

Dear Squash BC Facility members

We attended viaSport's meeting today to get clarification on the new Provincial Health Office (PHO) order issued late morning, <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions#athletics>

Here's what we learned:

1. The purpose of today's order is to address the urgent issue of rising transmission of COVID-19 and the causes from social interactions. The intent is to limit the social interaction or gatherings that inherently comes from sport.
2. Squash was included in the Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> announcement but not included in the list of team sports in the December 3<sup>rd</sup> PHO order. We understand the reason to be that all racquet sports are being reviewed as part of viaSport's Return to Sport Phase 2.5 guidelines. Another PHO order is in the works, centred around sport and fitness. Timing is approximately 1+ weeks.

Until the PHO's new order and viaSport's revised guidelines are released, SQBC strongly recommends following these interim measures:

- All physical distancing requirements have been increased from 2 to 3 m
- SQBC recommends a focus on skill development and low risk activities.
- Group size:
  - o Singles – 2 players; lessons are 2 players plus coach with physical distancing
  - o Doubles – maximum of 3 people on court
- Travel for sport is limited to and from your club only
- No spectators
- No gathering

During this pandemic, viaSport's role is to help the sport community understand how the PHO order relates to our sector. viaSport regularly engages with the PHO and therefore has a more in-depth understanding of how these orders relate to sport.

As always, we appreciate your support and patience as sport leaders to reduce our interactions, help keep our squash community safe and healthy and lower the risk to our health care system.

And please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Nancy

Nancy Thompson  
Executive Director  
Squash BC