



NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO OCTOBER!

OCTOBER 2020

As we change the calendar to October and prepare for fall's arrival, we look back just one month on what is certainly the most unique start to a school year in anyone's history. Here in the BCSS Office, we are working to help support our member schools during this unique time.

We have been working relentlessly to advocate for the safe return of school sport. I'm encouraged by the meeting I had last week with officials from the Ministries of Health, Education, and Sport. There is a consensus that some inter-school sport will return in the coming weeks and months. Just a few days ago, on September 28th, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry stated something similar at her press availability. Unfortunately, the timeline and structure remain a work in progress, and last week's announcement of an election may have a delaying effect. In the meantime, we've been working with government officials on the Return to School Sport Plan. Hopefully, all of you have seen Version 2.0 that was released last week, that had a couple of key revisions that may have made it a bit easier to offer some experiences for our student-athletes. We encourage you to use this unique time to try new things and offer student-athletes as much experience as you can.

The annually required Administrator Opt-In deadline of September 30 has come and gone. We have had approximately 80% of schools complete the opt-in this year. We are so grateful for the support of our members in ensuring BCSS continues to be operational. If your school has not completed the opt-in, we recommend your school principal complete it as soon as possible.

The BCSS office, as required by Worksafe BC, has implemented a workplace safety plan. As a result, the staff are no longer accept

ing walk-in appointments. We ask you to call ahead to book a time and review the building and office protocols before a meeting. The majority of our meetings are being held via virtual communication, but Breanne, Karen and I are available by phone and email during regular business hours. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

This year may provide more opportunities for some to complete courses and other professional development. As a member of BCSS, the school Athletic Director in STARS receives a membership with the Canadian Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (CIAAA). CIAAA will be releasing a full slate of fall programming in the coming days, so stay on the lookout for that.

BCSS has again partnered with Trinity Western University to help deliver the Super Conference for coaches and AD's on October 24 (Province Wide Pro-D Day). Due to the pandemic, this one-day event will be delivered entirely online, making it accessible for anybody around the province. New to the conference this year will be an Athlete Stream. The CIAAA will also be offering a course as part of the conference for those looking for another opportunity to take a course towards their certification or perhaps your master's degree in Athletic Administration. More information in the newsletter.

As always, we are here to serve our member schools. Should you have questions on anything related to school sport do not hesitate to reach out to our office. We love hearing from you and want to see our student-athletes have quality experiences in every corner of the province.

Best,
Jordan Abney
Executive Director

BCSS Return to School Sport

Over the past few months BC School Sports has been navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic. The BCSS Board of Directors approved the Return to School Sport Plan after discussion with stakeholders and the Provincial Government. The plan was published on September 3. Version 2.0 was published on September 23 and contained updates. The current version can be found [here](#). Although this plan is published there are many moving pieces resulting in changes to the plan, on September 24 version 2 of the Return to School Sport plan was published with a list of changes to the original document.

BCSS continues to work with the BC Government in hopes of furthering opportunities for school sport. We understand the frustration and difficulty that comes with the restrictions but continue to encourage our member schools to be innovative and creative when developing modified programs for student-athletes across the province.

Current Stage: 2

We are currently in STAGE 2 of the Return to School Sport, this means any and all sport activities are restricted to educational cohorts or constant social distancing between educational cohorts. There is no inter-school competition permitted at this time.

If you have any questions please contact the office at:

Phone: 604-477-1488

Email: info@bcschoolsports.ca

SANCTIONING

EVENT SANCTIONING

Inter-School Sport Competition around the province is prohibited while BCSS is in Stage 2 of the Return to School Sport Plan. There will be NO approved sanctioning forms for in-province or out of province competition at this time. This will be re-evaluated by the Board of Directors when it is safe to do so.

ALBERTA BLANKET SANCTIONING

During a “normal year” we work with ASAA to provide member schools on the British Columbia / Alberta border the opportunity to compete against each other by providing blanket sanctioning to the these schools. Both BCSS and ASAA have agreed that blanket sanctioning is NOT in place at this time, and any schools in this situation should contact the BCSS office.

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CIAAA Opportunities

A reminder that every Athletic Director registered in STARS is a member of the Canadian Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (CIAAA) and has access to the resources, network and professional development offered by the organization.

The first of several chances to take part in CIAAA developed courses will be at this year's SuperConference hosted by Trinity Western University, this conference will be completely virtual making attendance easy and safe for all participants. There are 5 scheduled sessions for high school and university coaches and AD's with various topics ranging from Transformational leadership styles, to helping student-athletes manage 'ego' for optimal performance, to developing a leadership culture within your team. Very valuable lessons and information to take back to your schools.

A new addition to the conference this year is a panel directed to student-athletes, an opportunity to hear from university athletes and coaches about success in sport after high school. A great opportunity for student-athletes wishing to pursue sport in post-secondary education.

Click [here](#) for more information on how to register for the conference.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



WEBINAR DELIVERY

LTP 710C

CURRENT ISSUES IN SCHOOL SPORT

Featuring topics such as Sport Specialization, Building Relationships with Parents for Educational Athletics, and Educating Against Racism in your athletic program!

