



## BC Rugby Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 29 2020

6:00pm

Conference Call

### In Attendance:

Mark Lewis, Chair

Brad Baker

Tanya Donaldson (arrived 6:20pm)

Marvin Foss

Matt Gordon

Connie McGinley

Alan Snowden

Bob Strachan

Annabel Kehoe

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**Call to Order:** M. Lewis, 6:00pm

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### 1. Opening of Meeting and Chair's Comments

Thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting, very important that we deal with this major issue thoroughly but also in timely manner. Thanked the staff, particularly the CEO, for the significant amount of work that has gone into getting us to this point.

### 2. Acceptance of Meeting Agenda

**Motion:** To accept the meeting of the agenda. Moved by B. Strachan. Seconded by C. McGinley. Carried unanimously.

### 3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

The Chair asked the Directors to declare any conflicts of interest with any items on the agenda. No Directors declared any conflicts.

### 4. Approval of June 20 Minutes

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the Board's June 20 meeting. Moved by M. Foss. Seconded by C. McGinley. Carried unanimously.

### 5. Return to Play Policy

Documents circulated: Rugby Canada's Return to Play policy, viaSport's Return to Sport Guidelines for BC, BC Rugby's Risk Register, BC Rugby's Return to Rugby in BC policy, Executive Summary of edits made from RC policy.

The CEO presented the process that has been undertaken to merge Rugby Canada's Return to Play policy into the BC Government's public health orders, viaSport's Return to Sport Guidelines for BC as well as ensuring compliance with WorkSafe BC. Compliance with the



public health orders and viaSport's Return to Sport Guidelines are requirements to benefit from the Ministerial Order No. 183 providing amateur sport COVID-19 liability protection. In response to a question from BS, it was made clear that the Ministerial Order does not permit liability claims to be made in relation to COVID-19 unless evidence of gross negligence (as opposed to applying a monetary limit to a claim).

Key points of distinction:

- viaSport phases will not progress in tandem with BC Restart phases. While BC has moved in the Phase 3 of the Restart Plan, sport remains in the second phase of viaSport's guidelines, 'Transmission Measures'.
- Sport's definition of non-contact does not align with the government's definition, which is no-contact and adhering to physical distancing.

In response to a question from MG, an addition will be made to the document to include the guidance issued by the BC Recreation and Parks Association to provide guidance on how to measure capacity of a space for physical activity. Most rugby fields should be able to accommodate 50 individuals safely and easily, allowing ample space for all individuals to practice social distancing. The Chair emphasised that this limit includes spectators – Clubs will have to make best efforts to control and communicate with parents/spectators to limit their presence at the field.

In response to a question from MF, the CEO shared with the Board the work being undertaken by Staff to provide resources, guidelines, infographics etc. as well as workshops to disseminate this information and support Clubs in understanding this framework and preparing their application for sanctioning.

In response to a question from AS, the CEO shared the consideration that was given to taking people's temperatures before taking the field. It was ultimately dismissed as a process that may be difficult for all programs or clubs to facilitate and therefore, risk not following that 'rule' or guideline. That process also would require parameters to be set on approved hardware, training for club leaders on how to correctly use the devices and recording those temperatures taken.

When discussing implementation, the Board discussed the likelihood of Clubs "pushing the boundaries" and the need for BC Rugby to decide how to approach enforcement. The Chair brought the Board's attention to the clause in the document stating this policy will be governed by the Code of Conduct.



We need to ensure a strong message to 'not ruin it for everybody', one Club can ruin this for everybody. The Chair shared that we have faced this issue at a national level with some Provinces wanting to rush out without due process followed. AS shared his insights from another Board and suggested that discipline measures are planned and prepared for this eventuality and then published.

**ACTION:** CEO to connect with Discipline Committee Chair and discuss steps to take in compliance with Code of Conduct.

The Board further discussed several other areas including the limit on international player transfers as imposed by World Rugby, limit to outdoor activities and the intention to add to the plan to permit indoor activities, the number of safety coordinators Clubs should appoint, and the process for sanctioning clubs.

The CEO shared with the Board that Rugby Canada has alluded to asking Provinces sign an agreement which would include an indemnity clause. In addition to discussing this request, the Board discussed the need to, in turn, reciprocate this type of indemnification to sanctioned Clubs. The Chair will lead on this issue and report back. All registered participants will need to sign an updated Participant Agreement IF utilising 2019/20 membership. All new registrations will be presented with updated Participant Agreement which includes new clauses addressing communicable diseases (e.g. COVID-19).

**ACTION:** Chair to negotiate terms of agreement with RC and consider terms of sanctioning agreement with Clubs.

The Board also discussed their frustration to see Rugby Canada national programs not follow their own Plan and go ahead with indoor training at the Al Charron Centre. The CEO shared with the Board the steps that she took to try to dissuade these actions, including having the support of the viaSport CEO but ultimately didn't receive any resolution from the Rugby Canada CEO.

**Motion:** To approve the Return to Rugby in BC policy as presented by the CEO. Moved by M. Gordon. Seconded by B. Strachan. Carried unanimously.

**ACTION:** The CEO will submit the Board-approved Policy to Rugby Canada asap to request sanctioning, along with the other required documents.

## **6. Planning for July 18 Board Meeting**

The Chair shared with the Board this meeting will likely be 3 to 4 hours in duration and the Board discussed the most comfortable method to facilitate the meeting. The Chair asked Directors to prepare for a 9am start on Zoom.



The Executive will finalise the agenda and circulate a week in advance.

**7. In camera session**

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Meeting concluded at 7:35pm.

**Next meeting July 18, 9am**

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