



**SKATECANADA**  
ALBERTA-NWT/NUNAVUT

# *Return to Skating*

Town Hall

SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

# Opening Remarks

**Bobbi-Jo Martin**  
**Chair**

**Lisa Hardy**  
**Executive Director**



# Reminders:

- ▶ Keep camera and audio off
- ▶ Submit questions through the Chat Window
- ▶ To manage the questions being submitted please do not use the Chat Window for conversation during the Town Hall
- ▶ Questions will be answered during a Q & A after the presentations
- ▶ Town Hall is being recorded and will be available on the Section Website



**Alberta Culture,  
Multiculturalism and Status of Women  
Return to Play**

**Steven Patrick**

**Return to Play**

**Sport Consultant, Multisport Games**

**Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation**



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# Alberta Guidance Documents



Guidance Documents created by Alberta Health, in conjunction with Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation (SPAR) Branch:

<https://www.alberta.ca/guidance-documents.aspx>

Guidance for SPAR – Stage 2 (September 3, 2020)

<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-relaunch-sports-physical-activity-and-recreation.pdf>

Guidance for Cohorts – (June 23, 2020)

<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-relaunch-guidance-cohorts.pdf>

Alberta Daily Health Checklist – (June 22, 2020)

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-alberta-health-daily-checklist>

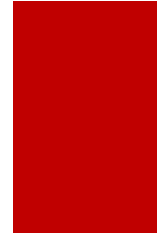


## Overview:

- Stage 2 of the Alberta Relaunch Strategy announced that “return to play” will be allowed for all sport, physical activity and recreation, if in accordance with public health guidance.
- **SPAR Guidance Versions:**
  - *June 12<sup>th</sup> / July 20<sup>th</sup> / August 28<sup>th</sup> / September 3<sup>rd</sup>*

## Overarching Principles of AHS Guidance:

- Outdoor activities are better than indoor
- Physical distancing is better than cohorting
- Guidance is in place to mitigate risk, not eliminate it – a compromise between lockdown and “normal activity”

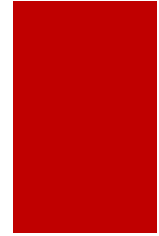


## **At all times during return to play activities, please ensure:**

- All relevant health orders have been reviewed and related requirements been addressed
- Maximum group sizes and physical distancing/cohort requirements are being met
- Detailed administrative processes are in place for daily health screening and participant tracking

Any guidelines, policies or procedures put in place by associated governing bodies such as Provincial, National or International Organizations, and any regional or municipal health guidelines should be considered, assuming they meet or **exceed** Alberta Health Services requirements.

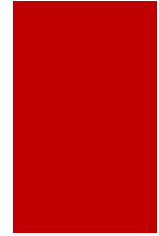
- *It is contingent upon your organization and members to follow the guidance provided by Alberta Health in the activities your organization, member clubs and individual members undertake.*
- *Please note that this guidance can and will change quickly as we progress through the various stages of relaunch, and it is incumbent upon your organization to ensure you are aware of the requirements in place at any one time.*



## Core Cohorts – Pairs and Dance

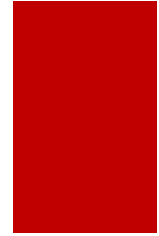
- Core Cohort: Your core cohort includes the people with whom you regularly spend the longest amounts of time and have the closest physical contact - those you can hug and touch - and those who are part of your daily or regular routines.
- In the early months of COVID-19, Albertans were encouraged to limit close contact to their immediate families, household members or their closest tightknit social circle. o Core cohorts can now be expanded to include up to 15 additional people from outside of your household
- Albertans should only belong to one core cohort and still need to keep it small and safe as possible.
- You spend the longest amount of time and have the closest physical contact with these people. If one of you gets COVID-19, there is a greater chance of the virus spreading quickly to the other members.





