



## Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut *Return to Competition*

**Date:** October 27, 2020

**Re:** 2020-2021 Event Update

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The ever-changing environment caused by this unprecedented global pandemic continues to require us to reassess decisions and plans previously made and adapt accordingly. Since our update the end of September there has been a dramatic increase in positive cases in the Province resulting in new voluntary or mandatory restrictions and as a result, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the following events.

### **Rose Bowl Synchronized Skating– December 12, 2020 – Calgary AB - CANCELLED**

We regretfully announce the cancellation of the Rose Bowl Synchronized Skating Invitational in December. This is as a result of the Province still not permitting competitions where 2 meters of distance cannot be maintained followed by the recent announcements of the 2021 Skate Canada Synchronized Skating Championships in Quebec Feb 19-21, 2021, and the Mountain Regional Synchronized Skating Championships in British Columbia January 29-31, 2021 being cancelled.

As of now the Synchronized Skating Invitational in March 2021 in Carstairs will remain on the competition schedule and we will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and adjust accordingly. We are also working closely with our Synchro coaches to find meaningful engagement and development opportunities for their teams this season.

### **2020-2021 STARSkate Region Closed Competitions - CANCELLED**

In consultation with the Section's Competition Committee we have made the extremely difficult decision to cancel all STARSkate Region Closed Competitions that were announced the end of September. The environment has changed significantly since our initial plan was announced and so we are going to pause, reset, and come up with a new plan that will be announced by November 30<sup>th</sup> to support our STARSkaters this season. There will be no STARSkate events scheduled for the remainder of this calendar year (2020) but we will aim to provide opportunities starting in the new year in alignment with any public health orders that may be in place at that time.

Many factors were considered coming to this difficult decision and ultimately the number of participants, format and logistics required for a STARSkate competition is not manageable within the current environment. The host local organizing committees (LOC) were prepared to continue to host each of these events and we want to thank each of them for their dedication and desire to continue to provide opportunities for our skaters in a time with so much uncertainty. We will continue to work with these LOC's as a new path is determined for the new year.

### **2021 STARSkate and Adult Championships – DATE AND LOCATION CHANGE**

The 2021 STARSkate and Adult Championships has been rescheduled to take place March 26-28<sup>th</sup> 2021 in Calgary.

The format and structure of the event is still undetermined however the Provincial event will remain on the competition schedule and will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and adjust the event accordingly.

### **Remote Officiating**

We have been receiving many inquiries as to whether the Section will be doing remote officiating or virtual events

this season. We have a working group that is ensuring we have all the necessary technology and trainers in place and will be working over the next few months to train our officials so that if required, remote officiating is a viable option moving forward in our Section.

As recently mentioned by Dr Hinshaw, there are increasingly polarizing narratives or opinions on how the spread and risk of COVID-19 should be managed. As always, the health and safety of skaters, coaches, officials, volunteers and stakeholders remains our primary concern and we will continue to try and find solutions to provide meaningful development and performance opportunities that can be held in accordance with Federal, Provincial, Territorial, and local authorities' laws, regulations, and public health restrictions.