



MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS & ATHLETIC DIRECTORS
FROM: JORDAN ABNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT RESTART 2.0
ANNOUNCEMENT ON MAY 25
DATE: MAY 26, 2021
CC: DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS, BCSS ZONE PRESIDENTS

Yesterday's announcement from the provincial government was a welcome one for British Columbians and we are thrilled to see a pathway returning our province to normalized activities. Unfortunately, however, the Ministry of Education K-12 Health and Safety Guidelines governing school activities were not included in these changes, and as a result, school sport is not included in the changes announced and remains in Stage 2, which limits activities to learning groups, and prohibits interschool competition.

We share your extreme frustration to once again be in this situation where the sport sector is participating in outdoor activities as normal, and school sport remains stagnated and on hold, unable to even practice normally. Based on the response in the last 24 hours, we recognize the demand from our members is still there despite entering the final month of the school year and we very much wish we could be sharing news of the ability to offer normalized practices or even a few interschool contests before year-end.

We are continuing to advocate for school sport within the government but acknowledge it is now unlikely that the Ministry makes any changes to the K-12 guidelines at this point in the year. We are however on a positive note, planning for and expecting a full return to school sport in the fall. School sport will have been shut down entirely for 17-consecutive months come September and restarting the system will be a large effort. We know with the support of our schools, and our communities, it will come back as strong as ever, and we cannot wait to see our student-athletes back on the field of play, doing what they love while representing their schools.

Please don't hesitate to contact the BCSS Office with any questions.