

COVID 19 Update

As you are all aware there is a plan unfolding in Nova Scotia for a slow and cautious reopening of business and, to some degree, sport and other activities. Training in Taekwondo has always required close contact with other participants and in particular for those in high performance or competitive programs. It would seem that the approval to return to training activities as we all knew them is a long way off.

There has been some guidance from Sport Nova Scotia and a few sports have received the green light to resume training but under very specific conditions. Taekwondo Canada is assembling a committee to examine what and how training will and can be conducted in the future but, as of yet, there is no indication about when we can expect to hear anything concrete. The MTU is currently working on a set of principles to guide training and club operations that will be submitted to Sport Nova Scotia for review, and hopefully approval, that will form the first steps in how we “Return to Play”.

The greatest challenges for all these organizations are the variables that we all face in managing within this new normal of social distancing, heightened cleaning procedures and group-size restrictions. Even with a set of guiding principles we are faced with each club having to manage within their unique physical environment and with the resources that have available. Combine with this with the expectation of a second wave of COVID 19, expected in the Fall of 2020, and the possibility of a third wave in 2021, and the degree of uncertainty remains high.

Suffice it to say MTU Member clubs may not get approval to resume even limited training, aside from remote, train-at-home programs, until at least September 2020. That said, there are no milestones set that must be achieved in order for training to resume and there is no way to accurately predict when such approval will actually be given.

There is no doubt that COVID 19 will have a cost on our sport and amongst our Members. Many clubs are faced with having to pay bills and rent while not receiving any revenue and there will be a cost in lost students and even whole clubs. The MTU has been in contact with Sport Nova Scotia about the availability of support for programs experiencing significant losses but to date no offers of help have been forthcoming.

As more information or guidance comes our way, we will pass it along to our members.