



## **Return to Pickleball Guidelines**

### **Pickleball BC June 12, 2020**

On March 17, 2020 our Provincial Government via our Public Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry declared a state of **public health emergency** in response to the growing number of COVID-19 cases here in British Columbia.

Provincial Health Minister Adrian Dix explained at the time "In practical terms, it means the provincial health officer can issue verbal orders... with immediate effect."

It is now early June 2020 and that state of emergency has NOT YET been lifted.

### **Pickleball BC Authority and Responsibility**

Pickleball BC has been granted authority by Pickleball Canada to act, speak, consult on behalf of all BC based pickleball players, pickleball play and conditions with respect to pickleball play here in BC.

This 'authority' is reinforced by the fact that Pickleball BC now has a membership base of 6,500, and growing.

Additional authority and responsibility have been delegated to Pickleball BC by the Provincial Government, our Public Health Officer (PHO) and most recently by viaSport BC. This is common to all organized and even semi-organized sports in BC. The responsibility aspect is specific to creating and implementing guidelines to ensure a safe return to sport activity and a continuation of safe practices. viaSport BC is the entity directed by the Provincial Government to develop and monitor Return to Sport Guidelines for all sports in BC.

Pickleball BC intends to recognize and respect the authority and responsibility it has been given. In doing so Pickleball BC may delegate some or all of the detailed work to Clubs and communities while maintaining its responsibility for *oversight*.

Each provincial sport entity has been given the responsibly (by viaSport BC) to develops sport specific return to play guidelines and make them readily available to each and every location that their sport is played in. It is expected that individual localities, Clubs and communities, develop their own specific and detailed plans for a safe resumption of sporting activity.

Pickleball BC will be following that same method. Every community is required to develop a unique or specific set of plans or guidelines and make them readily known and available to all pickleball players in their area or group and ensure local civic authorities have access to the same. Pickleball BC is available to consult as required to facilitate this activity.



This current requirement applies only to OUTDOOR pickleball activity. Indoor pickleball will require a more stringent set of guidelines - and are not part of this document or current requirements.

## **Current Status in BC**

We are under a declared state of public health emergency with respect to the coronavirus.

Our PHO has issued orders, recommendations and suggestions on social/physical distancing, travel, and in many cases permitted activities. We would be well advised to treat the PHO recommendations and suggestions with the same respect and compliance as formal written PHO orders.

We are now in Phase 2 of the crisis and some restrictions on activity and distancing have been relaxed. We must not, we cannot take it upon ourselves to relax those conditions further. The PHO has Phases 3 and 4 coming - we do not know when nor the details of either.

Pickleball Canada advises: Please note that pickleball play in contravention of local, provincial or federal laws or regulations is not an Authorized Activity and consequently is not covered by Pickleball Canada insurance.

We must live with, abide by the conditions imposed on us all under Phase 2.

## **Specific Return to Play Guidelines**

There is common recognition that each 'site' or community has unique conditions - conditions that require local knowledge to address. It is primarily for this reason that each community is required to detail their own Return to Play Guidelines. Pickleball BC recommends the following for both structure of your guidelines and inclusion.

There are three main consideration, each with many facets.

1. Minimizing the general spread of COVID-19
  - a. social distancing
  - b. physical distancing
  - c. travel limitations
  - d. other
2. Activity to maintain a safe environment in the event COVID-19 does come to your facility
  - a. stay home if you are or have been in any contact with individuals displaying an repertory deficiencies



- b. personal cleanliness - washing hand, no face touching
  - c. changing traffic patterns on site
  - d. changing or eliminating or implementing a cleaning routine for high touch areas or objects
3. Managing the 'new norm'
- a. abundant dissemination and posting of the new norm conditions
  - b. limiting crowd size
  - c. eliminating drop in activity
  - d. modified waiver, requirement to resign or re-avow
  - e. contact tracing
  - f. control action in the event of indiscretions

Clubs, communities may wish to organize their specific plan document in a different manner which is fine. Vetting by Pickleball BC will be not for document structure but inclusion of details in an easy to follow manner.

Pickleball BC is asking that EVERY Club and community prepare and submit such site specific Return to Pickleball Guidelines. Many of you have already - please send again after you review and indicate compliance with the viaSport BC Return to Sport Guidelines. If your group has not yet developed such guidelines - you need to. Even those communities that are back to play already. Failure to comply with viaSport BC guidelines is not an option. Abdication is also not an option.

## **Supporting Documentation and Resources**

The viaSport BC Return to Sport Guidelines document has many valid and relevant points. (you may find sections not relevant - it is a higher level generic document). There is no value in copying and pasting sections from it to here. A link to the viaSport BC website is included for your convenience. In that document you will find links to many other relevant documents.