

# BRITISH COLUMBIA'S RETURN TO SPORT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Return to Sport Restart 2.0

February 17, 2022

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### GENERAL

**Q: What Return to Sport Phase are we in?**

A: As of February 17, 2022, all sport activities are allowed, provided guidance on mask use and proof of vaccination is followed.

**Q: What does this mean for sport?**

A: The [Return to Sport Chart](#) outlines the most current guidance for sport.

**Q: Do I need to have a COVID-19 Safety Plan?**

A: Sport organizations are not required to have a COVID-19 Safety Plan for sport activities; however, sport organizations should consider developing a communicable disease response plan. If a sport organization is also a workplace, WorkSafe BC guidance must be followed.

**Q: What is a communicable disease response plan?**

A: WorkSafeBC has outlined a four-step process, and a planning template, to help employers reduce the risk of communicable disease in their spaces. Although not all sport organizations have employer/employee relationships, the resources WorkSafeBC provide can support sport organizations communicable disease response planning. You can find more information [here](#).

For more resources on communicable disease response, [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) outlines appropriate handwashing and personal hygiene, ventilation and staying home when sick practices outlined by the BCCDC's [Communicable Disease Control Manual](#). Sport organizations can also review viaSport's [Return to Sport Chart](#) and consult with your provincial sport organization as you consider communicable disease response.

**Q: Are approvals required on Return to Sport plans?**

A: Sport-specific plans developed by Provincial Sport Organizations or at the club level do not require government or viaSport approval. They should focus on appropriate handwashing and personal hygiene, ventilation and staying home when sick as outlined by the BCCDC's [Communicable Disease Control Manual](#). Sport organizations should continue to ensure that their organization is following best practices

from a governance and risk management perspective. An organization's board has fiduciary responsibility and is accountable for the decisions and work of the organization. Each board should understand and be comfortable with the level of risk the organization is taking on.

**Q: How will facilities differ in their approaches to Return to Sport and access?**

A: Facilities may have additional considerations that impact their ability to expand the use of their facility (staffing, cleaning, etc.). Sport organizations should work with the facility operators to fully understand the facility's processes and timing.

**Q: Is the government liability protection still in affect?**

A: The Province of B.C. extended COVID-19 liability coverage to organizations until December 31, 2022 through the [COVID-19 Related Measures Act](#) (CRMA). This protects people and organizations from proceedings for civil liability for damages resulting from transmission or exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.

**Q: Are we able to run coaching or officials training at this time?**

A: Courses for the purposes of training coaches or officials can occur and should follow the guidance in the *indoor organized events at venues* section of the [PHO order on gatherings and events](#). Course organizers should consider developing a [Communicable Disease Prevention Plan](#). The Coaching Association of Canada has developed a guidance document related to the return to in person learning, which can be found [here](#).

## PROOF OF VACCINATION

**Q: What is proof of vaccination?**

A: Someone is fully vaccinated when they have received two doses of approved vaccine for COVID-19. The BC Vaccine Card, or other government-issued card, must be shown in conjunction with government-issued photo ID. For more information, see the Province of B.C.'s [website here](#). These are the only valid ways to show proof vaccination, i.e. a negative test is not a replacement for proof of vaccination. As of January 27, 2022, an exception was made for 12-year-olds who have not yet received their second dose of vaccine to be treated as fully vaccinated with one dose.

**Q: For indoor sport events and programs, who needs to show proof of vaccination?**

A: As of November 16, 2021, proof of vaccination is REQUIRED for:

- All adult participants 22 years of age and older
- Supervisors (age 12 and older) (e.g. coaches) who are not working as employees
- Spectators 12 and older
- Youth 12 and older participating in programming primarily for/with adults
- Additional regional restrictions may be in effect. Consult the Province of B.C.'s [province-wide and regional restrictions page](#) for more information.

**Q: For outdoor sport events and programs, who needs to show proof of vaccination?**

A: As of November 16, 2021, proof of vaccination is not REQUIRED.

**Q: Who is responsible for checking proof of vaccination?**

A: Organizers of programs and events are responsible for checking proof of vaccination for relevant participants, supervisors and spectators. For more information on how to check proof of vaccination, please see the Province of B.C.'s [proof of vaccination page](#).

## OUTDOOR SPORT

### **Q: What outdoor sport activities are permitted?**

A: Outdoor sports for everyone may occur with the following protocols:

- Canada-wide travel allowed. International travel must follow federal restrictions and guidance.
- Physical distance does not need to be maintained on or off the field of play.
- Full venue capacity for spectators and participants is allowed.
- Masks are not required on the field of play.

### **Q: Are we able to host tournaments?**

A: Yes, outdoor sport tournaments for all ages are allowed with no restrictions.

## INDOOR SPORT

### **Q: What indoor sport activities are permitted?**

A: Indoor sports for everyone may occur under the following conditions:

- Group size: There is no maximum group size for participants, coaches, volunteers, staff and officials.
- Travel: Travel is allowed, but must follow federal requirements.
- Physical distance does not need to be maintained on or off the field of play.
- Masks: not required on the field of play. Masks are mandatory off the field of play.
- Seated events: Spectators are allowed at the full capacity of the venue.
- **NOTE:** Additional regional restrictions may be in effect. Consult the Province of B.C.'s [province-wide and regional restrictions page](#) for more information.

### **Q: Are we able to host tournaments?**

A: Yes. Tournament requirements include:

- [Masks required indoors](#) when not actively participating in a sport
- [Proof of vaccination required](#) for all spectators (12+) and all non-employee tournament support people like parents, coaches and volunteers

### **Q: Are there requirements related to mask use for indoor activities?**

A: Mask use is not required on the field of play. Masks are mandatory off the field of play. For more information on mask use, visit BC Centre for Disease Control's [website](#).