

BC SOCCER’S UPDATED RETURN TO PLAY PLAN

Updated June 1, 2021

TIMELINES, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERS AND AFFILIATED CLUBS, ADMINISTRATORS, COACHES AND ANYONE ORGANIZING SOCCER ACTIVITIES

For increased clarity and simplicity, BC Soccer has paired down the information in this updated Return to Play Plan to only provide the required information. Historical Return to Play Plans of Soccer and information can be requested if needed by e-mailing feedback@bcsoccer.net.

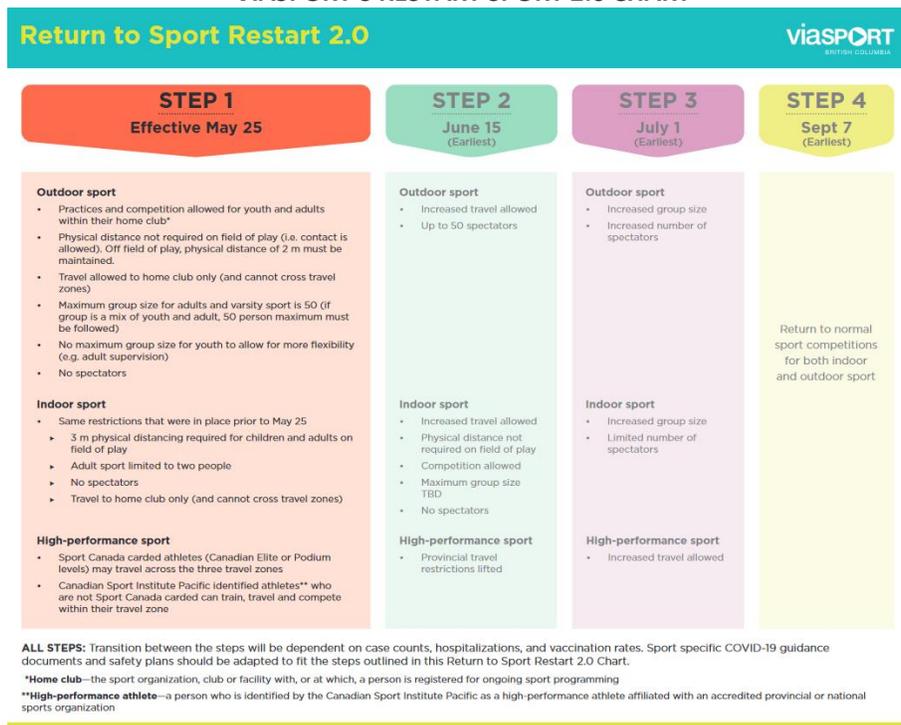
We are optimistic with the go forward plan, however, the situation may differ by area, therefore, we must all continue to follow the BC health authority’s guidance and require all members and affiliated clubs to do the same. We also understand that each **municipality has potentially different restrictions and limitations** for bookings/activity, therefore, please work with your local cities/municipalities to adhere to any requirements to ensure you are providing a safe environment for all participants.

Below are the working timelines, guidelines, measures, and precautions to support the continued responsible return to play for soccer. The information in this document is current to June 1, 2021 and aligns with guidance from ViaSport and BC’s Restart Plan.

WORKING TIMELINE

On May 25, 2021 the BC Government announced its Restart Plan. Below we share ViaSport’s Return to Sport Restart 2.0 chart. See Appendix A for BC Government’s Restart Chart.

VIASPORT’S RESTART SPORT 2.0 CHART



BC Soccer will work towards the timelines in the BC Government four steps and will not establish new timelines for what soccer activity can occur and when. We will update the “Organizing Soccer Activity” section (below) to reflect what soccer activity can occur (and any restrictions or modifications required).

