



May 25, 2021

LETTER FROM THE BCLA PRESIDENT

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

Dear BCLA Members:

Thank you BCLA volunteers for keeping lacrosse front and centre in continuing lacrosse activities. Athletes and families alike appreciate your efforts in keeping our athletes active. Please stay the course and continue to be safe.

The sport community received some promising news from today's BC COVID-19 PHO announcement and from viaSport BC. This is positive news. We are working through the details on what is allowed and when.

Sport is learning the specifics of this announcement and how this pertains to sport activities. Sport sector leaders met with viaSport BC this afternoon regarding the announcement. Once the viaSport BC Guidelines are complete, the BCLA will communicate these guidelines to the Lacrosse community.

Here is a summary of what we learned from the PHO update and from viaSport BC today and how it relates to current sport activities:

- Indoor sport activities for youth group/team sports (21 and under) have not changed and all safety guidelines remain in place (i.e., physical distancing, no contact, no games, etc.)
- Indoor sport activities for adults (22 years and older) are still **not permitted**.
- Outdoor games and practices for both adults and youth group/team sports are allowed.
- Contact and game play permitted **ONLY** outdoors.
- No spectators at any indoor or outdoor sport activities.
- Travel must be kept to the local regions as defined by the BC Government:
 - Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley
 - Northern/Interior
 - Vancouver Island
- Travel to your home association/club is permitted. This has not changed.

We must continue our Return to Lacrosse activities in a safe manner. Please understand lacrosse activities will not all change at once. We will transition from one level of activities to another in a gradual return to sport. Now that only outdoor sport activities have been eased, we will plan a safe transition for our athletes and volunteers to follow.

Online referee training is being planned -- expect more information on clinics soon.

Please take a common sense approach. We caution not to jump fully into lacrosse contact activities right away. With the addition of contact and game play outdoors, we must carefully reintroduce and teach safe contact methods to our athletes.

Sport anticipates a more active return to sport in the coming weeks as our situation improves. Details will be forthcoming as sport learns more from the direction of public health and viaSport BC.

Please read the [BC Provincial Restart Plan 2.0](#).

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

Please 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](#).

Continue following 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.

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 and the BC Restart Plan 2.0 and how it related to lacrosse activities.

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

