MPFL Reconstruction with TTO Protocol

	Phase I: Weeks 0-2	Phase II: Weeks 3-6	Phase III: Weeks 7-8
Weight-Bearing and Immobilization	 Heel-touch weight bearing with crutches and brace locked in full extension Brace 0° - 45° at all times other than for hygiene 	 Heel-touch weight bearing with crutches and brace locked in full extension Brace 0° - 90° during day but may be removed at night for sleeping 	 Wean crutches and advance weight bearing 25-50% per week to full weight by 8 weeks Discontinue brace when excellent quadriceps strength and control, no extension lag, and normalized gait pattern
Aerobic	• None		Stationary bike (low resistance, elevated seat height initially, and normalize height as ROM allows)
Range of Motion (ROM) and Strengthening	 No active knee extension Passive extension only from 0° - 45° in brace May do active knee flexion Heel slides Patellar mobilization Ankle pumps Quadriceps sets 	 Continue Phase I exercises No active knee extension Passive extension only from 0° - 90° in brace May do active knee flexion Straight leg raise with brace locked in full extension Focus on regaining full extension Begin floor-based core, hip, pelvic, and gluteal exercises Advanced quadriceps sets and patellar mobilization 	 Continue Phase II exercises Advance PROM → AAROM → AROM with goal of full ROM by 8 weeks Advance straight leg raises Advance core, hip, pelvic, and gluteal exercises Begin closed-chain quadriceps exercises Begin balance and proprioception exercises
Other	Modalities as needed to reduce pain and swelling and to improve muscle recruitment Home Exercise Program (HEP) guided by Physical Therapist		
Goals	Pain controlSwelling controlProtect tissue healingMinimize joint stiffness	Pain controlSwelling controlProtect tissue healingAdvance ROM	Full ROMNormalize gait patternBegin balance and proprioception

	Phase IV: Weeks 9-16	Phase V: Months 4+	
Weight-Bearing and Immobilization	WBAT No knee brace		
Aerobic	 Advance stationary bike after week 12 May begin swimming and elliptical machine at 14 weeks 	 Begin walk-jog-run progression Progress impact activities (start) with pool or Alter-G if available) 	
Range of Motion (ROM) and Strengthening	 Continue Phase III exercises Progress flexibility and strengthening Progress closed chain exercises Progress functional balance exercises Progress core, hip, pelvic, and gluteal program 	 Continue Phase IV exercises Progress flexibility and strengthening Maximize single-leg dynamic and static balance exercises Progress core, hip, pelvic, and gluteal program Progress from closed chain to open chain exercises as tolerated if pain-free Transition to home exercises program Work toward passing leg press test and single leg hop test Advance to agility, plyometric, and sportspecific programs after passing above tests 	
Other	Modalities as needed to reduce pain and swelling and to improve muscle recruitment Home Exercise Program (HEP) guided by Physical Therapist		
Goals	Progress flexibility, strengthening, closed chain exercises, balance, proprioception, and core/hip program	 Progress strengthening and balance Work toward passing leg press and single leg hop tests Progress to home exercises program Progress dynamic/sport-related activity as noted above 	