
MEMORANDUM

TO: BCSS MEMBER SCHOOLS
FROM: JORDAN ABNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: BCSS AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES
DATE: OCTOBER 19, 2022
CC:

With the deterioration in air quality this week, we want to remind our member schools of our guidelines on participating in school sport activities when air quality is poor. With many parts of the south coast under air quality advisories, we remind schools to be diligent in monitoring the situation and where necessary, modifying or cancelling activities when not safe to do participate.

Decisions to modify or cancel games will be made at the school and district level, in consultation with the athletic director, administrators and district office. BCSS uses guidelines provided by Health Canada, and current, location specific data can be found through the BC Government Air Quality site here:

<https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/bcairquality/readings/find-stations-map.html>

BCSS Air Quality Guidelines:

- **AQHI 4-6: Moderate Risk** – Activities can be performed as normal, but provide extra recovery time where required, and coaches should perform keen athlete observation for the any signs of distress, coughing or throat irritation.
- **AQHI 7-9: High Risk** – Outdoor activities should be modified to lessen the strenuous nature of the activities, exposure time should be monitored and lessened where possible.
- **AQHI 10+: Very High Risk** – Strenuous activities should be moved indoors, periods of exposure outdoors should be minimalized, and outdoor activities should be restricted to low or moderate intensity activities.



There is a change of prevailing wind direction forecasted for tomorrow, Thursday October 20, which should aid in clearing some smoke, but total relief is not expected until Friday, which should bring some meaningful precipitation, and is expected to assist in clearing the particulate matter from the air.

Any games postponed or cancelled in any sport other than football should be coordinated and reschedule (if necessary) through your local association contact. In Football, where games are scheduled by BCSS, if there are games cancelled please notify your appropriate AA/AAA/JV coordinator, as we will need to examine the schedule, and the effect of make-up games on required rest periods in addition to rescheduling fields and officials as required.

Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the BCSS office at info@bcschoolsports.ca or 604-477-1488.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jordan Abney', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jordan Abney
Executive Director