



## CanSkate & COVID-19 FAQ Page

Have a question about COVID and CanSkate? 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](mailto:Skate.admin@sportmanitoba.ca) and we will get it answered!

Please check out [Skate Canada's COVID-19 Response Page](#) and [Skate Canada Manitoba's COVID-19 Response Page](#) and [Club Resources](#) for FAQ's, protocols, guides, templates and more!

### Can we run the CanSkate Program?

Yes! As of September 1, 2020 we are entering Stage 2 of our Return to Play Protocols, and for CanSkate only we are actually opening up to Stage 4!

### Can we only accept previous CanSkate registrants into our CanSkate Program this season?

Since we are opening CanSkate to Stage 4 of the Return to Play Protocols, Clubs will be able to accept the following:

- Previously registered CanSkate participants who have earned at least one Stage 1 ribbon
- Participants from other programs such as hockey, ringette, city run learn to skate programs, or no formal skating experience but can skate without assistance
- Parent and Tot Pre-CanSkate

### Can we have new skaters join who have no previous skating experience and are not Parent and Tot?

For the safety of the coaches and PA's Pre-CanSkate registrations cannot be accepted at this time, unless there is a parent/guardian on the ice with that child in a Parent & Tot class.

When tentatively accepting new registrations we ask that you have the following (or similarly worded) clause; "registrations are subject to review by the club and coach(es) of the program. Skaters not registered in Parent & Tot programming and who are unable to demonstrate that they can skate without assistance on the ice will not be able to remain in the program at this time due to COVID safety considerations."

### Our club has never run a Parent & Tot class. What does Parent & Tot mean and what is required?

Parent & Tot is a Pre-CanSkate class or group where the parent/guardian comes onto the ice with the skater and assists their child only with holding skater up, assisting with getting back up, etc... Parent & Tot helps young skaters gain confidence and eventually independence as they 'graduate' past the Pre-

CanSkate ribbon into Stage 1. Parents do not replace the coach, but are there to help their child learn from the coach.

All parents must be registered members of Skate Canada to step onto the ice. If the parent is unable to be on the ice and there is another parent/guardian who wishes to attend, that person must be a current member of Skate Canada as well. Memberships do not transfer to another person.

### What if we accept a registration and they get onto the ice and they need to be held up? What do we do?

This person would be considered a Pre-CanSkate participant, regardless of age, and unable to continue in the program at this time without a parent/guardian to assist in a Parent & Tot group/class.

Above you will find the registration clause we would like you to use so that parents are aware at the time of registration that if their child cannot move on the ice unassisted they would not be eligible.

Coaches should evaluate skating ability on the first session, or a pre-session, to ensure that the skater(s) are placed in the appropriate group or will need to notify parents if they are not eligible at this time.

We ask clubs to consider having flexible refund policies should a skater attend and they are not able to participate due to current skating ability.

### How many skaters are we allowed on the ice?

As of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, you are allowed to have a maximum of 35 persons on or near the ice. This includes coaches, PA, skaters and any parents on the ice involved in a Parent and Tot class/group. Anyone near the ice, whether in players/penalty boxes (with the exception of an ice level music player), near the gate, standing around the glass, etc... are all included in the 35 person number.

As of September 14<sup>th</sup> 2020 you are allowed to have a maximum of 35 participants (skaters) on or near the ice plus up to 5 additional coaches and/or PA's. Clubs/Schools are able to additionally have a music playing volunteer at ice level and a safety officer/volunteer, and these persons do not affect on or near the ice numbers.

### What do we do if we get a positive COVID-19 case?

If you have been informed that a person(s) on one of your sessions has received a positive COVID result please do the following:

- Contact Skate Canada Manitoba at [skate.exec@sportmanitoba.ca](mailto:skate.exec@sportmanitoba.ca) to let us know date(s) of possible exposure, and number of case(s)
- Contact your facility/rink contact person to let them know, if they were not the person who contacted you
- Have your session record form(s) for the date(s) of possible exposure ready to provide to the government or facility

- The government will contact those persons who need to be contacted regarding possible exposure
- Deep clean/sanitize all props, teaching aids etc...
- Continue programming unless instructed to postpone from Government, Facility or Skate Canada Manitoba

### Sometimes we need to be hands on with a skater, how do we handle that?

Whenever possible try to demonstrate and use verbal and visual cues. When that is not working the Government has the following information available; Where sport specific training cannot maintain the physical distancing requirement of 2 meters that contact must be kept between participants (including skater to skater, coach to skater, etc...) to a maximum of 15 cumulative minutes per session.

### CANSKATE & COVID:

The below questions were from our CanSkate & COVID Town Hall. Answers with bullets were responses that participants shared with the group.

### If you were waiting to cash cheques how would that work with your Skate Canada Registration Fee? Would skaters be able to skate once without paying that fee?

