

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S RETURN TO SPORT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Return to Sport Restart 2.0

November 17, 2021

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GENERAL

Q: What Return to Sport Phase are we in?

A: The phases outlined in viaSport's original Return to Sport Guidelines are no longer applicable. As of July 1, 2021 we are in Step 3 of [B.C.'s Restart](#) Plan.

Q: What does Step 3 mean for sport?

A: The [PHO Order on Events and Gatherings](#) has been updated as of November 16, 2021. For sport, the Gathering and Events Order limits only larger-scale events and capacity limits of outdoor seated events. In Step 3, the following is now in effect for sport:

- Outdoor sport can expand play to include:
 - 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;
 - Sport events that have more than 5,000 seated people will need to reduce capacity by 50 per cent;
 - Masks are not required;
 - CSI-P athletes must adhere to all Step 3 guidance.
- Indoor sport can expand play to include:
 - There is no maximum group size for participants, coaches, volunteers, staff and officials;
 - There is no capacity limit for spectators, but all must show proof of vaccination (double dose);

- 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;
- CSI-P athletes adhere to all Step 3 guidance;
- Masks are not recommended on the field of play. Masks are mandatory off the field of play.

Please see the Return to Sport Restart 2.0 for more information.

Q: When will we move to Step 4?

A: Transition to the next step of the B.C. Restart will depend on a number of public health factors. The PHO will decide when it is time to move to the next step.

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

A: Sport organizations are no longer required to have a COVID-19 Safety Plan; however, sport organizations should consider developing a communicable disease response plan.

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 Restart 2.0](#) 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: What will future phases look like in regards to sport activity?

A: Since Step 3 allows for the return to most activities, Step 4 will only have a few changes that focus on the return to normal spectator capacity numbers. Please refer to the Return to Sport Restart 2.0 chart and the [viaSport website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

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, 2021 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 organized gathering section of the B.C. Restart plan. Course organizers should consider developing a [Communicable Disease Response 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.

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 are in effect in the Fraser East, Interior and Northern Health regions. 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.

- Additional regional restrictions are in effect in the Fraser East, Interior and Northern Health regions. Consult the Province of B.C.'s [province-wide and regional restrictions page](#) for more information.

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.
- Sport events that have more than 5,000 seated people will need to reduce capacity by up to 50 per cent (e.g. an event of 5,000 does not need to reduce capacity, an event of 6,000 will need to reduce to 5,000, an event of 12,000 will need to reduce to 6,000).
- CSI-P athletes adhere to all Step 3 guidance.
- Masks are not required on the field of play.

Q: Are there maximum group sizes in place for outdoor sport?

A: Seated events are allowed up to 5,000 or 50 per cent of capacity, whichever is greater (i.e. if your space holds 8,000 people the capacity is now 5,000. If your space holds 12,000 people the capacity is now 6,000.) Regional restrictions are in place in Northern Health (maximum 100 people).

Q: Are we able to host tournaments?

A: Tournaments can occur if facility protocols and all public health measures imposed by provincial and regional health authorities are followed. Tournament hosts should consider developing a Communicable Disease Response Plan.

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.
 - **NOTE:** 50 people maximum for events in the Northern Health Region and 10 people in Fraser East.
- Travel: Canada-wide travel allowed. International travel must still follow federal restrictions and guidance.
- Physical distance does not need to be maintained on or off the field of play.
- Masks: not recommended on the field of play. Masks are mandatory off the field of play.
- Seated Events: 100 per cent capacity is permitted with proof of vaccination, except where regional restrictions apply.

Q: Are there maximum group sizes in place for indoor sport?

A: In the PHO Order, there is no maximum group size for sport events or programming. Regional restrictions are in effect in Northern Health (50 people) and Fraser East (10 people) regions.

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

A: Mask use is not recommended 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](#).

TRAVEL FOR SPORT

Q: What are the current travel restrictions in place?

A: There are no restrictions for travel within Canada. For international travel, you must follow federal restrictions.