

# BRITISH COLUMBIA'S RETURN TO SPORT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Return to Sport Restart 2.0

June 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A: The phases outlined in viaSport's original Return to Sport Guidelines are no longer applicable.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 June 15, 2021 we are in Step Two of [B.C.'s Restart](#) Plan.

#### **Q: What does Step 2 mean for sport?**

A: The [PHO Order on Events and Gatherings](#) has been updated as of June 15, 2021. In Step 2, the following is in place for sport.

- Outdoor sport can expand play to include:
  - Travel within B.C.
  - For adults 22 and older, a maximum group size of 50, including participants, coaches, managers, trainers, and other persons involved in an official capacity
  - Youth 21 and high-performance identified by CSI-P have no maximum group size
  - Up to 50 spectators
  - Masks are not required
- Indoor sport can expand play to include:
  - Travel within B.C.
  - Physical distance not required on field of play
  - 2m physical distance maintained off field of play
  - Maximum group size of 50, including participants, coaches, managers, trainers, and other persons involved in an official capacity
  - Mask use required off the field of play
  - No spectators

Please see the [Return to Sport Restart 2.0](#) for more information.

**Q: When will we move to Step 3?**

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 July 1, 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 with viaSport's [Return to Sport Restart 2.0](#) 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: Are we able to run coaching or officials training at this time?**

A: Courses for the purposes of training coaches or officials should follow the organized gathering section of the B.C. Restart plan.

Indoor gatherings may proceed with a maximum of 50 people and a COVID-19 safety plan in place. Physical distancing and masks continue to be required in public indoor settings.

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 2, 3 and 4. However, individual vaccines should not be a factor that defines whether or not individuals can participate in certain activities.

## OUTDOOR SPORT

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

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

- Outdoor sports practices, games, competitions and tournaments are permitted
- Travel for the purpose of sport is allowed within B.C.
- Participants are not required to maintain physical distance
- Maximum group size is 50 participants for adults 22 and older. There is no maximum group size for sport activities for youth 21 and under, or for high-performance athletes identified by CSI-P.
- Spectators are allowed up to 50 people
- Cohorts are not required.

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

A: Group sizes should account for all those attending the event including athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials as “participants.” In Step 2, this number is 50 for adults 22 and older. For youth, there is no maximum group size. Outdoor activities for high-performance athletes identified by CSI-P are not subject to a maximum group size. In addition, Step 2 allows for up to 50 spectators.

Maximum group sizes apply to those 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.

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

A: Tournaments can occur if all public health measures and facility protocols are followed and there is a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place.

## INDOOR SPORT

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

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

- Outdoor sports practices, games, competitions and tournaments are permitted
- Travel for the purpose of sport is allowed within B.C.
- Participants are not required to maintain physical distance on the field of play. Off the field of play, 2m distance must be maintained
- Maximum group size is 50 for youth and adult sport
- No spectators

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

A: Indoor sport is allowed a maximum group size of 50 participants of all ages, including participants, coaches, managers, trainers, and other persons involved in an official capacity. No spectators are permitted in Step 2. This maximum also applies to high-performance athletes in Step 2.

**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: There are no restrictions for travel within B.C.