

Facility Readiness Evaluation

It is recommended that sports, recreation and aquatic facilities in BC reopen in compliance with the [BCRPA – The Recreation and Parks Sector Guidelines for Restarting Operations](#). In addition to understanding the Club’s role and the facility’s expectation in relation to following and maintaining protocols, you should assess your facility’s readiness against the following safety measures.

FACILITY ACCESS & USE

Does the facility’s reopening plan include specific details related to the following questions:

- Has the facility designated separate entry and exit points?
- What amenities are open and accessible?
- What limitations are in place in relation to gathering sizes?
- In multi-use facilities, are gathering sizes limited for each space?
- Is programming staggered to avoid large numbers entering and exiting at the same time?
- Has the facility altered pathways/ flow for users to navigate through the facility with minimal crossover?
- How will the facility manage physical distancing? (This will vary by facility).
- What are the hygiene and cleaning protocols?
- What is the Club’s role as a user in relation to cleaning protocols?
- Will staff be wearing PPE? Are users expected to wear PPE?
- What protocols are in place for First Aid and/or water rescues?
- Will the facility administer health monitoring procedures for all users?
- Does the facility have protocols related to managing a suspected case of COVID-19 or an individual presenting with symptoms?

WHOSE RULES DO WE FOLLOW?

If the facility’s standards are more stringent than BCAS’ Return to Artistic Swimming Guidelines, you **MUST** adhere to the facility standards.

In such cases as the facility is more lenient than the BCAS Return to Artistic Swimming Guidelines, it is recommended that you comply with the BCAS minimum standards to mitigate risk and limit your organization’s legal exposure.

**Your greatest defence against allegations of negligence is
Following the standard of care and risk management!**

General Risk Mitigation Strategies Check List for Physical Distancing

These general risk mitigation strategies apply to all facilities and their users. BCAS and Members Clubs must **identify and address risk mitigation strategies that are within their control** and verify that the facility is addressing the strategies that are beyond their control:

Club Controlled:

- Adopt a “Get-in-Train-Get-out” approach to all in-person training sessions.
- Drop-off and pick-up of athletes to happen outside the facility according to a set schedule to avoid “congregations” of people during transitions.

- ❑ Planned use of the pool space (including distancing diagrams and flow patterns) to ensure an appropriate physical distance can be maintained at all times (minimum of 2-5m² but may need to be greater depending on the exertion level and training being done).
- ❑ Markings on the pool deck to identify individual areas for athlete and coaches that respect the physical distancing requirements and provide each individual with their own space. An individual should not need to walk through another person's space to get to their space. Physical distancing markers must not undermine important safety features and must not create a slipping hazard, obstruct safety signs, depth marks or no diving marks, and should avoid confusing physical distancing messaging with pool depth¹².

Facility Controlled:

- ❑ Establish facility access with one entry point and a separate exit point.
- ❑ Post signage that reinforces physical distancing and illness prevention measures. (The [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) has free posters and handouts available on their website).
- ❑ Ensure multi-use facilities manage access in a way that prevents interaction/cross over between different user groups.
- ❑ Install visible markings on floors to indicate appropriate physical distancing.
- ❑ Develop a facility use schedule that allows adequate time for the required sanitation between each activity/user group and as frequently as necessary to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spread.
- ❑ Close locker rooms. Athletes, coaches, and others should arrive at the pool dressed and ready to enter the pool (swimsuits under clothes). No use of facility lockers or storage for participant equipment or personal items.
- ❑ Prevent use of low ventilated spaces.
- ❑ Design planned access to washroom facilities and limit them to essential use.
- ❑ Design a planned flow and movement of people in the facility using floor markings and signage (out of the water).
- ❑ Markings on the pool deck to identify individual areas for athlete and coaches that respect the physical distancing requirements and provide each individual with their own space. An individual should not need to walk through another person's space to get to their space. Physical distancing markers must not undermine important safety features and must not create a slipping hazard, obstruct safety signs, depth marks or no diving marks, and should avoid confusing physical distancing messaging with pool depth¹³.

General Risk Mitigation Strategies for Cleaning, Hygiene and Sanitation

Surfaces frequently touched with hands are most likely to be contaminated. These include doorknobs, handrails, elevator buttons, light switches, cabinet handles, faucet handles, tables, countertops, and electronics. The COVID-19 virus has been shown to last on glass and hard plastics for between 2-5 days, metal for 3-5 days and wood 4 days without washing and sanitizing.

Coronaviruses are one of the easiest types of viruses to kill with the [appropriate disinfectant](#) product when used according to the label directions.

The following general risk mitigation strategies apply to all facilities and their users. BCAS and Member Clubs must **identify and address risk mitigation strategies that are within their control** and verify that the facility is addressing the strategies that are beyond their control:

¹² [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Guideline for Swimming Pools](#), p.5, Regional Health Authorities, Ministry of Health, and BC Centre for Disease Control

¹³ [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Guideline for Swimming Pools](#), p.5, Regional Health Authorities, Ministry of Health, and BC Centre for Disease Control

Club Controlled:

- Develop a training schedule that allows adequate time for the required sanitation between each activity/user group and as frequently as necessary to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spread.
- A detail cleaning log is kept and posted.
- No lost and found. All items left behind are disposed of.
- Avoid sharing equipment and disinfect all training and club equipment between user groups (e.g., sound system, microphone, etc.)
- Create opportunities for athletes to clean/sanitize their personal training equipment (e.g., yoga mats, water bottles, etc.) before they depart from the training environment.

Facility Controlled:

- To ensure the disease is killed in swimming pool water, aquatic facility operators should ensure water testing takes place as required by regulation or more frequently if required by protocols established by the facility. Users are urged to understand the frequency of water testing and ask for levels to be checked before their athletes enter the pool.
- Restrict activities to areas with a high level of ventilation (poor ventilation has been attributed to COVID-19 airborne spread).
- Have available touchless hand disinfection/soap-water stations and hand sanitizer.
- Develop a training schedule that allows adequate time for the required sanitation between each activity/user group and as frequently as necessary to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spread.
- Ensure all no-touch fixtures in restrooms are working properly (faucets, soap dispenser, hand dryer, toilet flushing functions).
- Have standard operating procedures (SOP) for cleaning and disinfecting that frequently and effectively eliminates any viruses from public spaces and surfaces. Identify high traffic areas and disinfect these areas more frequently.
- A detail cleaning log is kept and posted.
- Ensure easy access (no touch) to garbage cans for disposal of tissues, wipes etc.
- No lost and found. All items left behind are disposed of.
- Disinfect all equipment between user groups (railings, door handles, etc.)

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT ANYWAY?

If the facility does NOT have a mitigation strategy for scenarios identified above, it is the Club's responsibility to develop and implement one in accordance with these this document.

If your facility does not have mitigations strategies in place for all of the above, it may NOT be ready to provide your Club with a safe training environment.