



MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS & ATHLETIC DIRECTORS
FROM: BCSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SUBJECT: COVID-19 UPDATE #3: CANCELLATION OF SPRING SEASON OF PLAY EVENTS
DATE: APRIL 7, 2020
CC: DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS, BCSS SPORT COMMISSIONERS

This memo follows the correspondence issued by BCSS on March 10 and March 17.

The BCSS Board of Directors met virtually on Friday to evaluate the prospects for the spring season of play, which was suspended on March 17th due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has become apparent that the disruption to regular activities, including attending school and participating in sporting activities is going to be measured in months, rather than weeks.

In addition to the guidance of the Provincial Health Officer, the Board considered the amount of time that, if permitted to return to activities, would be required for a season to start up and sufficient practice and training time to allow student-athletes to safely participate in any of our spring activities.

As a result of these considerations, the Board of Directors has **cancelled all spring season of play zone and provincial championships**. Also, all intra and interschool sport activities, remain suspended until further notice.

As we continue to navigate and endure the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will look to our provincial health authorities for guidance on when it is safe to return to school sport activities.

The Board would like to share in the disappointment with our member schools and student-athletes, especially those in Grade 12, who won't have the opportunity to represent their school at the Provincial Championships this spring. BCSS Zone and Provincial Championships are very special occasions and the pinnacle of the majority of student-athlete athletic careers. We are saddened by the necessity to cancel them.

As a result of the cancellation of the spring season of play, the Board has frozen all spring sport rosters and will erase any student-athletes registered to spring sports this year. There



is no need for Athletic Directors to further register students on any sport rosters for the remainder of this academic year.

Also, the Board has ruled that any student who is currently in their 5th and final year of BCSS eligibility in 2019-2020 who returns to school next year, and who remains eligible by all other BCSS policies (i.e. Age, Credits Enrolled, Residence etc.) will upon application, receive a 6th year of eligibility, applicable to any spring season activity. The 6th year will not apply to fall or winter sports. The Board has granted the Eligibility Officers the ability to grant this without requiring an appeal, only for the 2020-2021 academic year.

In addition, the Board of Directors has made the decision to proceed with **a virtual AGM in June**. The staff are working on the exact date and logistics now which will be confirmed in the days to come. The Board has also decided that the Governance Proposal which was published in February to come forward to the 2020 AGM, will NOT come forward for a membership vote at this time. The Board felt the recommended changes, which they have and continue to endorse entirely, requires a proper forum for discussion, both leading up to, and at a general meeting. Much of the discussions that had been happening on this front have ceased. The Board will look to bring forward the governance recommendation at an appropriate time in the 2020-2021 academic year to continue the required dialogue and vote on the proposed changes.

The **deadline for student-athletes to apply for scholarships remains on May 4th**. For those student-athletes who intended to participate in a spring season of play activity to be eligible, participation in their grade 11 year will be considered as a suitable alternative for spring sports.

The BCSS office staff remain working, albeit primarily from remote locations. They are available to assist you with any questions and they ask that you inquire through email. Please direct your inquiries to info@bcschoolsports.ca

The Board would like to thank our member schools for their support and patience as we all navigate these unprecedented times. While schools remain closed, we are more than ever recognizing the importance of school communities, their sport teams, performing arts groups and clubs. We look forward to seeing our school leaders again soon and seeing our student-athletes compete, perform and excel when it is safe to do so.