

**Archbishop Carney Regional Secondary School  
Return to School Sport Safety Plan  
Stage 2 (Fall Sports) – September 22, 2020**

Effective September 10, 2020, as per the Ministry of Education Restart School Plan, the BC School Sports Board of Directors lifted the moratorium and placed high school sports offered in BC in stage 2. As we move as an Athletic Department into stage 2, intra-school activities are permitted under strict guidelines and requirements within educational cohorts. For the foreseeable future, we will be operating any school athletic activities offered at Archbishop Carney under the Return to School Sport Safety Plan – Stage 2. A new safety plan will be created when BCSS places BC high schools in another stage according to their Return to School Sport Plan.

Within the current return to school sport safety plan for athletics at Archbishop Carney, all precautions taken within the school's restart and safety plan will also be adhered to. This plan will list safety measures and guidelines that will be followed by the athletic department for school sport activities offered during the fall.

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
No in-person school sport activities	Intra-School activities within educational cohorts	Inter-school activities with modifications and restrictions	Normalized school sport activities

**Resources:**

[BCSS Return to School Sport Plan](#)

[Archbishop Carney's School Restart Plan](#)

[Archbishop Carney's School Safety Plan](#)

[BC Centre for Diseases Control Section on Covid-19](#)

**Risk Mitigation**

Student-athletes and coaches will complete a daily check for signs and symptoms of illness before attending school for the day. This daily check will determine whether athletes or coaches will be able to attend a school sport activity for that day. A daily record of participant attendance will be completed by coaches to help in the potential event of contact tracing.

Archbishop Carney has completed a comprehensive assessment of their school sport facilities as part of their safety plan and has created mitigation strategies listed below that will be followed for sports offered.

Archbishop Carney has determined that the school sports being offered have the appropriate safety measures in place for participants. Student-athletes who choose to participate will be required to complete an informed consent form acknowledging their acceptance of the risk in participating in school sport activities.

### **Outbreak Protocol**

Upon notification of a participating student-athlete receiving a positive diagnosis for COVID-19, the school administration will notify the appropriate person as per Archbishop Carney's outbreak plan. **This will be under the direction of public health officials who will assist in following the school outbreak plan.**

Once the outbreak plan has been initiated, and separate from that process, the athletic director will contact BCSS and advise them of the student-athlete positive test. In Stage 2, BCSS does not require any personal information about the student, simply the date of the positive test, the gender of the student-athlete, and the sport(s) the student-athlete was participating in. This data will be used by BCSS to assist with tracking trends and statistics, to help identify potential areas for future progression, or areas that may need further modification for school sport activities. As per BCSS guidelines, if a student-athlete is in an educational cohort that has an exposure, but no student-athletes receive positive tests, reporting to BCSS is not required.

### **General Safety Consideration for all BCSS Return to Sport Stages**

*Hand Washing Stations or Hand Sanitizer:* All students will be required to wash or sanitize their hands before, during, and after any school sport activities. Student-athletes will be provided hand washing breaks in addition to hydration breaks.

*Masks:* Non-medical face coverings are required before and after school sport activities. As students will be within educational cohorts, masks can be removed during activities if social distance is maintained. Players who may be on the sidelines for a portion of a training session are encouraged to wear masks when waiting to return to the field of play. Coaches will wear masks unless they are from the same educational cohort.

*Shared Equipment:* Shared equipment is permitted within an educational cohort. A multi-ball rotation is recommended to assist with the proper cleaning of shared equipment during school sport activities. There can be no sharing of equipment between students of different cohorts unless it is properly sanitized and disinfected.

*Social Distancing:* Social distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) is to be maintained whenever possible. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, student-athletes are strongly encouraged to social distance from fellow student-athletes, coaches, or team staff before, during, and after school sport activities.

*Group Size and Field of Play:* As per the Government of BC's regulations, gatherings of greater than 50 persons are not permitted, even if social distancing is enforced. The

maximum of 50 applies to one regulation field of play, and it's normal and appropriate spectator areas. Our indoor and outdoor spaces will be divided in to two fields of play with no more than 20 people at any given time on each side.

