



RETURN TO SPORT PLAN – BIATHLON BC

June 14, 2020

Dear member of Biathlon British Columbia,

In order to safely begin to return to play as part of Phase II of [BC's Restart Plan](#), Biathlon BC has been working with [viaSport](#) and the Province of British Columbia to create guidelines to ensure that the recommendations of our Provincial Health Officer are best applied towards the safe implementation of biathlon activities. The following guidelines are based on a plan was developed by [Cross Country BC \(CCBC\)](#) from a framework developed by [Nordig Canada](#). Biathlon BC has adapted it with biathlon specific content based on a framework developed by [Biathlon Canada](#) in order to facilitate interdisciplinary participation. With the exception of the guidelines surrounding group training (range activities including camps) and training facilities/operations, any recommendation that differs from CCBC's is in ***BOLD ITALIC***.

Biathlon BC's Return to Sport Plan has been developed in order to ensure:

- the health and safety of all individuals
- biathlon activities are in alignment with provincial health recommendations
- modifications to the delivery of biathlon activities are in place in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission within biathlon clubs and between individual members
- The majority of Biathlon BC's recommendations were developed and are in alignment with CCBC's recommendations to facilitate interdisciplinary participation with minimal redundancies; and
- the standardization of preventative protocols across the province

While the risk of COVID-19 continues, the Government of BC requires all amateur sports organizations and their participants to follow all public health guidance. This includes all directives from national, provincial and regional public health jurisdictions and the recommendations set forth by Provincial Sports Organizations. The importance of following such guidance is expressed in a recent [order](#) issued by the Government of BC which protects amateur sports organizations from liability, barring gross negligence, of COVID-19 infection or exposure as a result of an organized activity. Biathlon BC's Return to Sport plan forms the *minimum requirements* that biathlon clubs in BC must follow in order to maintain liability protection from the Government of BC.

Everyone who chooses to participate in any biathlon activities must adhere to these rules:

- If you don't feel well or are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, you must stay home
- If you have traveled outside of Canada, you must self-isolate for a minimum of 14 days
- If you live in a household with someone who has COVID-19 or is showing symptoms of COVID-19, **you must** stay home
- Wash your hands before participating
- Bring your own equipment, water bottle and hand sanitizer
- Comply with physical distancing measures at all times
- Avoid physical contact with others, including shaking hands, high fives, etc.
- Leave the field of play as quickly as possible after you finish

Everyone who participates in biathlon activities must therefore make their own individual risk assessment to determine if they should resume participation at this time. Anyone who chooses to participate in biathlon activities is required to fully cooperate with this Return to Sport Plan.

Sincerely,

Biathlon BC



RETURN TO SPORT – BIATHLON BC

Background:

- **Return to Sport (RTS) definition** (from viaSport BC): Return to Sport refers to the process of developing and implementing guidelines for sport organizations to operate safely in B.C. during this pandemic. Return to Sport Plans will be unique to each sport and must follow the Provincial Health Officer orders and recommendations. One set of guidelines will be created for each sport by its respective Provincial Sport Organization (PSO), and the PSO and affiliated club sanctioned activities should follow this set of guidelines.
- **COVID-19 Safety Plan:** All organizations in BC (including clubs) must develop and post a COVID-19 Safety Plan, as per the Provincial Health Officer. Clubs can adapt Biathlon BC's to suit their own needs. viaSport has also provided a useful [checklist](#) (pgs. 35+).
- Biathlon BC's RTS & COVID-19 Safety Plan (Biathlon BC's "Plan") specifically targets **Phase 2** of BC's Restart Plan (i.e., now until approximately September) as well as the "**off-season**" in general so that we can safely "restart" our off-season as quickly as possible, without getting slowed down by winter details/uncertainties. This Plan will be updated as needed.
- Biathlon is in a favourable situation in that most training activities take place in an outdoor environment. This means that modifications are relatively straightforward.
- The Plan addresses the following group activities only for now:
 - Group training (non-shooting range activities)
 - Group training (shooting range activities)
 - Workshops/Courses
 - Office work
- For club activities outside of the above listed activities (e.g., summer work bees), it is **recommended** to wait until Phase 2 is over. Regardless, clubs can adapt Biathlon BC's Plan as their situation warrants. Any club plan should align with viaSport's [Return to Sport Guidelines](#), particularly the Safety Plan checklist on Pg. 35+. *Biathlon Canada has created a [Club Risk Assessment and Club Mitigation Checklist Tool](#) designed by [Own the Podium](#) that can used to help assess if an activity is safe, and what actions can be taken to mitigate risk.*
- Neither Biathlon BC nor viaSport needs to subsequently approve club plans. It must be recognized that clubs have very different and unique situations (e.g., some do not manage/maintain their own facilities, some have extremely limited facilities, some have landowner complexities, etc.).
- It is expected that the Province of British Columbia's guidelines will gradually loosen, but there is no explicit timeline on this yet. To see the framework around future phases, refer to the generic Sport Activity Chart from viaSport in Appendix A. For further info and resources, see the viaSport [Return to Sport Guidelines](#).