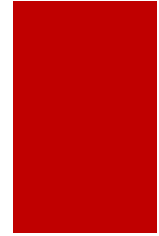
## Sport Cohorts – Synchronized Skating

- When participating in a sport or engaging in a physical activity that involves or requires multiple participants and where it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of 2 metres from other participants, the individuals in a group should form a cohort
- Cohorts should only be formed when it is not possible to physically distance
- Even if in a cohort, masks and physical distancing should be used whenever possible – training environments, off-ice sessions, etc. Please note that masks are not recommended during high intensity physical activity



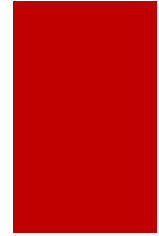
## Sport Cohorts – Synchronized Skating

- The maximum number of individuals that can form a cohort is 50.
- The 50 person maximum includes any coaches/staff, instructors, participants, officials, and volunteers who consistently and routinely engage with participants at a distance of less than 2 metres.
- Coaches, staff and officials who primarily interact with individuals or teams at a distance of 2 metres or greater do not need to be counted as part of the cohort. These individuals are required to wear a mask and perform proper hand hygiene if it becomes necessary to temporarily interact with cohorting participants at a distance of less than 2 metres.



## Sport Cohorts – Synchronized Skating

- The expectation for Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut is that individuals participate in one cohort.
  - If an individual or team member wishes to change cohorts they should not participate in a new cohort activity for 14 days (this reflects the incubation period of the virus).



## Sport Cohorts - CanSkate

- A club can choose to use the cohort model if they will be having up to 50 participants on the ice at one time (including skaters, coaches, PA's and volunteers)



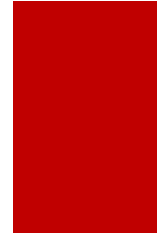
## Travel and Spectators:

- Where 2 metre physical distancing between individuals is maintained or the cohort model is employed, travel within the province for sport, physical and recreational activities is allowed.
- Interprovincial travel is also permitted: assuming both jurisdictions allow it, and participants are following rules in place regarding quarantine, etc.
- Up to a maximum of 200 seated spectators for outdoor events and 100 for indoor, provided a distance of 2 metres between attendees from different households/cohort families is maintained
- It is strongly recommended that all spectators wear masks, especially in an indoor setting



## Rapid Response:

- If an attendee becomes sick while participating, the following requirements apply:
  - While preparing to immediately leave the facility or event, symptomatic individuals should perform proper hand hygiene, put on a non-medical face mask, and maintain at least 2 metres distance from all others.
  - The individual should arrange, with assistance from team officials or the facility as necessary, for immediate transportation to their home/residence to begin isolation. Public transportation like buses, taxis or ride sharing should be avoided.
  - Once a sick individual has left the facility or event, facility staff should clean and disinfect all surfaces and areas that the individual may have come into contact with.
  - Provided you are following AHS Guidance, there is no need to cancel or postpone the activity.
  - Your facility will also have procedures in place. Ensure you are aware of them.



## What happens if a participant tests positive:

- If one of your participants tests positive, AHS will only request information about their participation in sport if it is deemed that a potential exposure is likely to have occurred during such an activity.
- When interviewing a person who has tested positive, AHS public health investigators will determine if there are close contacts that should be made aware/notified based on the period of infectivity and the organization's compliance with public health guidance. This might involve a call to organizers or other participants, if necessary.
- An individual participant is under no obligation to inform sport organizations or other participants, coaches, instructors or volunteers:
  - The reason for missing a practice
  - If they pursuing COVID-19 testing
  - The results of a COVID-19 test
- Organizations and team officials should be respectful of the privacy and sensitivity of every participant's personal health information at all times, and comply with relevant requirements set out in Alberta's Health Information Act

