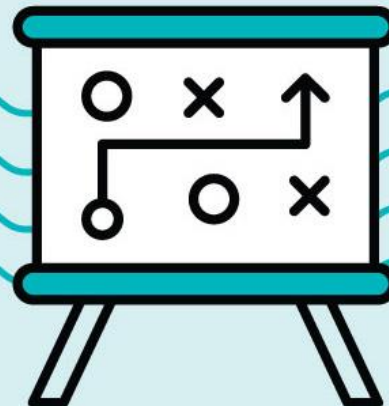


# Return to Sport

Know your game plan

viaSPORT  
BRITISH COLUMBIA



## Guidance on travel restrictions for sports in B.C. April 2021

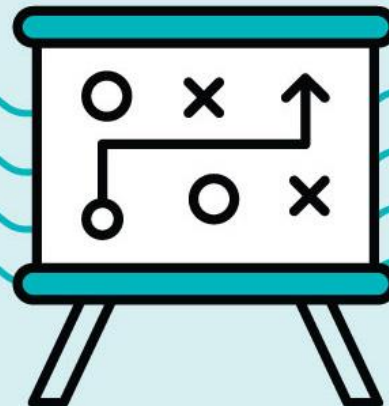
With the announcement of intra-provincial travel restrictions in by the provincial government on April 21, 2021, the following guidance applies to anyone conducting or participating in sport activities in British Columbia.

- Without exception, all sport activities must follow the directives listed in the [Order of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General M172](#) and the [PHO Order on Gatherings and Events](#). It is also important to note that the Order of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General M172 takes precedence over the PHO Gathering and Events Order.
- As of November 2020, travel for children and youth sport or adult group sport is not permitted.
- As you know, [the new order](#) further restricts non-essential travel between health authority regions. For this purpose, the regions are defined as:
  - "Northern-Interior Health Authority region": Northern Health Authority region; the Interior Health Authority region; the local health areas of Bella Coola Valley, Central Coast and Hope;
  - "Fraser-Vancouver Coastal Health Authority region": the Fraser Health Authority region and the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority region, excluding the local health areas of Bella Coola Valley and Central Coast;
  - "Island Health Authority region"
- For sport, this means that travel to home clubs or high-performance athlete travel that crosses a health authority region as outlined above is not allowed. Any travel that is related to sport across one of the three zones needs to be postponed until at least after May 24.
- This means that teams and groups of participants can only travel to their home club and that club **needs to be close to the participants' residence**.
- Travel that is **not** allowed includes:
  - a hockey player travelling from Vernon to Penticton to participate on their spring hockey team;
  - a softball player traveling from Kamloops to Vancouver to participate on their rep team.
  - a dancer travelling from Langley to Whistler to participate in a virtual competition.

# Return to Sport

## Know your game plan

viaSPORT  
BRITISH COLUMBIA



- Although most sport should be played within the participant's community, there are some examples where an individual can travel **short** distances that do not cross health authority region boundaries. For example:
  - A skier who is part of the local ski club can travel to their local mountain, which might be in a neighbouring community;
  - an archer may need to travel to a neighbouring community because their community does not have an archery club;
  - a high-performance athlete may need to travel to a nearby community to receive specialized training.
- To minimize potential exposures to COVID-19, mandatory physical distancing and other restrictions are in place for all sport activities, including training and practice. **All games, tournaments, league play and other competitions are on hold until further notice.**
- There may have been some uncertainty about which phase of the viaSport Return to Sport Guidelines we are currently in, leading to some sport organizations continuing to plan for competitive activities this spring. The Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, has confirmed that under the current Provincial Health Order, there should be **no competition and no travel** for sport.
- The PHO's guidance on travel for sport is directed at all sport delivery organizations, including, but not limited to, not-for-profit, for profit, education institutions and sport camps.
- Following the directives in the current provincial orders is not optional. Sport organizations that are in breach in of this policy may be subject to enforcement measures such as fines or loss of business licenses. These policies are in place in order to maintain the health and safety of our communities.

### As a reminder:

- Under current restrictions, within a home club setting, training and practice for youth age 21 and under may continue, as long as:
  - participants maintain a physical distance of three metres from one another (no handshaking, high fives, hugging, etc.);
  - the focus is on activities that have a low risk of COVID-19 virus transmission;
  - there are no spectators present, unless to provide care (i.e. first aid) to a participant.
- The Orders do not specifically address every individual situation. When interpreting the Orders, please remember the intention is important: to stay local as much as possible. This will help to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities and keep sports safe.