

DATE: **May 27, 2020**

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**EVENT UPDATE**TO: **Community Sport Partners**ORGANIZER: **Various**FROM: **Sport Surrey**EVENT DATES: **May – Dec. 2020**SUBJECT: **Return to Sport Update - Process**

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**UPDATE**

As our province has now entered Phase 2 of BC's Restart Plan, we are all encouraged to see it includes recreation and sport, but it understandably led to many questions about what that means for all of our local sport groups. To help keep information flowing, we'll be sharing all updates that come from the Province and the City as information is available, to help keep everyone in the loop regarding the processes involved before any group can resume with modified activities and receive field/court permits.

Currently, all City of Surrey playing fields, Recreation Centres, Ice Arenas, Community Rooms and Pools remain closed until further notice to minimize risk of COVID-19 transmission. At the request of the Province of BC, ViaSport is now developing a set of guidelines, to be applied across all sports, on how sports can resume while meeting all safety requirements. These guidelines are being developed in conjunction with WorkSafeBC and Provincial Health Officials. Sport hosting events planned in the months of July and going forward will be informed of any updates from Sport Surrey staff as soon as they become available. We encourage event organizers to be proactive with their teams and associated participants.

**PROCESS**

The purpose of this communication is to outline the process for the Return to Sport in City of Surrey Facilities and to clarify the responsibilities at all levels of Sport:

- ViaSport has been tasked by the Provincial Government to develop overarching guidelines and to work with Provincial Sport Organizations to develop sport guidelines. ViaSport will submit these guidelines to the Provincial Government for approval.
- Once approved, ViaSport will communicate the guidelines to the Provincial Sport Organizations (PSO's) who will then develop sport-specific guidelines. The guidelines should further outline protocols related to PHO orders and recommendations and provide further direction as they relate to facility access, facility operations, sport-specific programming, and participant information. It will also include links and references to BCCDC, Health Canada, WorkSafe BC, etc.
- Once the PSO's have developed sport specific guidelines they will be shared with the Local Sport Organizations to develop site specific plans for implementation.
- The sector Return to Sport Guidelines will be reviewed by public health officials and WorkSafe BC. Sport-specific plans do not require government approval but must be approved by your own Board of Directors.
- The local sport organizations and City staff will coordinate the return to the facility, ensuring all site-specific guidelines are being implemented.

Once the guidelines have been made public, they will be posted on ViaSport's website. For the time being, and as stated by ViaSport, casual and leisure activities in parks are resuming, but these activities are for individuals or within family groups. No activities at this time can be organized or operated by a PSO or LSO. The City of Surrey will be developing their own set of guidelines in line with Provincial Health Orders and recommendations and will require approval by their mayor or council. Municipal decisions will be made locally, community by community. This will impact sports organizations who use municipal facilities, and/or multiple facilities across jurisdictions. Return to play plans should account for this type of consideration.

For Clubs that have Facility Operating Agreements and have questions regarding operation protocols for washrooms, changerooms, clubhouses and concessions, WorkSafeBC is updating their directives, and will continue to be a key resource.

Any organizers with inquiries in regards to their sporting event taking place in Surrey are advised to reach out by contacting us at: [SportSurrey@surrey.ca](mailto:SportSurrey@surrey.ca)

Sincerely,  
Sport Surrey Staff