



VIA EMAIL

September 17, 2020

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

From: Jason Elligott, Executive Director, BC Soccer

Re: Provincial Relief Fund Application & Safe Sport – posting National Safe Sport Hotline (required)

Dear Full/Associate Members and Affiliated Clubs,

Firstly, thank you to all the members and affiliated clubs for the difficult and challenging work you are all doing right now as we slowly take our first steps back onto the fields across BC. Under the guidelines we need to comply with, this is not a small task, and BC Soccer thanks you all for the support you are providing to your local soccer community. We also want to acknowledge the safety-first element you have all be applying with the recent poor air quality in some areas of the province. As a reminder, linked below is BC Soccer's *Air Quality Guidelines*, which most members and affiliated clubs have been following.

<https://www.bcsoccer.net/files/MemberService/BestPracticeGuides/Air%20Quality%20Guideline%20BC%20Soccer%20Updated.pdf>

Local Sport Relief Fund Grant Application Process – BC Provincial Government

BC Soccer wants to make all of you aware that we have been informed by Via Sport that on Saturday, September 19 the BC Provincial Government will announcing the grant application process for local sport organizations to apply for relief funding through Via Sport's website, www.viasport.ca.

We understand that the total funding available under this grant is \$1.5 million from the Province of B.C. The information that we have received from Via Sport is that this will be an application-based grant to help non-profit clubs and community sport organizations with the greatest financial need, to help sustain their operations following the losses of membership, events, and revenues. Further, we understand that they are working to make the application process as straightforward as possible.

BC Soccer encourages any organization under the membership structure that feels that require this assistance, to look for the announcement from the government and Via Sport and to apply directly.

Safe Sport

Over the last few years, safe sport has increased in priority for BC Soccer and will continue to be an important focus in both the short and long term for the association.

Safe Sport - Position Statement

In May 2020, BC Soccer's Board of Directors approved the following as the association's Safe Sport Position Statement:

BC Soccer believes that everyone involved in soccer has the right to participate in safe and inclusive environments free of abuse, harassment, discrimination, and to enjoy the sport at whatever level or capacity they participate in.

The welfare of everyone involved in soccer is the foremost consideration and in particular, the protection of children in the sport is the responsibility of everyone involved.

To support the position statement, and to ensure all those involved in soccer can easily access safe sport information, BC Soccer created a stand-alone portion of its website dedicated to Safe Sport and Risk Management Information. This page is easily accessible from the front page of www.bcsoccer.net and specifically linked here: <https://bcsoccer.net/safe-sport-risk-management>.

There are various resources currently posted on this page including information on criminal record check requirements, templates, and resources along with links to Canada Soccer's Guide to Safety and third-party delivered training on safety and child protection courses that we encourage you to review.

Education in this area is important but so too is awareness on how to report concerns. Therefore, also located on this page are the extensive ways that individuals can report unacceptable behaviour both inside and outside of sport.

Safe Sport - Call to Action

As BC Soccer works to review and improve policies, procedures, programs, resources, and overall education surrounding safe sport for all involved in our game, we ask all members and affiliated clubs to also make safe sport a priority for your organization.

BC Soccer's Board and Staff have committed to increasing education in these areas and all will have completed the Commit to Kids training by September 30, 2020, and we strongly encourage you to do the same within your organizations.

Further, with the aim of ensuring all involved in soccer are aware of how to report, BC Soccer requests that every member and affiliated club post the "Report Abuse" information on its website with the minimum expectation that the National Safe Sport Hotline information will be easily accessible by September 30, 2020. The information can be found here: <https://bcsoccer.net/safe-sport-risk-management>

Safe Sport - Closing Comments

In our ongoing commitment to safe sport, BC Soccer will continually update and add information to its Safe Sport and Risk Management page as new resources and information is available.

We all have a responsibility to ensure soccer is safe in BC!

-End-

CC: Charlene Krepiakovich, CEO, ViaSport British Columbia
BC Soccer Board of Directors and Staff