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To: Maggie Head <maggie_head@hotmail.com>
Subject: Questions for PSOS

PSO questions August 2020

Return to Play

What would the standard requirements be for sport, if a region or the province were required to move back a stage?

If we move back in stages, will participant numbers remain the same such as 5 for stage 1, 10 for stage 2, etc.?

Under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020, rules are set out in regulation for communities in each stage of reopening.

The ministry cannot speculate on whether the regulations would be amended in the future, should there be a need for a community to return to an earlier stage of reopening.

Will the government/ministry be able to provide clear “return to play” standards for people to come back to sport? How should members of PSOs consider someone recovered from COVID and acceptable to return?

Public Health Units make all determinations on when a patient is considered ‘recovered’ from COVID-19 and provides instructions directly to those individuals.

As PSOs we are operating at the highest standard of the Government Order if not more restrictive. To ensure that we don’t have a relapse or second wave, what is the Ministry doing to ensure that those covered within the Ministry – PSOs and members as well as business – are complying with the emergency order and receiving the same interpretations on implementation to avoid a relapse?

The Ministry does not provide compliance advice. Businesses should be seeking independent legal advice for any interpretation of the order.

Some sports and sport groupings are concerned that their proposals for return-to-play are getting vetted and further detail may be needed that only those in the sport would be able to answer.

Many sports have consulted medical professionals in creating their submissions in addition to coaches. Will the Ministry reach out to individual sports for clarifications where their advisors may not have the requisite knowledge of the sport?

Through the Stage 3 Reopening portal, we are currently reviewing incoming submissions for the gradual and safe reopening of the Province and preparing sector-wide proposals for consideration of the government. In instances where clarifications are required or information is missing from a proposal, Ministry staff will reach out to the organization and request the information.

Return-to-play proposals that adhere to the amended Ontario Regulation 364/20 (Rules for Areas in Stage 3) do not require approval from the government.

Should sports be submitting individual return-to-play proposals even if their sport grouping/sector has submitted a proposal?

If a sport determines they can return to play, in compliance with Ontario Regulation 364/20 (Rules for Areas in Stage 3), no submission is required.

Sports should only submit a proposal if they are requesting an exemption or amendment to the Regulation as proposals are not reviewed for compliance or general feedback. Businesses should be seeking independent legal advice for any interpretation of the Regulation.

Could the Ministry clarify previous questions asked around personal instruction exemption in sport

The Ministry is not in position to provide compliance advice and businesses should be seeking independent legal advice for any interpretation.

Insurance: Will there be retroactivity of the contagion coverage as well as coverage for volunteers, coaches, participants and anyone involved with the sport?

The current proposed structure is cost prohibitive on an individual participant and organization level with the costs increasing remarkably. Concern remains that individuals (such as participants) could be civilly sued for contraction of COVID-19. This remains a concern for many sectors, not just sport.

We are aware of the concern and are currently exploring this issue with partner ministries. Give me a shout on this.

Will the number of participants per facility be increased beyond 50 as has been done for movie theatres? In some facilities you may have a pool, a rink (or two), a gym, and a work out room – each of these may be self-contained with no cross over (including access to the outside).

If a sport or recreational facility operates in accordance Ontario Regulation 364/20 (Rules for Areas in Stage 3) and the Guidance for facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities during COVID-19, they may have up to 50 patrons in each indoor sport or fitness room in their facility, subject to all persons maintaining at least two meters physical distance.

Many sports including Volleyball Club training/practices and Ontario Volleyball's competitions and basketball are held at high school gyms weekday evenings and weekends. We are hearing from school boards that community use permits will not be issued. Why is that the case, and are there any solutions? Without these permits these sports will not be able to operate across the province.

We are aware of this issue, however Issues related to access to schools are the responsibility of the Ministry of Education. We have reached out to the Ministry for discussion, but any final determination will be a decision made by the Ministry of Education, School Boards, and school Principals.

Funding

When will the athletes receive their Quest for Gold funding for 2019-20? What is the Quest for Gold plan for 2020/21 as we are already half way through this fiscal and we know that the typical competitive season that feeds criteria is not happening, but that the sports and athletes still need that programming support.

The Minister is looking forward to announcing support for high performance sport athletes, including Ontario's incredible Quest for Gold athletes, in the near future. The ministry will be developing a five-year strategic plan for all of our sectors. This will include how best to support sport moving forward, including any program changes.

What is the status of the federal funds? When will the PSOs be receiving the information and the money for this? All of the PSOs' provincial counterparts have received word and are in the midst of distributing. The Provinces received the money June 16

The Ministry is continuing to advocate that the federal government provide Ontario's sport organizations a fair share of the 'COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations. Once we have further information we will be in touch.

Future Plans for Sport

What is the status of 2021-2025 Sport Plan? Will the submissions made by sports be considered in the compilation of the sport plan? Will you seek input from PSOs ensuring consultation with summer sports, winter sports, individual sports, team sports, combative sports and para sports?

