

**Ministry of Heritage, Sport,
Tourism and Culture
Industries**

Sport, Recreation and
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**Ministère des Industries du
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July 14, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Provincial Sport Organizations, Parks and Recreation
Ontario, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association

FROM: Steve Harlow
Assistant Deputy Minister, Sport Division

SUBJECT: Stage 3 Reopening: Sport and Recreation

Further to the correspondence sent on June 29, 2020, I am writing to update you on Stage 3 changes as they relate to the sport and recreation sector.

The changes for Stage 3 have been made public in O. Reg 263/20, under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* and will **take effect on July 17** for many Ontario communities. For a list of regions that will remain in Stage 2, visit Ontario.ca/reopen.

Facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities, including gymnasiums, yoga and dance studios and other fitness facilities, may open if they comply with the following conditions:

1. Every person who engages in sports or a recreational fitness activity at the facility, other than a team sport, must maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person at all times during the activity.
2. The total number of members of the public permitted to be at the facility in a class, organized program or organized activity at any one time must be limited to the number that can maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from other persons in the facility, and in any event cannot exceed:

- i. 50 persons, if any of the classes, organized programs or organized activities taking place at the time are indoors, or
 - ii. 100 persons, if all of the classes, organized programs or organized activities taking place at the time are outdoors.
3. The total number of members of the public permitted to be at the facility in areas containing weights or exercise machines at any one time must be limited to the number that can maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person in the facility, and in any event cannot exceed 50 persons.
4. The total number of spectators permitted to be at the facility at any one time must be limited to the number that can maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person in the facility, and in any event cannot exceed:
 - i. 50 spectators, if the spectators will be indoors, or
 - ii. 100 spectators, if the spectators will be outdoors.
5. Team sports may only be practised or played within the facility if they do not allow for physical contact between players or if they have been modified to avoid physical contact between the players.
6. Organized team sports that are practised or played by players in a league may only be practised or played within the facility if the league either:
 - i. contains no more than 50 players and does not permit its teams to play against teams outside of the league, or
 - ii. divides its teams into groups of 50 or fewer players and does not permit teams in different groups to play against one another or against teams outside of the league.
7. Any equipment that is rented to, provided to or provided for the use of users of the facility must be cleaned and disinfected between each use or, where used in a game or practice, at the end of play, such as at the completion of a game or practice.
8. Activities must not be practised or played within the facility if they require the use of fixed structures that cannot be cleaned and disinfected between each use or, where used in a game or practice, at the end of play.

I would ask that your organization review the Stage 3 reopening requirements and adjust your return to sport rules and policies, as necessary.

If you believe your organization can return to sport safely, but you do not meet the Stage 3 requirements, please contact us at sport@ontario.ca. Ministry staff will work with you on any reopening proposals and help determine information that can support your plan.

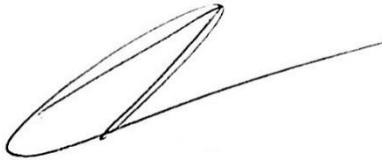
As you may know, the Ontario government has provided links to many guidelines and resources from the sport and recreation sector to help facilities, trainers and athletes safely return to activities in Ontario at [Ontario.ca/returntoplay](https://ontario.ca/returntoplay).

As Ontario gradually reopens, it is more important than ever to follow public health advice. We appreciate your continued cooperation as we move forward during these unprecedented times and thank you for your leadership. Together, we are helping all Ontarians by increasing their access to sport.

We welcome information about how you are adapting to changes that could be shared to help others.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steve Harlow
Assistant Deputy Minister
Sport, Recreation and Community Programs Division

c: Patricia Vena, Director, Sport, Recreation and Community Programs Branch