



RETURN TO SPORT GUIDELINES: Developing COVID-19 Reopening Safety Plans

*This document has been approved by the Rowing BC Board of Directors
Released May 30, 2020*

Updated August 25, 2020 (most recent updates highlighted)

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide Rowing BC Member Organizations with:

- (1) The required steps to reopen;
- (2) The resources to develop a COVID-19 Reopening Safety Plan;
- (3) The resources to understand and implement Sport Cohort Training.

Steps to Reopen

Rowing BC Member Organizations must:

- (1) Successfully complete the Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA) [Risk Assessment and Mitigation Checklist Tool](#) and maintain a copy on file;
- (2) Create a COVID-19 Reopening Safety Plan that meets the Rowing BC [Return to Sport Guidelines](#); and
- (3) Approve and publish and/or post a COVID-19 Reopening Safety Plan.

Steps to Initiate Phase 3 Measures (Updated August 25, 2020)

Rowing BC Member Organizations must:

- (1) Have a board member, manager or administrator attend a Phase 3 Information Session hosted by Rowing BC before the member organization can initiate Training Groups;
- (2) Have each Training Group coach attend a Phase 3 Information Session hosted by Rowing BC before they can initiate and/or lead a Training Group; and
- (3) Approve and publish Phase 3 updates to their COVID-19 Reopening Safety Plan before the member organization can initiate Training Groups.



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 Rowing 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 Rowing 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. Rowing 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.

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 British Columbia. 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 British Columbia. It works closely with Rowing BC and 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 sector. Provincial sport organizations, like Rowing BC, 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. Rowing BC is overseen by a Board of Directors that approves policies and is responsible for the oversight of the organization. Rowing BC Member Organizations are required to follow and implement such policies. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the adherence to and implementation of these return-to-sport policies and practices for all Rowing BC Member Organizations, including clubs, associations, and individual Member Participants, will help promote the safety of our communities. These proactive measures can help to preserve community health.



Reopening Step 1: National Requirements

All RCA Member Organizations, including those that are BC-based, are required to complete the [RCA Risk Assessment and Mitigation Checklist Tool](#) and maintain a copy on file.

This resource is based on the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations and was developed in collaboration with RCA's chief medical officer, national partners and provincial rowing associations. Clubs are expected to complete the tool to determine their Club Risk Assessment Score. RCA will not sanction activity, and thus not provide insurance coverage, for a club that scores HIGH RISK or VERY HIGH RISK.

The Mitigation Checklist includes expectations that are considered mandatory, highly recommended, or enhanced. At a minimum, clubs must ensure that all mandatory expectations are met to ensure their activity is sanctioned and thus covered with RCA insurance. Clubs that require support to meet a mandatory expectation or want to request an exception to a mandatory expectation should [complete this form](#). For more information about the tool please refer to [the RCA website](#).

Reopening Step 2: Provincial Requirements

All Rowing BC Member Organizations are required to develop COVID-19 Reopening Safety Plans that explicitly present the measures that will implement and maintain over the **duration of pandemic restrictions**. Plans must be in compliance with orders and guidance from the Provincial Health Officer.

Rowing BC has created [Return to Sport Guidelines](#) to support member organizations in the development of their COVID-19 Reopening Safety Plans. This document can be used as a step-by-step tool to create your plan, by answering each relevant question, or as a checklist to ensure that your plan is detailed to the correct scope. This Rowing BC document has been cross referenced and is aligned with [the viaSport Return to Sport Guidelines for B.C.](#) document, [the WorkSafeBC COVID-19 Safety Plan Checklist](#) and the [Rowing Canada Aviron \(RCA\) Risk Assessment and Mitigation Checklist Tool](#).

Reopening Step 3: Approval and Transparency

COVID-19 Reopening Safety Plans are required to be approved by each Rowing BC Member Organization's Board of Directors, or appropriate alternative in the case that no board exists. COVID-19 Reopening Safety Plans must be made available to the public by posting on the wall of the organization's facility and/or on its website.

Phase 3 for Rowing: BC's "Progressively Loosen" Phase

As British Columbia enters Phase 3 of its Restart Plan, sport has moved to the "Progressively Loosen" Phase. In this phase there can be a careful increase to the number of contacts and contact intensity in sport. In response, Rowing BC has established parameters regarding Training Groups. Once sanctioned, Training Groups can include up to 10 participants, not including the coach, assuming the coach maintains physical distancing of 2 meters at all times.

viaSport has expanded the ability for sport organizations to increase or implement (1) Contact Activities, (2) Training Groups, (3) Competition and High-Performance Camps and (4) Training Environments. Guidelines for Return to Competition are being reviewed and more information will be provided at a later date.



Rowing BC requires member organizations to attend a Phase 3 Information Session for board members, managers, administrators, and any coaches who will lead a sport Training Group. Member organizations are not permitted to start Training Groups until these attendance requirements are met and individual COVID-19 Reopening Plans are updated, approved and published. ***RCA requires each member organization to complete Rowing BC's requirements before Training Groups will be sanctioned and insured.***

Support and Site Visits

Rowing BC staff will initiate a series of visits to member organizations across the province. These visits are to provide member organizations with additional support to help ensure that club procedures meet reopening plans. Proactively, a site visit can be requested by any member organization.

Conclusion and Contact

If you have any questions about this document or your club's COVID-19 Reopening Plan, please contact Rowing BC at (604) 273-4769 or [via email](#).