



MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS & ATHLETIC DIRECTORS
FROM: JORDAN ABNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: CURRENT HEALTH GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL SPORT AND CANCELLATION OF SPRING CHAMPIONSHIPS
DATE: APRIL 13TH, 2021
CC: DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS, BCSS SPORT COMMISSIONERS, BCSS ZONE PRESIDENTS

UPDATED HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL SPORT

We have received numerous inquiries from the membership after the Ministry of Education released updated Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings on March 30, 2021.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines.pdf>

The government document provides updated guidelines on various aspects of the educational environment as well as co-curricular activities such as school sport. Please find below further clarification from BCSS to support a clear understanding of the current status of school sport activities:

- BC School Sports is still currently in **Stage 2** of the BCSS Return to School Sport, meaning inter-school sport competition is **not** allowed at this time.
- Masks **must** be worn by adults at all times when they are indoors, and a barrier is not present.
- Sport activities should be held outside whenever possible.

Moderate-to-High Intensity Activities

As a general rule, these activities involve sustained heavier breathing and elevated heart rates

In general, BCSS activities except for golf would be classified as moderate-to-high intensity activities, in most normalized training or competition settings unless the activity is heavily restricted to a skill development focus.

- **Stationary physical activities (e.g. exercise bike, weights):** participants and equipment must be spaced 2 metres apart including for those from the same learning cohort. Masks do NOT replace the need to maintain physical distance.
- **Activities that involve movement:** students within the same learning group are not required to maintain physical distancing, but the activity must be delivered in a way that reduces the likelihood of contact beyond a brief moment. Students from different learning groups are required to maintain physical distancing of 2 metres at all times.



- Wearing masks during high-intensity sport activities whether it be a stationary activity or one that involves movement, indoors or outdoors is at the discretion of the student.

Low-Intensity Sport Activities

Most people engaged in low-intensity sport activities can carry on a conversation without having to catch their breath. (stretching, walking etc.)

In general, Golf is the only BCSS activity that falls into this category in a competition or normalized training environment unless the focus of a training session in another activity is restricted to skill development.

- For low-intensity activities (e.g. golf) students are required to wear a mask when they're either indoors, or unable to maintain physical distancing, or a barrier is not present.

BCSS staff are currently preparing a sport-specific document to assist schools in providing a safe but engaging training environment for our spring season of play activities. Look for this in the coming weeks.

BCSS SPRING SEASON OF PLAY

The BCSS Board of Directors met this week to evaluate the status of spring sports and their respective championships. Regrettably, the Board has **formally cancelled all 2020-2021 Spring Season of Play Zone and Provincial Championships**. We share in the disappointment for our student-athletes, especially those graduating athletes who have so unfairly missed both senior years of their school sport experience. We salute and honour our member schools who work hard year after year for the opportunity to compete at a BCSS Provincial Championship and in its absence this year, focus on bringing opportunity, engagement and belonging to those in their school community.

Should there be any further questions, don't hesitate to contact the BCSS office. Thank you for your continued dedication to school sport, and the student-athletes in BC!