For clubs (off-season activity):

- viaSport strongly recommends that 1) clubs acknowledge the risks of restarting, 2) clubs align with Biathlon BC's Plan, and 3) club boards approve their club's COVID-19 Safety Plan.
- The plan should be posted (e.g., on club websites) and reviewed with relevant staff/volunteers/participants.
- Participants in club-directed activities should be asked to complete a Participant Agreement acknowledging their acceptance of the risks. (See sample in Appendix B).
- Relevant staff, coaches, volunteers and participants should complete the online [Self-Assessment Tool](#) on a daily basis when participating in group activities. Link: <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>



RETURN TO SPORT & COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN – BIATHLON BC

Biathlon BC-directed off-season group activity can now resume, under the conditions below. Biathlon BC will monitor the situation and make changes as necessary.

General Rules

For all individuals and for all activities (training, workshops, office work, etc.), if you choose to participate, you must follow these rules:

- If you don't feel well or are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, you must stay home.
- If you have traveled outside of Canada, you must self-isolate for a minimum of 14 days.
- If you live in a household with someone who has COVID-19 or is showing symptoms of COVID-19, **you must** stay home.
- Wash your hands before participating.
- Bring your own equipment, water bottle and hand sanitizer.
- Not share food or beverages.
- Comply with physical distancing measures at all time.
- Avoid physical contact with others, including shaking hands, high fives, etc.
- Leave the field of play or facility as quickly as possible after you finish.

Furthermore:

- All individuals must have a current [Biathlon BC membership](#).**
- All individuals have signed a Participant Agreement (see Appendix B) acknowledging their acceptance of the risks.
- All individuals have completed the online [self-assessment tool](#), on a daily basis before arriving.
- Coaches and administrators **must be** familiar with the Illness Policy (see Appendix C).
- Consider your own risk. If you are at higher risk of experiencing serious illness from COVID-19, consider limiting or avoiding participation for the time being.
- If you start to feel mildly ill while participating, inform the person in charge (e.g., coach), sanitize your hands, go straight home, and complete the online [self-assessment tool](#). If severely ill (e.g., difficulty breathing, chest pain) have the person call 911. (And that person should ensure the cleaning and disinfecting of any surfaces that you have come into contact with.)
- If you have any health and safety concerns, inform the person in charge and/or the [Biathlon BC office administrator](#).



Group Training (non-range activities including camps)

