



## ACL/MCL Reconstruction Protocol

	<b>WEIGHT BEARING</b>	<b>BRACE</b>	<b>ROM</b>	<b>EXERCISES</b>
<b>PHASE I</b> 0-4 weeks	WBAT with brace locked, crutches for support	0-1 week: Locked in full extension for ambulation and sleeping 1-4 weeks: Unlocked for ambulation when quad returns.	0-1 week – 0-45° 1- 4 weeks: Progress to full	Quad sets, patellar mobs, gastroc/soleus stretch SLR w/ brace in full extension until quad strength prevents extension lag Side-lying hip/core Hamstrings avoidance until 6 wks post-op
<b>PHASE II</b> 6-12 weeks	Advance 25% weekly until full by 8 weeks	Discontinue at 6 weeks/or when quad control improved and no extensor lag with SLR	Full	Begin toe raises, closed chain quads, balance exercises, hamstring curls, stationary bike, step-ups, front and side planks; advance hip/core
<b>PHASE III</b> 12-16 weeks	Full	None	Full	Advance closed chain strengthening Progress proprioception activities Begin stairmaster, elliptical and running straight ahead at 16 weeks
<b>PHASE IV</b> 16-24 weeks	Full	None	Full	<b>16 weeks:</b> Begin jumping <b>20-24 weeks:</b> Advance running to sprinting, backward running, cutting/pivoting/changing direction, initiate plyometric program and sport-specific drills at 6 months
<b>PHASE V</b> >6 months	Full	None	Full	Continue sport-specific training, focus on kinetic chain – core/glutes/hip/quad/hamstring  Likely return to play 9-12 months when clears functional tests

