



May 13, 2020

LETTER FROM THE BCLA PRESIDENT RE: COVID-19

As the weather improves, people will take to the outdoors for physical activity. We must all adhere to the safety requirements as detailed by government agencies and health authorities and be aware how to safely access facilities again. With some recreational facilities being made available in different jurisdictions, we want to inform our members that although facilities may be accessible, until the BC Lacrosse Association has "Return to Activity Guidelines" in place, the BCLA is not in a position to sanction any lacrosse activities.

We must also stress that when we do return to activity, the health and safety for all participants in the BC Lacrosse community is paramount and this is central to all of our decisions around COVID-19. 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. When we return to activity, the 2-meter social distancing measure is still in place, there will be hygiene restrictions, and there will be no competition given the 2-meter distancing. Sessions will include skills and training.

As noted in prior messages, we have already collected 50% of the 2020 Minor box registration fees based on 2019 registration numbers, and these funds will not be refunded. Historically, in June, we invoice for the second half of the Minor box registration fees. **The BCLA Board of Directors would like to inform you that the BCLA will not be billing Minor associations in June for the second half payment of Minor box registration fees.**

We have received numerous inquiries regarding deleting registered athletes from the registration databases. All registered athletes will remain in the association player registration database. **Leaving the registrations in the database will not affect 2020 and 2021 registration fees.** Removal requests will be noted as removal of names could have adverse effects on Minor associations' standing as a society and as a member of the BCLA.

The BCLA Return to Lacrosse Activity Committee, a group of experienced lacrosse leaders, continues to shape these guidelines. The landscape of return to activity/play continues to evolve, sometimes daily. We will formulate these guidelines so we can safely deliver lacrosse programming while keeping within the BC Health Authority, the Sport Branch, viaSport and other government regulatory agencies as communication and updates continue.

At the BC Lacrosse Association level, we continue to analyze our financial status. Today, we received word from Sport BC regarding the 75% federal wage subsidy (CEWS) that they are handling on behalf of the BCLA since they manage our payroll, and it is anticipated that the BCLA will qualify and receive this subsidy.

The BCLA Board, Directorates, and Technical Support Groups continue with contingency planning through this process and our associations/leagues/clubs have worked diligently keeping their members informed. We will continue to communicate with the lacrosse community to update you as information becomes available. We are counting on our community leaders to remain 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