

May 20, 2020

Dear League and Club Association Presidents,

### Update – COVID-19 in BC

The Province of BC has officially entered Phase 2 of reopening as of May 19, 2020. The Province's Leadership team – Premier John Horgan, Health Minister Adrian Dix and Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry have navigated the province through a difficult period and we are flattening the curve. The next phases of restarting our province will require patience and collaboration as the many sectors work to navigate our new normal.

Recreation and Sport is included in Phase 2 of the restart plan. The sport sector guidelines are being created by ViaSport and submitted to the Provincial Health Authority. These guidelines, similar to methods being applied to retail stores, hair salons and restaurants, will be reviewed by the Provincial Health Authority and WorkSafe BC. Once the approved Sport Sector Guidelines are received, each individual provincial sport organization must then create their own sport-specific guidelines.

Ringette BC is actively working on Return to Ringette guidelines in consultation with the BC Recreation Facility Association and our ice sport partners of Hockey BC, Speed Skating BC and Skate BC. Ringette BC is also working with the other Ringette Provincial Organizations to ensure alignment on a return to ringette framework.

### Updates from the Sport Sector

Lisa Beare, the Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, released an [official statement](#) to the Sport Sector last week regarding *Return to Play* in BC. The Minister's message emphasizes three key elements the sport sector guidelines should reflect:

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

Ringette BC will be considering these key principles, as well as the requests of the municipalities and facilities, in the development of our sport-specific guidelines.

To help organizations make and implement change across the Province, ViaSport has created a set of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on *Return to Sport* that assist with the development of *Return to Play* guidelines.

ViaSport has also created a [COVID-19 Updates page](#) with relevant provincial and sport information as it becomes available. Lastly, ViaSport has created a new [Return to Sport](#) page for Provincial, Local and Multi-Sport Organizations.

### [Return to Ringette](#)

Ringette BC is planning for a September start to the season. However, we are also preparing for phased-in or modifications to activities. As always, we will continue to take our guidance from the Provincial Health Officer.

Prior to the season start, Ringette BC will be providing our Leagues and Club Associations with a number of resources including:

1. *Return to Activity* and *Return to Competition* guidelines;
2. League and/or Club Association requirements for adhering to guidelines;
3. Updates on insurance, including a new waiver;
4. Updated Codes of Conduct for players, parents/spectators, coaches, volunteers, officials that include a clause related to health and safety;
5. Educational training on new COVID-19 guidelines for coaches, volunteers and local association administrators; and
6. Educational material for parents and players.

### [Excellence Ringette](#)

COVID-19 has encouraged us all to be creative and innovate in our day-to-day activities. With the spirit of innovation in mind, Ringette BC is excited to announce that the Excellence Ringette program will soon be launched virtually. Excellence Ringette has been reimaged and reinvented. Access to the virtual program will be open to all U16 and U19 athletes. All players who register and submit an application will be eligible to participate virtually.

Athlete screening of athletes will be conducted at a later stage in the program once there is access to facilities and a *Return to Play* is in place. The objective of a virtual Excellence Ringette program is to engage with athletes, provide coaches and athletes with training opportunities and to assist athletes and coaches with ringette activities while on-ice activities are suspended. Details on the Excellence Program will be sent age-eligible athletes in the coming weeks. Participant orientations will be hosted virtually as well. Check out the [Excellence Ringette Program](#) link on our website for more info on this exciting initiative.

## Ringette BC Staff

Ringette BC staff have been working remotely since the middle of March. Ringette BC would like to thank all our members for their patience and understanding in any delays in response time.

Ringette BC staff will be returning to the office starting May 25<sup>th</sup> following WorkSafe BC rules. The office remains closed to the public for walk-ins. Meetings are available by appointment only between the hours of 9am and 5pm. Visitors to the office must be symptom free for a minimum of 14 days.

Ringette BC will continue to publish President memos and e-newsletters on the website for the information of all members.

Sincerely,

Dennis Callaghan  
Chair of the Board of Directors

Nicole Robb  
Executive Director

Cc: Ringette BC Board of Directors