



## ARCHBISHOP CARNEY REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

1335 Dominion Avenue  
Port Coquitlam, BC  
V3B 8G7

September 17, 2021

Dear Parents and Students,

On behalf of the Athletic Department, I am happy to welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year! After 17 months with limited training and no competition, I am very excited for the safe return to school sport that will allow our student athletes an opportunity to grow in their physical, mental, and spiritual domains. Under the current guidelines and orders, school sport, including inter-school competition, is able to resume immediately. While we are thrilled to return, the safety and well-being of our student athletes, coaches, and officials remains our utmost priority.

After thorough evaluation of the Ministry of Education's guidelines as well as BC School Sports (BCSS) Return to School Sport Guidelines, we are confident that we can provide a safe environment for our students who are participating in extracurricular sporting activities. We will be operating our Athletic Department in strict adherence to the guidelines placed upon school sport and will be constantly monitoring and adapting to any introduction, change, or rescinding of various provincial, regional, or local orders and guidelines. For those students who are selected for a team within our athletic program, our coaches will be in constant communication with parents and their players to keep them informed and up to date on the current state.

Safe participation in athletics is a shared responsibility between school administration, coaches, students, and parents. We ask everyone to do their part to ensure that the following safety precautions and all provincial COVID-19 guidelines are followed.

### **General Safety Precautions**

*Hand Washing Stations or Hand Sanitizer* - Students will have easy access to hand washing or hand sanitizing stations.

*Masks* - Student-athletes will follow the guidelines for mask wearing as stated in the K-12 Communicable Disease Guidelines. For indoor sports, students are not required to wear a mask when engaged in high-intensity activities. Students will be required to wear a mask indoors when they are preparing for a practice or game, engaged in low-intensity activities, or when not on the field of play as a substitute. Coaches, managers, and minor officials will be required to wear a mask at all times indoors. Officials who are required to use a whistle will not be required to wear a mask. For outdoor sports, masks are not required by student-athletes or coaches but may still be worn at an individual's personal discretion.

*Shared Equipment* - Sharing equipment is permitted. All equipment is still subject to the cleaning and disinfecting protocols for frequently touched surfaces.

*Physical Distancing* - Physical distancing is not required but coaches will plan their practices and games ensuring that the maximum amount of space is utilized.

*Number of Participants* - Our athletic department will ensure that the maximum number of participants in indoor and outdoor settings is met when selecting inter-school competition venues.

*Spectators* - Spectators are allowed at the discretion of the host school. However, schools may limit spectators for indoor events. The guidelines for spectators will be clearly communicated to athletes by their coaches.

*Vaccines* - Currently, there is no vaccine requirement to participate in school sport. There may be situations teams encounter when attending tournaments or events where vaccines could be required (ie. A volleyball team attending a tournament at UBC. UBC requires proof of vaccination to enter its facilities). These situations will be clearly communicated to players ahead of time, so they and their families are aware of the participation requirements.

*Covid-19 Exposure* - In the event of an exposure, the coach and/or athletic director will notify the school administration who will collaborate with public health officials on how to proceed further. Those who are not contacted by public health can continue to attend school and participate in school activities.

While school sports may look different this year, we are excited to provide a safe environment for our students to participate in and appreciate your support in these important safety guidelines. We understand the integral role that school sports play in a student's high school experience and look forward to continuing the tradition provided to so many in our school community.

Thank you,

Matthew Manfron  
Athletic Director

#### **Resources**

[BC School Sports Return to School Sport Guidelines](#)

[Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)

[Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)

[BC Government Restart Plan](#)