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REVISED COVID-19 UPDATE RETURN TO PLAY – PHASE 2 & 3

With all parts of the province currently in stage 3 of emergency measures, the good news is bowling facilities within those areas are now able to re-open, with limited capacity. Hopefully, soon, this capacity limit can be increased to a higher number in centres that can accommodate all the safe distance protocols implemented by both the provincial government as well as the local health departments of the municipal governments across the Province of Ontario.

We encourage everyone to frequent the bowling facilities and please follow all safety requirements as mandated by the governments or the local facilities themselves. Each and every bowling centre will have its own unique requirements for safe use of their facilities and please note that not all services will be available upon the first opening.

The O5PBA Return to Play policy is for members of the O5PBA in conjunction with the bowling centres, but can be used by anyone who will be attending bowling facilities in the near future.

At the August 19th Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association Board of Directors' Zoom meeting, the unanimous decision was made to move the O5PBA from Phase 1 in the Return to Play protocols to Phase 2 and when government regulations allow Phase 3. The decision is effective immediately and is applicable to those municipalities who are in Stage 3 in the provincial COVID-19 staging process.

As per Ontario's Framework for Reopening Team Sport and Live Events:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/framework-reopening-our-province-stage-3>

- Leagues must contain no more than 50 participants total. If participants in a league exceed 50, the league may divide into smaller groups of no more than 50. Players are not yet permitted to play against players outside of their league or group.

After discussion by the O5PBA, Bowl Ontario and the MBOA, we requested a clarification to the language being used in Ontario's Reopening Framework, specifically how leagues operate. As a result, we have received an update in how leagues should operate. The wording intent should be viewed as follows:

An individual can play in more than one league at the same time.

Organized team sports played by players in a league may only be practiced or played within a facility if the league either:

- contains no more than 50 players and does not permit its teams to play against teams outside of the league, or
- divides its teams into groups of 50 or fewer players and does not permit teams in different groups to play against one another or against teams outside of the league.
 - for instance, if a league has more than 50 players and is comprised of six teams with 15 players each (90 players total), the league must split into two smaller groups of three teams each (45 players total per group), as it is not permitted for teams in different groups to play against one another or against teams outside of the league.

Please disregard the previous information released prior to this posting.



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The O5PBA Phase 2 and 3 protocols approved by the O5PBA Board of Directors can be found on the O5PBA website under our policies section.

O5PBA acknowledges that, should the province rescind Stage 3 and return to a lower Stage, our local associations must suspend the O5PBA Return to Play protocols until the local area has returned to Phase 3.

Again, a complete detailed list of the phases of the O5PBA Return to Play protocols can be found on the O5PBA website under our policies section. Association volunteers and members should ensure they have read, understand and adhere to the guidelines. Associations and bowling centres, please share these documents with your members.

To conclude, the O5PBA appreciates the understanding and patience of our members during this unprecedented time while protocols were developed to keep our membership safe. For the benefit of all O5PBA members, the Return to Play protocols for Phases 1-3 are posted on the O5PBA.ca website.

It's time to go bowling! Enjoy the bowling facilities and show your local proprietors how much you appreciate them and the sports of 5 and 10 pin bowling or any other form of indoor bowling.

O5PBA
Board of Directors