



## **COURT OPERATIONS – 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP**

The Court has been advised to expect very significant impacts for its operations during the period of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The important priorities of public safety and traffic and crowd management during the event will draw heavily on police resources in the Lower Mainland and potentially elsewhere in the province. For similar reasons, the BC Sheriff Service may have difficulty providing its usual level of support for court operations, including for the transport to court of accused persons in custody, for jury management, and for courthouse security. Downtown Vancouver and other areas of the Lower Mainland may see heavy traffic congestion. Hotel rooms may be difficult to secure for deliberating juries or for out-of-town witnesses. The full extent of the impacts is uncertain and will remain so for some time. We do know that the effects on the police and sheriff resources required to participate in or support the court's operations will be substantial, particularly in respect of criminal trials and jury trials.

The Court is committed to ensuring that the Court maintains sufficient capacity to handle urgent matters and emergency hearings during the events and to protecting the safety and security of court participants, court proceedings and courthouses. Although the Court is concerned to continue its operations as fully as possible during the events, it also recognizes that some reduction is unavoidable.

This Notice sets out the adjustments seen at this time to be necessary for the period of June 12, 2026 to July 8, 2026 (the "FIFA period") at the Vancouver Law Courts, the New Westminster Law Courts, the Abbotsford Law Courts and the Chilliwack Law Courts. The Court understands and regrets the inconvenience these measures may cause to parties, counsel and the public.

Further updates will be provided, and potentially further adjustments made, as additional information becomes available.

### **1. Criminal Jury Trials & Judge Alone Criminal Trials**

All criminal jury trials and all judge alone criminal proceedings scheduled to begin or continue during the FIFA period will need to be rescheduled.

If a judge has already been assigned to your criminal proceeding, please complete and submit a [Request to Appear](#) to schedule a case management conference with the assigned judge to discuss how the case will be rescheduled.

If a judge has not yet been assigned to your criminal proceeding, please file a requisition to schedule a fix-date appearance to reschedule the proceeding.

For cases with no assigned judge for which the rescheduling may require special consideration, please submit a [Request to Appear](#) to schedule a case management conference before the Associate Chief Justice to discuss how the case will be rescheduled.

No criminal jury selections will take place during the FIFA period.

## **2. Civil Jury Trials**

No civil jury trials will be able to proceed during the FIFA period.

A party who filed a jury notice for a civil trial may convert the proceeding to a non-jury trial and retain the currently scheduled trial dates. Please note, however, that it may become necessary for the Court to reduce the number of non-jury civil trials as the FIFA period gets closer.

The Court will provide further directions by July 31, 2025 about the process for rescheduling a civil jury trial that is currently scheduled during the FIFA period.

## **3. Chambers Applications**

The Court will continue to schedule chambers applications during the FIFA period; however, please be aware that the ability of the Court to proceed with chambers may also be impacted by measures adopted with respect to public safety, traffic management and crowd management.

**Ron A. Skolrood**  
**Chief Justice**