

Overview:

The Department of Parks & Recreation Facilities would like to provide an update on the preparation and changes being taken in the Re-Opening of the Community Centres.

Staff have been following the guidelines for Provincial Regulation, Hockey Canada, Skate Canada, and Ontario Women's Hockey Association as how they have laid out their "return to hockey" protocols and framework. I have been networking with our Recreation managers in the area as well as corresponding with Public Health assessing the criteria and restrictions. I believe it's the best interest of the Township to take a soft approach to re-opening, keeping health and safety of our staff and our patrons the utmost importance.

Before any of the centres reopen for use by the community, they will undergo enhanced cleaning as per all recommended protocols. Staff will also take certified training on recreation facility cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing principles, through the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association.

Anyone visiting a community centre will be screened and asked for contact information for contacting tracing. Patrons will be asked to stay home if they are sick. People will also be required hand sanitize upon entry into facility and wear a mask or face covering throughout the building. There will be arrows and signs providing direction of where to go, limiting access throughout the building. Anything your group brings into the facility will be taken out on departure, no items will be stored.

I have been communicating with all of our User Groups who have requested a block of ice time, and have asked them to discuss with their members what the season would look like modified and verify their commitment of ice usage. It is important to know if our clients' usage this year will change, based on the current situation. The Department will only proceed putting in the ice based on the viability and the contractual needs of our User Groups. This will determine delaying the regular season, staggered times, and whether there is a need for both pads of ice to go in.

Staff have decided to delay the Ice Season to mid-October at the earliest. In consideration if there happens to be a 2nd wave of Covid-19, potentially the province would revert back to stage 2, and the Community Centres/Arenas would be closed down again. For small communities like us, the affordability to take ice in/out is not feasible, so we recommend to wait.

When the Community Centres do Re-Open, initially there will be no Public Skates, no spectator viewing, no canteen concessions, no dressing rooms will be open, and no tournaments at this time. The more access points we can eliminate the better.

Ice Users will be expected to come fully dressed, and team members will be cohorted into and out of the arena as a group, from a staff person. Only essential team members, a coach, referee, and time keeper will be permitted to enter. Parents will not be allowed unless it's an emergency. Players and coaches will be allowed a strict timeframe of 10 minutes before ice rental and must be out of the facility 10 minutes after the end of their ice time.

Face covering/masks can be taken off once participants are on the ice engaging in active play/skills. Players must not spit, blow their nose freely or release any bodily fluid anywhere in the facility.

Team sports may only be practised or played within the facility if they have been modified to avoid physical contact between the players, as per the Ontario Regulation 364/20. Physical distancing and cohort restrictions on the number of users on ice will be adhered to. No more than 24 people on the ice, and 50 players in a league. The Regulations does not permit its team to play against different groups outside of the league.

Conclusion:

Staff recognizes the inconveniences these new guidelines will have on groups and individuals traditional regular season. Please keep in mind that this collaboration of protocols and procedures were created with guidance from Public Health and are necessary to ensure all of our clients and staff remain safe. We will continue to review necessary steps or changes ongoing. Should restrictions ease they will be adjusted accordingly.

Recommendation:

That the Recreation Facilities-2020-15 report, dated September 1, 2020 regarding Re-Opening of Community Centres be received for information.

Financial Impact:

Potential loss of Revenue in rentals, advertising, sponsorship and canteen agreement
Increase staffing costs
Potential saving of plant operation

Strategic Plan Applicability:

Sustainability Plan Applicability: