Recreation Facilities Re-Opening as of January 31, 2022

January 25, 2022

In response to the provincial announcement made on January 20, 2022, the City of Waterloo is reaching out to all the recreation sport rental customers with a brief update.

As of January 31, 2022, sport and recreation facilities will be permitted to open at 50% capacity.

Please note the regulations from the province have not yet been released. We are using our best judgement as to the specifics of the re-opening, however these are subject to change pending the direction issued in the Ontario regulations.

What does this mean for our sport group customers?

Similar to where we were in mid-December, groups are permitted to enter the recreation facilities to engage in sport with some restrictions.

Cooperation by all our sport rental groups and their members is critical to slowing the spread of the virus within the sport community and permitting continued loosening of restrictions. We ask that sport groups continue to remain diligent in all their safety practices and consider the following to help reduce the spread of the virus during this precarious time.

- Spectator areas are limited to 50% or 500 person capacity whichever is less. Therefore, we ask participants engaged in sport to limit the number of spectators per player at practices and games to 1-2 family members per player where possible.
- Limit time in dressing rooms by having players come to practice and/or games as dressed as much as possible and ready to play
- Keep safe dressing room protocols – wear masks, and keep distanced
- Remind all participants of the requirement to wear masks at all times including coaching staff, volunteers, parents, and athletes while not on the playing surface or bench
- Keep distanced wherever possible, and do not congregate in lobbies or hallways
- Food service provision remain closed until further notice.
- Limit bringing food or beverages into the recreation facilities (water for sport is exempted). Only consume these items if absolutely necessary, and re-mask as soon as possible after consuming within the recreation facilities. These measures are in place to encourage mask wearing while in the recreation facilities.
- Eliminate indoor team social activity
- Remind participants, volunteers, parents/spectators to perform health screening and contact tracing either in advance or upon arrival and showing proof of vaccination (QR-enhanced) and government issued ID

A few reminders to groups and their members for requirements of entry:

- Contact tracing and health screening are still required, forms can be filled out in advance or at the door
- Enhanced proof of vaccination (with QR codes) is required for all those who enter the facility who are 12 years of age and older. Medical exemptions also require QR codes.
- Sport participant customers visiting RIM Park Manulife Sportsplex and Healthy Living Centre are to enter through Entrance A (this includes gymnasium and fieldhouse customers).
- Sport participant customers visiting Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex are to enter through the main entrance located on the east side of the building.
- Please consider the extra time required for all these checks when arriving at our facilities.

The City of Waterloo thanks all the sport groups and their members for doing their parts to offer sport programming in a responsible and safe manner.

Regulations and directions are subject to change based on further direction and/or guidance from the Province and Regional governments. Program participants are reminded to Check Before you Rec for health screening and applicable program information.

We will continue to monitor provincial regulations and announcements, and are working closely with the Region of Waterloo Public Health Unit to interpret regulations and guidelines as they are released or amended.

Thank you as always for your continued support and patience.