



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

In July 2025, the Court announced that some types of court proceedings would not be heard during the FIFA Period (June 12, 2026 to July 8, 2026) in the following court locations: Vancouver, New Westminster, Abbotsford and Chilliwack. The adjustments were designed to ensure the Court maintains sufficient capacity to handle urgent matters and emergency hearings during the FIFA Period and to protect the safety and security of court participants, court proceedings and courthouses.

The planning for the 2026 FIFA World Cup has progressed, and the Court has identified opportunities to schedule additional proceedings during the FIFA Period. While the Court recognizes the challenges for parties, counsel, and witnesses to attend the courthouse during the FIFA Period, scheduling additional proceedings will allow the Court to maintain access to justice as much as is feasible during the FIFA Period.

### **CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS**

#### ***Pre-Trial Applications and Voir Dires***

During the FIFA Period, the Court will schedule criminal pre-trial applications and *voir dires* at the Vancouver, New Westminster, Abbotsford, and Chilliwack Law Courts if:

- the accused person is not in custody; or
- the accused person is in custody and
  - Crown and defence counsel agree that the accused may attend by video, and
  - the Court approves this mode of appearance.

#### ***Judge Alone Trials***

The Court will also schedule judge alone criminal trials for 10 days or less, where the accused person is not in custody.

#### ***Important Considerations***

Parties seeking to schedule these types of proceedings during the FIFA Period must carefully consider the availability of witnesses, including police witnesses. Parties are also

asked to consider how witnesses will travel to courthouses given the expected traffic congestion in the Lower Mainland, particularly in downtown Vancouver, and that hotel or other short-term accommodation may be extremely limited throughout the Lower Mainland.

As stated in the [July 2025 Notice](#), the Court will not be hearing criminal jury trials during the FIFA Period, and no jury selections will take place. The Court will continue to schedule and hear urgent and time-sensitive criminal proceedings including, for example, bail applications, detention review hearings, etc.

## **CIVIL & FAMILY PROCEEDINGS**

### ***Civil & Family Chambers***

As previously announced, the Court will continue to schedule chambers applications during the FIFA Period

### ***Civil & Family Trials***

The Court will not be hearing any civil jury trials during the FIFA Period.

The Court will proceed with scheduled judge-alone civil trials and family trials.

### ***General***

As is always the case, the Court cannot guarantee that a trial judge will be available on scheduled dates. The ability of the Court to proceed with scheduled proceedings may also be impacted by measures adopted with respect to public safety, traffic management and crowd management during the FIFA Period.

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