



Date: February 14, 2022

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

Good afternoon, Clubs / Skating Schools, Coaches and Officials:

With the recent changes to health orders, we wanted to provide an update and answer questions we have been receiving in the office regarding how these changes will impact Section events as well as club events and programming.

SECTION SANCTIONED EVENTS/COMPETITIONS

Effective February 9th, 2022, the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Board of Directors rescinded the Section Mandatory Event Vaccination Policy that aligned with the Provincial Restriction Exemption Program. As such, mandatory screening for proof of vaccination at competitions in the Section will no longer be required unless the municipality or facility where the event is being held requires it.

With the exception of items related to proof of vaccination screening, the **December 22, 2021 Return to Competition protocols are still in effect for competitions in the Section for the remainder of the season**. This is to ensure officials, volunteers and participants are confident that other health and safety measures that help to provide a safe environment remain in place when they arrive at an event.

Are masks still required at Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Events?

Yes. We are aware that the changes in the Provincial Health order has lifted the requirement mandating masks be worn for certain age groups, however during an event the logistics are too challenging to manage different requirements for different age groups.

We will continue with the requirement that all skaters, coaches, officials, volunteers, staff and spectators are required to wear a properly fitted mask at all times in the facility. Skaters may remove their masks when they step on the ice for their practice, warm up or performance. Masks may also be temporarily removed when eating or drinking.

Is Physical Distancing still required at Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Events?

Yes. With the removal of vaccination screening at events, it is important that we continue with other measures that provide a safe environment for all those participating which includes physical distancing. Pairs, Dance, Synchro Skaters continue to be permitted to be in-hold contact during training, practice, warm up and their performance.

SKATE CANADA: ALBERTA-NWT/NUNAVUT SECTION MANDATORY ENHANCED MEASURES

The Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section continues to require the following enhanced measures outlined in the Phase 3 protocols be followed at a minimum for club/skating school programming and sanctioned club activities:

- **Compliance with Regulations** - This includes Federal, Provincial, Territorial, Municipal or facility-imposed regulations or protocols as they may exist from time to time



- **Participant Tracking/Attendance** for all individuals at ice level which includes all skaters, coaches, officials, and volunteers (spectator contact tracing is not a current requirement)
- **Signed Waivers and Risk of Assumption** by all participants – This form must be kept current (annually) or completed prior to the start of participation in club or skating school activities
- **Health Screening** - Confirm that all attendees, including participants, parents, coaches, volunteers have screened themselves using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist for symptoms of COVID-19 before attending the facility or activity
- **Rapid Response Plan** - Club / Skating School continues to have a plan in place which includes a process to safely manage those who become symptomatic for COVID-19 while on-site, as well as procedures for reporting
- **First Aid/Emergencies** – COVID-19 protocols and procedures for First Aid/Emergencies are followed and appropriate PPE is available.

We also continue to **strongly encouraging clubs / skating schools to refer to and implement the best practices and guidelines provided in the July 1st [Phase 3 Section protocols](#)** that are not mandated to reduce the risk of transmission, and reduce the risk of interruptions or cancellations in programming.

With the Restriction Exemption Program lifted are we still required to follow the Section Mandatory Event vaccination policy?

No. The policy was in place for Section Sanctioned competitions on the Event Calendar and did not apply to club hosted activities. The Section policy was rescinded on February 9th, 2022 (see above) and no longer impacts Section Sanctioned Events either.

Are there any restrictions that limit adults and youth from participating in programs at the same time?

No. Changes to the health order announced last week removed the restrictions that limited youth and adults being on the ice at the same time.

There are also no longer any restrictions that limit unvaccinated participants age 18 & older from participating in events or group programming/training.

Are youth under 13 required to wear masks still?

Effective February 14th 2022, the Provincial Health Order requiring youth under 13 to wear masks was lifted. There are municipalities and facilities that have made the decision to continue to require all individuals entering the facility to wear masks and you should contact your facility operator to confirm if masks are still required.

Participants, officials, volunteers, and spectators of all ages will still be required to wear masks at Section Events for the remainder of the season. Please ensure skaters, parents and coaches are aware of this requirement if they plan to attend any upcoming competitions.



Are we still required to do contact or participant tracing?

The Section Phase 3 Protocols, Best Practices and Guidelines are still in place for clubs to operate under. Contact Tracing in its former version that was required by the Province is not required, however the Section is requiring clubs to continue with a participant attendance list that includes coaches, PA's etc. It is not required to have participants sign a contact tracing sheet or to provide their contact information each time they arrive if you already have this information as part of your registration system.

There are no requirements for spectators to be included in participant tracking however clubs and skating schools may choose to do so.

Continuing with participant attendance tracking is for the purpose of internally determining if there is potential transmission spread between participants, as well as to inform families if they were in close contact with a confirmed case so they can monitor for symptoms as well as avoid any potential high-risk settings.

Do we have to continue with Health Screening?

Screening for symptoms is still a requirement under the current health order. Clubs/skating schools are required to ensure participants are screening prior the activity they are participating in; however health screening forms are not required to be kept on file.

As a reminder any documentation containing an individual's personal information must be destroyed in a secure manner that complies with the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA)

Is Isolation & Quarantine still a requirement?

Yes, Isolation is still a current requirement in Alberta if an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms and have not been tested. There are different [isolation and quarantine requirements](#) depending on whether the individual is vaccinated or not and Clubs/Skating Schools should ensure they are aware of these requirements.

Note: Fully vaccinated individuals that have tested positive must isolate for a minimum of 5 days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer. Following the isolation they are required to wear a mask at all times when around others outside of home for up to 5 more days (10 total). This means they are required to wear a mask while on the ice and during physical activity.

Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section– it is strongly recommended that clubs/skating schools continue to implement 2 metres of physical distancing between participants and enhanced cleaning measures to reduce the risk of transmission with the relaxation of certain quarantine requirements.

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

Sincerely,

Lisa Hardy
Executive Director