



VIA EMAIL

July 16, 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,

Phase 1 Return to Play (current)

We are pleased to share that most members and affiliated clubs have been and continue to take the steps required to return to play for phase 1 with most offering soccer activity under “*BC Soccer’s Return to Player Phase 1 Plan – Recommendations and Guidelines*”.

We appreciate that offering soccer activity under the phase 1 terms is challenging and we thank you all for your hard work in this regard.

Phase 2 Return to Play (next)

We want to move as quickly as responsible and as allowed by the health authorities. Along those lines, since the June 2, 2020 return plan release, we have been in ongoing discussions with Via Sport on what activity may be allowed in the next phase and when we can expect to move there.

Unfortunately, Via Sport is not able to provide us any indication on when we will be able to move to the next phase. However, it is expected that we will be able to introduce limited contact in training and following a period of time, introduce in a controlled and responsible way, game play while potentially being able to move from solely in-club activity to allow for limited district/league play. Regrettably, we are not able to provide any more information at this time, because we are still awaiting Via Sport’s updated guidelines which are currently being reviewed by the Provincial Health Office.

We are hopeful and targeting to be able to share more information within the first couple weeks of August, assuming we hear more from Via Sport by then.

Current Contact and Games Occurring

Some Members and Affiliated Clubs have raised concerns that some sports and organizations, including soccer organizers outside of BC Soccer membership, are allowing contact in training and game play.

We fully understand the concern and frustration when seeing this as it goes against both Via Sport and the BC Parks and Recreations Guidelines. As all are aware, BC Soccer has no jurisdiction on organizations outside its membership, however, we can advise that this has been raised in many discussions with Via



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Sport and Sport BC from many different Provincial Sports Organizations. Accompanying this memo is a letter we sent to the BC Parks and Recreation Association with both Via Sport and Sport BC copied to express the concern and ask for support.

We look forward to providing you with more information as and when we can in the coming weeks and month ahead and thank you for your ongoing work and patience as we continue to navigate the seemingly everchanging situation.

Kind regards,

Jason Elligott
Executive Director
BC Soccer

CC: Kjeld Brodsgaard, President, BC Soccer
Charlene Krepiakevich, CEO, ViaSport British Columbia
Rob Newman, CEP, Sport BC



July 16, 2020

Attention: Rebecca Tunnacliffe, CEO, British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association

From: Jason Elligott, Executive Director, BC Soccer

Subject: Municipal field bookings and unaffiliated soccer activity

Dear Rebecca,

I hope you re doing well.

As you know PSOs, like ours, and our members/clubs have been patient about and, worked hard to follow the guidelines of ViaSport as we return to play.

I'm reaching out to you today as it has come to our attention that some soccer organizations/leagues that are not members or affiliated with BC Soccer are facilitating soccer activity that is not aligned with Via Sport or BCRPA Return to Play Guidelines (i.e. allowing contact).

In some cases, these groups are also stating that they are following "BC Soccer's Phase 1 - Return to Play Recommendations and Guidelines". As an example, Urban Rec, which is not a member of BC Soccer, references our guidelines as the "foundation upon with the Urban Rec Soccer Return to Play protocols have been developed." Please see the link below: <https://vancouver.urbanrec.ca/member/faq/urban-rec-covid-19-update/soccer-test?fbclid=IwAR0YlvkcwpvgHNJKtFaxUMO-RfyFMvThWwRom3BW0-LUzb150p-Z1NifcPI>

We are able to field questions from our members/clubs on various items, however, it is challenging for us to field questions on how organizations that are not following the guidelines are able to book fields in the first place and why these organizations can play games and BC Soccer members/clubs cannot.

With that in mind, we kindly ask if you would consider informing the appropriate municipal contacts throughout the province, so they are aware of the concern and, to the extent possible, ensure their fields are being used in accordance the Province of British Columbia's guidelines.

I fully appreciate the multiple challenges we all faced as we navigate our collective returns and hope we can all continue to work together as we do so.

Kind regards,

Jason Elligott
Executive Director, BC Soccer

CC: *Charlene Krepiakevich, CEO, viaSport*
Rob Newman, CEO, Sport BC
Kjeld Brodsgaard, President, BC Soccer