1. Recommendation for club who are accepting CanSkate program participants who have not previously registered in a Skate Canada program and child needs to be assessed to ensure that they meet the minimum standards set out to participate in the CanSkate session.
  - The club would be required to collect all registration information and payment (hold off on processing payment until the assessment has been completed – if possible (this would depend on what your registration process is).
  - It is imperative for the club to ensure that they parent/guardian understands that the “new” registrant needs to be assessed to ensure that they meet the minimum requirements in order for the registrant to participate in the CanSkate session.
    - the “new” participant would be required to be assessed by the coaches either **prior to the first official session or at the start of the official first session** to determine if they meet the minimum standards in order to participate.
      - If they do fantastic – proceed with session and club to finalize process and payment.
      - If they don’t – they need to be removed from the session and either the coach or club executive can advise the parent/guardian what they would need to work on in order to be able to meet the minimum standard in order to come back to the club and register for the CanSkate program – (If you offer a parent and tot program –direct them to that program, or if the program isn’t full you can

suggest that they work on the skills necessary and they can try again in XXX weeks to be assessed again, let them know when your next registration time is)

- cancel the registration and return cheque/payment. Thank them for their interest in the CanSkate program – if you have coloring sheets or sticker provide the child with something for coming out. I would also have a club brochure or contact info with information/ dates for upcoming sessions etc.
- We would encourage the club to keep a copy of the registration information as you can use that as a follow up and contact them with the next session info etc...
- Skate Canada does consider a skater registered with a Skate Canada Member club IF; the club has collected all of the required registration information and payment and insurance would be validated even though the Skate Canada member club has not yet submitted the paperwork/payment to Skate Canada prior to the first session taking place ( as there is a contract/intent to participate – as the registrant has signed up for and paid the club – the club having accepted the registration & payment for programming) Skate Canada recognizes that the submission of the registration into Skate Canada may not be completed due to the timing of the registrations being collected by the club and the time it takes the club to complete the process with Skate Canada. So there is a small window of leeway that is acceptable and it is expected that the club complete the registration process in a timely fashion.

### What happens when we register (Skate Canada) through Uplifter?

When you register through Uplifter the fees are collected at the time of registration. For more information about your club's specific plan with Uplifter and the features that you have access to (refunds, processing, submission of fees to Skate Canada, etc...) please contact Uplifter directly. Here is the website for Uplifter Skate Canada Q & A's <https://learn.uplifterinc.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007123807-Skate-Canada>

### The risk forms from Skate Canada policy needs to go to the office for every skater? Who are they going to in the office if they need to go in?

The Skate Canada Waiver needs to be signed by all participants (skaters), volunteers, coaches, officials who register with your club, board member, spectator, anyone who is involved in your club must sign a waiver. For anyone who will be registered as a Skate Canada member there will be a check box on the registration site to confirm that you have received that person's waiver. Skate Canada Manitoba does not need to receive a copy of the waiver for Skate Canada member registrations (board members, officials, skaters, or anyone whom you personally register with Skate Canada).

Skate Canada Manitoba needs to receive copies of the waiver for coaches, volunteers and spectators as they are not registered on the Skate Canada membership registration site. For these individuals please submit their waivers to the following link <https://skatecanada.wufoo.com/forms/q18i29b61rnp1bj/>

Please note that you must keep the waivers until their end date of August 31, 2021.

### Who can join CanSkate this year?

Since we are opening CanSkate to Stage 4 of the Return to Play Protocols, Clubs will be able to accept the following:

- Previously registered CanSkate participants who have earned at least one Stage 1 ribbon
- Participants from other programs such as hockey, ringette, city run learn to skate programs, or no formal skating experience but can skate without assistance
- Parent and Tot Pre-CanSkate

### Can past Pre-CanSkate participants register?

Yes if this participant can skate without assistance. If they need to be held up on their skates, this is not the right time for them to participate.

### What does warm up and cool down – full group look like going forward? What about group activities, can they still run?

Yes the warm up, cool down and group activities all continue to be included in the CanSkate session, they are part of the delivery standards. For ideas and suggestions about these, please watch the CanSkate & COVID Town Hall and check out the Skate Canada Program Requirements and Delivery Standards document on our website at <https://mbskates.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-Skate-Canada-Program-Delivery-Standards-and-Requirements.pdf>

### Is it still possible to do inside-outside circuits?

Yes it is, just be aware of space between the circuits in order to maintain physical distancing. To see examples of Skate Ontario & Patinage Quebec's COVID considerations for CanSkate circuits please see our website under Club Resources <https://mbskates.ca/covid-19-response-page/club-resources/>

### Can we run other programs the same time as CanSkate?

Yes you can! There is a great document on the membership site called Modified Delivery options which contains information for sharing ice <https://program.skatecanada.ca/product/skate-canada-programs-modified-delivery-options-english/> (you will need to sign in to access). This is a great way to maximize your ice.

