



MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBER SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND PRINCIPALS
FROM: JORDAN ABNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: POOR AIR QUALITY ACROSS BC
DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

As the air quality in many parts of the province remains poor, it is imperative that each school is evaluating their local air quality situation, and when necessary, modifying the daily activities to ensure we are placing the utmost importance on the health and safety of our student-athletes.

Much of the province is currently under an advisory from Health Canada, and it is important for our schools to be aware of the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) in their area. The AQHI can change from day to day, or even over the course of a few hours with winds, precipitation, or other weather patterns, so it is important that it is being monitored regularly.

The government of Canada site with current AQHI values can be found here: https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/provincial_summary/bc_e.html, in addition, many weather Apps also include AQHI readings.

BCSS does not have a formal policy and decisions regarding modification of training camp activities will be made at the school and district level, but BCSS provides the following guidelines to assist those conversations:

- **AQHI 4-6: Moderate Risk** – Activities can be performed as normal, but extra recovery time should be provided, and coaches should perform keen athlete observation for the any signs of distress, coughing or throat irritation.
- **AQHI 7-9: High Risk** – Outdoor activities should be modified to lessen the strenuous nature of the activities, exposure time should be monitored and lessened.
- **AQHI 10+: Very High Risk** – Strenuous activities should be moved indoors, periods of exposure outdoors should be minimalized, and outdoor activities should be restricted to low or moderate intensity activities.

BCSS will continue to monitor the situation, and will provide future guidance, if required, but we are hopeful that many will see improved air quality in the next 24-36 hours.

Any questions can be directed to the BCSS office at 604-477-1488 or emailed to info@bcschoolsports.ca.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jordan Abney', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jordan Abney

Executive Director