

February 11, 2021

Dear BCLA Members:

Plans for the 2021 Lacrosse season are in motion. We have a positive outlook this season and it's our passionate volunteers that will get us through the challenges. Our members are working hard to encourage lacrosse participation within present PHO restrictions.

This message is a follow up to BC Lacrosse Association's (BCLA) January 5, 2021 President's Message. As the COVID-19 situation continues, sport will adapt to the restrictions set forth by the Ministry of Health with direction from viaSport BC.

On February 5, 2021, the Ministry of Health and PHO addressed the status of the current PHO restrictions and have announced these restrictions have been extended without a specific deadline date. The current public health restrictions are being kept in place. While there haven't been updates to the restrictions for sport, this means the following key items remain in place: Individuals are permitted to travel to their home club for the purpose of sport, while following all restrictions in the current public health Order.

The clarifications from January 7 on "group sport" remain applicable to adult sport.

The high performance exemption remains in effect for athletes identified by CSI-Pacific and their Provincial or National Sport organization.

The specifications around children and youth sport remain unchanged. Games and tournaments are temporarily suspended for teams.

Read the Provincial Health Officer Order (at January 8, 2021) on Gatherings and Events:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/COVID-19/COVID-19-pho-order-gatherings-events.pdf>

Sports-By order of the PHO, restrictions are in place for adult and youth indoor and outdoor team sports. These temporary restrictions are in place to limit the amount of physical and social interactions and travel to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Please see province-wide restrictions for sport (latest updated information):

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/COVID-19-provincial-support/restrictions#sports>

Read the full details around what these updates to the Order mean for sport: (viaSport page)

https://www.viasport.ca/news/february-5-2021-updates-province-wide-restrictions?utm_source=viaSport+Newsletter&utm_campaign=a10aac7643-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_14_05_04_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e001f69b1e-a10aac7643-206433609

"Adult team sport" refined with respect to "group sport": Group sport is defined as sporting activities involving more than one person 22 years of age and older and includes training and practice for an individual or a team sport, but does not include sport activities for children or youth, varsity sport or high-performance athlete sport activities.

If the group sport is indoors, only two persons participate.

If the group sport is outdoors, only four persons participate (i.e., four individuals may run together or four individuals could run lacrosse drills).

The participants maintain a distance of three metres from one another while engaged in the group sport, unless the participants reside in the same private residence.

Travel to home club/association: Individuals are permitted to travel to their home club/association for the purpose of sport, while following all restrictions in the current public health order.

Home club is defined as the sport organization, club, or facility at which a person is registered for ongoing sport programming.

Individuals should not carpool with other participants who are not in their household.

Sport for children and youth means an activity which is delivered by a provincial sport organization or a local sport organization and may include participants who are under 22 years of age. The PHO Order for Events & Gatherings differentiates between adult and youth sport activities.

Participants maintain a physical distance of three metres from one another while on the field of play and do not engage in handshaking, high fives, hugging, etc.

Participants can only travel to their home club/association.

Children and youth sports may include participants who are under the age of 22.

Games, tournaments and competitions are temporarily suspended for teams.

The focus is on activities that have a low risk of COVID-19 virus transmission (i.e., can maintain three meters physical distance).

Lacrosse activities (practices) CAN occur as per the BCLA Return to Lacrosse Phase 1 Guidelines reverting back to Skills & Drills training ONLY.

viaSport's updated FAQ: https://www.viasport.ca/sites/default/files/FAQ_cover_12-08.pdf

BCLA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

<http://www.bclacrosse.com/PRESIDENTS%20MESSAGES/BCLA%20FAQs%20Return%20to%20Lacrosse%20-%20at%202021Feb09.pdf>

The BCLA is planning a town hall meeting for the upcoming box season soon. Details to come.

This is how sport, and the BCLA must proceed under the latest province-wide restrictions in the foreseeable future until sport is directed otherwise.

Sport expects to learn more about sport activities within restrictions from additional viaSport BC guidelines. The BCLA will continue to update our members as we learn more from the BC Government, PHO and viaSport BC on information as it relates to COVID-19.

Thank you for your hard work and patience through this challenging situation. If you have any additional questions, please e-mail me at gerry@bclacrosse.com

Yours in Lacrosse,
Gerry Van Beek
BCLA President