



COVID-19 FAQ Page

Have a question about COVID and the Sport of Figure Skating? Check out the Q & A's below to review questions we have been receiving from members in the Manitoba Section. Most recent questions will be located at the end of the document.

Have a question but don't see the answer below, then send in your question to Skate.admin@sportmanitoba.ca and we will get it answered!

Please check out [Skate Canada's COVID-19 Response Page](#) for Information such as Virtual/Online Training Requirements, FAQs, and Return to Skating Guidelines.

If our local park is open, and we follow the current health requirements, can we do small group off – ice training?

Yes, if your town/municipality/city has opened park(s) and you follow all requirements that have been mandated as per our Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Roussin, you can have outdoor off-ice classes. Please note the Rule of Two applies.

A private rink in our area has opened. Can we start skating?

As of May 27, 2020 the Sport of Figure Skating in Manitoba has not been approved. In Manitoba, Skate Canada Clubs, Skate Canada programming and figure skating cannot commence until we have been approved by the Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Roussin. UPDATE: As of June 19, 2020 (pending the Skate Canada waiver) skating can reconvene in Stage 1 of the Return to Play Protocols document.

Our Club and Facility are ready to get on the ice before June 19th, we have everything in place! Can we start skating?

If the Skate Canada waiver has not been received then no. The waiver must be received by SCMB, distributed to Manitoba Clubs, who must then send and receive it from their members before they can begin Stage 1 at the rink.

How much time has to be between skating sessions or groups?

You will need to work with your facility to find out how much time is needed between sessions for cleaning, flood, etc... Much will depend on what your facility has in place for protocols.

Can a coach be the Emergency on site contact or Screening Volunteer?

Yes a coach can be either of those volunteers as long as there is enough time between sessions to do the intake screening or other duties as negotiated/assigned.

Can you explain the difference between stage 3 to 5 for CanSkate?

Stage 3 introduces Parent and Tot skaters to Canskate. By having a parent directly responsible for assisting their child there is minimal time spent within the required 2m physical distance boundary. Parents must be registered Skate Canada members to enter the ice, and sign a waiver.

Stage 4 allows clubs to introduce athletes who have no previous experience in Skate Canada programs. This allows you to accept skaters who may need no assistance getting up off the ice into your program such as adults or older children, etc...

Stage 5 allows you to accept skaters who have no skating experience, are young and do not have a parent who can be on the ice with them to assist.

The stages demonstrate the transition of minimal risk (skaters with previous experience in CanSkate) to higher risk (young, no skating experience and no parent to assist with falling down and getting up)

Can we offer Synchro?

Yes you can offer Synchro skating however it must be non-contact, physically distanced training.

Is CanPowerSkate included?

Yes CanPowerSkate is included in Stage 1.

How many athletes can be on the ice at once including coaches?

There must be at least one (1) Skate Canada professional coach in good standing on the ice at all times. In Stage 1 the maximum number of people on, or near, the ice is 15, so you could have 14 athletes and 1 coach in that scenario. Always include a coach in your on ice numbers.

When we get the waivers signed what do we do with them?

Once you have signed waivers you will need to scan and submit them to SCMB. We have a link to an online submission form on our website. Then you will need to file them and keep them for a predetermined period of time.

Who need to complete the Skate Canada Waiver?

Everyone who enters the facility for your program. Skaters, coaches, volunteers, board members, PA's, spectators, parents, officials, etc... If they are there for Skate Canada programs or figure skating related activities they need to complete a waiver.

Can skaters from other provinces or countries skate at our clubs if requested?

All Manitoba Government Rules must be followed in regards to travel restrictions. International travel is still not permitted. Inter-provincial travel currently still requires a mandatory self-quarantine period of 14 days. This quarantine must be followed each time the border is crossed. Skate Virden has received government clarification for their skaters from Moosimin being able to cross the border for training.

Can a parent watch from the stands?

Depends. That is a decision between each facility and the club what they will allow.

What does "on or near the ice" mean?

