



Date: March 7, 2017
To: GBC Clubs
From: Brian Forrester, CEO
Re: **IMPORTANT Gymnastics Camp Programs & Child Care Licensing Requirements**

Dear Clubs,

Gymnastics BC has recently become aware of a provincial health authority regulation enforcement that may require clubs to obtain an Occasional Child Care License for camp style program activities (camps) that involve children under the age of 5.

The following information has been compiled with the assistance of Interior Health to assist clubs in navigating the area of child care licensing as it relates to club programming. However, as the [BC Child Care Licensing Regulation](#) is provincial law, Gymnastics BC has no ability to intervene in or influence whether a gymnastics facility may be required to obtain a child care license. Additionally, we are not experts in the area of child care licensing and have a limited ability to provide detailed assistance or support.

Background

The [BC Child Care Licensing Regulation](#) requires that all facilities providing programs or services to greater than 2 children, without the accompaniment of a parent or caregiver, must be appropriately licensed.

However, most regular gymnastics programs are exempt from the regulation, as are most camp activities for children over the age of 5. The full exemption can be reviewed in "Division 2 - Exemptions from the Act" in the [BC Child Care Licensing Regulation](#).

If your club offers camp programming, please consider the following questions:

- Does your club operate camp programs for children under the age of 5?
- Do your camp programs for children under the age of 5 extend for a period of time greater than 90-minutes?
- Do your camp programs for children under the age of 5 include activities that are not singularly focused on gymnastics? I.e., they include any additional activity such as snack time, arts and crafts, free play etc.

If you answered yes to any of these questions, we strongly encourage you to thoroughly review the information below.



What to do if you think that your camps may require a license

Each Regional Health Authority is responsible for administering and enforcing the [BC Child Care Licensing Regulation](#) in their geographic region. As such, there are some differences in the information that is provided within each region.

Please review the licensing information that is applicable in your health region.

To determine which health region you are located in, please review the map on the following page:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/partners/health-authorities/regional-health-authorities>

Child Care Licensing information by Health Region:

Fraser Health - <http://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-info/health-topics/child-care/licence-info/>

Interior Health -

<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/ChildCareFacilities/Pages/ApplyingforaLicense.aspx>

Island Health - http://www.viha.ca/mho/licensing/child_care_facilities.htm

Northern Health - <https://northernhealth.ca/YourHealth/CommunityCareLicensing/Applicants.aspx>

Vancouver Coastal Health - <http://www.vch.ca/your-environment/facility-licensing/child-care/>

If after reviewing this information, you have any questions about whether your club's camp programs require a child care license, or if you intend to apply for a child care license, we strongly encourage you to contact your local licensing office directly.

Child Care Licensing offices contact information by Health Region:

Fraser Health - http://www.fraserhealth.ca/find-us/services/our-services?program_id=9051

Interior Health -

https://www.interiorhealth.ca/FindUs/_layouts/FindUs/info.aspx?type=Service&loc=&svc=Community%20Care%20Facilities%20Licensing&ploc=

Island Health - <http://www.viha.ca/mho/licensing/default.htm> (contact us at the bottom of the page)

Northern Health - <https://northernhealth.ca/YourHealth/CommunityCareLicensing.aspx>



Vancouver Coastal Health - http://www.vch.ca/locations-and-services/find-health-services/?program_id=162

Other useful links:

Rules for Operating a Licensed Day Care - <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/child-care/rules-operating-licensed-day-care>

BC Family Child Care Association - <http://www.bcfcca.ca/resources/child-care-provider-resources/>

While we are not experts in the area of child care licensing and have a limited ability to provide detailed assistance or support, we will work with clubs to provide guidance and assistance wherever possible.

If you would like to discuss your club's programs as they relate to the regulation, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Brian Forrester
CEO, Gymnastics BC
bforrester@gymbc.org
604-333-3490