

**VIA EMAIL**

June 1, 2021

**Attention:** BC Soccer Full/Associate Members and Affiliated Soccer Clubs

**From:** BC Soccer

**Re:** Return to Play Plan updated – BC Restart Plan

Dear Full/Associate Members and Affiliated Clubs,

In follow up to the BC Government's Restart Announcement on May 25, 2021 and our communications on the same date and May 28<sup>th</sup>, we have received some clarification from ViaSport. Today, we are pleased to share with you the updated *Return to Play Plan for Soccer* (accompanying this communication). Before you jump to the plan, please continue reading and it is important to note that the plan will be amended over time as we move through BC's Restart steps.

The government, care of ViaSport, is advising that the intention of the Restart Plan is to slowly return to activities, and therefore are asking organizations to turn the dimmer slowly when planning sport programming.

**How has plan been updated**

For increased clarity and simplicity, the *Return to Play Plan for Soccer* has been paired down to just provide the required information, removing the overly restrictive pieces that are not required anymore and removing the points that duplicate what is already guidance from the BC health authority to the general public.

In reviewing the updated plan, you will see there are no references to:

- Cohorts as they are no longer required,
- Kick-ins in place of throw-ins as regular throw-ins are allowed, and
- Modified drop ball and normal drop balls can occur again.

**How the plan will be updated moving forward**

We are working towards the timelines in the BC Government four stages and will not establish new timelines for what soccer activity can occur and when. We will update the "Organizing Soccer Activity" section within the Return to Play Plan to reflect what soccer activity can occur (and any restrictions or modifications required) and circulate to members (and post on the website). We have also updated our website and removed the previous Return to Play Plans to ensure information is clear. If you would like to review these past plans, please e-mail [feedback@bcsoccer.net](mailto:feedback@bcsoccer.net).

The updated Return to Play Plan for Soccer accompanying this communication is what we know today. Our understanding of BC's Restart Plan, along with the information from ViaSport, tells us that moving to the next stage may occur at the earliest June 15, 2021. Closer to that date, we should know more information.

### **Defining “Local”**

Under the current plan, we understand the frustration with defining “local” as “in-club or home club” for gameplay. We share this frustration as this is not supportive for how adult soccer is organized and we know youth teams/clubs want to play matches against each other. We have raised this with ViaSport, and also highlighted the inconsistency with people being able to travel within their travel region but soccer teams can not; this doesn’t make sense to us. They have informed us that for now, the definition will stay as it is as this is the intent from the BC health authority. We understand that as we look to the next easing of restrictions (step 2), this definition may be broadened to better support the soccer activity that we all want to have.

### **Closing comments**

With the above stated, we must also see the positives coming out of this week as we all get back to the fields for more normal type of soccer activity. We are not fully where we want to be, but we now see the plan to get us there.

We thank you all for your understanding and hard work to support soccer through these everchanging times and as we receive and learn more information on allowances under BC’s Restart Plan as it relates to sport and soccer, we will continue to communicate as quickly as responsible.

-End-

CC: Charlene Krepiakovich, CEO, ViaSport British Columbia  
BC Soccer Board of Directors and Staff