

**To:** Town of Comox  
**Date:** Submitted Feb 9, 2022 (Revised Aug 3, 2022)  
**From:** Comox Valley Racing Club (CVCRC)  
**Subject:** COVID-Safety Plan for Canadian National  
 Outrigger Championships September 10/11<sup>th</sup> 2022



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1. Purpose of this Document

This document will describe the Covid Safey Plan (The Plan) that will be in place for Canadian National Outrigger Championships at Comox Marina to be held on September 10 and 11, 2022. All athletes participating in the event will be required to review The Plan and may be asked to undergo health screening prior to arrival. The Plan is based on interpretation of current public health guidance (viaSport, 2022 & Province of BC, 2022)<sup>1,2</sup>, which have essentially lifted all restrictions for sporting events and outdoor events as of April 2022.

2. Introduction

The Canadian National Outrigger Championships is an annual Outrigger Canoe Race hosted by Vancouver Island canoe clubs and is rotated every 3 -4 years to CVCRC. We anticipate participation > 15 canoe clubs from the mainland, Vancouver Island and out of province with >200 athletes and a similar number of coaches and support persons. Participants also come from First Nations Canoe Teams who have COVID rules in their communities that also exceed current PHO guidance for the general public. While this is substantially and outdoor event

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<sup>1</sup> ViaSport Return to Sport Guidance ([https://www.viasport.ca/return-sport?utm\\_source=viaSport+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=c380534877-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_14\\_05\\_04\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_e001f69b1e-c380534877-414185049](https://www.viasport.ca/return-sport?utm_source=viaSport+Newsletter&utm_campaign=c380534877-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_14_05_04_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e001f69b1e-c380534877-414185049))

<sup>2</sup> BC Restart Plan - Step 3 Guidance (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restart#step-one>)

CVCRC will encourage cohort teams to congregate on the grass staging area as outlined in the Off Water Safety section to respect precautionary social distancing measures.

The event site is public and without entry fee for spectators at Comox Marina. The event consists of a series of six-person outrigger canoe races on Saturday and a small boat race on Sunday that will involve single and tandem canoes as well as surf skis. The staging area for the athletes is in Comox Marina Park. The clubs use the parking lot for their vehicles and the grassy field will be used to accommodate canoe trailers, rigging and storage of the canoes. Athletes will be moving from the staging areas to the boat ramp to launch and retrieve canoes (Figure 1). We will also be utilizing the ends of the existing docks between races on Saturday so teams can transition in and out of the canoes. The race start and finish will be facilitated from the Fisherman's Wharf Boardwalk.

As the BC Government lifted restrictions on outdoor gatherings and sporting events on April 8, 2022 this event will fully meet PHO guidance (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions#spectator>).

### 3. PHO Guidance & Canadian National Outrigger Championships

BC is presently in a Revised Step 3 Restart where the general rules outlined below apply. With the exception of health care settings, masks are no longer mandated by PHO.

#### **Sports**

All outdoor and indoor group sports for adults and youth are allowed without restrictions. This includes but is not limited to:

- Games
- Competitions
- Practices

#### **Spectators**

As of April 8, 2022 all limitations to outdoor gatherings have been lifted.

#### **Travel for sport**

Canada-wide travel for sport is allowed.

## 4. Off-Water Safety

The organizers have reserved the north end of Marina Park to avoid overcrowding with the public. While the previously proposed Team Bubble Zones (TBZs) shown in Figure 1 will no longer be required we expect that cohort teams will voluntarily congregate with their equipment. The TBZs will no longer be delineated. The north end of Marina Park will be used to stage the OC6s on Saturday and small boats on Sunday. With the race registration desk located at the north gazebo we do not expect overcrowding at Marina Park will be a concern.

Teams will be encouraged to bring their own masks and hand sanitizer. Teams will be reminded by email not to attend if there are confirmed cases of COVID within their team in the preceding days or if members are unwell with symptoms suggestive of COVID.

### Vendors (food trucks)

There will be existing vendors that will be patronized by athletes attending this event in Comox Marina Park. General signage reminding the public of physical distance measure and hand sanitizing are posted at food trucks.

### Team Bubble Zones

Teams will no longer be assigned TBZs as per Figure 1 & 2. They will be expected to stage their equipment and encouraged to rest between races in and around the north end of the Marina Park. Teams will be requested to disinfect touch surfaces on their canoes when shared between different clubs.

### Crew Transfers

Crew transfers between races will take place at the end of the docks shown in Figure 1. Disinfecting kits will be located at the end of the docks and each disembarking crew will be responsible for disinfecting all touch surfaces before transferring the race canoe to the next crew.

### Bathrooms

In previous years hosting this event the existing bathrooms have been adequate provided supplies like toilet paper, hand towels and soap are replenished throughout the day over the weekend. Given the increased popularity of Marina Park as a public gathering site CVCRC has arranged delivery of 3 portable toilets in the parking lot of the Council Chambers building (Figure 2).

## 5. On-Water safety

No specific measures are required for physical distancing on the water during and outside the race. Teams will be reminded by email to either remain at home or to be tested if they have symptoms of COVID or are unwell.

## 6. Limitations of this Document

The current guidance by the PHO will be continuously reviewed. CVCRC is concerned about the increased transmissibility of the Covid-19 variants and will closely monitor the public health guidelines.

The organizers will aim to meet the requirements for COVID prevention at this event for our fellow athletes. The Plan has been drafted according to PHO return to sport guidance and recent PHO guidance for outdoor organized gatherings and mask mandates as of August 3, 2022.

For Questions or Comments please contact one of the following:

- CVRC Health & Safety Officer, Christian Fibich, MD ([fibichc@gmail.com](mailto:fibichc@gmail.com))
- CVCRC President, Rupert Wong, RPBio ([cvcrcpresident@gmail.com](mailto:cvcrcpresident@gmail.com))



Figure 1. Site overview showing concept Team Bubble Zones and anticipated athlete travel routes.



Figure 2. Site plan showing revise staging areas to avoid crowding with anticipated public use.