

Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports (VISAS) is excited to announce its 2020/2021 season programming with COVID-19 precautions. Our instructors begin their annual training shortly after Mount Washington Alpine Resort's (MWAR) planned December 4th opening. We will start accepting student applications on December 1st, 2020 and are scheduled to begin lessons on January 4th, 2021.

VISAS intends to resume activities slowly and cautiously while following all BC Public Health Authority requirements, VISAS Return to Sport Plan and MWAR's Winter Expectations. We intend to follow these without exception because the safety of our students, volunteers, MWAR staff and the public remains our number one priority and will not be compromised for any reason.

Our programming will be different this season in order to comply with [BC Public Health Authority requirements](#) for physical distancing where we keep 2 m away from each other. This most notably means we are only able to accept students who can maintain physical distancing from instructors, MWAR staff and other skiers. This also includes being able to move through lift lines and load either chair lifts or magic carpet lifts independently. Unfortunately, this means we are unable to ski with many of our past students this season nor are we able to accept new students this winter.

This season's programming includes half-day lessons. Alpine ski and snowboard lessons are available Monday through Friday and Nordic lessons are available Tuesday through Friday. Please note that lessons will not be available on statutory holidays and Vancouver Island school districts' professional development (PD) days or Island Schools Spring Breaks. The alpine ski and snowboard race teams will train on Sundays with final details to be determined. VISAS will refine our operations when and where appropriate as we adapt to this season's new normal.

For students who would like to participate in VISAS programming this season, the next steps are:

- if you have not already done so, fill out the returning student survey found [here](#),
- read VISAS Return to Sport plan at [this link](#), and
- submit your season application on [Snowline](#).

Student applications will be reviewed by a committee comprised of board members and experienced instructors that will provide notification within ten days whether or not a student has been accepted. Students accepted for the season are then invited to request lessons on Snowline similar to last season. Please do not pay your BCAS membership fees until you have confirmation that you are accepted into the program.

VISAS Board of Directors and the instructor team regret that not everyone can be accommodated this season; but request your ongoing support as we're doing the best our volunteer organization is able to given the current new and challenging conditions. We are thankful that our volunteers and the tremendous support of MWAR allow us to enjoy slopes with many, if not all, of our students this season. We are optimistic for a return to our traditional program in the 2021/2022 season and look forward to reconnecting with those we miss this season.

Sincerely,
Mike Spooner, President VISAS