

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S RETURN TO SPORT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Return to Sport Restart 2.0

August 13, 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A: The phases outlined in viaSport's original Return to Sport Guidelines are no longer applicable.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 July 1, 2021. For sport, the Gathering and Events Order limits only larger-scale events and capacity limits of 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;
 - 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 50 seated people will need to reduce capacity by 50 per cent;
 - CSI-P athletes adhere to all Step 3 guidance;

- Masks are not recommended on the field of play. Masks are recommended off the field of play for those 12 and over who have not received two doses of COVID-19 immunizations.

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 be subject to favourable epidemiology. The earliest possible date that this may occur is September 7, 2021. 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 Return to in person learning, which can be found [here](#).

Q: How do vaccinations factor into sport reopening?

A: Getting vaccinated is an important tool supporting the B.C. Restart plan. Along with case numbers and hospitalizations, vaccination rates help the PHO determine when the province is able to move into steps 4. However, individual vaccines should not be a factor that defines whether or not individuals can participate in certain activities.

Current public health and WorkSafeBC guidance states that organizations should not ask for personal medical information, including vaccine status, as part of their communicable disease plans. While businesses/organizations are free to operate as they choose within the WorkSafeBC guidelines, they should consider any potential legal implications that could arise from discriminating against participants on any grounds.

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 5000 seated people will need to reduce capacity by up to 50% (e.g. an event of 5000 does not need to reduce capacity, an event of 6000 will need to reduce to 5000, an event of 12000 will need to reduce to 6000).
- CSI-P athletes adhere to all Step 3 guidance.
- Masks are not recommended

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

A: The only limit for outdoor sport is for seated events. Seated events are allowed up to 5,000 or 50% 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.)

Q: Are we able to host tournaments?

A: Tournaments can occur if all public health measures and facility protocols 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:

- Maximum group size is only for seated events (up to 50 seated people or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is greater)
- Canada-wide travel allowed
- International travel must follow federal restriction and guidance
- Physical distance does not need to be maintained on or off the field of play
- CSI-P athletes must adhere to all Step 3 guidance
- Mask use is not recommended on the field of play. Masks are recommended off the field of play for those 12 and over who have not received both immunization shots

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

A: The only limit for indoor sport is for seated events. Seated events are allowed up to 50 or 50% of capacity, whichever is greater (i.e. if your space holds 75 people the capacity is now 50. If your space holds 500 people the capacity is now 250).

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

A: Mask use is not recommended on the field of play. Masks are recommended off the field of play for those 12 and over who have not received both immunization shots. 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.