



BC SCHOOL SPORTS WELCOME BACK PACKAGE



2020-2021

IMPORTANT DATES, LINKS, AND CHANGES

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to what is assuredly the most unique start to a school year all of us have ever been part of. There is much uncertainty about school sport and the role it will play this year, and BCSS is working hard to adapt and respond as needed.

As always, our primary objective is to support our member schools and assist them in providing quality experiences for the student-athletes across the province. That's going to look different this year. It's going to require creativity, ingenuity and a genuine desire to do a little extra to make sure it happens. I am confident our school sport leaders will do what it takes to provide safe and meaningful experiences.

The BCSS Board of Directors has set the dues this year but is at this time only assessing 60% of the total, with further evaluation later in the year. The Board wanted to ensure BCSS remained operational and ready to support our schools through this period. I hope that over 50 years of service to our members will be enough that our schools will renew their membership immediately to ensure the sustainability of BCSS as we work on your behalf to provide resources and open different avenues for school sport.

In our effort to adapt, both with an eye on saving costs as well as being able to update information rapidly, the Board has approved the use of an online handbook and calendar this year. This document will contain information on how to access both, as well as other important information. We encourage you to review it carefully.

We are here to support you, so as administrators and athletic directors, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We wish you a safe and happy return to school, and look forward to seeing the creative ways you are engaging your student-athletes.



Jordan Abney
Executive Director
BC School Sports

2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP OPT-IN

On August 24 at 8:30am, the administrator of record in STARS should have received an email titled "BCSS Opt-in" to complete their school's membership opt-in. In addition to confirming their membership for the year, they will be asked to update the key contact information for their school. It is important to note that until the school administrator completes the approximately 3-minute opt-in process **their Athletic Director will not have access to STARS**. If as the administrator on record you have not received this email, please check your junk mail folder or call the BCSS office to request the email get resent. It is important to note that if schools choose to not complete the membership opt-in on or before September 30, 2020, they will no longer be on the member school mailing list that receives all BCSS updates, newsletters, and CIAAA course opportunities.

Given the uncertainty around school sport this year due to COVID-19, the BCSS Board of Directors has opted to charge only 60% of the annual membership fees at this time. The Board felt it was critical to ensure BCSS remained functional to assist and guide member schools through this period while remaining ready for the eventual return to normalized activities. The Board is also cognizant of the tight fiscal environment member schools face this year as well as the likely decrease in inter-school sporting opportunities.

They will evaluate the need throughout the year to determine if all, some or none of the remaining 40% should be assessed to the Member Schools. BCSS does not pro-rate membership fees regardless of when a school joins throughout the year. It is the hope of the Board that our member schools have valued the 50+ years of service of BCSS and will complete the opt-in immediately, to support BCSS with ongoing work on behalf of the member schools.

ONLINE RESOURCES

BCSS 2020-2021 Handbook

Due to the uncertainty of school sport this year considered with an eye on reducing expenses and needing the ability to change dates and other important information on short notice, the Board of Directors approved publishing only an online BCSS Handbook for the 2020-2021 school year. Please note that all dates and deadlines published in the handbook are subject to change throughout the school year and may be updated as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves. As per BCSS policy, the version published on the website is always the official version of the handbook. The online handbook can be found on the BCSS website at <https://www.bcschoolsports.ca/resources/calendar-handbook>. We recommend you bookmark this page for quick access throughout the school year.

Handbook Changes

To assist with understanding the new handbook changes, and for the sake of transparency the following changes were approved by the membership at the 2020 BCSS Annual General Meeting.

Policy # 260.0 Coaches Responsibilities (pg 21)

Policy # 270.0 Code of Ethics (pg 23-26)

Policy # 280.0 Media and Social Media (pg 26-27)

Policy # 443.0 Sport Tier Classification Rugby (pg 38-39)

Policy # 518.1.1 Student-Athlete Playing up & Movement between Teams (pg 54)

Policy # 519.6 COVID-19 Eligibility Exception (pg 55-56)

While the Board of Directors only makes policy changes in emergency situations, due to the dynamic nature of the world currently, the Board may have to make changes this year. Any changes will be clearly communicated to each school administrator and athletic director.

BCSS 2020-2021 Calendar

During a “normal” year a printed BCSS Calendar would be sent out to all Administrators and Athletic Directors, this year will look a little different due to the uncertainty of dates. The Board of Directors has approved the use of an online calendar for the 2020-2021 academic school year as the way to communicate the most up-to-date and relevant timelines, deadlines, and important dates to the membership. The BCSS staff have been working to add a calendar to the website making this information easily accessible to all.

This calendar will have the capability to be imported into any client calendar such as outlook, google calendar, or apple calendar. It will update in real time on all connected calendars ensuring any changes or additions are seen by all.

