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# HOCKEY EASTERN ONTARIO

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**One Team, One Mission, One Goal**

**Bulletin: 2019/20-25**



To: District Chairs, MHA's, Junior League Presidents, Junior Teams, SHEO, Special Hockey Teams

CC: HEO Board of Directors, HEO Minor Executive, HEO Staff, HEO Minor Office

From: Debbie Rambeau, Executive Director

HEO Date: June 1, 2020

Re: **Phase One of Ontario's Reopening Amendment**

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Ontario's Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries has provided clarification on the Tuesday, May 19 announcement about easing the restrictions on sport activities. This information will help address the questions that have been asked to them since the changes were announced. It should also help with consistent enforcement of safe return to play across the province.

It is important to note that Hockey Canada and HEO are not operating any hockey activities at this time.

We support the Province's encouragement for the public to continue to adhere to public health measures, including practising physical distancing or wearing a face covering when physical distancing is difficult or not possible and regular handwashing and staying home when ill.

While hockey may not be operating in the Province yet, HEO is hopeful that we will be able to return to hockey sooner rather than later. We have been working in conjunction with guidance from Public Health, the Government of Ontario and Hockey Canada to develop a Return to Hockey plan that will promote the health and safety of all stakeholders in the game.

Below are the details of the easing of restrictions on sport activities. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is attached.

The amendment to the Emergency Order allows for the opening and controlled use of sporting facilities, with the exception of pools. The following organizations, their leagues, clubs are identified in that order:

- I. A national sport organization funded by sport Canada or a member club of such an organization
- II. A provincial sport or multi-sport organization recognized by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries or a member club of such an organization
- III. A professional sport league or a member of such a league.

The amendment to the Emergency Order outlines specific regulations that must be followed by every person, facility and organization that chooses to return to sport.

National sport organizations, provincial sport organizations, and professional sport leagues must establish rules and policies that will enable the safe return to sport before their sport resumes.

These organizations are required to put in place health and safety protocols that comply with the Chief Medical Officer of Health's recommendations. We encourage you to work with your local public health offices to develop these protocols.

Ultimately, it is up to each sport organization or club to determine whether they can reopen under the required conditions as set out by the Emergency Order. For reference, please find attached a list of frequently asked questions that may help you.

As Ontario gradually reopens, it is more important than ever to follow public health advice. The government will proceed cautiously and in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

You can find more information on the requirements by visiting [ONTARIO REGULATION 223/20](#).

Further information will be provided as it becomes available.