

Water Ski & Wakeboard BC's Safe Return To Sport Guidelines



WSWBC's guidelines as defined in this document are as of June 13, 2020 in accordance with viaSport's Safe Return To Sport as approved by Worksafe BC and the BC Health Authority.

The contents of this document are in addition to the: [viaSport Safe Return To Sport Guidelines](#)

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Overview

The purpose of this document is to provide Water Ski & Wakeboard BC Member Organizations with:

- (1) The required steps to reopen; and
- (2) The resources to develop a COVID-19 Reopening Safety Plan.

Disclaimer

The Return to Sport Guidelines are intended to be used for the purposes of developing a COVID-19 Reopening Safety Plan. While it aims to provide relevant and timely information, because information known about the COVID-19 coronavirus and recommended health and safety measures can rapidly change, no guarantee can be given as to the accuracy or completeness of any information provided in the guidelines.

It is important to note that the Return to Sport Guidelines document is to be used as a guide only. It is not a legally binding document and it is not a substitute for actual orders of the Provincial Health Officer. In the event of an ambiguity or conflict between the guidelines and the Public Health Act, regulations or orders thereunder, the Act, regulations and orders prevail. Each Water Ski & Wakeboard BC Member Organization must comply with the requirements of the provincial and local government and health officials in terms of public gatherings and sporting events when determining when it is safe to return to activities. Nothing in this document is intended to provide legal advice.

This document contains links to third party web sites. Links are provided for convenience only and Water Ski & Wakeboard BC does not endorse the information contained in linked web sites nor guarantee its accuracy, timeliness or fitness for a particular purpose. The information in those links may be updated from time to time. We do not monitor those sites and are not responsible for updates. Member organizations should review their plans regularly to ensure they are up to date.

Anyone using the Return to Sport Guidelines does so at his or her own risk. Water Ski & Wakeboard BC shall not be responsible for any loss or damage of any kind arising directly or indirectly from the use of the Return to Sport Guidelines including, without limitation, reliance on the completeness or accuracy of the information provided.

viaSport Introduction/Background

This sections contains a few of the main excerpts from viaSport’s Safe Return to Sport document. **It is unquestionably recommended that you review the full document in addition to this one before creating your safety plan and return to sport as it contains the most pertinent info for Safe Return to Sport.**

On May 6, 2020 the Government of B.C. announced B.C.’s Restart Plan: Next Steps to Move Through the Pandemic¹. The goal outlined within this plan “is to slow the spread of COVID-19, protecting our most vulnerable and ensuring our health-care system can respond to increased demand while we develop a vaccine.”

In Phase Two, some easing of restrictions will enable certain businesses and activities to open and operate within the orders of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO). This is not a return to normal, but rather to a “new normal” which will require everyone to modify their behavior, stay informed, apply protective measures and follow public health advice. Restarting is not mandatory – each organization must assess and decide for itself whether and when it is appropriate to restart operations.

Prior to restarting, every organization must have an explicit plan for the measures they will implement and maintain over the coming 12 to 18 months. These plans must be in compliance with orders and guidance from the PHO, and must be made available to the public either by posting on the wall of the organization’s facility or on its website.

To help organizations in their planning, major stakeholders in each sector have been asked to create sector-specific guidance documents. viaSport has been asked by the Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Lisa Beare, to develop this Return To Sport Guidelines document (the “RTS Guidelines”) to support the provincial amateur sport sector in B.C. Prior to restarting, all provincial sport organizations and their clubs should use this RTS Guidelines to develop their own sport-specific Return to Sport plan and work towards careful and gradual restarting within their own communities.

¹ B.C.’s Restart Plan: Next Steps to Move Through the Pandemic:
https://www.scribd.com/document/460236402/B-C-s-Restart-Plan-Next-Steps-to-Move-Through-the-Pandemic#fullscreen&from_embed

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to support amateur sport organizations to develop their own explicit plans to guide the cautious, step-by-step safe return of their sport in B.C. during this pandemic. The RTS Guidelines provide general information on a number of topics, and includes links to additional information and resources that can support decision-making and communication with boards, clubs, members, and other sport partners.

