

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S RETURN TO SPORT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Return to Sport Restart 2.0

June 1, 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A: The phases outlined in viaSport's original Return to Sport Guidelines are no longer applicable.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 May 25, 2021, we are in Step One of [BC's Restart](#) Plan.

Q: What does Step 1 mean for sport?

A: In Step 1, the following is in place for sport.

- Outdoor sport can resume (adult and youth)
 - Local games and practices only
 - No spectators allowed
 - Travel is restricted to home club
- No changes to indoor sport restrictions

The [PHO Order on Events and Gatherings](#) has been updated to reflect this. Also view [Return to Sport Restart 2.0](#) for more information.

Q: When will we move to Step 2?

A: Transition to the next step of the B.C. Restart plan is based on case rates, hospitalization rates and immunization rates. The earliest possible date that this may occur is June 15, 2021. The PHO will decide when it is time to move to the next step.

Q: What should be included in sport safety plans?

A: Sport organizations should continue to have a safety plan in place that follows current standards as outlined by [WorkSafe BC](#) and [BC Centre for Disease Control](#). Consulting and aligning with your provincial sport organization will help you with your safety plans, as well.

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. 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: The [Return to Sport Restart 2.0](#) is a living document that will continue to be updated as more details are available for each step of the four-step restart plan. Please refer back to 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 will want to ensure that all user groups have a return to sport plan in place that is aligned with B.C.’s Restart plan. Each facility will likely also have additional considerations that impact their ability to reopen or 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 through the [COVID-19 Related Measures Act](#) (CRMA). The regulation protects people from proceedings for civil liability for damages resulting from transmission or exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19. The Act remains in effect until it is repealed.

Q: What is the definition of “home club” and does it include leagues?

A: A participant’s home club is the organization, club or facility at which they regularly train and play, and where they are registered for ongoing sport programming. *Note:* For leagues that also operate as home clubs, if the league is located in different communities, travel shouldn’t be occurring right now.

OUTDOOR SPORT

Q: What outdoor sport activities are permitted?

A: Outdoor sports for both youth and adults may occur under the following conditions:

- Outdoor sports practices and games are permitted within their home club.
- Participants are not required to maintain physical distance.
- Maximum group sizes for adult sport is 50 people.
- Cohorts are not required.
- No spectators are allowed.

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

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

A: Group sizes should account for all participants including athletes, coaches, volunteers, etc. Maximum group size for outdoor adult sport and varsity sport is 50 people. There is no maximum group size for youth sport in order to ensure proper adult supervision is in place; however, no spectators are allowed.

Maximum group sizes apply to the field of play and the participants that are gathering for a specific sport activity. If your sport activity takes place in a facility that can accommodate multiple sport activities in separate spaces, the participants must not have contact with participants in another part of the facility.

INDOOR SPORT

Q: What indoor sport activities are allowed for children and youth?

A: Indoor sport for children and youth (under 22 years of age) is permitted but:

- participants must maintain a physical distance of three metres from one another;
- activities should be low risk of transmitting the virus (e.g. individual activities, group training that maintains physical distance);
- there are no spectators allowed, unless to provide care (i.e. first aid) to a participant.
- Travel to home club only (and cannot cross travel zones)

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

Q: What indoor sport activities are allowed for adults?

A: Indoor sport for adults (22 and older) are limited to:

- Physical distance of three metres is always maintained on the field of play, unless the participants reside in the same private residence.
- All indoor sport activities for adults (22 years of age and older) are limited to a maximum of two people.
- No spectators are allowed.
- Individuals may travel to their home club for sport activities.

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

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

A: Indoor adult sport is limited to group sizes of two people. Maximum group sizes for indoor youth sport can be determined by the facility based on the ability of the participants to maintain physical distance.

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

A: The [Ministerial Order for Face Coverings](#) (M012) remains in place; however, Section 4G of the order outlines that face coverings are not required while participating in a sport activity at a sport facility. Masks are required within the facility when not participating in the sport (or off the field of play). Standards for exercise differ and should follow [Indoor Exercise Requirements](#).

Q: What requirements are in place for indoor fitness activities?

A: Indoor exercise is outlined separately from sport in the [PHO Order on Gatherings and Events](#) (section j) and further direction is provided in the [Indoor Exercise Requirements](#).

TRAVEL FOR SPORT

Q: What are the current travel restrictions in place?

A: As of April 21, 2021, all non-essential travel between health authority regions is prohibited.

This continues to be in place for personal travel. Further, to this the [PHO Order on Events and Gatherings](#) outlines that travel for sport is further restricted and only permitted when travelling to your home club.

Q: Can I travel to my home club if it is outside my community, but within my local health authority?

A: Although most sport should be played within the participant's community, there are some examples where an individual can travel short distances that do not cross health authority region boundaries. For example:

- A skier who is part of the local ski club can travel to their local mountain, which might be in a neighbouring community;
- an archer may need to travel to a neighbouring community because their community does not have an archery club;
- a high-performance athlete may need to travel to a nearby community to receive specialized training.

Travel that is **not** allowed includes:

- a hockey player travelling from Vernon to Penticton to participate on their spring hockey team;
- a softball player traveling from Kamloops to Vancouver to participate on their rep team;
- a dancer travelling from Langley to Whistler to participate in a virtual competition.

Q: Can high-performance athletes identified by Canadian Sport Institute Pacific travel within B.C.?

A: High performance athletes cannot travel from one health region to another but can travel within their travel zone (defined above). Sport Canada carded athletes (Canadian Elite or Podium levels) may travel across the three travel zones. Other high-performance athletes identified by Canadian Sport Institute Pacific can train, travel and compete within their travel zone.