- In addition to below, comply with above **General Rules**.
- Coaches are to remind all participants of the rules at the beginning of each day.
- Outdoors is best and activities are structured so physical distancing is maintained (2m). Increase distance with higher speed training activities (e.g., roller skiing, running). When possible & safe, it is preferable to run/bike/ski BESIDE others instead of BEHIND (e.g., on closed roads, wide trails).
- The maximum group size is 50, but realistically needs to be smaller for effective/safe group training.
- If indoor facilities are used (e.g., gym), follow all additional facility directives in place.
- Athletes should only travel by themselves or with members of their household.
- Parking is limited to every second slot to allow for physical distancing.
- A record of participants is maintained.
- “Get in, Train, Get out.” Athletes arrive ready to go and do not mingle with the group upon arrival or departure.
- Nothing is shared. If something must be shared (e.g., surfaces), it is cleaned/disinfected between users (e.g., with disinfecting wipes). Assign one individual to read the info on [cleaning and disinfectants](#) and to do the disinfecting.
- Car shuttles (e.g., roller ski hill workouts) are not used during training sessions.
- Overnight camps are avoided unless living arrangements, ground transportation, and meals can be structured to follow health and safety protocols.
- Avoid cross-regional or inter-provincial travel.
- For dryland time-trials or races, use individual start only. Timing chips or bibs shall not be shared, but may be used if owned by / permanently assigned to the athlete.
- Sanitation supplies are available as needed.
- Masks and gloves are available in case first-aid is required. Coaches have trained themselves on the [proper use of masks](#).
- Coaches should ensure adequate supervision so that rules are followed, with reminders as needed.



Group Training (range activities including camps)

- In addition to below, comply with above **General Rules**.
- In addition to below, comply with above **Group Training (non – range activities including camps)**.
- The maximum group size is 50, but is realistically determined by the capacity of the shooting range to accommodate physical distancing (2m).
- If non-biathlon specific shooting facilities are used (e.g., rod and gun clubs, private shooting ranges, indoor ranges etc.), follow all additional facility directives in place.
- To accommodate physical distancing on the firing line (2m), every other shooting lane is to remain closed for the duration of the training session.
- To accommodate physical distancing while entering/exiting the shooting ramp/range area, a 2m distance from the shooting mats should be maintained.
- Target painting and preparation (i.e.: paper target setup), should be performed by maintaining physical distancing (2m).
- One individual is assigned to a shooting mat, shooting lane, spotting scope, rifle rack, rifle etc. for the duration of the training session.
- For target reset boxes (electronic targets), assign one individual to [clean/disinfect](#) the boxes before and after training.
- Each target reset box (electronic target systems) is assigned to one person who performs the target reset on that box for the duration of the training session.
- For rope reset targets, each athlete will reset their individual lane.
- No equipment is shared equipment (i.e.: shared/communal club rifles, spotting scope etc.) during the same training session.
- Minimize the use of communal equipment that is handled by the hands or the head and used at different training sessions. Any communal equipment must be [cleaned/disinfected](#) before and after each use.
- Rifle mats need to be [cleaned/disinfected](#) before and after each training session. Athletes should be encouraged to supply their own shooting mat (e.g.: yoga/camping mat).
- Designated times for set-up and teardown should be implemented as necessary to avoid groups overlapping.
- These recommendations also apply to any dryfiring activities.



Training Facilities/Operations

- Local directives for the use of facilities (e.g.: clubhouses, shooting ranges, equipment rooms, flex rooms, wax rooms, washrooms etc.) are followed. Consider limiting or denying access to any unneeded facilities.
- Physical distancing (2m) must remain in place at all times within the facility.
- Signage is placed outside any facility in use, as well as at entry points outlining the COVID-19 protocols in place.
- Signage is placed in training and washroom facilities encouraging hand washing and respiratory hygiene.
- Assign one individual to read the information on [cleaning and disinfectants](#) and then to disinfect (e.g., using disinfecting wipes) all common touchpoints (e.g., door handles, light switches, work stations etc.) at least twice per day, or after each use if facility is open only during training sessions.
- Shared items and surfaces (i.e.: countertops, tables, chairs, POS systems, door handles, telephones, pens etc.) are disinfected between uses.
- Cleaning frequency is documented in a log.
- Hand sanitizer stations are provided for participants in multiple locations.
- Contactless payment options are used and cash payments are avoided.
- Only one-person updates notice boards.
- Participants are not permitted to congregate.
- Group sizes do not exceed local directives.
- Water fountains are disabled or covered.
- Picnic and other communal sitting areas are avoided or sanitized between uses.
- Trash cans are covered or removed. Participants are expected to take their garbage home with them.
- All club activities abide by local directives, including, but not limited to AGMs, Board Meetings, fundraisers, facility rentals and events.

Workshops/Courses

Background: Workshops/Courses typically have between 6 and 12 adult participants.

