



August 13, 2020

LETTER FROM THE BCLA PRESIDENT RE: New Sport Phase Coming

The BCLA Box Provincial Championships, BC Summer Games, Team BC and other Box Nationals would have been memorable lacrosse experiences this summer. COVID-19 prevented many sporting events for amateur athletes, families, volunteers and fans everywhere.

The BCLA Return to Lacrosse Phase 1 Guidelines were released June 11th. Thank you to the many volunteers for the time and effort you are putting forth in getting our youth back on the floors and fields where possible.

The health and safety for all participants in the BC Lacrosse community is paramount and is central to our decisions around COVID-19 and Return to Lacrosse. All involved in our sport must take direction from the appropriate health authorities, including the Public Health Agency of Canada and the BC Ministry of Health and your local health authority. We strongly remind all, as we return to some levels of lacrosse activities, we cannot relax our health and safety practices (I.e., 2-meter physical distancing; increased hand hygiene; outdoor activities with small groups; drills and skill development; non-contact, no competitions, etc.).

On June 30, the BCLA Board of Directors approved the reduction of BCLA Field Registration Fees. Field Lacrosse association/club registration planning is moving forward. Be sure to promote your Field registrations and get the athletes registered for the upcoming season.

In July, we learned viaSport BC has been working with the BC Health Authority and Sport Branch toward the Progressively Loosen phase of the Return to Sport process (next phase of BCLA Return to Lacrosse). viaSport's proposal included revised guidance for activities involving contact, cohorts, competition, competition hosting, high performance camps and travel. We expect viaSport's new guidelines soon. We anticipate the BCLA Return to Lacrosse Phase 2 plans will include guidelines for activities and game play that are as close to normal lacrosse activities. All activities will follow the direction from viaSport BC and the appropriate health authorities.

Once viaSport releases their guidelines, the BCLA Return to Lacrosse Committee will swiftly clarify any issues, update, and publish the plans accordingly.

The BCLA Board, Directorates, and Technical Support Groups continue planning normal fall meetings of which all are being conducted virtually. We hear that the lacrosse community wants more and better communication from your sport leaders. Your message is received.

To all administrators and volunteers, thank you for remaining strong through this trying time.

Thank you for your patience.

If you have any additional questions, please e-mail me at gerry@bclacrosse.com

Yours in Lacrosse,
Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President