
MEMORANDUM

TO: BCSS MEMBER SCHOOL AD'S & ADMINISTRATORS
FROM: JORDAN ABNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: BCSS VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP DATES AND WINTER SEASON OF PLAY START DATE
DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021
CC: BCSS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, ZONE EXECUTIVES, SPORT ADVISORY CHAIRS

The BCSS Board of Directors met again last night to reassess both the start date of the winter season of play and the seven volleyball provincial championships. After consultation with the Ministry of Education, school districts and other stakeholders, the BCSS Board of Directors has made the following decisions:

Fall Season of Play

The provincial volleyball championships that were delayed a week, will proceed on the rescheduled dates of Dec 8/9 – 11. These events will take place at their scheduled location except for the 'AAA' Boys' Championship, which will be relocated to the lower mainland to reduce travel for many qualified teams. Based on our discussions, we know most of the qualified teams will be able to attend, however, where a team is unable to attend, we will not fill those spots with non-qualified teams, but simply reduce the size of the tournament. BCSS staff will adapt the tournament draws as required. We want to recognize the incredible work of our hosts who have put in unimaginable hours to plan and continue to adapt not only to the changes required by the pandemic, but then through this very dynamic situation related to the extreme weather and related flooding. BCSS and our host schools will be in contact with the qualified teams very quickly.

Football is the only other remaining sport in Fall, with the conclusion to our Subway Bowl Championships being played this weekend. The Interior Regional final on Friday night (Dec 3) in Vernon, and the Coastal final on Saturday (Dec 4) in Vancouver.

There is continued support for these events given that this is the very end of the season, and relatively few teams remain playing. Further, there is recognition of the significance of the championships as the pinnacle of the school sport season after a full season of play, especially for those graduating student-athletes who already missed their Grade 11 year due to the pandemic, and with an alteration or cancellation would miss out on a championship experience throughout their entire senior years.

Winter season of play

After a delay to the start of the winter season of play, the Board decided that interschool competition in our winter sports can commence on Wednesday, December 1, 2021. The Board, in consultation with our stakeholders and partners, feel that school sport provides much needed benefits for students, and it's important that they continue. However, the Board is sensitive to the number of teams in the winter season, particularly, but not limited to basketball, and the invitational tournaments



and events that happen around the province prior to the Christmas break. Interschool competition may occur, provided that schools make every available effort to implement and follow the guidance from the Ministry of Education relative to reducing fuel consumption. Schools should carpool, use public transit or busses where possible and defer or reschedule events, where possible, that require significant travel.

Thank you again for your support and patience as we continue to navigate this situation. BCSS will continue to monitor the events and updates and will update membership as required moving forward.