

Important news from Bowls BC and viaSport regarding Guidelines for Lawn Bowling during Step 1 Re-Opening plan

Bowling Clubs in BC were sent a message from Bowls BC regarding the 4-Step Re-Opening Program in the province, and how it affects lawn bowling and related activities. The message from Bowls BC followed the Tuesday announcement from the Provincial Health Officer, and a viaSport web conference was attended by Bowls BC representative Harry Carruthers, as well as telephone communications between Bowls BC and viaSport, which also included the insurers for Bowls BC.

The following is a summary and plan for recovery:

Step 1 is effective immediately, through to mid-June. Steps 2-4 are expected for June 15th, July 1st, and September 7th. These dates and the present plan may be altered depending on the COVID case count, and the percentage of BC residents vaccinated. Things could easily change if there is another outbreak or a reversal of the present trends.

The PHO May 7th order regarding gatherings and events is ended and a new order is in place. The bottom line is that many of the sport restrictions have been, or will soon be, removed. There is a new order which continues base restrictions (indoor masking, no spectators), and a new requirement for each club to develop and document a Club-specific COVID Safety Plan setting out safety requirements and procedures that address issues of personal and equipment sanitation, masking, distancing etc. Although many of the requirements are no longer mandatory, they are optional and must be considered. The insurer is advising that each club address the question "Given the history of the COVID virus and its variants, what would a reasonable organization do to prevent/reduce the risk of exposure for their members?"

The Board held a meeting on Thursday afternoon to discuss the content of our plan, and we are working on it. We simply do not have time to finalize it immediately, so we are continuing the current rules and scheduling for this coming week, during which time we will finalize and document our WVLBC Safety Plan and circulate it to the membership for our next cycle (by next Friday, June 4th or sooner).

There will be significant changes, and we know that you are eager for news. There will be a relaxation of restrictions, not total, and easier access for new members. We want to get it right; please be patient, thank you.

Gordon Maynard, President WVLBC