

**Date:** June 29, 2021

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

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Good Afternoon Clubs / Skating Schools, Coaches and Officials:

As the Province moves into Stage 3 of the [Alberta Open for Summer plan](#) on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Section will also be lifting most restrictions and protocols and shift to providing recommendations and best practices for clubs / skating schools. The Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Return to Play Phase 3 Protocols and Guidelines (attached) will act as a means to continue to provide a safe and healthy environment for all participants, coaches, officials and volunteers, and it is expected that clubs/skating schools will assess the risk in their environment and utilize the guidance and recommendations when planning their programming.

The Section will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and may impose stronger measures if required based upon the advice of public health officials. Enhanced safety measures will also continue to be maintained at minimum during the month of July at any Section hosted courses, events, camps, or seminars. Members should continue to expect to follow measures, such as distancing and masking requirements when attending any Section run events and activities during that time.

Overall general considerations that clubs / skating schools should consider when assessing the risk in their environment:

- The health and safety of our members remains the priority in our return to skating in the Section
- Age 11 & under participants are not eligible for vaccination at this time which increases the risk of spread among this demographic
- 72.7% of eligible Albertans age 12+ have received 1 dose and 40.7% are fully vaccinated. This means a significant number of individuals are still not immunized in Alberta and the potential of an outbreak in a club setting is still possible. It is **NOT** advised to require participants to disclose whether they have been vaccinated without a club/skating school receiving legal advice.
- Individuals not fully vaccinated and are deemed to be a [close contact of a confirmed case](#) are still legally required to quarantine for 10-14 days.
- Measures should be in place to limit the potential risk of spread between participants as we prepare for the upcoming season and return to competitions and other events

**Effective July 1<sup>st</sup> the following requirements (protocols) will apply:**

- Compliance with all Federal, Provincial, Municipal laws regulations, by-laws and orders as they may exist from time to time
- Assumption of Risk and Waiver regarding COVID-19 form must be completed by each participant (including staff, skaters, coaches, officials, evaluators, volunteers, etc.) The waiver must be kept current (annually) or completed prior to the start of participation in club/skating school activities
- Clubs / Skating Schools must have a Rapid Response Plan that includes reporting protocols, and plan to manage those who become symptomatic for COVID onsite
- Reporting of any confirmed cases within a club / skating school to the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section by emailing [returntoskating@skateabnwtun.ca](mailto:returntoskating@skateabnwtun.ca)
- Daily Contact/Participant Tracing for all club / skating school programs (on or off ice)
- Ensuring that all attendees have screened themselves using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) before attending the facility or activity (Clubs/Skating schools do not have to do the screening of each participant but should confirm the screening was completed)

**Effective July 1, 2021 restrictions in the following areas have been lifted**

- All programming including Pre-CanSkate, Inclusive Skating, CanSkate element events, etc is permitted. Skate Canada Minimum Delivery standards is required. Refer to the appendix in the Phase 3 protocols and guidance for additional information.
- There are no mandated restrictions on group size unless the municipality or facility operator has enhanced measures in place or there are restrictions on group size as part of the Skate Canada minimum delivery standards for certain programs (ei: CanSkate & CanPower). It is strongly recommended that smaller group sizes be used for age 11 & under programming. Our understanding is that the Province will be releasing new guidance for age 0-11 programming in the upcoming days which may result in additional recommendations clubs/skating schools should consider in their program delivery.
- Physical Distancing is still strongly recommended. Not utilizing physical distance can result in coaches and other skaters being deemed a close contact of a confirmed case and those not fully vaccinated will be required to quarantine for 10-14 days
- Masks are no longer required by skaters or coaches unless a requirement by the facility or a municipal bylaw. It is strongly recommended coaches continue to wear masks where physical distancing is not being maintained from skaters and when coaching age 11 & under programming. Inclusive skating, Pre-CanSkate programs and harness work are examples of programs where coaches and PA's should continue to wear masks.
- Spectators will be allowed if the facility permits. There may be restrictions on the number of spectators permitted.
- Phase 3 Recommendations and Best Practices should be considered and implemented where feasible

More detailed information will be provided next week as it becomes available to us. As always, if you have any questions, please email [returntoskating@skateabnwtun.ca](mailto:returntoskating@skateabnwtun.ca).

Sincerely,

*Lisa Hardy*  
Executive Director