Wasaga Beach Figure Skating Club

Return to Skate Protocols

Effective September 1, 2020

These protocols are the Wasaga Beach Figure Skating Club’s (WBFSC) rules and polices intended to enable a safe return to the ice. These protocols are based on current Skate Ontario’s protocols, current public health requirements, regulations within Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) and direction from the Town of Wasaga Beach.

The WBFSC has established a COVID-19 Club Oversight Group in accordance with Skate Ontario Protocols. This group is to oversee the implementation of club protocols.

All protocols are subject to change as rules and regulations from governing bodies and province/city restrictions change.

Club Operations

1a. Self-Screening

All individuals taking part in club activities must self-screen in accordance with current public heath guidelines before each training session. Individuals must not attend any training sessions or club activities if they:

* Exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms, such as a fever, cough, difficulty breathing, or other symptoms identified by health experts
* Have been in contact with someone with an active case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days
* Have returned from travel outside of Canada and do not have a Travel Exemption as per the Government of Canada.

Individuals who are considered a vulnerable or at-risk (individuals over 70 years, weakened immune system or medical conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, cancer etc.) should strongly consider their participation in club/skating school activities.

1b. Health Screening of Individuals

All individuals will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to being granted entry to the facility. These results will be documented by the club and kept for contact tracing purposes.

1c. Limit of People in the Facility

All individuals will be counted upon entry to the Wasaga Stars Arena. This number will not exceed 50 persons, including coaching staff, volunteers, board members, skaters, and spectators when permitted.

Club Programming

2a. Limitations of Group sizes

All classes sizes will be capped at the following number of participants:

* Star Skate & CanSkate Enrichment – 16 Combined Skaters
* Advanced Star Skate – 17 Skaters
* Canskate – 36 Skaters
* CanPowerskate & Adult Skate – 20 Combined Skaters
* Parent & Tot – 36 Skaters/Parents

2b. Scheduling

As additional time may be required for additional cleaning of frequently touched areas, classes may be delayed in starting. Weekly scheduled times are subject to minor changes to help facilitate smooth transitions on and off the ice, and to allow for cleaning protocols.

Off-Ice Activities

3a. Spectators

At this time no spectators will be allotted admittance into the facility. This includes all parents and guardians.

3b. Personal Hygiene

All individuals entering the facility will wash / sanitize hands upon entry.

3c. Personal Protective Equipment

Skaters: All skaters will wear non-medical masks while within the facility until they have entered the ice surface. Skaters that require the use of helmets, may remove their mask prior to donning their helmet. Masks will be replaced when exiting the ice surface or when helmets are removed.

Coaches / Program assistants / Executive members: All coaches, program assistants and executive members will wear non-medical masks at all times within the facility.

3d. Dressing Rooms

Dressing room use is restricted to coaches and program assistants only. All skaters should arrive properly dressed to skate. Skates will be put on prior to entering the building. Benches are available outside the arena to assist the skaters.

There will be no congregating in the dressing rooms at any time.

3e. Personal items

Personal items like skating bags should be left in the relevant individual’s vehicle if possible. Skaters and coaches may carry in their own water bottle into the arena.

3f. Off-Ice Movement

All off-ice movement within the facility will be done under the direction of a WBFSC executive member or a designated volunteer.

3g. Enhanced Cleaning

All frequently touched areas will be cleaned / sanitized throughout the operation of events. This applies to both on and off ice.

3h. Entry / Exit from Ice

Skaters must follow physical distancing protocols and remain at least 2m apart from other skaters while waiting to enter the arena and ice surface, and while exiting the ice surface. Skaters will follow all directions given to them from program assistants to help transition from off ice to on ice and back again. Upon entry, skaters will head directly to the ice surface. When leaving the ice surface skaters will exit the facility immediately.

3g. Meeting Place for Pick-up of Skaters

When a parent is not available at end of the skating session the skater will be escorted by a club volunteer to an area just north of the main vestibule at the corner of the arena and will wait there for pick up. Social distancing will be required at this time.

On Ice Activities

4a. Personal Protective equipment

Skaters: Skater do not require the use of non-medical masks while participating in on ice activities. See above for non-medical masks while off ice.

Coaches / Program assistants: All coaches and program assistants will wear non-medical masks at all times, on and off the ice.

