

Date: November 12, 2020

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

Good Evening Clubs / Skating Schools, Coaches and Officials:

This afternoon Premier Kenney announced a two week pause on group fitness, sports and social activities from November 13 – 27th inclusive. We are still looking for confirmation on a number of specifics, however at this time it appears all group and team programming is paused for the two weeks. Please note that facilities or municipalities in the impacted communities may choose to close their facilities to all user groups during this time.

The information below is subject to updates as we receive further information:

- **The following programs are not considered to be a “team sport” or group programming at this time and may continue in facilities that remain open** providing a minimum of 2m physical distance is maintained at all times:
 - Private STARSkate Lessons
 - Private CompetitiveSKATE Lessons
- **Group programming and “team sports” are not permitted in [Calgary and surrounding areas](#), [Edmonton and surrounding areas](#), Lethbridge, Red Deer, Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray from November 13-27th inclusive.**

This includes:

- Synchronized Skating
 - All team activities (including physically distanced skills sessions) are included in this category as the discipline is considered a team sport.
 - We are working on getting further clarification regarding skills sessions, outdoor skating, and dryland training and will update all clubs as soon as additional information is available.
- Group programming: STARSkate group lessons, CanSkate, CanPower, and Parent and Tot programming
- All in person group dryland training and group in-person fitness programming
- **Areas we are still seeking additional clarification on and recommend temporarily pausing programming until we receive clarification:**
 - Pairs / Dance teams
 - Events, Simulations, Performance Days and Assessment Days

The measures announced today, in addition to the rise in active cases in Alberta, emphasizes the importance for clubs / skating schools and coaches to ensure they are following or exceeding the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/ Nunavut Phase 2 Protocols right now.

In the past two weeks the Section has been notified of six (6) individual COVID positive cases across three regions. We are not aware of any outbreaks within a club to date which is important, however it is noted that these cases were both in rural, and urban communities showing that all clubs / skating schools equally have the potential of having a confirmed case identified in their club.



- In almost all cases, coaches who have been adhering to wearing masks and maintaining physical distance at all times were NOT considered by Alberta Health Services to be a close contact of the confirmed case and therefore not required to quarantine for 14 days and could continue coaching other sessions or skaters.
- The clubs were only required to suspend or cancel minimal (if any) programming when the physical distancing was being maintained by all participants.
- In the cases where cohorts existed, or coaches were not maintaining the 2m physical distance (regardless if they were wearing masks), the coaches were considered close contacts and required to quarantine for 14 days, and clubs were required to cancel certain programming for 2 weeks.

As numbers continue to increase in the Province so does the probability of a club / skating school having someone test positive for COVID-19 that is participating in a skating program so we **strongly recommend** that everyone ensures the 2m of distance is maintained at all times (no contact between coaches and skaters), and that clubs as a best practice impose temporary requirements for coaches to wear masks for all programming in addition to maintaining the 2m physical distance (not just for CanSkate or CanPower programming). This will give us the best chance of continuing our programming to the extent possible within the guidelines of Alberta Health.

Daily Health Screening and Contact Tracing Updates:

New daily health screening questionnaires have been developed by Alberta Health Services with different questionnaires and requirements for those under 18 and those over 18 as of October 29th.

[Alberta Health Daily Checklists](#)

Alberta Health Services has also launched the following new tools assist organizations with Close Contact Notification. Recent changes include the requirement for organizations to notify participants that were a close contact of a confirmed case. Due to the delays AHS is experience we recommend clubs contact Alberta Health Services immediately if a participant notifies you directly that they have been tested positive for COVID-19.

[Contact Tracing Notification Process](#)

[COVID-19 Close Contact Tool](#)

There is no doubt this is a difficult time for organized sports; our athletes, administrators, coaches, officials, volunteers and parents. Please know we are working diligently to have questions answered and to advocate for all figure skating disciplines represented by the Section. Our community has worked hard and proven to be diligent; having done an admiral job of ensuring programming in a COVID-19 environment is being delivered as safely as possible and setting high standards in the sporting community.

As always, we are supportive of the decisions and direction of the Priorities Implementation Committee of the Cabinet and the Chief Medical Officer in keeping all Albertans safe. As we receive further clarification or new information and legislation is released, we will distribute additional communication and update our protocols.

Thank you for your understanding and patience. Any questions, please email returntoskating@skateabnwtun.ca.

Stay Safe!

Lisa