

## Message from the President

Happy New Year from Victoria Volleyball Association!

We are ready to commence our operations for the 2021 season of play! Thank you for your patience as we have navigated through these unprecedented challenges.

We have just completed rosters for all teams and assignment of practice schedules to get coaches set up and ready to go. Facilities has been our greatest challenge this year, and I want to thank the club executive for their outstanding efforts in securing gym time for all of our teams this year. As players and parents, you will see changes. We will be using a new facility this year in lieu of space that we previously had in School District gyms. Juan de Fuca Rec Centre has put in courts at the former curling rink space that we will be making use of. This, in addition to space we have at Royal Oak Middle School (Saanich Parks and Rec) has allowed us to offer a volleyball program for 2021.

We have put several measures in place to comply with the current directives from Volleyball BC regarding Covid-19 health and safety. Please see our webpage for links to our safety plan, and for links to information from Volleyball BC. One of the items that I want to particularly draw your attention to is our Covid-19 Screening form. This form must be completed by every player and every coach within 8 hours prior to any practice session or event. We are required to keep records and make them available to the appropriate health authorities upon request.

We are re-examining our club fees for the 2021 season and will be providing information on that soon. We continue to work with Volleyball BC regarding issues of player registration and regarding what if any competitions might be possible provided that Provincially the Covid-19 situation improves. We currently are in "Phase 2" of Return to Play, which allows training only, no competition.

You can expect to hear from coaches soon with further details regarding training sessions. We are all looking forward to having players back on the courts. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@victoriavolleyball.ca](mailto:info@victoriavolleyball.ca).

Sincerely,  
Kevin Scott  
VVA Club President



## Return To Play

VVA is now operating in accordance with **Phase 2** of Volleyball BC's Return to Play plan.

For details on VVA's Covid-19 safety plan, click [here](#).

## VVA Calendar

Jan 4	Practice schedules finalized and first availability of court time
Mid-Feb 2021	Start of play (tentative)

## VVA Executive for 2021 Season

Following elections held at the AGM on December 7, here are your VVA executive board members for the 2021 season:

Kevin Scott	President
Al Carmichael	Treasurer, Head of Technical Committee
George Godoy	Technical Committee, Director at Large
Mike Munro	Director of Coaching Certification
Hope Schreiber	Director of Health and Safety
Leann Finlay	Director of Registration, Club Secretary
Colleen Long	Director at Large
Jim Peng	Website Administrator
Deanna Brajcich	Funding and Sponsorships
Colin Birnie	Equipment Manager

## Club Updates

Here are a few updates on what we have on the go



**Gym Space:** We have managed to secure enough gym space for each team to have 2 practices per week! This is great news, as most of our usual facilities are not available for community use due to COVID. As a result, expect the locations and times of practices to be different from past seasons, including some weekend slots. That said, we are extremely lucky to have been able to maintain a full training schedule for all teams.

**Practice Schedule:** times and locations have now been worked out with coaches. Each coach will be reaching out directly to families with more info. Many teams may have already had their first practice by the time you read this!

**Uniforms:** We are working on new team uniforms. We are working with a new supplier and trying to improve the technical performance as well as having a fresh look. We will phase these in over the next two seasons.

In order to help take some burden off coaches who spend a lot of time at the end of each season to recover jerseys, we are planning to implement a uniform deposit. Details on this will be forthcoming.

As part of our kit for 2021, we have purchased comfortable and hopefully well-fitting face masks with VVA logos for players and coaches to use in line with club and VBC policies.

**Safety Plan:** In accordance with provincial sport guidelines and requirements of our host facilities, we are implementing a COVID-19 screening process for all players and coaches. We are maintaining our VVA COVID Safety Plan as provincial guidelines are updated; the latest version will always be published on our website for everyone to review. Our priority is to ensure the health and safety of our community while maximizing the opportunity for players to participate in sport.

## Preliminary 2021 Competition Update

The pre-requisite for any competition scenario depends on moving back to Phase 3 of the Volleyball BC Return To Play guidelines, in which competitive play is allowed. As a reminder, we are currently in Phase 2. This means only practices and skill development are permitted.

To keep everyone informed, we do want to continue to share the latest info that we have as a club regarding what the season might look like if we are lucky enough to move back to Phase 3. We know now we will have to wait at least until after February 5<sup>th</sup> and subsequent updates from our governing bodies, ViaSport and Volleyball BC.

### Format

We are preparing for two main competition scenarios depending on how the public health orders evolve:

- Scheduled tournaments and playdays with other clubs which may involve travel, eg. Nanaimo, Vancouver
- "House League" which minimizes travel.

It's possible that some age groups (eg 16U-18U) may play in a regional league with Mainland teams, while other age groups stay on the Island. In either scenario, teams will be placed into cohorts of a maximum of 8 teams. Cohorts may be rotated, at which point there would be a 2-week break in play.

### Schedule

Volleyball BC has indicated the earliest any competition would begin would be mid-late February. Availability of facilities for tournaments is a major consideration here. They have also recently surveyed clubs regarding extending the season into the summer; we will update on this information once a decision is made.

### Provincials and Nationals

At this point, Provincials and "Inter-Provincial Play" is not permitted, even in a Phase 3 scenario. We note that Volleyball Canada is still planning Nationals in May 2021 (various locations per age group), however registration has now been delayed to February.



## Stay up to date



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