



## BCSSA Return to Practice Guidelines

June 17, 2020 Webinar Questions

1. How do you seek permission to use a “rail trail” (multi-use pathway) if you are inline skating?
  - Most programming spaces (“venues”) will require a permit or formal permission. These venues are required to be listed on the insurance policy. Occasionally venues will not require a permit (for example, multi-use pathways used for “casual use”, i.e. events under a certain size and not blocking access). These venues do not need to be listed on the insurance policy. Ensure you have contacted the applicable city, municipality, or venue/land owner to confirm that a permit is not required.
  - All club events must be “sanctioned” (approved) by BCSSA. If you are in doubt about whether your event is approved, please contact BCSSA in advance.
  
2. Will the city require a copy of our club guidelines?
  - Your city, municipality, or venue/land owner and/or WorkSafe BC may ask for your Return to Practice Plan (“plan”). You may also be asked for the BCSSA Return to Practice Guidelines. BCSSA will not be responsible for approving individual club plans.
  
3. Is there a link on the BCSSA website for these resources?
  - Resources can be found on the [Safety webpage](#) on the BCSSA website.
  
4. How will facilities enforce access time in between user groups?
  - It has been suggested that facilities may add buffer times (for example, 30 minutes) in between facility bookings. This will likely lead to limited or revised ice times from “normal” bookings. It is suggested clubs contact local facilities sooner

BC Speed Skating Association  
724-8623 Granville Street  
Vancouver, BC V6P 5A2  
[bcspeedskating.ca](http://bcspeedskating.ca)





rather than later to ensure ice times are valid and clubs comply with their facility plans.

5. How will this affect skaters training in multiple facilities or clubs?
  - It is suggested that participants remain within their own “bubbles” to limit exposure to transmission between programs, clubs, or regions. In Phase 2, the recommendation remains to stay community-focused, which means limiting all non-essential travel.
  
6. How will we be able ensure our club remains viable, if we have fewer skaters this season?
  - It is suggested that clubs begin planning for a *different* speed skating season. This may involve fewer available ice times, fewer skaters in practice, new programming requirements, or additional off-ice opportunities. More suggestions are available in the BCSSA Return to Practice Guidelines.
  
7. Is there a requirement for keeping attendance for contact tracing and having participants sign in to confirm they are symptom free before arriving or is that on the honour system being that all participants have read and agreed to the policy?
  - Ensure that attendance (for participants and support personnel) is kept at all club events, including each practice session. Attendance should be kept by one person, as compared to a sign-in sheet that requires multiple touches on the pen. This information will be required in the event of an outbreak and members should be aware in advance that it will be shared with public health should an outbreak occur.
  - It is strongly suggested to have a written record of health screening. This could be achieved by collecting paper forms, using online assessments or a sign-off by the person keeping attendance when participants are verbally screened.

**BC Speed Skating Association**  
724-8623 Granville Street  
Vancouver, BC V6P 5A2  
[bcspeedskating.ca](http://bcspeedskating.ca)





8. The guidelines are great for a club that has mature serious skaters. But for a small club with mostly rec skaters, the guidelines would make it impractical to even register any skaters. I would expect some clubs to "idle" and not register skaters until we get to Phase 4.
  - Clubs can expect an altered season and may choose to be idle for the season.
  
9. We would never get our ice time back if we went idle for a year.
  - It is suggested that clubs contact their facilities immediately to ensure there is a plan in place to hold ice times. Facility booking requirements vary by venue and policies may be different this year.
  
10. Would you agree that meets are not going to happen at all this coming season?
  - Competitions will not be happening in the traditional sense until Phase 4, which is when the restrictions on gathering sizes will be lifted. There may be the possibility of clubs hosting intraclub mini meets prior to Phase 4; however, clubs should consider the volunteers required to run these mini meets and whether they can meet the requirements to physically distance and have a gathering size of less than 50. Further details regarding hosting intraclub mini meets will be released when available.
  - In the interim, physically-distanced practice activities that have a racing component (e.g. pursuits) are appropriate "competitive" opportunities.
  - Clubs will also have to consider the amount of coaches required in programming and if the coaches will be able to accommodate new facility requirements. Alternatives to traditional practices will be required with all requirements of the guidelines. Plan ahead and contact your facility.
  
11. Is it possible for BCSSA to come up with a generic template for a plan that clubs can use as a starting point? This may help a lot of the smaller clubs... at least outdoor would likely help out.

**BC Speed Skating Association**  
724-8623 Granville Street  
Vancouver, BC V6P 5A2  
[bcspeedskating.ca](http://bcspeedskating.ca)





- Clubs should follow the BCSSA Return to Practice Guidelines which includes mandatory, recommended, and optional guidelines. Additional resources, including a template plan, are available in the viaSport Return to Sport Guidelines.
12. Can you clarify if there is a recommended cleaning protocol for mats? Or should we just expect to use hand sanitizer during setup and take down.
- Cleaning and disinfecting mats (protective padding) will be a logistical challenge. The solution proposed by the working group is to do hand hygiene before and after touching the mats, and avoid touching anything else in the interim. Limiting the number of people touching the mats is helpful. Clubs should also consider the type of practice activities being done- it may not be necessary to put out all the mats at each event.
  - Any disinfecting products should be approved by Health Canada (look for a “DIN number”). Read the instructions carefully to ensure the product is being used safely and correctly to allow for disinfection.
  - The virus “dies” on most objects within 2-4 days; many clubs have that long of a break in between practices. The research on COVID-19 is in its infancy and more information will follow on factors including the behaviour of the virus in a cold/dry environment such as a skating rink. It will take time to conduct sport-specific research.
13. Is there a place clubs could upload their safety plans so ideas can be shared between clubs?
- BCSSA will provide more information about a place to share ideas/plans in the future.
14. Did anybody in the skating community get COVID-19 from handling mats? Is there any research across the country?

**BC Speed Skating Association**  
724-8623 Granville Street  
Vancouver, BC V6P 5A2  
bcspeedskating.ca





- David Morrison at Speed Skating Canada confirmed he was unaware of any such cases, especially given that at the time of the state of emergency being declared, all skating was cancelled.

**BC Speed Skating Association**  
724-8623 Granville Street  
Vancouver, BC V6P 5A2  
[bcspeedskating.ca](http://bcspeedskating.ca)