ORGANIZING SOCCER ACTIVITY (as of June 1, 2021)

GENERAL MEASURES

- The activity must always comply with the general measures, recommendations, and any gathering restrictions issued by the BC health authorities.
- Physical distancing not required on the field of play, including bench area.
- 2 metres between people is still required outside the field of play.
- Ensure all participants are registered per the normal process under BC Soccer, including parent/guardian providing written consent for players U18 and younger.
- Keep a participant record and when participation occurred.
- Communicate to participants any hygiene measures in alignment with current information issued by the BC health authorities, including staying home if sick.
- Remind all players to bring their own refreshments and do not share water bottles.
- Clearly communicate, in consultation with municipality/city/facility owner, player drop-off and pick-up protocol for arrival and departure if required.
- Support your staff and paid/volunteer coaches and remind them to stay home if sick.
- Stagger training/game start/end times to limit occasions for gatherings.
- Adhere to the Rule of Two.

SAFETY PLANS

- Please adjust current safety plans to align with this *Return to Play Plan for Soccer* and *ViaSport’s Restart Sport 2.0 Chart*, including updating Emergency Response & Outbreak Plans. Note: there is no new guidance from ViaSport; see appendix B for previous guidance (slightly amended).

TYPE OF SOCCER ACTIVITY

1. **Outdoor soccer** can occur for both youth (21 years and younger) and adults (22 years and older) with the following restrictions:
 - Travel must be kept to the travel regions as defined by the BC Government:
 - o Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley
 - o Northern/Interior
 - o Vancouver Island
 - Players can participate in contact training (within their travel region):
 - o With their home club/team, and/or
 - o With another organization offering supplemental training.
 - Organized gameplay must be “local”.
 - o *ViaSport has advised that “local” is currently defined as “in-club”.*
 - Maximum participants:
 - o Up to 50 participants are allowed for adult and unless otherwise stated by the municipality/city, this is 50 people (participants, coaches, referees, and others) per a regular 11 v 11 full-size soccer field including the bench area.

- No maximum participants for youth unless otherwise stated by the field/facility owner.
- Spectators are not allowed yet for outdoor soccer.

2. Indoor soccer for adults (22 years and older) is still suspended.

3. Indoor soccer for youth (21 years and younger) can occur with the following restrictions:

- Travel must be kept to the travel regions as defined by the BC Government:
 - Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley
 - Northern/Interior
 - Vancouver Island
- Players can participate in (3-metres) distance training (within their travel region):
 - With their home club/team, and/or
 - With another organization offering supplemental training.
- Organized gameplay is currently not allowed.
- Maximum participants:
 - Unless otherwise stated by the municipality/city/facility owner, this is up to 50 people (participants, coaches, referees, and others).
- Spectators are not allowed yet for indoor soccer.

EQUIPMENT

- Coaches should take charge of set up and collecting equipment.
- If possible, avoid sharing of equipment (i.e. goalkeeper gloves).

PROVIDE A CLEAN AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

BC Soccer understands that in most cases, soccer occurs on municipality/city fields and in some small instances some groups own facilities, while some also have office space. Please follow all requirements from facility owner (and the health authority) to ensure operational security procedures are in place.

OTHER PRECAUTIONS

Should any member organization and/or affiliated club wishing to add stricter guidelines, measures and precautions they are able to do so for the soccer activity they oversee within their specific organization.

CLOSING COMMENTS

BC Soccer thanks all members, affiliated clubs, and individuals across BC for your patience and for the work you are doing to support soccer and importantly for your understanding as we navigate through this challenging time. As we all move forward with the BC Restart Plan, we ask that you be respectful and responsible in doing so. Organizations that do offer soccer activity and do not comply with these recommendations and guidelines may be subject to sanctioning.

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENT (in appendices)

- BC Government Restart Plan Chart
- Via Sport's previous guidance on Emergency Response and Outbreak Plan.

DISCLAIMER

Importantly this document is not a legal document and is not a substitute for actual legislation or orders of the Provincial Health Office. Any links to third party web sites are provided solely for convenience.