The ministry will be developing a five-year strategic plan for all of our sectors. This will include how best to support sport moving forward, including any program changes.

The Minister mentioned something about a "comprehensive plan for HP training" submitted by Debbie Low. Can clarity be provided on what that relates to? We have no awareness of this. Was it just related to training standards for sports at TPASC or is it something more broad?

The CSIO, OTP, COC and CPC have collaborated to submit a request to exempt high-performance athletes training for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2021 and 2022 from certain provisions of Ontario Regulation 364/20, similar to exemptions for some professional sport leagues. This request is being considered.

Can the Ministry provide a status update on their working with CSIO and Markham PanAm Centre for High Performance training (to prepare for Tokyo 2021).

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Previous PSO Questions

As noted from baseball, other sports have the same question – where it says leagues must contain no more that 50 people and only those 50 people can play each other, that may mean only 3 teams. Will this definition to be in place for the coming months as the province will undoubtedly enter later stages?

In Stage 3, leagues must contain no more than 50 participants total. If participants in a league exceed 50, the league must divide into smaller groups of no more than 50. This prevents teams in different groups from playing against one another, or against teams outside of the league. If a league consists of more than 50 players and if, for instance, it is comprised of six teams with 15 players each (90 players total), the league must split into two smaller groups of three teams each (45 players total per group). An individual can play in more than one league at the same time. Requirements beyond Stage 3 have not been determined, and will be based on public health advice.

Does this 50 include umpires/referees, so that the league must always use the same officials?

In Stage 3, staff and employees are not subject to the indoor public gathering rules and are not considered spectators. This includes umpires and referees.

Does that 50 include just players or is it coaches?

In Stage 3, for organized team sport play in leagues, the 50-person rules applies to “players” only. Staff and coaches are not included in this count.

Does that 50 include spectators or are they another 50?

The number of spectators (50 for indoor and 100 for outdoor) are in addition to athletes participating in the activity.

Can “prolonged contact” be defined – many sports are wondering what this means

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.

The 50 people in team sports limit exists however there are 100 people allowed in outdoor physical activities – so this seems to conflict – can we get clarification?

Organized team sports played by players in a league may only be practiced or played within a facility if the league either:

- Contains no more than 50 players and does not permit its teams to play against teams outside of the league, or
- 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.

These requirements apply whether the team sport is played indoors or outdoors.

The concern also exists that one athlete/player could be a part of more than one league/sport, and therefore could be a part of more than one group of 50

An individual can play in more than one league at the same time. Organized team sports played by players in a league may only be practiced or played within a facility if the league either:

- contains no more than 50 players and does not permit its teams to play against teams outside of the league, or
- 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.

Clarification of an indoor setting is needed is it a single school or one section of a school's gym (i.e. where there may be partitions), is it one rink, or a facility with multiple rinks, is it one pool or a facility of multiple pools?

An entire complex – for example, a school gym with partitions, an ice complex with multiple rinks or a facility with multiple pools – is considered a facility. 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 is limited to:

- the number that can maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from other persons in the facility, **and**
- cannot exceed 50 persons, if any of the classes, organized programs or organized activities taking place are indoors.
- Up to 50 members of the public are **also** permitted to be at the facility in areas containing weights or exercise machines, provided a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person in the facility can be maintained
- The number of people does not include the staff who are required to operate the facility. While conducting activities within the facility persons must abide by the physical distancing requirements as set out in the orders that is applicable to the Stage in which that community is operating.
- Up to 50 spectators can be in the facility. The number of rinks or rooms does not have an impact.

Does the two meter rule still apply to sport if we're talking about "prolonged contact"?

Team sports may only be practised or played if they do not allow for physical contact between players or if the team sport has been modified to avoid physical contact between the players.

Can we understand how the federal funding will be allocated and the portion that the PSOs are receiving? How will this funding be allocated to PSOs? Who is determining how the funds are distributed? We understand that 100% of the federal funding flowed to PSOs in other jurisdictions

We are working with the Federal Government to secure the Emergency Funding for Provincial and Multi Sport Organizations as quickly as possible.

What is the timing of the Emergency Support Funding?

We are working with the Federal Government to secure the Emergency Funding for Provincial and Multi Sport Organizations as quickly as possible.

Will the Ministry of Health’s guidelines for Summer Day Camps adjust their required cohort size to 15 people on July 27th or when a region enters Stage 3 to match child care?

At this time, the change in cohorts does not apply to day camps, which must operate in a manner consistent with the [COVID-19 Guidance for Summer Day Camps](#) including provisions related to cohorting.

What about sports with no league format for competition – that offers individual and team events – how would competitions need to be structured? Only 50 people total competing at one time/in one facility? Or if outdoors, only 100?

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. 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:

- 50 persons, if any of the classes, organized programs or organized activities taking place at the time are indoors, or
- 100 persons, if all of the classes, organized programs or organized activities taking place at the time are outdoors.

Kindest Regards,

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