



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021

A Message from Blair Felesky, CEO

Good evening,

I don't mind saying, it's been a most interesting past couple of weeks, not just for SLSFSC, but for any recreation facility in general. The pace in the lifting of restrictions has added a certain level of complexity and confusion to this process, yet I maintain this is all very good news. As much as we hope there would be a more seamless conveyance of steps within the Government's stepped plan, "A Path Forward", we are realists, and this particular "path" has already demonstrated it may be fraught with speed bumps, detours and the odd section of uphill, winding cobblestone, but only for a little while and it is all ok. We are all motivated by what lies ahead; the progression back to personal wellbeing, activities and the freedom to choose what that all looks like.

Early last week SLSFSC (and many of you), received correspondence from Hockey Alberta outlining what appeared to be further relaxing of AHS guidance that was originally published (literally) 2 days prior, related to arenas. This is not a criticism of Hockey Alberta - in fact, we are proponents and supporters of their mission; we tend to operate in a parallel universe. The complication, at least from a public optics standpoint, is that SLSFSC's guidance for these phased operational decisions is directed through AHS, via Government mandates. The recommendations we (or Hockey Alberta) receive are not necessarily uniform in nature. At the end of the day, whether one agrees or disagrees with the process or intentions, it is meant to promote (and maximize) safety. Our mandate is unchanged and that is advocacy for "getting things going" in a most responsible, timely manner and within AHS guidelines.

Our position remains not to re-write government policy nor be perceived as establishing roadblocks for user groups. Our true intention is to enable and encourage leaders of user groups to make responsible and rational decisions based on the principles and intentions of AHS recommendations. We believe this can be done successfully with a collaborative approach to ensure the balance of safety and enjoyment in unison with SLSFSC and AHS needs.

We currently offer availability in select areas of the facility that support AHS guidance. Keep in mind we anticipate (and hope) this will consistently evolve as it would be a sign of progress:

- Household Private Bookings:
 - Gymnasium
 - Turf
 - Arena Ice

- One-on-One or One-on-Household training for sport or fitness with a certified instructor:
 - Fitness Centre
 - Gymnasium
 - Turf
 - Arena Ice





- Lessons, practices and physical conditioning activities for minors (18 years and under). Maximum of 10 total individuals, including coach/trainer in a group:
 - Gymnasium
 - Turf
 - Arena Ice
- Indoor Track – You can anticipate individual or household booking to be available next week.
- Aquatic Centre – The extreme cold temperatures last week did interrupt the delivery and logistics of critical mechanical components intended to repair and improve water and air temperature issues throughout the Aquatics Centre. Our current guidance for pool opening is approximately March 10-15th.

Please help do your part to keep SLSFSC and Cochrane Arena programs going. Based on current mandatory restrictions:

- No spectators. One parent may chaperone young children;
- Arrival time no more than 15 minutes prior to your activity;
- No gathering/loitering in facility (foyer, common areas, dressing rooms, etc.);
- Social distancing at all times;
- Wear a mask.

Keep up to date by visiting our website often and stay connected with social media.

I also want to personally acknowledge our team of employees, who have done and continue to do extraordinary work in keeping up with and flexing to the pace of ongoing change. As much as I felt we had some certainty for the next couple of weeks, some things have certainly changed. We hold hope that the pattern unfolding is a positive sign of things to come.

Respectfully,

Blair Felesky, CEO

