

January 13, 2021

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Dear Sport Leader,

I am writing to offer clarity and guidance as it relates to high performance athlete travel for sport in, to, and around British Columbia. As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, viaSport remains committed to keeping sport communities in B.C. safe and healthy at all levels. We have been working with Canadian Sport Institute-Pacific (CSI-P), the Province of B.C. and Own the Podium to ensure the sport system across Canada is aligned on the issue of interprovincial travel. We understand how critical travel is to high performance sport within a province, interprovincially and internationally, and we are maintaining regular dialogue with our partners for continued alignment.

The following is the correct interpretation of the British Columbia Public Health Order on Gathering and Events, which is in effect until February 5, 2021, as they relate to travel for high-performance athletes:

- Under the current B.C. public health order, there is an exemption for high performance athletes for the purpose of training, competing and travelling for sport within B.C. High-performance athletes are defined as:
 - *a person who is identified by the Canadian Sport Institute Pacific as a high-performance athlete affiliated with an accredited provincial or national sports organization.*
- In order to be a Canadian Sport Institute – Pacific identified athlete, nominations must be made through B.C. accredited Provincial Sport Organizations or National Sport Organizations who have athletes federally funded through Sport Canada.
- A person who is a high-performance athlete who is already training in British Columbia may train, practice, compete and travel for that purpose if the person follows the COVID-19 safety protocols of the provincial or national sports organization with which the person is affiliated. To be clear, the athlete must already be training in B.C. to qualify for the exemption.
- High performance athletes in B.C. must adhere to all other aspects of the public health Order and their PSO and/or NSO COVID-19 Safety Plan.

These restrictions are by order of the Provincial Health Officer to limit the amount of physical, social interactions, and travel, to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in B.C. These requirements apply to all amateur sports across the province and we thank you for your ongoing cooperation.

Best Regards,



Charlene Krepiakevich
CEO, viaSport British Columbia