



# Ontario Weightlifting Association

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Letter from Mike Miller, OWA President

To all Ontario Weightlifting Association members,

Last week the Government of Ontario indicated certain amateur individual sports recognized by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture may resume training under given specifications.

**Facilities for athletic training or competitions**

8. Every person responsible for a facility described in paragraph 34.4 of Schedule 2 shall ensure that,

- (a) the only persons permitted to use the facility are athletes who are members of an organization, league or club described in paragraph 34.4 of Schedule 2;
- (b) any person who enters or uses the facility maintains a physical distance of at least two metres from any other person who is using the facility;
- (c) team sports and pool-based sports are not practised or played within the facility;
- (d) other sports or games that are likely to result in individuals coming within two metres of each other are not practised or played within the facility;
- (e) all sport activities are conducted in accordance with the rules and policies of the applicable organization identified in paragraph 34.4 of Schedule 2, including the rules and policies put in place to enable a safe return to the sport;
- (f) no spectators are permitted at the facility, other than up to one accompanying parent, guardian or other adult for each athlete under the age of 18; and
- (g) any locker rooms, change rooms, showers and clubhouses in the facility remain closed, except to the extent they provide access to a washroom or a portion of the facility that is used to provide first aid.

34.4 Facilities, other than pools, that are in compliance with section 8 of Schedule 3 and that are being used by one or more of the following organizations, leagues or clubs to train amateur or professional athletes or to run amateur or professional athletic competitions:

- 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 club of such a league.

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r20223>

Since the release of the new legislation the OWA have been collecting and analysing reopening resources. The OWA has been in discussions with other Ontario individual sports, and sought the council of the provincial weightlifting associations and the CWFHC. This statement is intended for current OWA members and does not apply to other sports (i.e. Powerlifting/CrossFit/etc).

The OWA has confirmed that if you are a registered member of the OWA, you are an amateur athlete as defined by the province of Ontario. The OWA has used the risk assessment tools and determined that we are low risk. It has also been confirmed our insurance coverage and terms have not changed.

The OWA's advice to you is to exercise caution. Our provincial sports consultant indicated the legislation is there for our collective interpretation. Please understand the responsibility involved with that statement. It is up to each club to make informed decisions and determine their own level of risk.

Currently, there are no solid confirmations regarding the 2020 competition season. It is our understanding this first wave of reopening is prioritized to high performance athletes. Each club will have to determine and analyse the risk of their athletes using the tools provided in regards to returning to training. Clubs will be the ones defending their decisions to bylaw enforcement officers.

Lastly, the OWA advises you to consider that if you were not an amateur weightlifting athlete/club prior to COVID, you are not an amateur weightlifting athlete/club now. Our registrations will remain closed for the time being however, we will remain flexible. The OWA will create an appeal form where new athletes and new clubs can challenge our assumption and apply for a new membership.

If clubs choose to allow OWA athletes to resume their training it is recommended to read the attached information packages thoroughly and submit all the suggested forms to the OWA for our records.

**Mike Miller**

**OWA President**