- In addition to below, comply with above **General Rules**.
- Learning facilitators or course conductors are to remind all participants of the rules at the beginning of each day.
- Ensure room and tables are set-up so that physical distancing is maintained (2m).
- Assign one individual to read the info on [cleaning and disinfectants](#) and then to disinfect (e.g., using disinfecting wipes)
 - each workspace before starting;
 - all common touchpoints (e.g., door handles, light switches) at least twice per day.
- Ensure there is adequate sanitizer in washroom.
- Follow any additional facility directives.
- A record of participants is maintained.
- Do not share any equipment.



Offices

- In addition to below, comply with above **General Rules**.
- The Employer is to remind all staff of the rules.
- Ensure workspaces are set-up so that physical distancing is maintained (2m) or that barriers are adequate (e.g., cubicle walls).
- Ensure there is sanitizer available at each common touchpoint (e.g., by office door, by photocopier).
- Assign one individual to read the info on [cleaning and disinfectants](#) and then to disinfect (e.g., using disinfecting wipes) all common touchpoints (e.g., door handles, light switches, photocopier) at least twice per day.
- Ensure there is adequate sanitizer in washroom.
- Follow any additional facility directives, if any.
- Do not share any equipment if possible.
- Work and meet virtually where possible.

First Aid

In the event that first aid is required to be administered during an activity, all persons attending to the injured individual must first put on a mask and gloves.

A guide for employers and Occupational First Aid Attendants:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/information-sheets/ofaa-protocols-covid-19-pandemic?lang=en>

First aid protocols for an unresponsive person during COVID-19: <https://www.redcross.ca/training-and-certification/first-aid-tips-and-resources/first-aid-tips/first-aid-protocols-for-an-unresponsive-person-during-covid-19>

Outbreak Plan

If any individual reports they are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 and have been at the workplace/activity place, inform the Coach and/or [Biathlon BC office administrator](#). They will then execute the [Outbreak Plan](#) (pg. 20) provided by viaSport BC.



APPENDIX A - SPORT ACTIVITY CHART - from viaSport BC

	Strictest Controls Prior to May 19, 2020	Transition Measures Approx. May 19th to Sept	Progressively Loosen Future date TBC	New Normal Future date TBC
Restrictions in Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain Physical Distance (2m) No non-essential travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain Physical Distance (2m) No non-essential travel No group gatherings over 50 people 	Refer to PHO and local health authorities	Refer to PHO and local health authorities
Enhanced Protocols	Increased hand hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased hand hygiene Symptom Screening in place 	Increased hand hygiene	Increased hand hygiene
Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor or within home Facilities and playgrounds closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor is safest Indoor facilities slowly re-opening 	Outdoor/Indoor	Outdoor/Indoor
Participants	Individual activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Groups No or limited spectators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups sizes may increase Limited spectators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large groups allowed No restrictions on spectators
Non-contact Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low risk outdoor activities can occur (biking, running, etc). Virtual activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundamental movement skills Modified training activities, drills 	Expansion of training activities	No restrictions on activity type
Contact Activities	Should not occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should not occur Contact sports should look for non-contact alternatives to training 	Introduction to pair or small group contact skills	No restrictions on activity type
Competition*	Should not occur	In club play or modified games may slowly be introduced	Interclub or regional game play may be considered	Provincial competitions and larger scale events may return
Equipment	No shared equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal shared equipment Disinfect any shared equipment before, during and after use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some shared equipment Enhanced cleaning protocols in place 	Shared equipment

*Introduction of competitive activities should be in alignment with Sport Specific guidelines



APPENDIX B – PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

Application - all athletes, coaches, members, volunteers, participants and family members of participants while in attendance at club activities (“Participants”)

All Participants of <NAME OF ORGANIZATION> agree to abide by the following points when entering club facilities and/or participating in club activities under the COVID-19 Response plan and RTP Protocol:

