

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

**Ministère des Industries du
patrimoine, du sport, du
tourisme et de la culture**



Sport, Recreation and
Community Programs Division

Division des sports, des loisirs et
programmes communautaires

777 Bay Street, 18th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1S5
Tel.: 416 326-9326
Fax: 416 314-7458
TTY: 416 325-5807
Toll Free: 1-888-997-9015
www.mtc.gov.on.ca

777, rue Bay, 18^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1S5
Tél. : 416 326-9326
Télec. :416 314-7458
ATS : 416 325-5807
Sans frais: 1-888-997-9015
www.mtc.gov.on.ca

Dear Sport Partners,

The health and safety of all Ontarians remains the government's number one priority.

I acknowledge the immediate impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on Ontario's sport sector and on the long-term sustainable operations of organizations. I understand that these are unprecedented times, and that the operations of many organizations in the sector have been disrupted. The government is moving into the second stage of reopening the province, with key public health measures in place.

As of May 19, 2020, the government moved forward with the first stage of reopening the province, including permitting the opening of facilities used by some amateur and professional sport organizations for training and competition.

The province also has publicly stated its support and willingness to allow temporary changes to provincial rules and regulations in order to remove barriers that hinder business operations.

On July 1, 2019, Phase 1 implementation of *Rowan's Law (Concussion Safety), 2018*, came into effect. This July would have marked the effective date for implementation of Phase 2 of the legislation, which requires sport organizations to establish Removal-from-Sport and Return-to-Sport protocols for its athletes.

As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Ontario government has made the decision to postpone the effective date of Phase 2 implementation of *Rowan's Law* from July 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021. This extension will give sport organizations, including municipalities, post-secondary institutions, community centres, and private sport clubs or sport entities additional time to implement these requirements and dedicate the necessary capacity and resources to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak at this time.

Only the effective date of Phase 2 implementation is being changed. All requirements related to the protocols in the legislation and regulation will remain the same. Any work already completed by your sports organization in preparation for the Phase 2 implementation will assist you in meeting your organization's obligations under *Rowan's Law*. Sport organizations are welcome to implement the Removal-from-Sport and Return-to-Sport protocols in advance of the proclamation date on a voluntary basis.

I understand that, while this is welcome news for sport organizations during these challenging times, many of you may still have questions about the requirements about the Removal-from-Sport and Return-to-Sport protocols.

A [sample protocol template](#) is available on the Government's Concussion Webpages at www.ontario.ca/concussions for immediate use to develop Removal-from-Sport and Return-to-Sport protocols in advance of the new January 1, 2021 effective date. The Sport Division also will be hosting information webinars in the coming months to support the implementation of the Act to answer any additional questions your sport organization may have about the legislation and regulation.

In the interim, you will find attached a set of Qs & As we hope will answer some of the questions your organization may have about the new proclamation date and about the requirement for sport organizations to develop and implement Removal-from-Sport and Return-to-Sport protocols for their athletes.

The ministry will continue to support sport organizations with the implementation of the new requirements in advance of the January 1, 2021 effective date. For more information about Rowan's Law, please visit Ontario.ca/concussions.

On behalf of the Sport, Recreation and Community Programs Division, I would like to express my gratitude for all your hard work and commitment to the Rowan's Law initiative.

Sincerely,



Steve Harlow

Assistant Deputy Minister