

# Member Update

FROM THE CEO



Enriching individuals and their communities through the power of recreation and parks.

October 21, 2020

Hello!

BCRPA has led the restart of the recreation and parks sector with the creation of the [Restart Guideline](#), along with other guiding documents. To support the safe resumption of sport in BC, viaSport has created the [Return to Sport Guidelines](#), which outline how to resume sport and operate safely during this pandemic.

As outlined in B.C.'s Restart Plan, sport activities can resume in accordance with the viaSport Return to Sport Guidelines and public health protocols. As this gradual process continues, and in support of the return to sport process, BCRPA has worked in close collaboration with viaSport, the Recreation Facilities Association of BC (RFABC), and with BC Hockey on the return to their game.



During the return to sport process, viaSport's role together with BCRPA, RFABC, and the Provincial Sport Organizations, will be to focus on the safe return of participants to sport activities in BC. This continues to be our number-one priority. We jointly agree on this statement:

"The current [Public Health Order: Gathering and Events](#) allows for spectators in facilities. **Spectators (or patrons)** are "individuals who attend an event" and are distinct and separate from the event sport group. This patron, or spectator group, come with considerable challenges and responsibilities that need to be carefully reviewed in order to ensure compliance with the health order.

Although the Order allows for up to 50 patrons (spectators) at events, spectators may still be limited because of the challenges in accommodating them in facilities. viaSport supports each municipality's decision on spectator access as they navigate these challenges."

Furthermore, BCRPA strongly recommends that municipalities carefully consider all requirements of the recent Public Health Order if allowing spectators is to be considered. BCRPA will provide an interpretation of the language of this Order relative to patrons to assist municipalities in their decision-making.

BCRPA's recommendation at this time, and for the remainder of 2020, is for municipalities to focus on supporting the "event" participants (those who are essential to the activity) until local facility protocols and sport user group agreements can be established.

As always, we will continue to keep you informed as we work to support your gradual resumption of community services.

Yours sincerely,

*Rebecca*

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