The PHO's direction is that the RTS Guidelines should cover three things:

- 1 Processes to open safely
- 2 Measures to keep people safe to avoid further outbreaks
- 3 A plan in the event that a case or an outbreak should occur

In this process, one size does not fit all. Each sport has unique issues which need to be factored into their own Return to Sport Plan. Modifications and changes to standard practice will be required, and these modifications will need to be practical and tailored to the sport and the participants. However, while there can be some flexibility in how sport organizations develop their Return to Sport Plan and deliver a return to sport activities in communities, all sport activities in B.C. must operate within current provincial health restrictions in order to promote the safety of our communities. Every organization's Return to Sport Plan must include clear policies to ensure:

- no one with symptoms comes to work or to the sport activity, and staff are able to be off sick or work at home to enable self-isolation for ten days (at minimum)
- employees have fewer workplace contacts (shorter times, fewer people), through such measures as staggered shifts, smaller teams, occupancy limits, virtual meetings, continuing to work from home
- higher levels of frequent cleaning of 'high touch' areas of facilities and equipment, availability of hand sanitizer and encouraging good hygiene.

Further, your plan must be based on an assessment of the risks present in your operation. This may involve consultation with employees, volunteers and participants. Your organization must train and adequately supervise employees and volunteers to ensure they implement the measures appropriately. Communications including signage and reminders should be used. Risks must be re-assessed and plans updated as needed, if circumstances change or as guidance is updated.

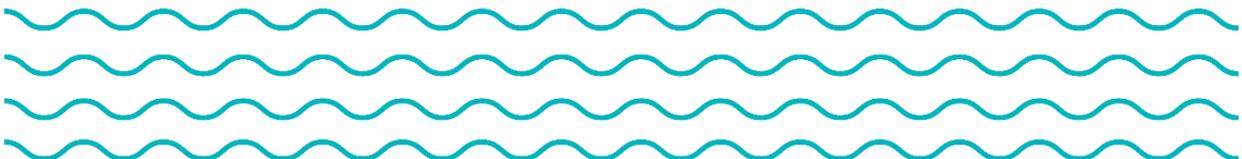
Governance

The Emergency Program Act (EPA) authorizes provincial and local levels of government to declare states of emergency and make decisions about community safety. The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture works closely with viaSport BC to provide direction and oversight to the development and delivery of amateur sport in B.C. viaSport BC is a non-profit society that acts as an agent for the Ministry to enable the growth, governance, and stewardship of amateur sport in B.C. viaSport works closely with provincial and national sport partner organizations to align approaches, develop standards and policies, and follow the guidance of health officers to support the safety of sport participants, volunteers, coaches, suppliers, staff, and others within the eco-system. Provincial sport organizations are also independent non-profit societies that work with viaSport BC and their national sport federations to align and set policies and practices for their membership. Each provincial sport organization is overseen by a Board of Directors that approves policies and is responsible for the oversight of the organization. Members of provincial sport organizations are required to follow and implement such policies. During this pandemic, the adherence to, and implementation of, these return to sport policies and practices for all members of provincial sport organizations, including clubs, associations, and individual members, will help promote the safety of our communities. These proactive measures can help preserve community health.

The following five principles from B.C.’s Restart Plan have been used to guide this document.

Five Principles For Every Situation

Personal Hygiene:	Stay Home if You Are Sick:	Environmental Hygiene:	Safe Social Interactions:	Physical Modifications:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent handwashing • Cough into your sleeve • Wear a non-medical mask • No handshaking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine daily screening • Anyone with any symptoms must stay away from others • Returning travellers must self-isolate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More frequent cleaning • Enhance surface sanitation in high touch areas • Touch-less technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with small numbers of people • Maintain distance between you and people • Size of room: the bigger the better • Outdoor over indoor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spacing within rooms or in transit • Room design • Plexiglass barriers • Movement of people within spaces



Risk Management

When determining whether or not your sport or organization is ready to resume sport activities it is important to note that at the time of publishing this document most insurance policies will not cover any claims relating to communicable diseases or pandemics and that most policies, including Directors and Officers Insurance, now include specific pandemic exclusions.

Role of the Board: The board of an organization is responsible for the oversight of risk. A board may delegate much of the work involved in managing risk, but cannot delegate its responsibility for oversight.

Risk Mitigation

Reopening must be planned around assessing the risks and developing a sport specific Plan to take all necessary precautions to mitigate the risk of an individual being exposed to or infected with the virus.

The Return to Sport Plan developed by your organization should be based on a risk assessment and analysis that considers the risks presented by the type of sport activities and the place where the sport activities occur, who is involved and their risk profile, and what measures can be implemented.

The Return to Sport Plan must be made easily available to staff, volunteers, participants and other stakeholders, through the organization's website or posted in the facility.

