



Water Polo Canada Update #4 Relative to the COVID-19 situation

As of March 28, 2020

Content of this release is based on a wide range of reliable sources – especially on the recommendations of the Canadian Sport Medicine Advisory Committee¹, and the Communiqués published by Sport Canada.

New items since update #3 (released March 21)

CANADIAN SPORT MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Hygiene and Social Precautions:

- All Canadians should stay at home, work from home, and exercise at home to the extent this is possible. The actual regulations may be different from Province to Province, but the essential principle is the same.
- Maintain a distance of 2 metres from other people.
- There is a preferred hierarchy for handling coughs and sneezes.
- Best practice is to expel respiratory droplets into disposable tissue, dispose of it safely, then immediately wash or sanitize hands.
- Expelling respiratory droplets onto a flexed elbow is better than no protection or an unprotected hand. Still, it is non-optimal, as a virus then remains on either the clothing or skin of the elbow depending on attire, either of which then needs to be washed.
- **For protection of others** – assume you are infected and behave as such.
- **For your protection** – assume all others are infected and behave as such.

Updated Government of Canada Recommendations:

- All Canadians are being urged to stay at home, where at all possible.
- All non-essential travel outside Canada is to be avoided, and the US border is closed to non-essential traffic. All Canadians currently abroad are urged to return to Canada ASAP.
- All travellers returning from any destination outside of Canada are required to self-isolate for 14 days from the date of return (see the infographic below for specific information on what is involved in self-isolation).

Know the difference: self-monitoring, self-isolation, and isolation for COVID-19

<https://files.constantcontact.com/028b6ad2201/f296e530-77e0-4ed0-9a0c-a5d44121bcec.pdf>

¹ The Sport Medicine Advisory Committee is comprised of Chief Medical Officers from the Canadian Olympic Committee, the Canadian Paralympic Committee, and the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Sport Institute Network



WATER POLO CANADA (WPC) UPDATES

2019-2020 NCL season:

- On March 25, 2020, WPC has made the difficult decision to cancel the remainder of the 2019-2020 National Championship League (NCL) season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Over the past few weeks, we have evaluated the scenarios related to hosting its 2020 NCL events under present conditions. Given the progression of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures put in place by government authorities, in particular the closure of sports facilities and the ban on holding rallies, WPC has now determined that all remaining 2019-2020 National Championship League events, including Conference Championships and National Finals, must be cancelled.
- Water Polo Canada is investigating the possible alternatives for NCL clubs, including partial reimbursement of the teams' NCL fees. Given the amount of uncertainty around the current situation, WPC asked clubs and provincial organizations for their patience during this process.
- Full press release can be found here: <https://waterpolo.ca/News4028.aspx>

2020-2021 Registration Fees:

- Background: Over the last five years the WPC Registration Fees have been increased at a rate of 2.5% per year (except for the Clubs & PSOs fees that have been kept stable)
- Decision: For 2020-2021, there will be no increase (same as the current registration year). Status quo as well for the Safe Sport Surcharge introduced for this current registration year.

Annual General Meeting (AGM):

- Background: The AGM was scheduled June 12-14 in Calgary
- Decision: WPC in-person AGM weekend in Calgary is cancelled
- The AGM portion itself (typically a block of 2 hours) will take place on Sunday, June 14 in the afternoon Eastern time zone and via a web-based platform
- The other components of the originally scheduled AGM weekend are postponed to a later date TBD during 2020-2021 fiscal (most likely in October or later) except for the Registration Management System / Database discussion with Jason Robinson (Senior Consultant at Sport, law and Strategy Group). The Database discussion will be held via a web-based platform at a date and time TBD but during June.

Water Polo Canada staff, programs and administration:

- WPC anticipates no lay-offs or downsizing of its permanent workforce (employees), and as a result, essentially all Membership Services will be maintained. Work plans will be adjusted to accelerate various projects (such as Membership Management System, Sustainability projects, NCL program review in preparation for the next season, etc.) while managing most effectively the crisis.
- Since Wednesday, March 25, Water Polo Canada National Office in Ottawa is closed with staff working from home.
- WPC Staff travel: no international travel until further notice and no domestic travel unless absolutely necessary, pre-approved, and strictly following public health (municipal/provincial) regulations.



