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**MEMORANDUM**

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TO: BCSS MEMBER SCHOOL ADMIN & AD's  
FROM: JORDAN ABNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SUBJECT: LATEST UPDATES FROM PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER  
DATE: JANUARY 20, 2022  
CC: LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, ZONE PRESIDENTS & SECRETARIES

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The update from the Provincial Health Officer on January 18, 2022, made some changes around gyms and fitness activities permitted but there was no change to the permissions regarding sports tournaments. At this time, **tournaments, defined as single day or multi-day events, involving more than two teams, are still prohibited.**

This order is in place until February 16, 2022, and will be evaluated by the Provincial Health Officer in the days leading up to the expiry of the order, on whether a further extension is required, or if tournaments can resume.

BCSS is continuing to communicate with the PHO office and the Ministry of Education throughout this. We recognize how important our events are to student-athletes, and currently are still planning to move forward with our various winter championships. These are slated to begin in late February and run through mid-March. The BCSS Board of Directors will continue to evaluate the situation in real-time.

We know that many sports will start their local district or zone championships while the order is in effect, or the days immediately following its currently planned expiry. We are making the following recommendations:

- 1) Zones should plan their championship events, to qualify to a BCSS Provincial Championship in a manner that allows the event to proceed if the order is extended. This may mean reducing the draw size, changing the schedule etc. Playing the required games, spread out over 1.5-2 weeks, and hosted by individual schools is likely the best way to ensure this. While we are hoping for the best, zones should plan to operate their events in a climate with the current restrictions.
- 2) We are recommending that Senior events take priority, and districts and zones consider delaying underclass level events. The change in scheduling for senior district or zone level events will likely put further pressures on space and referee availability. Grade 8 or Grade 9 seasons especially, can be extended to complete their league and district championships through the end of the season of play. This may mean foregoing an invitational event at the end of the year, often referred to as Grade 8 or Grade 9 Provincials. As a benefit more student-athletes will get a longer season, especially valuable in Grade 8 and 9.

Thank you to everyone who continues to adapt and be flexible in support of school sport and our student-athletes. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to the BCSS office with questions.