The online 2020-2021 BCSS Calendar can be found at

<https://www.bcschoolsports.ca/calendar>

2019-2020 Annual Report

A summary of the Annual Report is normally sent out in the mail-out. With the mail-out being electronic this year the Annual Report will follow suit being available on the BCSS website at <https://www.bcschoolsports.ca/annualreport>

It is important to note that when reading the 2019-2020 Annual Report that figures are impacted significantly by COVID-19 due to the cancellation of the 2019 Spring season.

RETURN TO SCHOOL SPORT

BCSS recently published The BCSS Return to School Sport Plan. This plan helps provide clarity around the reintroduction of school sport. BCSS is currently in **Stage 2** of the Restart Plan.

BCSS is engaging the provincial government to begin the discussion around introducing inter-school competition at the appropriate time

The published document can be found on the BCSS website <https://www.bcschoolsports.ca/news/bcss-return-school-sport-plan>

STAFFING

Eligibility Officers

After many years of dedicated service to BC School Sports, Bob Jackson has decided to step down from his role as Eligibility Officer. We would like to sincerely thank Bob for his commitment to student-athlete eligibility and the work he has done to further BC School Sports over the years. We wish him all of the best as he enjoys his retirement with his wife.

BC School Sports would like to welcome Tom Dinsdale into the role for the 2020-2021 school year. Tom comes from a deep background in education as a teacher, principal and district administrator. Tom also served 15 years on the Eligibility Appeals Committee and will be a fantastic addition to the team with extensive knowledge of BCSS student-athlete eligibility and will handle all Eligibility Applications for the school year. Tom joins Geoff

Davies as he returns this year handling school declarations, in a traditional year Eligibility Officers will review approximately 1200 transfers that BCSS receives.

Office Hours and Availability

In response to COVID-19 the Board of Directors approved a BCSS Workplace Safety Plan that has been put into effect to ensure the health and safety of the staff. This includes the restrictions on the number of people inside the BCSS office, and may at times include staff rotating between in office and remote work. Although they are rotating there will be a member of the office staff available from 8:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday to assist the membership. Staff will not be taking walk-ins, but will be accepting booked appointments to come into our office for meetings. Our office staff and their contact information can be found below:

BCSS Office (Main Line) | info@bcschoolsports.ca | 604-477-1488

Jordan Abney (Executive Director) | Jabney@bcschoolsports.ca | 604-477-1488 (ext. 102)

Karen Hum (Membership Services Manager) | khum@bcschoolsports.ca | 604-477-1488 (ext. 101)

Breanne Whyte (Manager of Sport) | bwhyte@bcschoolsports.ca | direct line 604-477-1488 (ext. 107)

CONCUSSION MANDATE TRAINING

At the 2020 BCSS AGM, the membership passed a new policy to mandate concussion training for all coaches, teacher sponsors, staff, and team managers. This training is required to be completed prior to activities such as but not limited to practices, tryouts, or workouts with student-athletes to ensure their safety. It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director and School Administrator to ensure that all required personnel have completed the training. You are **not** required to submit the completion certificate to BCSS but we recommend the AD require it from team personnel as BCSS may ask for proof of certification at any point. Certifications **must** be done through CATT and are valid for 2 years before needing re-certification.

The program and partnership with CATT will be released on Monday September 14, 2020. Information on how to take the training as well as the access code and link will be sent to schools that have completed the 2020-2021 member school opt-in in the coming weeks.

STARS

Although what school sport will look like this year is still undecided, we strongly encourage athletic directors and coaches to upload their student-athletes into the STARS system. Student-Athletes DO NOT have to be added to teams at this time.

ELIGIBILITY AND UPDATED FORMS

All of our forms have been updated to reflect any policy changes approved at our 2020 AGM. Please ensure that you use the 2020-21 forms. Forms from previous years will not be accepted. 2020-21 forms can be found on the BCSS website under the forms tab <https://www.bcschoolsports.ca/quick-guide>

ELIGIBILITY APPEALS COMMITTEE (EAC)

The EAC will be set to meet 9 times during the 2020-2021 school year to discuss the submitted appeals. The following 9 dates are the deadlines for EAC submissions, all appeals must be submitted before 2:00pm on the deadline day to be heard at the next meeting. These deadlines are subject to change, any changes made to EAC deadlines will be communicated directly to Athletic Directors and School Administrators.

Deadline for Submission (Tuesday-2:00pm)	Meeting (Saturdays)
September 15, 2020	September 19, 2020
September 29, 2020	October 3, 2020
October 20, 2020	October 24, 2020
November 10, 2020	November 14, 2020
December 8, 2020	December 12, 2020
January 19, 2021	January 23, 2021
February 23, 2021	February 27, 2021
April 13, 2021	April 17, 2021
May 4, 2021	May 8, 2021