



May 20, 2021

LETTER FROM THE BCLA PRESIDENT

RE: COVID-19 PROVINCE-WIDE RESTRICTIONS - LACROSSE ACTIVITY UPDATE

Dear BCLA Members:

Thank you lacrosse volunteers for the hard work keeping our athletes active this 2021 Box Lacrosse season. Your commitment to the athletes and our sport is admirable!

The BCLA understands some private entities are promoting events. All sports and activities must follow all public health orders. These are not BCLA events and participants in those activities do so at their own risk. We implore lacrosse people throughout BC to follow all PHO restrictions, stay within your home association, respect travel restrictions and stay within your health regions. We are planning Box Lacrosse activities as and when permitted by health authorities and the guidance of viaSport BC.

Currently, sport activities for youth and adults are restricted until at least May 25. We must continue our return to sport activities as we have until we receive direction from public health and viaSport.

In Dr. Henry's recent interviews, she spoke about the return to sport as it relates to current provincial restrictions. She reiterates no decisions have been made on lifting restrictions and to expect an update after the May long weekend. It is important we set clear expectations with our members, so when the time comes, we are ready with an understanding of what is and is not allowed for sport.

Specific to return to sport, Dr. Henry said when restrictions change outdoor sport will be more permissive than indoor sport. She also states the plan is for a gradual return to sport. Return to pre-pandemic activities is not immediate. We suggest plans for increased outdoor activities ahead of indoor.

With current provincial restrictions in place until at least May 25, 2021, viaSport is providing the following guidance for sport organizations and their members around how to prepare for a safe, gradual return to sport.

- Currently, sport activities for youth and adults are restricted until at least May 25, 2021.
- The BC Provincial Health Officer has indicated that when restrictions are eased, it will happen slowly.
- Modified activities for outdoor sports could return as early as June, but the timeline for indoor sports will depend on future decisions from public health officials.
- Although outdoor sport may be more permissive than indoor sport after May 25, 2021, viaSport is hopeful that all sport can expect a gradual transition back to regular game play over the summer and into the fall.
- Dr. Henry is working with public health officials on a health policy that will guide the next phases of a restart plan for all sectors, which is targeted to be released after the May long weekend.

- When restrictions are lifted, sport organizations will have many factors to consider including availability of facilities, coaches, volunteers, etc. As a result, we recognize that it will take time for organizations to restart their activities.
- Staying connected and aligned with your provincial sport organization will help make the transition safer and smoother for everyone.

As a reminder:

- Under current restrictions, within a home club setting, training and practice for youth age 21 and under may continue, as long as:
 - participants maintain a physical distance of three metres from one another (no handshaking, high fives, hugging, etc.);
 - the focus is on activities that have a low risk of COVID-19 virus transmission;
 - there are no spectators present, unless to provide care (i.e. first aid) to a participant
- The Orders do not specifically address every individual situation. When interpreting the Orders, please remember the intention is important. This will help to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities and keep sports safe. Our actions now will impact how quickly we can return to sport when the time is right.

A more active return to sport is getting closer as our situation improves. Please continue to follow your association/club and city/municipality safety guidelines to ensure the safest lacrosse activities. As the COVID-19 situation continues, sport will adapt to the restrictions set forth by the Ministry of Health with direction from viaSport BC. We anticipate periods of gradual improvements and we must all be prepared to adapt in a systematic and safe manner.

Read the [Provincial Health Officer Order on Gatherings and Events](#) (at May 7, 2021).

Read the full details around [what these updates to the Order mean for sport](#) (viaSport page).

Please see [Province-wide Restrictions for sport](#) (latest updated information).

Please read [viaSport's Travel Reminder](#).

This is how sport and the BCLA must proceed under the latest province-wide restrictions in the foreseeable future until sport is directed otherwise. The BCLA will continue to update our members as we learn more from the BC Government, PHO and viaSport BC on information as it relates to COVID-19.

Thank you for your hard work and patience through this challenging situation. Your efforts are appreciated. If you have any additional questions, please e-mail me at gerry@bclacrosse.com

Yours in Lacrosse,
Gerry Van Beek
BCLA President