

VIA EMAIL

May 29, 2020

Attention: BC Soccer Full/Associate Members and Affiliated Soccer Clubs

From: Jason Elligott, Executive Director, BC Soccer

Re: Return to Play Update

Dear Full/Associate Members and Affiliated Clubs,

We continue working to provide information and updates as things change and evolve to best support you as we collectively work through the ongoing impacts of the current situation. This memo is in follow up to the May 13, 2020 memo circulated to the members and affiliated clubs.

Return to Play Plan Approval Process & Canada Soccer Process for Lifting Suspension of Soccer Activity

On May 14, 2020 Canada Soccer publicly announced the National Return to Soccer Guidelines, which includes Canada Soccer approving the Provincial Member Association Return to Play Plans. Along with this, they will provide BC Soccer a link to their "Return to Soccer Assessment Tool" designed to support BC Soccer Members and Affiliated Clubs.

Below are the five steps Canada Soccer has determined for the lifting of the suspension and gradually returning to play.

1. The easing of stay-at-home orders from the Federal public health authority;
2. The easing of restrictions on public gatherings from the respective Provincial public health authority;
3. The easing of restrictions for field and facility usage by the respective Municipal public health authority;
4. Canada Soccer has received the Return to Soccer Plan from the Provincial or Territorial Member Association, which has been provided to the applicable Provincial or Territorial government department and/or public health authority, and where applicable, has received confirmation from the Province or Territory that it approves of the Plan; and
5. Canada Soccer has received the Return to Soccer Assessment Tool from the member organization and has provided any comments or feedback to the member organization or its Provincial or Territorial Member, if any.

BC Soccer's Return to Play Phase 1 Plan – Recommendations and Guidelines

BC Soccer is pleased to inform the Members and Affiliated Clubs that Canada Soccer has approved "BC Soccer's Return to Play Phase 1 Plan – Recommendations and Guidelines".

As stated in the May 13, 2020 memo, the same document has been provided to ViaSport and they have escalated to the Ministry for comment. No feedback or comments have been received to date.

Where We Are Now

Even with Canada Soccer's approval, we have now been informed by ViaSport that we are **not** able to release *BC Soccer's Return to Play Phase 1 Plan – Recommendations and Guidelines* until ViaSport's Sport Sector Guidelines for Returning to Sport are released.

ViaSport's Sport Sector Guidelines require approval from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, public health authorities and WorkSafe BC. ViaSport confirmed to us that they have submitted their guidelines to the authorities on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 and are still awaiting approval.

Once ViaSport's Sport Sector Guidelines are released, we are ready to provide *BC Soccer's Return to Play Phase 1 Plan – Recommendations and Guidelines*, along with the steps Members and Affiliated Clubs will need to take to get back on the fields in a safe and responsible way.

Risk & Insurance

BC Soccer's May 13, 2020 memo provided information on risk, liability and insurance.

We are continuing to explore what insurance options may become available through our broker with different underwriters, however to confirm, at this time there is no coverage based on the [Insurance Exclusion Notice](#).

On May 13, 2020 BC Soccer, after receiving guidance from our legal counsel, provided updated [Youth](#) and [Adult](#) Participant Waivers to all Members and Affiliated Clubs and recommend these are used for registration purposes when your organization conducts soccer activity.

There is inherent risk to participating in sports and the risk will not drop to zero, however, ensuring everyone is doing everything possible to ensure environments are safe, as always, will be important. Ultimately, the most important decision-maker is the parent or person registered to play soccer.

Closing Comments

Thank you for the support and patience over the last weeks and months as we collectively work through these strange times. Sport, and specifically soccer, plays an important role in our communities and as we return it will be even more important.

Keep well and stay positive.

Kind regards,

Jason Elligott
Executive Director
BC Soccer

CC: Kjeld Brodsgaard, President, BC Soccer
Charlene Krepiakovich, CEO, ViaSport British Columbia
Earl Cochrane, Canada Soccer