Staff, volunteers and participants should be trained on the Return to Sport Plan (as appropriate to age/role).

The Return to Sport Plan must be consistent with the guidelines and directives set by government, WorkSafe BC and health authorities.

Implementation of the Return to Sport Plan should be monitored and updated as necessary when circumstances or provincial guidance changes. Pending the membership affiliation of your sport, the respective boards have fiduciary responsibilities and are accountable for the decisions and work of the organization. Each board should understand and be comfortable with the level of risk the organization is taking on and approve the adoption of their organization's sport- specific Return to Sport Plan before implementation begins.

It is strongly recommended that provincial sport organizations have their members including clubs, and/or local sport organizations acknowledge the risks associated with reopening and their agreement to follow the provincial sport organization's plan.

Once approved, all activities sanctioned by that sport organization should follow their guidelines.

Participants should be asked to sign a participant agreement acknowledging their acceptance of the risks (see below for template).

Existing waivers, releases and/or participant agreements should be reviewed to confirm that they are broad enough to encompass COVID-19 related risks. Consider revising such documents to explicitly reference COVID-19 related risks. Further consider whether any such documents which were completed by participants before the COVID-19 pandemic should be completed again before activities resume.

B.C. health officials outline that the risk of transmission is subject to two variables that we need to modify to reduce transmission risk:

- Contact intensity – how close you are to someone and for how long
- Number of contacts – how many people are in the same setting at the same time.

Modifying from high to low can be based on a range of controls. Different actions have differing levels of protection and whenever possible use the action that offers the most protection. The following are listed from highest level of protection to lowest

- Physical distancing measures – to reduce density of people, (number and duration of contacts)
- Engineering controls – physical barriers, increased ventilation, traffic flow
- Administrative controls – rules and guidelines
- Non-medical masks (and other PPE)

This document outlines how these strategies for can be applied within sport across four key areas: Facility Access, Facility Operations, Participants and Programming.

- For more information about how to conduct an assessment and develop a Plan, see COVID-19 Returning To Safe Operations:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation>

- PHO Orders: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-caresystem/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

WSWBC Guidelines

As towed water sports enters into a “new normal” for operations this document is intended to provide WSWBC members with minimum standards for returning to sport. Each club and school has individual needs and these will need to be considered by your club/school.

Priorities:

1. The #1 Priority is the Health and Safety of all Members.
2. All clubs/schools must abide by and consider Provincial and Municipal health authority requirements.
3. Physical and Social Distancing must remain in sport participation at this time.
4. Sport is going to play a critical role in the physical and mental health of people as the Province reopens and rebuilds and as such it is important a reopening is done properly.

Mandatory Requirements for Return to Sport

Water Ski & Wakeboard BC Member Organizations must:

(1) Create a COVID-19 Reopening Safety Plan that is consistent with the guidelines and directives set by government, WorkSafe BC and health authorities and meets the Water Ski & Wakeboard BC Return to Sport Guidelines; and

(2) Approve and publish and/or post a COVID-19 Reopening Safety Plan.

Towed Watersports Facilities

Our #1 Priority is the Health and Safety of all Members.

1. Facility Restrictions

a. How are you going to control the number of people in a space at a time?

i. For example - number of people on the dock, number of people in the boat, boathouse?

b. What is the arrival and departure process?

i. Everyone cannot arrive or depart at the same time.

ii. Do you have “holding” stations while people are arriving or departing?

2. Facility Scheduling

- i. Dr. Henry has indicated summer programs should move outdoors. How are you going to schedule program space with other sport groups who are moving outside (i.e. indoor programs moving to an outdoor location).

3. Limiting Areas

- i. Limit all non-essential areas of the club.
- ii. Washroom access is limited to one (1) person at a time.
 1. Maintain cleanliness and sanitization standards.
 2. Clubs must provide hand sanitizer, soap and other disinfecting supplies as required by Ministry of Health Guidelines. These guidelines can be found at: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/CleaningDisinfecting_PublicSettings.pdf
 3. Signage must be posted regarding hand washing. These guidelines can be found at: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/careers/about-the-bc-public-service/coronavirus_handwashing.pdf
- iii. What other areas of your club need to be limited?
 4. Shared Facilities
 - a. How do you manage shared facilities with other clubs?
 - i. Limitation on who can go in and out of the boat house and bring equipment out (i.e. coaches, or designated volunteers)?
 - b. Supplier and/or Partner Considerations
 - i. What guidelines and/or agreements do you have in working with suppliers or partners?