If we run programs simultaneously we run into problems with our STAR skaters being unable to help as PAs. Who can help the CanSkate on ice?

“Program assistants (PAs) are individuals who have been trained by the club CanSkate coach to assist in the delivery of the CanSkate program. They may vary in age and background (figure skating, hockey, adult). They must have adequate skating skills and knowledge to be of service.” – Page 2-1 CanSkate Manual. PA’s do not have to be STAR skaters. They can be other members of the community who are good skating skills. Every PA must be a registered Skate Canada member.

Can you clarify ‘on or near the ice’? Does this include parents that decide to sit and watch from the players box?

Our definition of ‘on or near the ice’ includes the following areas:

- Ice surface
- Penalty box
- Player box/bench
- Entrances/gates on and off the ice surface
- Boards surrounding the ice surface and nearby area

Please check with your facility as they may also include other areas such as the stands or bleachers.

Skaters might have trouble hearing the coach through the mask? What about skaters who have auditory challenges and depend lip reading?

Some skaters may have trouble hearing so focus on exaggerating the visual demonstrations and visual instruction to compliment the verbal. With the fewer number of skaters in each class, the one on one instruction might be more engaging without needing a high volume level for the coach (ie not shouting across the ice).

There are masks available with a clear/transparent section in front of the mouth.

Our Club only has one coach, what do we do if they get sick and can’t make it?

If your club has no other In Good Standing Skate Canada coach that can step in the session(s) will have to be cancelled until the coach returns. PA’s cannot lead a CanSkate session, a Skate Canada coach in good standing must be on the ice in skates.

To run a CanSkate session a coach must be at least CanSkate In Training and in good standing with Skate Canada. SCMB runs at least two Club Coach (CanSkate) NCCP courses per year. Check out our website for what a skater needs to be able to begin their coaching journey

<https://mbskates.ca/coaches/canskate-cs/> Next course is December 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 2020!

**Masks! Who needs to wear one and when, and when can a mask come off for the skaters? Can we wear face shields instead?**

Masks are required for everyone who enters the facility for your program with the exception of those with breathing difficulty, medical exemptions, children under the age of two and those with physical challenges who are unable to remove a mask by themselves (wearing mitts or hockey gloves do not count as being unable to remove a mask on their own).

Skaters, and only skaters, may remove their masks while waiting in line (maintaining physical distancing) to enter the ice surface (ie prior to stepping on the ice).

The strategies that clubs and coaches come up with for handling removal, storage, and/or putting masks back on, will be unique to your clubs and facility. We encourage you to share with one another how you are being creative!

Information regarding the use of face shields as a stand alone will be clarified soon. Face shields can definitely be used in addition to masks.

**In a multi use facility where persons from the community may randomly enter our space to observe, do we have to collect waivers for them?**

There are a couple things to consider in this situation. Are there rules in place at your facility where persons entering are only supposed to be going to their specific destination and then vacating? If so, we suggest reaching out to your facility about your concerns and working together to limit access to your user groups space. If you have a safety officer/COVID volunteer who is at the rink, they can politely ask them that if they are staying that they are required to sign a waiver and wear a mask to remain in the area. You are not expected to get waivers for people passing by.

**What do we need to wipe everything down with? What disinfectants are considered adequate?**

Please check out Health Canada's website for specifications and recommendations

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19.html>

How much grace period is there from the collection of the waiver and submission to SCMB?

~~We understand that this is labor intensive! We don't have a specific time line but do expect to receive it in a reasonable time frame, even every couple weeks. So you could make a plan that every two weeks you submit what you have, or every week. A suggestion is to speak with your facility to see if they have a multi-function copier that allows you to scan documents.~~ SCMB no longer requires the submissions of waivers. Continue to keep signed waivers on file until August 30, 2021

One our our concerns as a club is congestion upon entering and exiting the ice surface during CanSkate. We were wondering if we could use 3 of our ice surface entry gates and divide our CanSkaters into 3 groups (should be 10 or less per group) and have each group enter and exit from the same designated gate. Coaches would wipe the gate handles as needed. This would limit the traffic surrounding each gate, parents and skaters could physically distance with less challenges, and we would keep start and end of sessions running efficiently. Skaters will also be putting skates on in the stands, and this would allow for better physical distancing within the arena as well.

The process that you have outlined above with the additional separation of CanSkate groups and entry and exit with the physical distancing and no cross over again would be fine with the additional cleaning/sanitizing of high-touch areas.

We run a Parent & Me (Tot) CanSkate session. Do parents have to wear a mask on the ice?

Yes, parents/guardians who are on the ice for a Parent & Me/Parent & Tot/Adult & Tot CanSkate session are considered Program Assistants (PA's) and are required to wear a mask.