



COVID-19 Return to Play Protocol Section Communication to Clubs, Skating Schools and Coaches

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

Good Afternoon,

We are excited to share that it was announced today that *Return to Skating* has been included in Stage 2 of the Province of Alberta's Relaunch Strategy.

"Stage 2 will allow additional businesses and services to reopen and resume operations starting June 12 with 2 metre physical distancing requirements and other public health guidelines in place."

Indoor recreation, fitness and sports, including gyms and arenas, as well as casinos (with restrictions) have been approved to reopen with the launch of Stage 2. The opening of casinos again is a welcome addition to the opening of arenas as we know many of our clubs and the Section rely on casinos as a part of their fundraising efforts.

I realize you can feel the momentum that is building behind returning to the ice and I understand your excitement, but we want to ensure we maintain forward momentum. We don't want to take any steps, or miss any steps, that might result in an interruption of *Return to Skating*. The Section has worked with the Provincial Health Authorities, the National Sports Organization (Skate Canada), other Skate Canada Sections and many other Provincial Sport Organizations to ensure we are all committed to relaunching our sports in a measured approach and with the health and safety of our members as our #1 priority, and we need to continue on that same path.

As I have previously mentioned, we will be releasing a Club Playbook soon that will provide guidance to ALL clubs, skating schools and coaches and will ensure we relaunch skating in a CONSISTENT and SAFE manner. I realize it is tempting to have each club build their own processes but please know our protocols and templates are intended to eliminate much of the administrative burden that will be placed on the clubs as a result of tracking and managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

The RETURN TO SKATING CLUB AND SKATING SCHOOL COVID-19 PLAYBOOK has been created based on the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section's protocols currently under review. Today we received the Indoor Return to Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation guidance document from the Province and are now reviewing and making any adjustments required to ensure all provincial guidelines are met. Once all reviews are complete and we have received Board approval we will distribute these to you, hopefully by the end of the week. I ask that you **refrain from building your own policies and processes until you have a chance to review the Playbook**.

Return to Skating will not be straightforward. It will vary by municipality and even within municipalities but it is imperative we all work together to meet the Provincial guidelines and the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Return to Skating Protocols. In most cases, you will likely need to work with other Skate Canada Clubs and Skating Schools, or other sports organizations (hockey, ringette) in order to make ice sports accessible to your members.



It is imperative that each club should designate a single point of contact within the club or skating school who is responsible to work with your facilities and municipality and who will ensure the implementation and adherence of safety of public health guidelines. It is also important that clubs and coaches work collaboratively together through this process. These steps will be vital moving forward to ensure consistent protocols and processes are in place within the organization for proper management and implementation.

We have many talented individuals within our Section, and everyone wants to return to skating as soon as possible but please ensure communications from your club are coordinated both in messaging and execution.

As I promised during the Return to Skating update at the AGM, we have scheduled a **Town Hall webinar for Saturday June 13, 2020** at 10:00am where we will provide an update, review the resources available, and take questions from the participants.

Please register for the townhall at <https://skatecanada.wufoo.com/forms/qgn6y3r08gcf1z/>

We will also be sharing resources as they become available through-out the week to assist clubs and skating schools in starting the work needed to be ready to get back on the ice.

As we build new relationships and look at new ways to deliver the sport of figure skating, we will end up stronger in the end as a result. And we will certainly have quite a story to tell when this is over!

Sincerely,

Lisa Hardy
Executive Director