participate in any football activity, up until the registered player or club staff member has been given clearance by the Public Health Authorities to end the self-isolation period;
6. Any player or club staff member that has been found guilty of an offence against these regulations by the Disciplinary Commissioner, shall be suspended from any football activity for a period of two (2) months;
7. Any club that has been found guilty of an offence against these regulations by the Control and Disciplinary Committee, shall have a deduction of three (3) points in the national league with immediate effect.





## **MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

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