
MEMORANDUM

TO: **BCSS MEMBER SCHOOL ADMIN & ATHLETIC DIRECTORS**
FROM: **JORDAN ABNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
SUBJECT: **PHO ORDERS ON TOURNAMENTS**
DATE: **DECEMBER 17, 2021**
CC: **BCSS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, DISTRICT LEADERS,**

The Provincial Health Officer announced earlier today an update to the Gathering and Events Order in place in the Province of British Columbia. This order comes into effect at 12:00 am on Monday, December 20. This order prohibits the playing of sport tournaments (youth or adult) where more than 2 teams are involved in the same event.

BCSS has since been in contact with the Ministry of Education to seek clarification on this topic. Previous Gathering and Events orders have provided exemptions to school related activities. The extent of those exemptions, if any, won't be clear until the final wording of the order is released in the coming days. The K-12 Guidelines will be updated in early January, and until that time, this Ministry has indicated **that school sport should follow the verbal orders as directed by the PHO earlier today. This means that there shall be no school sport tournaments from Monday December 20 until BCSS provides an update after discussion with the Ministry on the updated K-12 guidelines. The earliest this will happen is Tuesday, January 4th, 2022.** Thank you for your understanding during this period.

District leaders and the ministry have been supportive of trying to create every opportunity for school sport to continue this year. BCSS recognizes the importance and significance of school sport for the student-athletes and will continue to advocate for their continuation.

It is important to note that competition is not banned entirely. Competition is permitted during this period if there are only 2-teams present. The order prevents events with more than 2 teams coming together at an event. Tournaments currently in progress may continue and finish, provided they conclude on Sunday December 19, 2021, or sooner.

We know as schools close for the holiday break, this is not the best news to be sharing. We encourage everyone to do their very best to reduce spread and follow these new guidelines to make it more likely school sport events happen when we return in January. Lastly, for those who haven't yet, BCSS strongly recommends getting vaccinated against COVID-19.

We will have more information in early January. Wishing you all a safe and restful holiday season.