

Peterborough Ultimate League

Return to Sport Plan: Summer 2021



This document is a one-year, tiered plan for return to sport in the 2021 summer season.

Regular format for summer play has traditionally been through team-based registration (Tuesday and Thursday) or individual draft (Wednesday). The conditions for play will likely require modification to these traditional approaches.

This Return to Sport Plan is intended as a guide only, and may require adjustment as the situation develops. Any Member of PUL may comment on the plan or suggest revisions, by contacting [League President George Kovacs](#).

Assumptions

- COVID-19 will remain a public health concern throughout 2021;
- Better treatments and vaccines will be developed, though these will not be immediate solutions, and concessions will be required;
- Regions of Ontario will remain in varying phases of reopening which place restrictions on social gatherings;
- Cohorts will remain restrictive: any given player will be allowed to cohort with one group, in one sport;
- Many members of PUL - but not all - will want to play ultimate;
- Numbers of available and interested players will shift over the summer for traditional reasons (summer travel, vacation) and new (illness, isolation due to possible exposure): this may necessitate a two week break, allowing a 'reset' of all players and reorganizing new cohorts
- Players will be returning to the field at lowered levels of physical fitness.
- We will have an increased need for volunteers: while team and draft management may be handled centrally (digitally through PUL's Operations Coordinator, rather than night-focused League Coordinators), all cohorts will require volunteers for COVID screening and enforcement;

Guidance

Player safety remains the priority.

The PUL Board continues to rely on a number of sources for guidance in determining the immediate future of ultimate in Peterborough:

- PUL Membership: surveys in May and September of 2020, with future data gathering as needed by the Board;
- Municipal: the [City of Peterborough](#) maintains its own set of pandemic protocols, and determines when and how field use permits are granted; in the case of privately owned fields, e.g., Trent University, further restrictions may be imposed;
- Provincial: the [Government of Ontario determines phases of reopening regionally](#), including limits on indoor and outdoor gatherings; press releases occasionally include specific guidance for sport and sporting events;
- Federal: the Government of Canada supports the provinces (and individuals) with additional funding and guidance; generally this is the level of guidance least likely to have a direct effect on PUL.

Resources

PUL has access to and developed (or is developing) a number of tools:

- COVID-19 Fit for Play Policy;
- COVID-19 Return to Play Policy;
- Javelin Screening Tool;
- Safety and Screening Waivers (developed by PUL, Ontario Ultimate, Ultimate Canada, etc);
- Further Return to Sport tools (such as modified rulesets) may be developed as needed.

PUL also maintains active relationships with Ontario Ultimate and Ultimate Canada. While these are not authoritative bodies, PUL generally follows their guidance and rulesets. They assist leagues across Canada, and facilitate useful resources, such as UC's monthly small-to-medium league meeting. This allows leagues across Canada to share information and resources.

Tiers According to Field Allowance

Each of the following are our best guess scenarios for different levels of restrictions. Currently, it is based on gathering-size only. Other parameters (lockdown measures, travel restrictions, etc.) may require additional modifications to these plans.

Pool of less than 25 people

Such tight restrictions on outdoor gatherings usually come with additional guidance. As of this writing, Ontario has a colour-coded response framework, applied regionally. Orange, red, and grey zones do not permit team sports (though orange allows training and practice).

Pool of 25 people

- **Adult league.** Cohorts of up to 25, weekly pickup play only. Teams drafted on site weekly, game size determined according to numbers.
- **Juniors (U7 - U14)** Cohorts of 25, grouped according to age as numbers allow (may need to be flexible here, allowing siblings to cohort together), including players and coaches. No team structure needed. Monday nights, likely Bridgenorth, but may require additional fields for a larger number of cohorts.
- **Juniors (U15- U17)** Cohorts of 25, including players and coaches. Weekly skills sessions and pickup play only, format to be determined on site as numbers allow.
- **Masters.** As with adult league above, Play on Wednesdays.
- **Needs:** Adults - Two volunteers responsible for screening and monitoring (weekly questionnaire) per cohort of 25. Juniors - Dedicated coaches, responsible for screening and monitoring.

Pool of 50 people or less

- **Adult league.** Likely six on six, to fit the small cohort size: leagues of 4 teams (12 / team = 48 total). Cohorted leagues may play on either Tuesday or Thursday. Teams likely generated by draft, with registration by individual or small groups. Mid season shakeups, redrafting teams within cohorts.
- **Juniors (U7 - U14).** Cohorted to 50 maximum, grouped by age as numbers dictate. No team structure needed. Monday nights, likely Bridgenorth (which allows for some field separation). Coaches should be able to maintain social distancing, and do not need to count as part of these cohorts.

- **Juniors (U15 - U17).** Mini-league, cohorted to 50, including players and coaches (who may also play). Team structure according to size of cohort, arranged by draft. Play on Wednesdays.
- **Masters league.** As with adult league above. Play on Wednesdays.
- **Needs:** Adults - Volunteers responsible for screening and monitoring (weekly questionnaire), assigned per team (1 per team of 12; 2 per cohort of 25). Juniors - Coaches, responsible for screening and monitoring.

Pool of 100 people or less

- **Adult League.** Likely seven on seven play: leagues of 6 teams (16 / team = 96 total). Cohorted leagues may play on either Tuesday or Thursday. Teams likely generated by draft, with registration by individual or small groups. Mid season shakeups, redrafting teams within cohorts.
- **Juniors (U7 - U14).** Cohorted to 100 maximum, grouped by age as numbers dictate. No team structure needed. Monday nights, likely Bridgenorth (which allows for some field separation). Coaches should be able to maintain social distancing, and do not need to count as part of these cohorts.
- **Juniors (U15 - U17).** Mini-league, cohorted to 100, including players and coaches (who may also play). Team structure according to size of cohort, arranged by draft. Play on Wednesdays.
- **Masters league.** As with adult league above. Play on Wednesdays.
- **Needs:** Adults - Volunteers responsible for screening and monitoring (weekly questionnaire), assigned per team (1 per team of 16; a few extra 'floater' volunteers to keep up a ratio of roughly 1/12). Juniors - Dedicated coaches, responsible for screening and monitoring.

Dates

Given how rapidly the situation can change, we are planning a tighter-than-usual period of registration and team selection, largely facilitated by our Operations Coordinator. Dates will be advertised well in advance, so players know to be ready. The current schedule is as follows:

Adults

April 26 - Registration Opens
 May 10 - Registration Closes
 May 25 - Start of Adult League

Junior League

March 15 - Registration Opens
 April 10 - Registration Closes
 May 5 - Start of Junior League

Membership Feedback

As noted above, this document is meant to be flexible and dynamic. We value feedback from our membership. Questions, concerns, and ideas can be forwarded to [League President George Kovacs](#).