- I agree to symptom screening checks, and will let my club know if I have experienced any of the symptoms in the last 14 days.
- I agree to stay home if feeling sick, and remain home for 14 days if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- I agree to sanitize my hands upon entering and exiting the facility, with soap or sanitizer.
- I agree to sanitize the equipment I use throughout my practice with approved cleaning products provided by the club (shared and personal equipment).
- I agree to continue to follow social distancing protocols of staying at least 2m away from others.
- I agree to not share any equipment during practice times.
- I agree to abide by all of my Clubs COVID-19 Policies and Guidelines.
- I understand that if I do not abide by the aforementioned policies/guidelines, that I may be asked to leave the club for up to 14 days to help protect myself and others around me.
- I acknowledge that continued abuse of the policies and/or guidelines may result in suspension of my club membership temporarily.
- I acknowledge that there are risks associated with entering club facilities and/or participating in club activities, and that the measures taken by the club and participants, including those set out above and under the COVID-19 Response Plan and Return to Sport Protocols, will not entirely eliminate those risks.

Date:

Signature:

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian:



APPENDIX C – ILLNESS POLICY

In this policy, “Team member” includes an employee, coach, volunteer, participant or parent/spectator.

1. **Inform an individual in a position of authority (e.g., coach) immediately if, you feel any symptoms of COVID-19** such as fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and painful swallowing, stuffy or runny nose, loss of sense of smell, headache, muscle aches, fatigue and loss of appetite.
2. **Assessment**
 - a. Team members must complete the online [self-assessment tool](#) each morning before their activity to attest that they are not feeling any of the COVID 19 symptoms.
 - b. Coaches will visually monitor team members to assess any early warning signs as to the status of their health and to touch base on how they are regarding their personal safety throughout the activity.
3. **If a Team Member is feeling sick with COVID-19 symptoms**
 - a. They should remain at home and contact Health Link BC at 8-1-1.
 - b. If they feel sick and /or are showing symptoms during the activity, they should be sent home immediately and have them contact 8-1-1 or a doctor for further guidance.
 - c. No Team Member may participate in an activity if they are symptomatic.
4. **If a Team Member tests positive for COVID-19**
 - a. The Team Member will not be permitted to return to the workplace/practice/facility until they are free of the COVID-19 virus.
 - b. Any Team Members who work/play closely with the infected Team Member will also be removed from the workplace/practice/facility for at least 14 days to ensure the infection does not spread further.
 - c. Close off, clean and disinfect their work/practice/facility area immediately and any surfaces that could have potentially be infected/touched.
5. **If a Team Member has been tested and is waiting for the results of a COVID-19 Test**
 - a. As with the confirmed case, the Team Member must be removed from the workplace/practice/facility.
 - b. The Public Health Agency of Canada advises that any person who has even mild symptoms to stay home and call the public health authority of B.C.
 - c. Other Team Members who may have been exposed will be informed and removed from the workplace/practice/activity for at least 14 days or until the diagnosis of COVID-19 is ruled out by health authorities.
 - d. The workspace/practice/activity space will be closed off, cleaned, and disinfected immediately and any other surfaces that could have potentially been infected/touched.
6. **If a Team Member has come in to contact with someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19**
 - a. Team Members must advise their employer/coach if they reasonably believe they have been exposed to COVID-19.
 - b. Once the contact is confirmed, the Team Member will be removed from the workplace/practice/activity for at least 14 days or as otherwise directed by public health authorities. Team Members who may have come into close contact with the Team Member will also be removed from the workplace for at least 14 days.
 - c. The workspace/activity area will be closed off, cleaned, and disinfected immediately and any other surfaces that could have potentially been infected/touched.
7. **Quarantine or Self-Isolate:**
 - a. Any Team Member who has travelled outside of Canada or the province within the last 14 days is not permitted to enter any part of the facility and must quarantine and self-isolate.



- b. Any Team Member with any symptoms of COVID-19 is not permitted to enter any part of the facility and must quarantine and self-isolate.
- c. Any Team Member from a household with someone showing symptoms of COVID-19 is not permitted to enter any part of the facility and must quarantine and self-isolate.
- d. Any Team Member who is in quarantine or self-isolating as a result of contact with an infected person or in families who are self-isolating, is not permitted to enter any part of the facility.