



June 26, 2020

LETTER FROM THE BCLA PRESIDENT RE: Return to Lacrosse Phase 1 Progress

The BCLA has been working collectively with local municipalities in planning a return to lacrosse. The health and safety for all participants in the BC Lacrosse community is paramount and this is central to all of our decisions around COVID-19. We're proud of the efforts of our lacrosse community which will result in lacrosse athletes back playing the sport they love.

On June 11, the BCLA has provided members and stakeholders the tools to plan a safe return to lacrosse with the BCLA Return to Lacrosse Guidelines – Phase 1, so that we can safely deliver lacrosse programming while keeping within the BC Health Authority, viaSport BC and other government regulatory agency guidelines. The Province of BC has asked each Provincial Sport Organization to develop its own Return to Sport guidelines and the BCLA Return to Lacrosse Phase 1 Guidelines [BCLA Return to Lacrosse Phase 1 Guidelines](#) are aligned with viaSport BC's Return to Sport Guidelines [viaSport BC's Return to Sport Guidelines](#).

As previously communicated in the [June 11 President's Message](#), there was an announcement on June 10th, that a Ministerial Order has been issued, extending liability protection to not-for-profit amateur sport organizations for damages resulting from exposure to COVID-19. This liability protection applies to non-profit, amateur sport organizations and their members as long as they are complying with orders from the provincial health officer and following the BCLA's Return to Lacrosse Guidelines. This protects the directors, officers, staff and volunteers of not-for-profit sport organizations recognized under the BC Societies Act. This Order is in effect immediately and until the state of emergency is lifted. To review the Province of BC's announcement, please [click here](#). The Ministerial Order extends liability protection to not-for-profit amateur sport organizations for damages resulting from exposure to COVID-19.

We are aware of non-BCLA programming that is being promoted during this time. We want to provide our members some clarity on information members may have received regarding these lacrosse activities.

Any programs provided by non-BCLA entities are not sanctioned by the BCLA. They manage their own lacrosse operations and do not adhere to BCLA policies and guidelines that are created by BCLA members. Nor do they fall under the Ministerial Order of liability protection from exposure to COVID-19. Athletes that participate in non-BCLA programs are not covered by BCLA insurance.

When the government announces moving into the next phases of restrictions, sports don't necessarily move to new phases at the same time. We are still in the Phase 1 stage for lacrosse activities which includes drills and skill development. We don't know when sport will move to the next phase to allow for game play and we are currently planning for the next phase is in this process. The concepts being considered are an adaptive box game and an adaptive version of the [World Lacrosse 6 on 6 lacrosse](#) game (outdoor).

All volunteers are crucial to our return to lacrosse programming. We are proud to have coaches who are educated by trained facilitators following NCCP curriculum and training recognized by the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC). Our coaches teach our players to grow as individuals and as a team.

The BCLA will continue to update the BCLA Membership through e-mails, on-line Community of Practice postings and on the [BCLA Website Direct Link](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail me at gerry@bclacrosse.com or Jeff Gombar, BCLA Executive Director – jeff@bclacrosse.com or (604) 421-9755 Ext. 3.

Yours in Lacrosse,
Gerry Van Beek
BCLA President