On or near the ice includes any person who is at ice level. Skaters on the ice, anyone in the players or penalty box, persons in the hallway or lined up by boards to enter ice surface. A music player, if at ice level, does not count towards the maximum number.

In the protocols it's mentioned that there should be one gate to go on the ice and one gate to get off. Doors should be kept open, except inside the rink to ice surface doors. Are we supposed to be closing the gates to the ice surface, or leaving them open? And if they are open does that affect insurance?

Doors/gates that lead directly onto the ice must be closed during a session as it is a safety and insurance requirement. Doors that lead to the players bench, dressing room doors, etc... should be propped open if possible to reduce high touch areas. Sanitize ice surface gate door handles frequently as they will be a high touch area.

Can we have drop ins/buy-ons on our sessions?

In Stage 1 it is not permitted to have skaters drop in/buy on to a session the day of. If skaters want to participate on a session they will need to purchase their drop in/buy on at least a day in advance.

Do board or committee meeting fall into any particular stage?

They can take place now, as long as meetings are meeting the current health requirements set out by the Province of Manitoba (such as physical distancing, number of people in a gathering, etc...). The government does encourage people to continue to work from home and meet virtually.

Do further stages within our sport need to be approved again by the province before it has to be implemented or is that up to us to determine?

Movement through the stages will be done by Skate Canada Manitoba in consultation with Sport Manitoba, Skate Canada, the current health restrictions set out in the Province of Manitoba and review of current state. When a new stage is opening it will come directly from the office. It will be posted on our website, social media and eNews for everyone to see.

Does each club need to submit a “return to sport” policy or has this been done by the province and we just need to ensure we follow the guidelines set forward?

The Skate Canada Manitoba Return to Play Protocol document is Manitoba’s return to sport policy that everyone needs to follow. Clubs do not create their own but may need to include any additional requirements set out by their facility.

The no contact for pairs, dance and synchro, does that include off ice as well?

Yes. In Manitoba we have a requirement of 2m between people for physical distancing. If this restriction is lifted within the province, we will review our protocol and make any required amendments as per government regulations. Any changes will be communicated by the office to all stakeholders via the website, eNews and social media.

So Manitoba is currently in Phase 2, will we have to wait until phase 3 to move onto stage 3, 4, 5 in skating? Has the province given Skate Canada Manitoba any indication when they may be moving into phase 3?

Skate Canada Manitoba will determine the movement of stages within our sport, with consultation from Sport Manitoba, Skate Canada, and reviewing the current provincial regulations etc... The province does not provide us with information regarding movement between the phases, we receive that information when everyone else does.

If we (our club) are starting after June 19th do we have to send proof that requirements within the document have been met?

No you don't. The only requirement is to submit scanned copies of signed waivers in a reasonable time to the office. Clubs must have the Skate Canada waiver signed by participants before they can start.

Is the volunteer performing the screening included in the maximum numbers?

The screener would be included in any maximum numbers set out by your facility for persons in the building. If the screener is performing their duties at ice level then yes they would be part of your maximum numbers for 'on or near' the ice.

Will there be template for all of the plans required? I think there was a plan template for the emergency response plan, but what about other documents that the club is responsible for creating?

Yes we have all of the templates available on our website for you to download and use. If you find that there is something you need or that would be useful, please let us know and we will see if it is something we can do for you. We encourage clubs to share any documents that they create with us and we can share it on the website for others to use too.

Is there a timeline or markers in the progression of the illness that will determine when we move from stage to stage?

No, it is quite fluid. We will be taking into account many factors when determining movement within the stages. Some programs/areas may remain in stage 1 while others move forward. For example we could be in Stage 2 for all Skate Canada Programs, but remain in Stage 1 for competitions/clinics/etc... due to public health restrictions. Decisions will be made in the best interest of the entire section.

Is the waiver a one-time requirement? Or is it a daily requirement?

The waiver will be required seasonally not daily. This is why clubs need to submit it the Skate Canada Manitoba and keep it filed during the season. Update: The waiver, once signed will be good until August 31, 2021

Can the waiver be added as a drop down on Uplifter when members register?

