



Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut *Return to Skating* Protocols *Return to Skating* Club and Skating School COVID-19 Playbook

Date: June 12, 2020

From: Lisa Hardy, Executive Director Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut

Good Afternoon Clubs and Skating School Directors, and Coaches

Tuesday June 9th was an exciting day as the Alberta Provincial Government announced we were moving to Stage 2 on the Provincial Relaunch Strategy AND that indoor sport, physical activity and recreation were moved into Stage 2 (from the originally scheduled Stage 3). This was great news!

I know that for a while, some of us were feeling that Alberta was falling a bit behind the other provinces in *Returning to Skating*, but with Tuesday's announcement we now have more flexibility than many of the other provinces. Having said that, we need to ensure we return to the ice safely and methodically to continue our forward momentum. I'll ask you each to remember that statement – forward momentum. Sometimes it may feel that we are taking small steps, and sometimes (like Tuesday) a giant leap forward. We need to ensure we are approaching each new stage with careful planning so as not to stop our momentum.

You will now find on the Section website the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Return to Skating Protocols and the Clubs and Skating School COVID-19 Playbook.

Protocols:

Each Section Club and Skating School must have a plan to follow EACH item in the three sections of the protocols PRIOR to athletes returning to the ice.

1. Club and Skating School Operations
2. Club and Skating School Programming
3. Skating and Training Activities

In order to help ease the administrative tasks involved in ensuring protocols are met the Section has created a playbook to help the Clubs and Skating schools address the Protocol requirements.

Return to Skating Club and Skating School COVID-19 Playbook:

The intent in creating the Playbook was to provide Administrators / Directors with some information to help with organization, communication and processes. The following information is included:

Introduction and Tips – a high level overview of the phases, the Section's objectives with respect to Return to Skating, and tips for a successful relaunch

Proposed Agendas – it will be important to engage all stakeholders throughout the process. Sample agendas have been created to help manage various meetings. Use of these agendas is optional, but we hope they help!

Recommended Templates and Checklists – while not mandatory, these checklists will help provide club administrators with a guideline for how to meet / exceed the items as detailed in the Protocols. And to provide skaters and coaches with an easy-to-refer checklist for their training days.



Mandatory Templates, Waivers, Policies & Procedures – these forms are mandatory. While each Club or Skating School may determine HOW they are implemented (electronically vs paper, by trained volunteer / coach / club employee etc.) it is mandatory the information is collected and stored safely (waiver, contact tracing log, etc). The Response Plan Template must be completed and kept on file but does not need to be delivered to the Section. **The Section requires a signed Acknowledgement of Compliance Form returned with the GO LIVE date from each Club prior to any indoor programming resuming.**

Links to Additional Resources – each Club and Skating School is required to ensure they have assigned a COVID-19 Designate who is responsible for ensuring the Club or Skating School has the most up-to-date information from the Municipal / Provincial health authorities and who is responsible for communicating to the members as required. In addition to the Section's protocols (minimum standards), the individual should also be familiar with the Alberta [Return to Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation – Stage 2.](#)

Templates for Communication – the purpose of this section is to provide each Club Communication Liaison with key messages / ideas to include when communicating to their membership. It is highly recommended that the emergency emails be prepared and signed off by relevant parties ahead of time, and that the Clubs / Skating Schools do not wait until an outbreak occurs to draft the communication. Also included in this section, is signage specific to the Return to Skating Protocols. It is recommended each Club or Skating School post this sign at the entry to ice surface, at a minimum. Additional items will be added to this area via the Section website as required.

CanSKATE / CanPowerSKATE

We have received a few calls from representatives of Clubs who have enquired about CanSKATE programming. And we understand why this program is important to our Clubs. I'd like to address the following with respect to timing and the launch of CanSKATE programming:

- a) The Protocols as published June 11, 2020 will provide the Section with the opportunity to ensure guidelines are smoothly integrated to existing Club and Skating School operations, without issue. Once STARSKate, CompetitiveSKATE, AdultSKATE, and the Advanced level of CanPowerSKATE are launched we can work towards Phase 2 of adding programming including: CanSKATE and the Lower 2 levels of CanPowerSKATE
- b) The Section recognizes CanSKATE and CanPowerSKATE is currently within the Provincial Guidelines. We are working with Skate Canada and hope to be able to launch the program in Alberta by the end of June.
- c) Skate Canada is currently providing enhanced programming requirements for Skate Canada Programs to address changes resulting from COVID-19. Section representatives, and the COVID-19 Advisory group have provided comments on the initial draft and are awaiting final program requirements
- d) Enhanced Protocols will be required and these protocols will be IN ADDITION to meeting the requirements of the *Return to Skating* Phase 1 Protocols posted today
- e) The creation and implementation of Protocols is new to everyone. While I feel the Section has provided achievable Protocols that allow for flexibility within each Club or Skating School, we encourage members to start in a manageable manner, allowing participants to become familiar with new processes and then expand programming or group size gradually.

I hope this covers many of your questions and I look forward to discussing the documents at the Town Hall scheduled for 10:00am on Saturday June 13, 2020. Please have your questions ready! If you have not signed up for the Town Hall yet please do so, by 7:00pm on Friday June 12, 2020 at <https://skatecanada.wufoo.com/forms/qqn6y3r08gcf1z/> .

Good Luck!

Lisa