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APPENDIX A – BC GOVERNMENT RESTART PLAN CHART

| STEP | Criteria | PHO Guidance | Personal Gatherings | Organized Gatherings | Travel | Sports & Activities | Businesses | Offices & Workplaces |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1 MAY 25 | C: stable H: stable D1: 60% | Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested | Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 10 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household | Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 10 people Outdoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people | Recreational travel within your zone Non-essential travel between zones restricted | Low-intensity indoor fitness classes Outdoor local team games and practices for all ages – no spectators | Indoor & outdoor dining – up to 6 people Liquor service - 10PM Existing WorkSafeBC Safety Plans remain in place | Start gradual return to workplaces and offices Existing Safety Plans remain in place |
| 2 JUNE 15 (Earliest date) | C: declining H: declining D1: 65% | Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested | Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 50 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household Playdates | Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people Sector consultations on next steps on indoor and outdoor gatherings | BC recreational travel BC Transit and BC Ferries – increased services as needed | High-intensity indoor fitness classes - reduced capacity Indoor team games for all ages – no spectators Spectators for outdoor sports – up to 50 people | Liquor service – midnight Banquet halls reopen – limited capacity, Safety Plans Sector consultations on next steps on easing of restrictions | Continue return to work Small in-person meetings |
| 3 JULY 1 (Earliest date) | C: low H: declining D1: 70% | Masks – recommended Careful social contact If sick, stay home and get tested | Return to usual on indoor and outdoor personal gatherings Sleepovers | Increased capacity, indoor and outdoor gatherings – Safety Plan Fairs & festivals with Safety Plan | Canada recreational travel | All indoor fitness classes – increased capacity Limited spectators for indoor sports | Dining – no group limit Bingo halls, casinos and nightclubs – limited capacity Operate based on new Safety Plans | Seminars and bigger meetings Operate based on new Safety Plans |
| 4 SEPT 7 (Earliest date) | C: low H: low D1: 70%+ | Masks – personal choice Normal social contact If sick, stay home and get tested | Normal social contact | Increased capacity on large organized gatherings (i.e. concerts) | Canada recreational travel | Increased indoor and outdoor spectators Return of normal sport competitions – Safety Plans | Continue to operate based on new Safety Plans | Fully re-opened offices and workplaces |

C: C-19 case counts H: C-19 hospitalizations D1: minimum % of people 18+ with dose 1

APPENDIX B - VIASPORT'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND OUTBREAK PLAN

The following is from Via Sport's Return to Sport Guidelines for B.C. from September 2020 and has been slightly adjusted to reflect the easing of restrictions.

First Aid

In the event that first aid is required to be administered during an activity, all persons attending to the injured individual must first put on a mask and gloves.

A guide for employers and Occupational First Aid Attendants:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/information-sheets/ofaa-protocols-covid-19-pandemic?lang=en>

First aid protocols for an unresponsive person during COVID-19: <https://www.redcross.ca/training-and-certification/first-aid-tips-and-resources/first-aid-tips/first-aid-protocols-for-an-unresponsive-person-during-covid-19>

Outbreak Plan

1. Identify the roles and responsibilities of staff or volunteers if a case or outbreak is reported.
2. If staff (including volunteers) or a participant reports they are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 and have been at the workplace/activity place, implement your illness policy ([page 33 of Via Sport's Return to Sport Guidelines](#)) and advise individuals to monitor their symptoms daily, and use the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to help determine if it is an emergency.
 - Individuals can contact 8-1-1 if further health advice is required and 9-1-1 if it is an emergency.
 - Individuals can learn more about how to manage their illness here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/healthinfo/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/if-you-are-sick>
3. In the event of a suspected case or outbreak of influenza-like-illness, immediately report and discuss the suspected outbreak with the Medical Health Officer (or delegate) at your local health authority. Call 8-1-1. Implement your Illness Policy.
4. If your organization is contacted by a medical health officer, please cooperate with local health authorities.

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