
MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS & ATHLETIC DIRECTORS
FROM: JORDAN ABNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON SPECTATOR CAPACITIES FOR SCHOOL SPORT EVENTS
DATE: FEB 17, 2022
CC: LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, ZONE AND ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

Tuesday evening, the Ministry of Education shared the Deputy Minister's Bulletin that provided the latest updates for districts and schools in BC. The bulletin states that effective this Saturday, February 19th that:

- *For school extracurricular and social gatherings and events that bring together members of the school community beyond staff, students, and necessary volunteers (e.g., an arts club performance, community fair), or that occur between schools (e.g., a music festival, a sports game or tournament), indoor capacity should not exceed 50 people or 50% of operating capacity (whichever is greater).*
- *Indoor spaces without a defined operating capacity, schools should determine a capacity limit that is at most half the number of individuals that would be within the space for that activity or event if prevention measures weren't in place.*
- *Spectators (e.g., parents, caregivers, peers), may be present for gatherings and events (e.g., attend performance club theatre productions, inter-school sports games and tournaments, etc.) within capacity limits.*
- *Schools should not implement proof of vaccination requirements for school-led gatherings and events.*

To summarize this means that as of Saturday, school sport events can have 50% of their normal operating capacity in attendance. It's important to note that the 'normal operating capacity' is determined by each school for each specific gym or venue in use. That capacity should be relative to the operational set-up of the facility. If normal operating capacity of a gymnasium is based on 2 sets of bleachers but for a specific event if only one set of bleachers is available, the operating capacity should be adjusted accordingly. Each school will have a safety plan in accordance with their district's guidelines, that with the support of the athletic director and school administration will determine the operational capacity. In alignment with the ministry guidelines, schools should not be requiring proof of vaccination for student-athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials, or spectators.

However, as we approach provincial championships, it is important to note that some non-school championship venues such as the Pacific Coliseum (Wrestling) or Langley Events Centre (Boys' and Girls' Basketball) may still require Proof of Vaccination for spectators as per their own building requirements and policies.

We look forward to having fans back in schools supporting our student-athletes as we look to great events to finish the winter season of play. Should there be any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the BCSS office.