Register for Trinity Western Superconference Athletic Director stream includes LTP!

\$55 early-bird, \$75 regular

<https://gospartans.ca/sports/2020/9/23/2020-superconference-registration.aspx>



LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM FOR AD'S

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23
8:45 - 4:00**

FOR MORE DETAILS:

**info@
ciaaa.ca**

Virtual Governance Information Session

Due to the unique challenges of COVID-19, we will be hosting a Virtual Governance Information Session open to all BCSS member schools and our stakeholders, on November 7, 2020 from 10am-12pm. This session will provide the opportunity for questions and answers around the governance proposal that was introduced to the membership in February 2020. Originally the plan was to vote on the proposal at the 2020 AGM which was later postponed and moved virtually due to COVID-19. The Board of Directors have indicated the proposal will likely come forward this year at the 2021 AGM. More information on how to register for the Virtual Governance Information Session will be sent out to the all Athletic Directors and Administrators on record in mid October. It is important to note this is **NOT** an extraordinary meeting and no voting will take place, it is simply a chance to restart an important dialogue.



New Athletic Director or Principal?

Please send updated contacts to: info@bcschoolsports.ca



Welcome Back Package

Our Welcome Back Package was sent out by email in early September. If your school administrator and AD haven't received it, contact



Accommodation Directory

While we know teams aren't travelling yet, check out the great hotels that continue to support BCSS!



2020-2021 Forms

BCSS Forms have been updated for the school year on the website, please discard outdated forms!



2020 - 2021 BCSS POLICY CHANGES

Mandatory Coaches Concussion Training

All team personnel including but not limited to coaches, trainers, teacher sponsors, and team managers must complete the Concussion Awareness Training Tool (CATT) prior to any interaction with student-athletes. The certification is valid for 2 years.

Media and Social Media

Guidelines for member schools and their student-athletes, coaches, and parents to adhere by while participating in school sport. This is to minimize cyber bullying or targeting on teams, players, officials, and administrators.

Rugby Tiering Classifications

Boys rugby has raised the minimum number for the AAA tier to 276 or more boys in grade 11 and 12 to help with the imbalance of teams in the 2 tiers.

Code of Ethics

BCSS updated our Code of Ethics for athletes, coaches, and spectators to provide clarity to behaviours of our member schools and their representatives while participating in school sport. As well as a procedure for complaints to provide clarity on the process for Code of Ethics complaints.

Rugby Playing up and movement between teams

Alongside football, rugby is now added to the list of exemptions to the current playing up and movement between teams policy allowing grade 9 student-athletes at a feeder school to play up to a more senior school Junior team.

Covid-19 Eligibility Exception

This one year policy gives otherwise eligible student-athletes who missed their 2020 spring season in their final year of eligibility the opportunity to submit an eligibility application for consideration to compete in the 2021 spring season



Virtual School Sport Opportunities

As per version 2.0 of the Return to School Sport Plan, member schools are now permitted virtual school sport opportunities. Virtual school sport activities gives student-athletes the closest thing to friendly competition while staying within the intra-school based model that we are following in stage 2 of the Return to School Sport.

We encourage our member schools to show innovation and creativity during these difficult times; the BCSS staff are actively working on different ways to engage student-athletes through the use of virtual events and are always available to assist with any questions regarding member school plans for such events.

If your school, zone, or commission plans on running a virtual event it is recommended that you send the plan to the BCSS office for review to ensure it follows the Return to School Sport guidelines.

Cross Country Pandemic Challenge

We are very excited to introduce the BC School Sports Cross Country Pandemic Challenge. This challenge is an opportunity for student-athletes at our member schools to stay active within a friendly competition in either a 3.0km or 5.5km run with the chance of winning some cool prizes as one of the top runners or the top participating school. More information on this challenge will be sent by email after the thanksgiving weekend to all member school AD's.

Sport Specific Resources

BCSS staff are working with BCSS Sport Commissioners to develop sport specific guidelines in stage 2 of the Return to School Sport plan. These guidelines will give Athletic Directors and coaches different strategies and drills to assist with the execution of re-introducing school sport within the parameters set out in stage 2.

These resources will be just the start of the planning that will need to go into delivering school sport during the COVID-19 pandemic, if any of our member school coaches or Athletic Directors require further assistance or have sport specific questions please don't hesitate to contact the BCSS office and a staff member will be happy to provide some guidance.

The logo for WIZZY, featuring the word "WIZZY" in a bold, orange, stylized font with a white outline.

E-Sports Trial League

With our original E-Sports Trial Season being postponed due to COVID-19 earlier this year, we are working with our partner Wizzy to develop a 6-8 week League of Legends trial season. More information on the trial league will be sent out in the coming weeks to all AD's, with the league beginning after Thanksgiving and ending shortly before the Holiday break in December.



BC School Sports would like to acknowledge the following sponsors for their generosity and support:

