



**Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut**  
**COVID-19 Update following Provincial Announcement**  
**Health Order CMOH 39-2020**

**Date:** December 2, 2020

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

---

Good afternoon Clubs / Skating Schools, Coaches and Officials:

We have been receiving many questions regarding the current health order and the status of figure skating and what is permissible from a variety of stakeholders. Below is a brief Q & A to help provide clarity for you.

**Did the sport of figure skating obtain an exemption to the current government restrictions and health order from Alberta Health?**

No - we have not been granted an exemption, nor did we apply for an exemption as we do not fit within the criteria required which includes adherence to the [Guidance for Professional Sporting Events](#).

We were able to confirm that certain individual sport programming (private training sessions) is still permissible under the current health order and therefore there is not a need to seek an exemption.

Below are examples of some of the measures we would be required to have in place to apply for an exemption which is not feasible for our Section:

**Exemptions:**

*Given the seriousness of Alberta's current COVID-19 situation and the proposed duration of the measures (to be reviewed by December 15), exemption applications for sport will only be considered for those entities that can demonstrate adherence to the Guidance for Professional Sporting Events. This includes:*

- *Enforcing a mandatory 14-day "quarantine-in" procedure before any practice or play occurs and using a bubble model for the duration of the event.*
- *Access to dedicated facilities and transportation that are not open to the general public.*
- *Conducting daily health checks on all members of the team, and private testing team members upon entry into the bubble and every five days throughout events.*

*Conducting a comprehensive risk assessment plan and implementing risk mitigation and controls before play begins*

**We are in an "Open" area on the Province's [COVID-19 status map](#). Does this health order apply to our programming or Club / Skating School?**

If your club / skating school is in a community or region that remains at "Open Status" through the duration of the order, then the restrictions do not apply, and you can continue your programming. The Section strongly recommends that you do not operate in cohort groups and that coaches in all programs should always be wearing masks and maintain a minimum 2 metres physical distance from skaters and other coaches.

Communities who are at "Purple Enhanced Watch Level" on the Provincial Relaunch Status Map at any time on or after November 27 must keep all measures in effect until at least December 15, regardless of whether their daily active cases and case rate would otherwise merit a change back to Open Status.



**Can we get confirmation in writing from the Province or AHS that Figure Skating is permitted to continue under the current health order?**

The following email confirmation received last night from the Province can be shared confirming that individual training in Figure Skating is permitted to continue under the current health order (this is not an exemption, but is rather confirmation of what programming still fits within the current health order) in facilities that choose to remain open:

**From:** John Barbour <John.Barbour@gov.ab.ca>  
**Sent:** December 1, 2020 9:07 PM  
**To:** Lisa Hardy <lisahardy@skateabnwtun.ca>  
**Cc:** Julie Hurd <Julie.Hurd@gov.ab.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Some Clarification - November 28, 2020 Update

Hi Lisa, following up on our call earlier please see the following:

Figure Skating can continue with the following:

- 25% capacity restriction in the facility
- Open rink / public skating / individual training style – this can include a coach delivering 1-on-1 coaching (with physical distancing) with other skaters on the ice – all skaters must maintain physical distancing
- 1:1 sessions (coach : student) so long as distancing is maintained
- Parents cannot form private social gatherings while waiting for/observing their children

John Barbour  
Manager, Operations and Sector Coordination  
Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Branch  
Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women  
[john.barbour@gov.ab.ca](mailto:john.barbour@gov.ab.ca) 780-415-0269

Classification: Protected A

**How many skaters and coaches can be on the ice at any one time?**

The current health order allows facilities to remain open if they choose and can determine their capacity up to a maximum of 25% of their fire code occupancy.

The Section has added further restrictions of a maximum 10 skaters and coaches are permitted on the ice at any one time to ensure proper distancing is always maintained. This can be any ratio of skaters to coaches (as confirmed above that other skaters may be on the ice) if a coach is only providing training sessions to 1 individual (or pair/dance team living in the same household) at a time. Other skaters may warm up or practice as individuals on their own - un-coached - until it is time for their private training session.

Clubs / Skating Schools, Coaches and Skaters must comply with the LESSER of capacity numbers as outlined by the Facility, the Public Health Order, and Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section.

At no time are volunteers, parents, spectators, skaters or coaches permitted to congregate or gather creating a group setting in or out of the facility – clubs and skating schools are expected to ensure full compliance at all times.



### **What programming is permitted to continue at this time?**

Training 1:1 with a coach (pairs / dance teams living in the same household are permitted to train together with 1 coach) is permitted if physical distancing can be maintained. This includes:

- Private – 1 on 1 STARSkate Training Sessions
- Private - 1 on 1 CompetitiveSKATE Training Sessions
- Private – 1 on 1 AdultSkate Training Sessions
- Private – 1 on 1 Dance / Pair Team (Team members must be living in the same household)

Skaters are to arrive ready-to-train, and ***“Get In-Train-Get Out”***

At this time Clubs / Skating Schools in “Open” areas only are permitted to hold an assessment day following the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Phase 2 V1.1 protocols.

### **Group programming, “team sports”, events and competitions are not permitted in enhanced watch “purple” areas until further notice:**

- Semi-Private Lessons
- Synchronized Skating - All team activities (including physically distanced skills sessions)
- Group programming: Including but not limited to STARSkate group lessons, CanSkate, CanPower, and Parent and Tot programming, Instructed stroking classes
- All in person group dryland training and group in-person fitness programming
- Events and Competitions
- Assessment Days
- Simulations and Performance Days
- Harness use is not permitted if 2 metres physical distance can not be maintained at all times.

We also are recommending the following additional measures be put in place by clubs and skating schools

- No parents or spectators permitted in the arena
- Minimal use (if any) of Dressing Rooms
- Coaches wear masks at all times in the facility including during all private training sessions

Once again, we thank you for your understanding and patience while we worked on getting clarity on the new targeted measures. If you have any questions, please email [returptoskating@skateabnwtun.ca](mailto:returptoskating@skateabnwtun.ca).

Sincerely,

Lisa Hardy  
Executive Director