Skate Canada is currently reaching out to online registration platforms such as Uplifter to discuss options and is speaking with their legal team about it as well.

If a skater is training at more than one facility do they have to sign a separate waiver for each training center? If we have skaters that come to us for summer or ours go elsewhere how does that work with waivers?

A skater must sign a separate waiver for each club they skate with. If skaters attend your club from somewhere else they must sign your waiver that you keep on file. If your clubs skaters go to another facility to skate, they must sign a waiver there, which that club will keep on file.

As we begin integrating sports into a facility, for example hockey occurring after figure skating, will we need to take that into account for session planning?

As other ice sports are approved to return to play there will need to be discussions with your facility about things such as time between sessions, cleaning processes, rules for waiting to go out onto the ice, etc... As we are the first ice sport to receive approval we encourage you to share with your facilities the protocols we have and get the conversations started early for planning.

I have a question about arrival screening, what exactly is included or must be included – can you direct me to more details? Do screening volunteers have to wear PPE?

On page 4 of the protocol you will find information about the instances where someone cannot participate as well as the requirement for the daily verbal screening. We have a template for the screening questions that must be asked upon arrival for every participant on our website, under Club Resources.

Screening volunteers must wear PPE when performing the screening duty as they are in a vulnerable situation and should be protected. Please note that on page 5 of the protocol we stated that “any off ice club volunteer must be supplied with a mask and gloves to perform cleaning duties or music playing duties”. We have amended the oversight of not including the screening volunteer in our protocol.

There is a discrepancy between the COVID-19 Participation Screening Tool That Skate MB wants us to use before each session and the MB Government screening poster where SCMB screening template does not use the differentiation between the variety of symptoms. The MB government poster which is provided on the website states that for symptoms like runny nose, loss of taste/smell etc you need to have two of those types of symptoms to be excluded. Some you only need one symptom to be excluded (more serious symptoms), other types of symptoms (more mild type) you need to have two to be excluded. Whereas the COVID Participation screening tool we are to use before each session doesn't seem to discriminate between these types of symptoms and if you have one of the symptoms you are excluded.

If you are sick, with any symptom, you stay home. The government poster lists more symptoms on it and is great for participants to review, but for the safety of everyone involved, if you present any symptoms of being ill (for any reason) you do not participate.

If someone exhibits symptoms (e.g. sore throat) and therefore cannot come to practice, when are they allowed to return? Must they wait 14 days? 14 days after symptoms disappear? 24 hours after being symptom free? Or as soon as they no longer have symptoms? Or after a negative COVID test?

Skate Canada Manitoba has a draft of an illness policy – this document will be reviewed/discussed and voted on by the SCMB Executive Committee at our upcoming meeting (Tuesday June 16) once approved it will be circulated to all stakeholders and will address the above questions.

If an individual is showing symptoms of COVID 19 – they can not participate and advised that they should contact Health Links -Info Sante or a doctors for further guidance.

A participant will not be permitted to return until they are verified by a medical professional that they are COVID free.

You have the Stages in place so I assume you have milestones for skater numbers. Can you share what your next goal is for skater numbers on the ice? And will it be tied to the next Stage? Also, is there any rough timeline for each stage? Barring any outbreaks in Manitoba is MB Health's idea that we need to demonstrate success at each stage for a month or 6 weeks before we can move to the next stage? Do you have any ideas?

At this time SCMB has not worked on specific numbers or milestones required to move to the next stages. With the situation remaining fluid and changes happening on a regular basis it isn't effective or efficient to plan too far ahead. Having making that statement please don't take it that we aren't doing anything to prepare for the future and movement to the next stages. We are continually in contact with Skate Canada our counterparts across the country and with Sport MB and other sports in MB to see what is happening the discussing next steps.

Our future decisions are wholly dependent upon the Provincial, and Federal governments and we will take their direction and determine how and what we can to advance to the next stages in our R2P protocols. The Provincial Government has approved our R2P protocol in whole, so it is up to SCMB to determine when we move into each of our stages, based upon the Provincial Governments reopening strategies (reopening/phases).

