

COVID-19 Safety Plan 2021 : Hang Gliding and Paragliding

West Coast Soaring Club (WCSC) 2021 Plan: Site Specific: Diefenbaker Park, Delta Parks

Preamble

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic resulted in worldwide scientists, governments and health care officials recommending a partial to total shutdown of travel, entertainment, sports, non essential business, social gatherings and other activities in order to curb the spread of the pandemic and flatten the propagation curve.

As the growth of the spread of the virus was curtailed, in British Columbia, on May 6, 2020 BC government announced release of *BCs Restart Plan*, updated on May 29, 2020.

In turn, the City of Delta authored the *Delta COVID-19 Safety Plan*.

Most recently, an *Order of the Provincial Health Officer - Gatherings and Events - March 12, 2021* was issued to all BC residents to clarify and update the latest orders regarding public gatherings and events.

Delta Parks has requested permit holders to provide updated 2021 *COVID-19 Safety Plans*. The request is in order to ensure permit holding groups are following both Provincial recommendations as defined in *BCs Restart Plan*, *Delta COVID-19 Safety Plan*, *Order of the Provincial Health Officer - Gatherings and Events - March 12, 2021* and their governing associations recommendations, in formulating procedures to protect users safety while conducting their activities in Park space.

In response to the request for such a Plan, we the West Coast Soaring Club (WCSC) has authored this *COVID-19 Safety Plan 2021*, referred to hereafter as this "*WCSC 2021 Plan*".

The WCSC, its member Directors and member Pilots all function collectively negotiating and maintaining agreements and permits regarding the sports of paragliding and hang gliding with Parks and other Land owners within the Greater Vancouver, Chilliwack and Pemberton areas. This *WCSC 2021 Plan* has the approval of the WCSC Board of Directors.

COVID-19 Safety Plan: Overview : WCSC 2021 Plan

The generalized methodology in this *WCSC 2021 Plan* is to honour the generalized recommendations of *BCs Restart Plan*, *Delta COVID-19 Safety Plan*, *Delta's COVID-19 policies and procedures* and *Order of the Provincial Health Officer - Gatherings and Events - March 12, 2021*, while providing additional details and procedures specific to the sport of hang gliding and paragliding at Diefenbaker Park.

Under *BCs Restart Plan*, we the WCSC would fall under "Recreation and Sports" which recommended restarting in "Phase 2 (Mid May Onwards)" under "enhanced protocols". As of June 1, 2020, "Phase 3" of *BCs Restart Plan* began with re-starting of a number of items including "Parks", which had the most immediate impact on our activities.

Under *Order of the Provincial Health Officer - Gatherings and Events - March 12, 2021*, the WCSC use of Diefenbaker Park appears to fall under *Part C: Outside Events* which specifies that up to "10 people" may be present at a location "held outside" provided "two meters" of physical separation is maintained; "hand sanitation" is present; and the event does not move to a "fully enclosed structure". *Part G: Group Sport*: indicates that "outdoors".. "only ten" persons can participate provided "three meters" separation is maintained and "no spectators" are allowed. *Part J. Exercise. 6. Outdoor Group*: places no limit to number of participants; indicates participants must maintain "2 meters" of separation; specifies participants "do not congregate" before or after exercise, and that "no person is present as a spectator".

As a conservative measure, to ensure compliance with all provincial health orders, the WCSC is adopting the most conservative of these criteria: hand sanitation will be present at all times; a maximum of ten WCSC members will be using the Park at any one time; a minimum of three meters physical separation will be maintained at all times; all activity will be strictly outdoors; participants will not congregate or engage socially before or after; and there will be no WCSC spectators.

All members of the WCSC have been instructed to view, understand and abide by the *Delta COVID-19 Safety Plan*, *Delta's COVID-19 policies and procedures*, *Order of the Provincial Health Officer - Gatherings and Events - March 12, 2021*, the *WCSC 2021 Plan* and the *COVID-19 Addendum to Rental Contract/Permit* and they have been made available for viewing on the WCSC website.

In the event of conflict between the *Delta COVID-19 Safety Plan* and *Delta's COVID-19 policies and procedures* and the *WCSC Plan*, the most stringent requirement shall apply.

WCSC Plan Generalized Procedures

All WCSC member pilots must follow the below principles and practices prior to heading to a Park facility, arriving at the Park, while in the Park and leaving the Park facility:

1. "Stay at home and keep a safe distance from family when you have cold or flu symptoms, including coughing, sneezing, runny nose, sore throat and fatigue."
2. "No handshaking or hugs outside of your household."
3. "Practice good hygiene, e.g., regular hand washing, avoiding touching your face, covering coughs and sneezes, disinfect frequently touched surfaces."
4. "Keep physical distancing, as much as possible, when in the community; and where not possible, use a non-medical mask or face covering."
5. "If you are at greater risk (over the age of 60 or with underlying medical conditions), be informed of your risk, think through your risk tolerance and take extra precautions."

WCSC 2021 Plan: Hang Gliding & Paragliding at Diefenbaker Park: Specific Procedures

1. All Pilots arriving by vehicle or other means to Diefenbaker Park to practice paragliding or hang gliding: must carry in their vehicle or backpack, as appropriate, a disinfectant solution bottle, to permit disinfecting of hands prior to leaving their vehicle and/or arriving by alternate means and entering the major area of the park.
2. Pilots to use their paragliders or hang gliders as a reference gauge to maintain physical distancing. Paragliders and Hang Gliders typically have a wingspan of 8.0 - 12.0 meters with the pilot harnessed midspan. The area around the pilot is kept clear of others for launch safety considerations. Thus a minimum of 4.0 meters physical separation from others is automatically achieved by the physical dimensions of the equipment, and exceeds the Provincial guidelines of 2.0 and/or 3.0 meters separation, by a significant amount. More typically, pilots maintain at a least a 12.0 meter diameter circle, and often significantly greater, free and clear of themselves while setting up.
3. Pilots not to assist each other while setting up, launching or stripping down their equipment and to maintain a physical distancing of at least 3.0 meters at all times.

4. Pilots to monitor their numbers and ensure there are no more that 10 at a time. In the unlikely event that any new pilots arrive such that the number on-site would exceed 10, they will be asked to leave, or wait in another area and return, or alternatively pilots finishing up may opt to leave to allow new arrivals to participate. Note the size of the hill and requirement to maintain distance around each glider is such that it is physically very difficult to impossible, to have have more than 10 pilots participate. So Diefenbaker Park is self regulating by virtue of its natural dimensional constrains.
5. No WCSC members allowed as spectators.
6. Pilots not to socialize or gather in any way before, during, or after their session, but rather to leave the area swiftly on completing any launching practice.
7. As a conservative measure, with some added redundancy and to protect others at locations outside the park, it is highly recommended pilots also use their disinfectant bottle to cleanse their hands before re-entering their vehicles and/or leaving the park by other means.



Stay at home
if you're feeling ill
- no exceptions



Keep Disinfecting Solution
Bottle in Vehicle or Backpack



Clean your hands



Practice physical
distancing



Stay informed