# Return to Skating Update

- ▶ Virtual Off-Ice Training being permitted has been extended by Skate Canada until August 31, 2021 (was set to expire September 30, 2020)
- ▶ Revised Section Phase 2 Protocols released on September 14, 2020 effective immediately
- ▶ Revised protocols can be found on the Section Website
  - ▶ Parent & Tot programming permitted
  - ▶ Simulations, Assessments and Competitions permitted
  - ▶ Harnesses permitted (with restrictions)
  - ▶ Travel for sport, physical and recreational activities is allowed





# CanSkate Parent & Tot

- ▶ CanSkate Parent & Tot programming is now permitted following the guidance listed in the Appendix of the Phase 2 revised protocols
- ▶ Must be delivered in accordance with minimum delivery standards identified by Skate Canada
- ▶ Skate Canada registrant requirements
  - ▶ “Tot” is required to be a Skate Canada registrant
  - ▶ “Parent” is not required to be a Skate Canada registrant
  - ▶ Names of all participants must be collected and submitted to Skate Canada
  - ▶ \$1 per parent, per session to cover insurance is required
  - ▶ Process for how to submit information for registering Parents and billing will be communicated in the next 1-2 weeks



# CanSkate Parent & Tot

- ▶ Parent may include members of the skater's household or member of their social circle
  - ▶ No Age Restriction on Parent
  - ▶ One parent with 2 children is allowed based on the parent's skating ability and decision of the club
  - ▶ Parents are required to wear skates and must wear CSA approved helmet if their skating level is below Stage 5 or equivalent
  - ▶ Clubs must ensure parents have sufficient skating level to effectively skate and be able to support their skater
- ▶ Parent is not there to teach the skater – they are there to help the skater move around the ice when needed. All teaching instruction still comes from coach and then guidance from Program Assistants
- ▶ Physical Distancing of 2 metres between coaches, program assistants and the skater/parent must be maintained



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# Competitions

- ▶ Effective August 29<sup>th</sup> sports that can maintain 2 meters of Physical Distancing at all times are now permitted to resume competitions in Alberta (following the Provincial guidance requirements)
  - ▶ Synchronized Skating Competitions are still not permitted
- ▶ 2021 Challenge has been confirmed and will be held in Edmonton end of November 2020 for Junior and Senior Categories
  - ▶ Junior Canadian Championships will be held in March 2021 for Pre-Novice and Novice competitors



# Competitions

- ▶ Sectionals is confirmed to run the end of October at the Seven Chiefs Arena in Calgary
  - ▶ Announcement coming early next week as to which categories will be included.
- ▶ The Section is working to confirm details around the 2020-2021 competition season and impacts to the events to comply with Public Health Orders and relevant guidance documents. Will communicate as soon as the information is available
  - ▶ Competition protocols are close to being finalized
  - ▶ In contact with the LOC's to discuss Covid-19 impacts and requirements



# Additional Updates

- ▶ Updated the protocol for personal items.
  - ▶ Minimal personal items brought into the facility is still strongly recommended
  - ▶ Revised recommendation to enter building with skates on as winter weather conditions approaching
- ▶ Harness permitted – with restrictions
  - ▶ Harnesses present a higher risk of contact transfer even with gloves and masks worn
  - ▶ Skaters must be able to strap themselves into the harness safely
    - ▶ A parent may assist skater if necessary
  - ▶ Equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between each use



# Additional Updates

- ▶ Simulations and Assessments are now permitted
  - ▶ Procedures must be in place for the safe handling of documents such as assessment or summary sheets to reduce shared contact between individuals
  - ▶ Results or feedback can be provided verbally however masks must be worn and physical distancing maintained
- ▶ Updated Daily Screening Checklist available on the website
  - ▶ Updated to reflect the Aug 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 revised Alberta Health Daily Checklist
  - ▶ Removed the requirement for the screening to be done verbally but must still be done daily by the club to all participants (in addition to contact tracing)
    - ▶ Online, Apps, or verbal is allowed if the questions reflect the AB Health Daily Checklist questions and they are completed within 3 hours of arrival



# Q&A



*Submit your questions using the chat  
function*