

2021

HIGHLIGHTS



2021 AT A GLANCE



2021 OPERATIONS

TIMELINE – Agile Operations

At the start of 2021, restrictions on fitness activities, sporting events, tournaments, and gatherings were in place and mandated by the public health officer (PHO). Over the year, the restrictions were fluid, requiring Oval operations to be dynamic to adhere to changing capacity limits, restrictions on specific activities, and requirements for proof of vaccination. Below is a timeline of the changes that occurred in Oval operations due to PHO restrictions:

JANUARY 7

BC government extends the PHO restrictions on gatherings and events



MARCH 29

Indoor group fitness classes pause



MAY 25

BC Restart Plan announced

- OVALfit on the Plaza. Group fitness offered outdoors

JULY 5

BC Restart Plan Step 3

- Drop-in ice returns, table tennis doubles play resumes, climbing capacity limits increase
- Indoor sporting events return with limited capacity



JULY 12

Member access increased to two activities per day



SEPTEMBER 27

Provincially mandated proof of one dose of a COVID-19 vaccination implemented



NOVEMBER 29

Locker rooms reopen

MARCH 15

Timeslots expand for the fitness centre, table tennis, basketball, and climbing on Sundays



APRIL 2

Masks became mandatory at all times, including when engaging in physical activity

JUNE 15

BC Restart Plan moves to Step 2

- Masks optional on the field of play, small pick-up games allowed for basketball, group fitness classes return indoor on court 10, strength pods discontinued



JULY 8

Spectators for sporting events resume access



SEPTEMBER 13

Group fitness classes return to studio with limited capacities

OCTOBER 24

Provincially mandated proof of two dose of a COVID-19 vaccination implemented

DECEMBER 23

Adult fitness paused, sporting tournaments and events rescheduled, seated events reduced to 50% capacity





HIGH PERFORMANCE

Supporting Canadian Climbers

Climbing Escalade Canada (CEC) held their training camp on the Oval's climbing wall on August 10 and 11, 2021. The Oval supported athletes bound for the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympic Games by hosting four mock competitions, as Olympians Sean McColl and Alannah Yip had few opportunities to experience a competitive environment due to the ongoing restrictions on sport competitions.

Regional Excellence Program

The Oval partners with Volleyball Canada to host the Regional Excellence Program: a holistic program for high school-aged athletes that focuses on technical practice, strength and conditioning training, and integrated services such as nutrition and mental performance seminars. In 2021, the program received record registration numbers, with 64 athletes training weekday mornings at the Oval. Athletes graduating from the REP program have an opportunity to transition to Volleyball Canada's National Excellence Program, comprised of the top 16 female athletes in grades 11 and 12 from all over Canada.

Oval Supported Olympians and Paralympians

Thirty-two Olympic and Paralympic athletes, representing sports such as field hockey, sport climbing, wheelchair rugby, table tennis, wheelchair basketball, and softball and who were supported by the Oval, competed in the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympic Games. The Oval is proud to be a part of the journey for these athletes to realize some of their biggest goals.

Skating to Success

The Connaught Figure Skating Club is a premier skating club that has been leveraging the facilities at the Oval for a decade, including strength and conditioning training solutions provided by the High Performance team. The club, which is Richmond's only nationally recognized learn to skate program, has produced athletes with impressive accomplishments, including Wesley Chiu, who placed 4th in his first senior competition at the 2021 ISU Warsaw Cup. Eight of its athletes were named to the Skate Canada BC/Yukon Provincial Team.

ENHANCING MEMBERSHIP

OVALfit at Home

The OVALfit at Home program saw upgrades to its production quality in 2021, with a transition into a video-on-demand service included in the cost of an Oval membership. The virtual workout library has enhanced video and audio quality, with professional editing and new features like a countdown clock. Additionally, a virtual membership was created to cater to individuals who are not yet comfortable returning to fitness activities indoors. In 2021, the Oval produced over 100 videos for the workout library.

Richmond Olympic Oval App

On April 13, the Oval introduced the Richmond Olympic Oval app for members and guests to easily register for drop-in activities on their smartphones. The app allows users to manage their bookings and monitor waitlists with the click of a button. The app also provides easy access to the OVALfit at Home library of workouts. Since its introduction, the app has been downloaded and used by over 3,000 devices, with over 215,000 sessions used for bookings and video viewing.

OVALfit
— AT HOME —





EVENTS

Return of Events

With the rollout of Step 3 of BC’s Restart Plan, sporting events and tournaments were permitted to resume on July 5 with robust safety plans in place. With limited spectators and stringent physical distancing protocols, the Oval was pleased to host the following events:

- The North American Cup climbing competition
- Wheelchair Rugby National Training Camps
- City Shred
- Western Canadian Powerlifting Championships
- Wheelchair Basketball Canada U23 Training Camp
- Taekwondo Provincials, Karate BC Provincials
- Pinnacle Cheer Pink
- Senior Boys Volleyball Provincials
- Rhythmic Gymnastics Provincials
- Ringette Provincial Assessments
- Volleyball Canada High School Tournament
- Karate BC Provincials

Forever Young 8K

Twenty-twenty-one marked a return of the popular outdoor event exclusive to runners and walkers ages 55 and over after being offered virtually the year prior. The Forever Young 8K race kicked off on September 12 on the Olympic Riverside Plaza at the Richmond Olympic Oval. Racers traveled in a four-kilometer out and back loop along the North Dyke, with beautiful vistas of the Fraser River as motivation to complete the run or walk. Nearly 200 seniors participated in the 7th annual race, with the eldest finisher, Delia Visscher, finishing the race at 90 years old.



COMMUNITY SPORT

Summer Camp Successes

Summer sports camps experienced a banner year, with 50 different camps offered over eight weeks—the most camps offered in the Oval’s history. By utilizing as much outdoor space as possible and implementing robust safety protocols, the Oval provided the community with a safe and fun option for youth summer programming. During July and August, a record 2,351 camp registrants partook in camps varying from Get Skills, Learn to Golf, Tumble Tots, and more. A special soccer camp was included in the camps offered in partnership with the Vancouver Whitecaps, where participants were taught by BC Sports Hall of Famer Carl Valentine.

Learn to Skate

The rise in demand for youth sports programming was reflected in the success of the Oval’s Learn to Skate private and group sessions. In particular, private lessons proved to meet and exceed the expectations of parents looking for a safe and engaging experience for their young athletes. A record-breaking 9,001 private Learn to Skate lessons were booked in the calendar year. Parents appreciated the individualized training provided by Oval coaches, a service that competitors rarely offer.

Supporting Richmond’s Future Olympians and Paralympians

In 2021, the Oval hosted the following community-level user groups:

- Vancouver Ki Society
- Aura Rhythmic Gymnastics
- Brazilian Soccer School
- Greater Vancouver Comets
- Connaught Skating Club
- Drive Basketball Inc.
- Greater Vancouver Canadians
- Metro League
- Non Contact Hockey League (NCHL)
- PentaSport Ministries
- Richmond Arenas Community Association
- Richmond Jets Minor Hockey Association
- Saints 2010
- Canada Shoseikan Karate
- St. George’s School
- Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey
- Urban Rec