Sickness Guidelines

1. For any individuals coming into the facility, are required to stay home if they experience any of the following symptoms: Fever, Chills, Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Sore throat and painful swallowing, Stuffy or runny nose, Loss of sense of smell, Headache, Muscle aches, Fatigue, Loss of appetite.
2. If self-isolating at home, individuals are required to stay home for a minimum of 14 days.
3. Individuals are required to notify the club if they experience symptoms and are self-isolating.
4. Clubs are required to notify all club members and individuals accessing the club that a member has shown symptoms and they may have been exposed to a virus.

5. Club is required to notify local health authorities and WSWBC of the potential exposure.

Cleaning & Sanitation Protocols

The BC Ministry of health cleaning and sanitization guidelines can be found at:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/CleaningDisinfecting_PublicSettings.pdf

Things to consider:

Who is responsible for cleaning your facilities?

Who is responsible for cleaning shared and personal equipment?

Wash common contact surfaces after/before use. Sanitation practices should follow the Canadian Government guidelines for cleaning hard surfaces <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19.html>

Physical Distancing

In mid-May, B.C. entered into what is being referred to by the provincial government as Phase Two (2).

In this phase, sport will be able to operate under enhanced protocols including:

1. Allow for participants to maintain physical distancing.
 - Two meters apart from one another.
 - Non-contact activities only.
 - No handshaking, high fives, hugging, etc.
2. Look to reduce touch points with respect to equipment.
3. No large public events or gatherings of over 50 people.
4. Consider physical modifications such as spacing of facilities, room/space design, plexiglass barriers, and movement of people within spaces.
5. Consider alterations with regards to physical distancing in the boat (ie. spotter/driver being members within same family household, masks, etc.)

For more physical distancing resources:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks/physical-distancing>

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/common-questions>

First Aid

In the event that first aid is required to be administered during an activity, all persons attending to the injured individual must first put on a mask and gloves.

A guide for employers and Occupational First Aid Attendants:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/information-sheets/ofaa-protocols-covid-19-pandemic?lang=en>

First aid protocols for an unresponsive person during COVID-19: <https://www.redcross.ca/training-andcertification/first-aid-tips-and-resources/first-aid-tips/first-aid-protocols-for-an-unresponsive-personduring-covid-19>

Safety Plan

IMPORTANT: ALL ORGANIZATIONS ARE REQUIRED TO DEVELOP A COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

Please refer to the resources on Appendix A with info and a resource template you may use to create your own document.

Outbreak Plan

Early detection of symptoms will facilitate the immediate implementation of effective control measures. In addition, the early detection and immediate implementation of enhanced cleaning measures are two of the most important factors in limiting the size and length of an outbreak. An “outbreak” is two or more cases; a “case” is a single case of COVID-19.

1. Identify the roles and responsibilities of staff or volunteers if a case or outbreak is reported. Determine who within the organization has the authority to modify, restrict, postpone or cancel activities.
2. If staff (including volunteers) or a participant reports they are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 and have been at the workplace/activity place, implement enhanced cleaning measures to reduce risk of transmission. If you are not the facility operator, notify the facility right away.
3. Implement your illness policy and advise individuals to:
 - self-isolate
 - monitor their symptoms daily, report respiratory illness and not to return to activity for at least 10 days following the onset of fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and painful

swallowing, stuffy or runny nose, loss of sense of smell, headache, muscle aches, fatigue and loss of appetite.

use the COVID-19 self-assessment tool at BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to help determine if further assessment or testing for COVID-19 is needed.

Individuals can contact 8-1-1 if further health advice is required and 9-1-1 if it is an emergency.

4. In the event of a suspected case or outbreak of influenza-like-illness, immediately report and discuss the suspected outbreak with the Medical Health Officer (or delegate) at your local health authority. Implement your Illness Policy and your enhanced measures.
5. If your organization is contacted by a medical health officer in the course of contact tracing, cooperate with local health authorities.

BC Ministerial Order – Return To Sport

The BC Government has created a ministerial order that protects amateur sport organizations, their employees and volunteers from liability. Please refer to the following resources for info:

http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/mo/mo/2020_m183

<https://www.viasport.ca/news/province-takes-action-support-return-sport>

Participant Agreement

Please refer to Appendix B for template for participant agreements. These may be used by your organization as you see fit.

