
MEMORANDUM

TO: **BCSS MEMBER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS & ATHLETIC DIRECTORS**
FROM: **JORDAN ABNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON SCHOOL TOURNAMENTS**
DATE: **JANUARY 28, 2022**
CC: **BCSS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, ZONE LEADERS, DISTRICT ADMIN**

As mentioned in our memo earlier this week we were expecting an update from the Ministry of Education after they reviewed the updates to the Provincial Health Officer orders, allowing sporting tournaments for kids and youth to begin on Feb 1, 2022.

We were in contact many times this week providing critical information on the importance of these events, and the tight timelines due upcoming zone and provincial events. We communicated that having to adapt zone events would have a significant impact on the direct financial costs for kids and their families, the costs to schools, the impact on school time missed, or events that may not even happen at all. We expressed our concern about the immense cost that our student-athletes have felt already over the past 24 months.

Unfortunately, the Ministry of Education, has made the decision to keep the Addendum of K-12 Guidelines in place without changes, meaning that **all school sports tournaments are still prohibited from taking place**. Any event, single-day, or multi-day event with more than 2 teams participating cannot take place at this time. Single games may still occur, in accordance with the previous guidance provided.

We are stunned by this decision, as there was commitment made this year to ensuring club and community sport access remained equal to school sport, and to have this decision made at such a critical time of year is disheartening for everyone involved in school sport and continues to threaten and erode at the long-term health and sustainability of school sport.

The Ministry has indicated this will be reviewed on a week-by-week basis, but with no firm indication of when the K-12 Guidelines may be altered to align with the orders as put in place by the Provincial Health Officer.

We will continue to advocate strongly for the return of school sport tournaments and share in the frustration undoubtedly felt by student-athletes, coaches, parents, and supporters across the province. At this time, we are not cancelling provincial events, and continue to plan for these events, as well as variable contingencies that may be required. We will update the membership as soon as more information becomes available.