

Date: February 7, 2021

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

Clubs / Skating Schools, Coaches and Officials:

Yesterday morning we received unexpected news from the Minister that there are additional restrictions being lifted related to youth sport activities in addition to the easements that were announced last week coming into effect February 8th. This news came as a surprise after attending several meetings and town halls this past week where Premier Kenney, several Ministers, Dr Hinshaw, Alberta Health, and our Provincial Sport contacts provided an overview of the upcoming changes and answered questions from sport organizations, fitness centers, municipalities, and facility operators. All responded quite clearly that they were taken a slow measured approach when questioned on the requirements related to 1:1 training in indoor facilities.

Our understanding is that facility operators and municipalities would have only become aware of these additional changes yesterday as well. As a result, sport organizations and facility operators are quickly trying to review the information and seek answers to our questions so that we can adapt our messaging and determine the impacts on each of our sports. We ask for patience as facility operators, municipalities and sport organizations continue to seek clarity while we also wait for the written health order to be publicly released.

Based on the new information that has been provided to date, effective February 8th the following will apply but is subject to change as more information becomes available:

Age 19 and older participants skating indoors must be in one-on-one training sessions:

- Individual training sessions (lesson) must be scheduled/booked in advance. Group or Drop-in sessions are not permitted.
 - Individual practice and warm-ups are not currently permitted. Skaters must always be in a scheduled training session.
- Coaches must be providing active instruction and correction to the skater during the session.
 - Passive supervision is not considered training, consequently skaters must be in an active training session with a coach for warm up, training, and cool down while in the facility.
- A coach and skater may only interact with each other in the facility. Interaction with other skaters and coaches during a session is not permitted.
- A skater may not move between coaches for multiple sessions in a row.
- A coach may schedule more than one scheduled session per day. In between skaters, the coach is to sanitize all high touch areas.
- Coaches are to remain masked at all times; skaters are not required to wear a mask while on the ice but must wear a mask anywhere else in the facility.
- Physical distance of 3 metres (9 feet) must be maintained at all times including with other coaches and skaters
- One-on-One Family (from the same household) training is allowed



Age 18 and younger participants skating indoors are permitted to be coached in private, semi-private (up to 3 skaters) under the following conditions:

- All skaters must remain 3 metres apart (9 feet) at all times. Cohort groups are not permitted.
- Maximum of 10 people including participants and coaches at any time
- Coaches are to remain masked at all times; skaters are not required to wear a mask while on the ice but must wear a mask anywhere else in the facility.

What is the maximum number permitted on the ice?

Based on the new information released a maximum of 10 individuals are permitted on the ice at any one time. This can be any ratio of skaters to coaches (a minimum of one Skate Canada Coach is required and the responsible Coaching Rule of 2 is adhered to). Skaters 18 and under may warm up or practice as individuals on their own - un-coached - until it is time for their private training session but may not come within 3 metres (9 feet) of any other skaters or coaches at any time.

Participants 19 and older must be in an active training session for the duration of time that they are on the ice. We are seeking clarification whether individuals in 1:1 training sessions are permitted to be on the ice at the same time as 18 and under individuals who may be warming up or practicing on their own.

The Section is not permitting volunteers, parents, spectators, skaters or coaches 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.

Are CanSkate, CanPower and Parent/Tot programs allowed?

Not at this time. Focus should remain on private or semi-private (max of 3 skaters) lessons for the week of February 8 – 14th while the Section seeks additional clarification from the Province as to what additional measures may be required for this type of programming.

A coach may provide a private or semi-private lessons to CanSkate, or Canpower level skaters who can maintain 3 metres (9 feet) of distance from other skaters and coaches at all times. Regular group programming is not permitted at this time.

Can members of the same household train together?

Yes. A coach may train family household members together. Dance and Pair teams living in the same household are also permitted to train together.

Are Harnesses permitted?

Yes. Refer to Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Phase 2 V1.1 protocols for additional information on Harness use.

Can we do Assessments?

Coach assessments during a lesson are permitted. We are still seeking clarification regarding assessment days with an evaluator and will provide an update when we receive additional information.

If you have any questions, please email returntoskating@skateabnwtun.ca.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hardy
Executive Director