

Dear Squash BC Club Members

As a province, BC is the poster child for how to weather the COVID-19 pandemic. With sport being a big part of both physical and mental health, Squash BC is developing a support structure for the return to play for squash, promoting the safety and well-being for all.

The Return to Sport Guidelines were just produced by the provincial govt for sport organizations to help them prepare their own Return to Play guidelines. Using Squash Canada's guidelines (attached) and [viaSport's document](#), Squash BC is currently developing a Return to Squash plan document. Squash BC is also forming a Task Force comprised of subject matter experts including representatives from law, medicine, squash professionals and club administrators to help support return to play of squash in BC.

Also attached are some sample return to play guidelines courtesy of Jericho Tennis Club for Phase 1 and 2.

Action: If you already have your return to play guidelines developed please share them with me. And let me know if you are okay for me to share them with other clubs if asked. My request is for resource purposes only.

Several clubs around the province are in various stages/steps of re-opening, so we wanted to provide you with materials toward your own re-opening planning and operations. If your squash program is part of a community centre or other facility governed by Parks and Recreation, you will also need to refer to the [BCRPA Guidelines](#). Here are some things provided by Squash Canada to consider:

1. **Liability Issues/Waivers/Participant Declarations.** Squash Canada conducted a review of its insurance coverages and COVID related risk management steps. We suggest you do likewise. We learned, for example, that our General Comprehensive Liability policy, as we are advised is the case with most policies, has an exclusion for pandemics. Our Director's & Officers Liability Policy does not specifically exclude claims relating to a pandemic. Do you know what your policies might and might not cover?

Our insurance broker advised that it is reasonable to expect insurers to begin placing some risk management requirements on sport clients as a condition of continuing coverage, such as Return to Play guidelines, updated waiver forms and participant agreements/declarations.

To that end, Squash Canada went to the Sport Law & Strategy Group to develop several documents, attached, that we now share with you to consider using:

***Revised General Waiver Form (2 versions, one for adults, one for minors)***

These waivers include specific addition of COVID-19 acknowledgement of risk. These are the waivers that should be included in your membership process, whether hard copy or online, that cannot proceed unless they 'check that box', and likewise for any tournament or event that participants register for.

***Declaration of Compliance – COVID-19***

Designed for all individuals entering a facility or participating in sanctioned activities to ensure that they understand the risks, declare that they are healthy and accept their responsibility to adhere to COVID related safety protocols.

We strongly encourage your facility to review and update your waivers and make use of the Declaration, or the one included in the viaSport Guidelines.

2. **Club Risk Assessment Tool.** (Attached) As part of its Return to Modified Sport, the joint Sport Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) of the Canadian Olympic Committee, Paralympic Committee and Own the Podium have developed a detailed, generic Club Risk Assessment Tool. Please see attached.

It is very detailed and quite involved, but for those who wish to be prudent and have the benefit of a risk assessment process to help with decision making and/or showing due diligence to boards, members, health authorities, insurers, etc., it may be a very helpful exercise. The tool was adapted from the World Health Organization's Mass Gathering Risk Assessment and Mitigation Check List to conduct a risk assessment and mitigation check list to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission when resuming club-based activities.

I know you are having to sift through a lot of material these days. Squash BC is trying to make that task a little easier.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information or support. I will be in touch as new relevant information becomes available.

Best regards  
Nancy

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Squash BC