

ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

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OHF Bulletin

To: OHF Member Partners

From: Phillip McKee, Executive Director

Date: 5/29/2020

Re: Phase One of Ontario's Reopening Amendment

Today, Ontario's Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries has provided clarification on the Tuesday, May 19 announcement about easing the restrictions on sport activities. This information will help address the questions that have been asked to them since the changes were announced. It should also help with consistent enforcement of safe return to play across the province.

It is important to note that Hockey Canada, the Ontario Hockey Federation and our Member Partners are not operating any hockey activities at this time.

We support the Province's encouragement for the public to continue to adhere to public health measures, including practising physical distancing or wearing a face covering when physical distancing is difficult or not possible and regular handwashing and staying home when ill.

While hockey may not be operating in the Province yet, the OHF and our Member Partners are hopeful that we will be able to return to hockey sooner rather than later. We have been working in conjunction with guidance from Public Health, the Government of Ontario and Hockey Canada to develop a Return to Hockey plan that will promote the health and safety of all stakeholders in the game.

Below are the details of the easing of restrictions on sport activities. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document can be found at the end of this Bulletin.

The amendment to the Emergency Order allows for the opening and controlled use of sporting facilities, with the exception of pools. The following organizations, their leagues, clubs are identified in that order:

- I. A national sport organization funded by sport Canada or a member club of such an organization
- II. A provincial sport or multi-sport organization recognized by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries or a member club of such an organization



III. A professional sport league or a member of such a league.

The amendment to the Emergency Order outlines specific regulations that must be followed by every person, facility and organization that chooses to return to sport.

National sport organizations, provincial sport organizations, and professional sport leagues must establish rules and policies that will enable the safe return to sport before their sport resumes.

These organizations are required to put in place health and safety protocols that comply with the Chief Medical Officer of Health's recommendations. We encourage you to work with your local public health offices to develop these protocols.

Ultimately, it is up to each sport organization or club to determine whether they can reopen under the required conditions as set out by the Emergency Order. For reference, please find attached a list of frequently asked questions that may help you.

As Ontario gradually reopens, it is more important than ever to follow public health advice. The government will proceed cautiously and in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

You can find more information on the requirements by visiting [ONTARIO REGULATION 223/20](#).

Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

RETURN TO SPORT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is my sport allowed to start some type of programming as part of the amendments to the Emergency Order?

It is your organization's decision on whether some activities of your sport can be safely implemented within the parameters of the Emergency Order while also following public health guidelines.

Can team sports as per the Emergency Order hold training or practices?

For specific language about which sports are now allowed to begin activities, please refer to the Emergency Order, which can be found at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r20223>.

Permitted team sports as per the Emergency Order can hold training for individuals, if rules and policies have been put in place that follow public health guidelines.

Who is responsible for providing the rules and policies that will allow for the return to sport?

National Sport Organizations, Provincial Sport Organizations, and professional sport leagues are responsible for developing their own rules and policies that will enable the safe return to sport of their sport.

Will the government be reviewing or approving the rules and policies of the National Sport Organizations, Provincial Sport Organizations, or professional sport leagues to ensure their effectiveness?

National Sport Organizations, Provincial Sport Organizations, or professional sport leagues do not need to submit to the government their rules and policies to comply with the Emergency Order.

It is recommended that organizations work with their local public health offices to develop their own rules and policies.

Who is responsible for ensuring organizations and facilities are following what is set out in the Emergency Order?

Facility owners are responsible to ensure compliance with public health guidelines on their premises. Facility owners must ensure all activities are conducted in accordance with the rules and policies of the applicable sport organization, including the rules and policies put in place to enable a safe return to sport.

In addition, it is the responsibility of all individuals involved to ensure they follow the rules, regulations and policies that have been put in place.