Elements from Water Polo Canada Update #3 that are still valid

IN GENERAL

- For WPC and its PSOs the health and safety of our athletes, coaches, referees, volunteers, employees, contractors & partners is our first priority.
- Measures taken in light of COVID-19 are meant to protect the best interests of athletes, officials, coaches, volunteers, employees, contractors and all those who contribute to our organizations.
- Each of us and each of our organizations has a role to play in safeguarding the ability of our communities and institutions to weather the impacts of COVID-19. Collective measures of active prevention are important to slow the spread of the virus. Water Polo Canada is committed to contributing to the collective effort.
- The situation is evolving rapidly. Provincial and territorial authorities as well as cities have introduced a range of measures aimed at slowing down the progress of the virus in their jurisdiction and, by extension, across the country; they must be implemented systematically.

MORE SPECIFICALLY

- It is recommended that organizations take active steps to heighten hygiene measures. These are as simple as taking care to wash hands frequently and thoroughly, and to avoid touching the mouth, nose and eyes; and increasing the cleaning schedule for training environments.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) provides a wealth of practical information on its site, including awareness tools that can be downloaded; travel advisories and guidance; broader guidance documents; and information on prevention and risks. You can review it here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

International Travel

- International travel must be cancelled or postpone until further notice.
- Individuals abroad must return to Canada. The Sport Medicine Advisory Committee has, over the last several days, invited the National Sport Organizations (NSOs) to evaluate situations on a case-by-case basis and consult with their Chief Medical Officer or team doctor. All our National Team Athletes still abroad – including the USA, have been asked to return to Canada. As of March 19th, National Team Athletes were all back in the country. Based on Dr. Leclerc recommendations, athletes are following appropriate self-isolation protocols. Our medical staff is closely monitoring health and wellbeing of the athletes.

Domestic Travel

- PHAC, Sport Canada and the Sport Medicine Advisory Committee's advice is to avoid non-essential travel. Please consider domestic travel carefully and investigate regional or provincial travel advisories. NSOs should weigh all travel questions with extra care, in consultation with their CMO (Chief Medical Officer) or team doctor. They are suggesting to turn to the CMOs of the Sport Medicine Advisory Committee for additional advice. That's what Water Polo Canada is doing for its National Team Program working with Dr. Suzanne Leclerc, CMO of the Institut national du sport du Québec where both our Men's and Women's National Team Programs are in residence.
- Based on the experience of certain sports, there is a growing risk that, in light of risks due to the COVID-19 virus, insurance coverage may no longer cover in some circumstances. Organizations and individuals are therefore



- strongly encouraged to contact their insurance provider prior to travel to confirm insurance coverage or take additional coverage with their travel agency or airline.

WATER POLO CANADA 2019-2020 CLUB ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

- Details on the 2019-2020 CAP are here: <https://www.waterpolo.ca/CAP.aspx>
- The submission deadline was January 31st and once the COVID-19 crisis hit, we had substantially completed the analysis of applications received.
- Given the situation we are facing; WPC Executive Director has requested to put this program on hold. WPC will review this file and will advise as soon as possible but the message here is that WPC is committed to protect 100% of the funds assigned to this program (up to \$30,500) in order to invest back in our organizations (clubs & PSOs in some cases) in order to help recovery as a sport once the crisis is over.

INTERNATIONAL HOSTING

- WPC is scheduled to host the 2020 UANA Junior Pan American Water Polo Championships in Edmonton, Alberta July 5 to 12, 2020.
- We are in regular communication with the Union Americana de Natacion (UANA) Executive and Technical Water Polo Committee and at this time the event is still scheduled to go ahead
- We are also monitoring the situation in Edmonton and the Province of Alberta along with our partners.

AGE GROUP NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM

- The 2020 UANA Junior Pan American Water Polo Championships is the first of a series of events that are scheduled for our AGNT program in 2020.
- We are in regular communication with the Union Americana de Natacion (UANA) and the Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA) and at this time all events are still scheduled to go ahead. This can change of course and WPC will advise its membership as soon as possible.
- In the meantime, WPC has already undertaken the analysis of potential changes to its published 2020 AGNT Program Selection criteria. We will keep our members informed.

Contact information for public health authorities by jurisdiction:

Government of Canada novel coronavirus information line: **1-833-784-4397**

British Columbia: 811
Alberta : 811
Saskatchewan: 811
Manitoba: 1-888-315-9257
Ontario: 1-866-797-0000
Quebec: 1 877 644-4545
New Brunswick: 811

Nova Scotia: 811
Prince Edward Island: 811
Newfoundland and Labrador: 811 or 1-888-709-2929
Nunavut: 867-975-5772
Northwest Territories: 911
Yukon : 811