*Field of Play:* Our school field and gymnasium will be divided into two fields of play. Within these fields of plays, there will only be one educational cohort permitted per side. The field of play will be clearly divided by a buffer zone of 6 feet of cones or a curtain divider in the gymnasium. Each field of play will have its own equipment. The rationale for this is for each grade to have a clearly designated field of play. Coaches are permitted to move between fields of plays while wearing masks.

*Facility Preparedness, Signage and Wayfinding:* School facilities will be cleaned under the school safety plan. Signage and wayfinding exists within the school and will be reviewed by coaches with student-athletes before a school sport activity begins to ensure the correct direction of traffic, to promote one-way traffic, and to eliminate congestion points where people may congregate.

*Locker Rooms/Change Rooms:* Athletes are encouraged to come as prepared as possible for school sport activities. In instances where students require a change room, a maximum of 15 student-athletes will be permitted in the gymnasium change rooms. Students will be permitted to lock their valuables in an appropriate room as designated by their coaches. The timing of student entry and exit in change rooms will be monitored by coaches. These rooms will be sanitized after use by the school cleaning staff.

## **Stage 2: Intra-School Activities Within Educational Cohorts Guidelines**

Stage 2 of the return to school sport plan means that reduced physical contact training and friendly competition can take place within the educational cohorts that students have been placed in by their school for the delivery of curriculum. At Archbishop Carney, these educational cohorts are the school grade.

This means that social distancing should still be maintained and masks used for all aspects of preparing for the sporting activity. It is only during the actual activity, within the natural parameters of the sport, that there would be a reduction in physical distancing and masks being removed. However, it is noted that contact should be reduced. This eliminates any drills or contests where there is intense and/or prolonged physical contact.

Scrimmages or contests between cohorts, even in the same school, are prohibited in this stage. While school teams are often comprised of students from multiple grades, all training sessions will only have one grade per field of play and no mixing of grades. While grades may practice at the same time, they will each have their own field of play.

There will be a "buffer zone" of at least 2m (6ft) that is clearly marked by cones or dividers if the gym or field is divided into two playing fields. This is so it is easily distinguishable, and that students and equipment cannot pass through this area.

Equipment sharing is permitted between students in the same educational cohort. Students in different educational cohorts are not permitted to share equipment unless it has been appropriately sanitized.

While students in the same cohort can participate in a sport naturally without having to maintain strict social distancing, the ministry has stated that school sport activities must still maintain reduced contact. Contact is defined as close proximity (within 2 metres) or physical contact. A contact sport is a sport that has continuous or sustained physical proximity between competing athletes. Contact is the amount of time spent close to another person. For stage 2, coaches will adapt their plans to ensure there is reduced sustained or frequent contact between student-athletes.

Spectators will not be permitted at school sport activities to ensure physical distancing is maintained and to stay within the group size limit. Parents will be asked to wait in the school parking lot for pick up to limit the amount of people in the school.

Coaches can coach outside of their educational cohort and across multiple educational cohorts as long as a mask is worn. Masks will only be removed if physical distancing from players can be maintained and students are from that coach's educational cohort.

## **Fall Sport Offerings**

*Aquatics* – Aquatics will not be offered this school year as we do not have a facility where we could ensure the safety protocols of our plans would be met. The BCSS Aquatics Commission has also cancelled the 2020 Aquatics Season.

*Cross Country* – Cross country virtual training plans will be provided to students from their coach. These practices will need to be coordinated by individual students outside of school time and school facilities.

*Volleyball* – Classified as a sport of minimal contact. Coaches will run training sessions by educational cohort in accordance with the return to school sport safety plan. Scrimmages by grade level at practices are allowed as physical distancing will be maintained and equipment will be sanitized before/during/after a practice. A modification of game play has been made to reduce instances where there would be contact.

*Soccer* – Classified as a sport with frequent or sustained contact. Coaches will run training sessions by educational cohort in accordance with the return to school sport safety plan. These sessions will focus on drills working on skills that can be run with strict physical distancing. No contact or scrimmages will be allowed within educational cohorts for soccer. Equipment will be sanitized before/during/after these sessions.