

March 29th, 2021

To: All Affiliated Members, Clubs and Leagues

Dear football stakeholders:

Re: Public Health Orders Impacting Return to Sport for Football

The BCPFA would like to clarify the implications of yesterday's announcements by the Premier and Public Health Officer.

Youth sports remains at Phase 2.0

- Physical distance is classified as 3 metres
- Players and coaches may travel to their home club/team for training [Read more here.](#)
- The 50-person gathering limit remains in effect (see [PHO](#))
- Teams may not travel outside their local city/municipality for training
- Indoor and outdoor football for adults (22 years and older) is suspended.
- The government has not identified an end date for these restrictions
- The restrictions apply to all regions of the Province.

Factors that Influence Return to Sport Timelines

The government has publicly (and consistently) identified several factors which led to the current restriction levels being maintained for the foreseeable future. More specifically, the government continues to express concern over the climbing COVID-19 transmission rates in BC and the presence of COVID-19 Variants of Concern in multiple BC communities. British Columbia's 7 day rolling average for COVID-19 cases was in the low 100s in September 2020 (when we moved to Phase 3 of our Return to Sport) and over 500 at the end of February. The current 7-day average for BC is 788. With this in mind, the BCPFA does not anticipate a relaxation in youth sports restrictions prior to April 23rd, 2021.

Graduated Return

As previously communicated, the BCPFA expects the transition from Return to Sport Phase 2 (Distance Training) to Phase 3 (Cohort) will happen in incremental steps. More specifically, we expect the next phase to include gradual relaxations to the restrictions involving travel, cohorts and competition. We continue to believe the 50-person gathering limit will be a best-case scenario for spring season.

As always, the BCPFA will continue to liaise with Sport BC, Via Sport and our colleagues in other sports in order to stay as informed as possible about additional changes or shifts in the interpretation of public health orders.

Sincerely,



Keith Ryan
Executive Director