If a skater is skating on private ice that is not involved with Skate Canada and if that facility has been approved to operate and has their own insurance how does that fall into our protocol?

We don't have authority over non-sanctioned skating activity occurring on private ice. That facility is responsible for maintaining/implementing the requirements/restrictions dictated to them under their approval by the government. Skate Canada members have no Skate Canada insurance while on non-sanctioned ice.

Are we able to evaluate new can skaters for previously demonstrated skills? For example there is a new family to the club. They skate on their own and have skills but don't have a record with the club? Can we evaluate their skills before starting CanSkate lessons ? If we are not allowed does this mean we can only have returning skaters?

CanSkate opens up in Stage 2 and only allows for returning skaters with whom you have a record for where their skills left off. New skaters (excluding parent and tot who are in stage 3) with no previous experience in Skate Canada programs are scheduled for Stage 4. It is possible that stage 3 and 4 could be released simultaneously but we will not know that until a later date.

If a skater was a member at another skating club you can contact Skate Canada Member Services and find out more about their skating record. Contact info@skatecanada.ca

We have a few skaters in our club that have skated in our club as well as another club, is this still going to be allowed in the coming season?

This will depend on each club. Some clubs may enact policies that only allow skaters registered with their club skate on their sessions, and some clubs may not change at all. I advise that each of the skaters (or their parents) reach out to the clubs that they typically skate with and inquire about their policies for the upcoming season.

Would it be alright if a coach had a contactless thermometer to take a skaters temp on sight if the parent forgets to send that information?

So the goal with the temperature taking before the rink is that you catch a fever before a person comes near other people. If you choose to take temperature a second time at the rink with a contactless thermometer than that goes beyond our standards.

If a coach is wearing ppe could they help a skater tie their skates inside if the facility has a drop and go, no parents allowed inside?

The goal is stay 2m apart all the time. If it is safe (weather, condition of walkway, etc..), a child who cannot tie their skates should arrive to the building with their skates already tied to avoid having another person come in close contact. If a child's skate needs to be retied during a session and there are no parents allowed in the building, then yes you could put on a mask and gloves and assist in the adjustment (if you are comfortable with that).

Would it be ok if our screening volunteer is the person to fill in the Session Record Form as skaters come in rather than having each person and their guardian have to sign it themselves?

Yes the screening volunteer can also be the person completing the session record form!

Is it possible to have the sign in be just a list with names and phone numbers of skaters registered for summer session and the volunteer would check off skaters as they come in? There would be a new list (with date) for each session. This way we still know who was at the rink but it is much quicker than filling in the skaters info each time. (For any other spectators or volunteers, the regular paper copy session record form would be used)

Yes you could have a print out of all registered skaters containing all the information for them needed and check them off as they arrive and do their symptoms screening. You will have to have a paper copy for the session record form, as you mentioned, for any other people that arrive. Make sure to attach both lists together when you file them so that one doesn't get missed in case of an emergency.

To reduce the amount of emails/texts our coach has to go through prior to each session, could the skaters take their temperatures at home and then we have the volunteer screener ask and record the skaters temperatures when they arrive at the rink? (Skaters would of course be encouraged to not come to the rink if their home temperature is more than 37.8 C)

Skaters are asked to submit their temperature from home in order to reduce the chance of them coming to the rink with a fever.

If we purchased a forehead thermometer and cleaned it between each use, could we screen skaters temperature at the rink?

If you would like to go above and beyond our requirements and take temperatures at the rink in addition to them submitting from home I think that is a great measure to ensure that no one enters with a fever. Yes, cleaning between readings would be a must.

With MB loosening the restrictions on requiring a 14 day isolation period in Phase 3 after travel to the West or in NorthWestern Ontario, will the screener be modified at that time? I could see some spectators/volunteers and skaters thinking it is ok to travel to these places once in Phase 3 (eg camping) only to be turned away because our screener is different.

When/if the government loosens/removes the 14 day self isolation requirements when returning from specific locations within Canada SCMB will review that information and make amendments to our criteria as necessary.