Appendix A – Covid-19 Safety Plan Template

ALL ORGANIZATIONS ARE REQUIRED TO DEVELOP A COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

This can be printed from viaSports Safe Return to Sport document:

<https://www.viasport.ca/sites/default/files/ReturntoSportGuidelines.pdf>

Please find a digital, fillable version of this template here:

https://www.viasport.ca/sites/default/files/Appendix%20G_COVID-19_Safety_Plan.pdf

Appendix B – Participant Agreement Template

Sample Agreement

*Modify agreement as appropriate where the participant is a minor and the agreement is signed by a parent or guardian

Application - all athletes, coaches, members, volunteers, participants and family members of participants while in attendance at club activities (“Participants”)

All Participants of <NAME OF ORGANIZATION> agree to abide by the following points when entering club facilities and/or participating in club activities under the COVID-19 Response plan and RTP Protocol:

- I agree to symptom screening checks, and will let my club know if I have experienced any of the symptoms in the last 14 days.
- I agree to stay home if feeling sick, and remain home for 14 days if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- I agree to sanitize my hands upon entering and exiting the facility, with soap or sanitizer.
- I agree to sanitize the equipment I use throughout my practice with approved cleaning products provided by the club (shared and personal equipment).
- I agree to continue to follow social distancing protocols of staying at least 2m away from others.
- I agree to not share any equipment during practice times.
- I agree to abide by all of my Clubs COVID-19 Policies and Guidelines.
- I understand that if I do not abide by the aforementioned policies/guidelines, that I may be asked to leave the club for up to 14 days to help protect myself and others around me.
- I acknowledge that continued abuse of the policies and/or guidelines may result in suspension of my club membership temporarily.
- I acknowledge that there are risks associated with entering club facilities and/or participating in club activities, and that the measures taken by the club and participants, including those set out above and under the COVID-19 Response Plan and Return to Sport Protocols, will not entirely eliminate those risks.

Date:

Signature:

Appendix C – Resource Hub

viaSport Safe Return to Sport guidelines:

<https://www.viasport.ca/sites/default/files/ReturntoSportGuidelines.pdf>

Water Ski & Wakeboard Canada Covid-19 Resource Hub: <https://wswc.ca/covid-19-resources/>

BC Recreation & Parks Association guideline for restarting operations:

<https://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/COVIDGuideline>

B.C.'s Restart Plan:

https://www.scribd.com/document/460236402/B-C-s-Restart-Plan-Next-Steps-to-Move-Through-the-Pandemic#fullscreen&from_embed

BC COVID-19 Go-Forward Management Strategy:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/bc_covid-19_go-forward_management_strategy_web.pdf?bcgovtm=20200506_GCPE_AM_COVID_9_NOTIFICATION_BCGOV_BCGOV_EN_BC_NOTIFICATION

B.C. Go Forward Strategy Checklist: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/gdx/go_forward_strategy_checklist_web.pdf

PHO Orders:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES

Fraser Health: <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/>

Interior Health: <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/Pages/default.aspx>

Island Health: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/>

Northern Health: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/>

Vancouver Coastal Health: <http://www.vch.ca/>

HEALTH RESOURCES

COVID-19 (B.C.) Provincial Support:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>

BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool: <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>

Health Canada Handwashing Guidelines:

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/diseases-maladies/reduce-spread-covid-19-wash-your-hands/eng-handwashing.pdf>

Health Canada Personal Protective Equipment against COVID-19:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medical-devices/covid19-personal-protective-equipment.html>

Health Canada List of Disinfectants for use against COVID-19:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>

BCCDC Cleaning and Disinfecting: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/CleaningDisinfecting_PublicSettings.pdf

POSTERS

Physical Distancing: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/COVID19_PhysicalDistancingPoster.pdf

Handwashing: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/COVID19_Handwashing%20Poster_MD%20offices.pdf

Do not enter if you are sick: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID19_DoNotEnterPoster.pdf

Vulnerable Populations: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/covid-19-vulnerable-populations/covid-19-vulnerable-populations-eng.pdf>

Occupancy Limit: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/posters/help-prevent-spread-covid-19-occupancy-limit?lang=en>

WORKSAFE BC RESOURCES

Returning To Safe Operations:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation>

COVID-19 Safety Plan Template:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/checklist/covid-19-safety-plan?lang=en>

Transport Canada

Guidelines for Pleasure Craft during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

<https://www.tc.gc.ca/en/initiatives/covid-19-measures-updates-guidance-tc/guidelines-pleasure-craft-covid-19-pandemic.html>