



August 26, 2020

LETTER FROM THE BCLA PRESIDENT RE: New Sport Phase Coming

On August 24, the BC Provincial Government announced viaSport BC's Phase 3 additions to the Return to Sport Guidelines. This is welcomed news for sport and for BC Lacrosse members!

The BCLA reiterates that a patient approach to new activities will be vital, that each sport and organization will progress at different rates, and that each region and municipality will have its own ways of keeping their communities safe.

The health and safety for all participants in the BC Lacrosse community is paramount and is central to our decisions around COVID-19 and Return to Lacrosse. All involved in our sport must take direction from the appropriate health authorities, including the Public Health Agency of Canada and the BC Ministry of Health and your local health authority. We strongly remind all, as we return to some levels of lacrosse activities, we cannot relax our health and safety practices (I.e., 2-meter physical distancing; increased hand hygiene; outdoor activities with small groups, etc.).

The BCLA Return to Lacrosse Committee and support groups are working hard to update and align the next phase BCLA Return to Lacrosse Guidelines to the viaSport BC Phase 3 Return to Sport Guidelines. The committee will swiftly clarify any issues, update, and publish the plans accordingly. Once the draft is ready, the document must receive BCLA Board approval before implementation.

What this means for BC Lacrosse Associations/Clubs

We are entering the traditional Field Lacrosse season with encouraging expectations. The BCLA has confirmed a reduction in 2021 field player registration fees and communicated to associations/clubs to open registration and promote registration to their athletes. Let's embrace this opportunity and invite all lacrosse athletes to participate.

The viaSport Progressively Loosen phase will offer revised guidance for activities involving contact, cohorts, competition, competition hosting, high performance camps and travel.
See [viaSport BC Phase 3 guidelines](#).

The BCLA Return to Lacrosse Phase 2/3 document will align with viaSport BC's guidelines. Our new guidelines will include activities and game play with modifications that are as close to normal lacrosse activities. All activities will follow the direction from viaSport BC and the appropriate health authorities. We expect the BCLA Return to Lacrosse Phase 2/3 Guidelines will be complete for release the first week of September.

The BCLA Board, Directorates, and Technical Support Groups continue planning normal fall meetings of which all are being conducted virtually. We will continue to communicate information to the lacrosse community as we receive it to inform our sport leaders.

To all administrators and volunteers, thank you for remaining strong through this trying time.

Thank you for your patience.

If you have any additional questions, please e-mail me at gerry@bclacrosse.com

Yours in Lacrosse,
Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President