4b. Physical Distancing

Individuals are required to maintain a physical distance of at least 2m from any other person during the session. Individuals from the same household or social circle are not required to follow physical distancing requirements.

4c. Personal Items

Skaters must use individual water bottles, tissue boxes etc. during training sessions. No sharing of these items is permitted. Skaters must have their own closed containers (i.e. Ziploc bag) for disposing of used personal items such as tissues. These must be disposed of at home or in a lidded garbage container in the facility.

4d. Playing Music

Only one person will be allowed to access the music playing devices at a time. After / before each user touches the device, it will be sanitized.

4e. On-Ice Coaching

Coaches will coach from one spot on the ice or over the boards at rinkside. Coaches and skaters must remain at least 2m apart from each other with the exception of those in the same household or social circle.

4f. Harness

When using the harness, both the skate and coach are required to wear non-medical masks. The harness will be disinfected / sanitized before and after each use. Coach and skater will also sanitizer their hands before and after each use. The coach will make all attempts to maintain the 2m physical distancing protocols. Harness lessons will be limited to 15 minutes at this time.

COVID-19 Protocols

5a. Completion of Skate Ontario COVID-19 Waiver

All individuals participating in club activities must complete the Skate Ontario Acknowledgment, Release, Indemnity and Assumption of Risk regarding COVID-19 (“COVID-19 Waiver”). Failure to do so means that individual will not participate in club activities.

Any individual participating in club activities are required to complete a COVID-19 Waiver, or have a signed COVID-19 Waiver on-file with Skate Ontario:

* Skaters
* Coaches
* Staff
* Board Members
* Volunteers
* Officials (please note, this will be kept on file with Skate Ontario)

5b. An individual becomes unwell with symptoms of COVID-19

* If an individual becomes unwell with symptoms of COVID-19, or if someone is aware of an individual that becomes unwell with symptoms of COVID-19, that individual must immediately stop participation in club activities.
* The individual will be isolated from all others in a well-ventilated area, or outside and provided with a non-medical face mask if one is available.
* The individual shall be sent home and instructed to follow public health guidelines regarding self-isolation and testing.
* The town of Wasaga Beach will be informed in order to determine if any areas need to be closed off and/or require additional cleaning/disinfecting.
* A member of the COVID-19 Oversight Group will be informed of the situation and will contact the individual or their parent/guardian to determine if next steps are being taken regarding testing.

5c. An individual is tested for COVID-19

* Any individual that has been tested for COVID-19 must not participate in club or skating school activities while waiting for the results of the test.
* The club will work with public health to consult the Session Participation tracking sheets to inform other club members who might have been in close contact with the individual. Close contact is defined as being within 2m for a period lasting more than 15 minutes, without appropriate or consistent use of PPE.
* Any club members who were in close contact with the individual will not participate in club activities and should follow public health guidelines until the diagnosis of COVID-19 is ruled out by health professionals.

5d. An individual tests positive for COVID-19

* If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, they will inform a member of the club COVID-19 Oversight Group, club President or club Vice-President.
* The COVID-19 Oversight Group will work where requested with the facility and public health officials to assist in contact tracing. The Session Participation tracking sheets may be used to assist public health officials in informing other club members who may have been in close contact with the individual.
* Any club members who were in close contact with the individual will not participate in club activities for 14 days and should follow public health guidelines regarding self-isolation and testing.
* The club will inform all members of a positive test result.
* The club will inform and work with the facility in the case of a positive COVID-19 result and determine if any additional cleaning/disinfecting should be performed as per the facility’s guidelines.
* The club will inform Skate Ontario of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis by e-mailing clubsupportservices@skateontario.org

5e. Return to club/skating activities following illness

* If no test was performed, or the COVID-19 test was negative, the individual may only return to club activities once they no longer have any symptoms of COVID-19 for at least 24 hours

5f. Return to club/skating activities following COVID-19

* Following a positive COVID-19 test, an individual must follow all public health guidelines regarding return to activities.

5g. Modification/restriction/postponing or canceling of club/skating school activities

* Based on the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, the club may have to follow public health, municipal/provincial government and sport recommendations regarding modifying/restricting/postponing or canceling activities
* Members will be informed as soon as possible of any modifications/restrictions or cancelations
* The Club will keep any modifications and restrictions in place until advised that it is safe to resume activities by public health, government or sport officials