



**SKATE ONTARIO**  
SKATECANADA

**Rowan's Law**  
*(Concussion Safety)*

**For Club and School Administrators to guarantee compliance of  
Rowan's Law**

**Updated: June 26, 2020**



# *What is Rowan's Law*



Rowan's Law was named for Rowan Stringer, a high school rugby player from Ottawa, who died in the spring of 2013 from a condition known as second impact syndrome (swelling of the brain caused by a subsequent injury that occurred before a previous injury healed). Rowan is believed to have experienced three concussions over six days while playing rugby. She had a concussion but didn't know her brain needed time to heal. Neither did her parents, teachers or coaches.



# *What does this mean for our club/school?*



- Effective July 1, 2019 the new rule requires the confirmation of review of the **Government of Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources** and the **Skate Ontario's Concussion Code of Conduct** for all athletes under 26 years of age and parents/guardians for athletes under 18 years of age.
- ***Please Note: Skaters and their parents who are registered in CanSkate, CanPowerSkate and STAR 1-4 programs are exempt from this requirement.***
- Effective July 1, 2019 the new rule requires the confirmation of review of the **Government of Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources** and the **Skate Ontario's Concussion Code of Conduct** for all coaches and officials.



# *Athletes and parents of athletes under 18 years of age*



Athletes and parents of athletes under 18 years of age **must** confirm that they have reviewed the **Government of Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources** below and **Skate Ontario's Concussion Code of Conduct for Athletes and Parents/Guardians** (*for athletes under 18 years of age*) prior to registration and/or on the first day of skating.

***Please Note: Skaters and their parents who are registered in CanSkate, CanPowerSkate and STAR 1-4 programs are exempt from this requirement.***

The following information **must** be reviewed prior to completing the Acknowledgement Form:

**Government of Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources – Rowan's Law E-booklet:**

- [Ages 10 and Under](#)
- [Ages 11-14](#)
- [Ages 15 and Up](#)

Skate Ontario's Concussion Code of Conduct for Athletes and Parents/Guardians

**Requirement:**

- Confirmation from the athlete; and confirmation from the parent.
- The confirmation should be received at the time of registration, but the club/school **must not allow** the athlete on the ice until both confirmations are received.
- **This Acknowledgement must be completed on an annual basis.**



# *Athletes 19 – 26 years of age*



Athletes **must** confirm that they have reviewed the **Government of Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources** below and **Skate Ontario's Concussion Code of Conduct for Athletes and Parents/** prior to registration and/or on the first day of skating. ***Please Note: Skaters and their parents who are registered in CanSkate, CanPowerSkate and STAR 1-4 programs are exempt from this requirement.***

The following information should be reviewed prior to completing the Acknowledgement Form:

**Government of Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources – Rowan's Law E-booklet:**

- [Ages 10 and Under](#)
- [Ages 11-14](#)
- [Ages 15 and Up](#)

Skate Ontario's Concussion Code of Conduct for Athletes

**Requirement:**

- Confirmation from the athlete; the club/school **must not allow** the athlete on the ice until the athlete's confirmation is received.
- This Acknowledgement must be completed on an annual basis.



# *Club compliance of Rowan's Law*



- Club and schools must ensure that all athletes under 26 and parents of athletes under 18 years of age acknowledge that they have reviewed the **Government of Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources** and **Skate Ontario's Concussion Code of Conduct for Athletes and Parents/Guardians** prior to registration and/or on the first day of skating.
- It is the responsibility of the Club and School Administrators to collect these acknowledgements either manually or by electronic means and securely file them with their records.
- These acknowledgements should be retained on file for a minimum of 7 years.



# Question and Answers



## Question:

Do we have to comply with the Rowan's Law requirements?

## Answer:

Yes, you must collection all Concussion Acknowledgement Forms at your next skating lesson from all athletes (26 years of age and under) and parent of athletes under 18 years of age.

***Please Note: Skaters and their parents who registered in CanSkate, CanPowerSkate and STAR 1-4 programs are exempt from this requirement.***

## Question:

How do we provide our athletes and parents the code of conduct and access to the Government of Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources?

## Answer:

You can send the information out in an email to your athletes and/or parents/guardians. You can provide and hand out the information in a newsletter and ask them to review, sign and return the Concussion Acknowledgement Form at the next skating lesson. **Clearly state: the athlete will not be allowed to skate until the club/school receives the completed acknowledgement.**



# *Question and Answers*



## Question:

How do the coaches and officials comply with Rowan's Law?

## Answer:

Skate Ontario requires all Ontario coaches and officials to complete the compliance of Rowan's law through Skate Canada's eLearning platform which they will be required to sign the Concussion Acknowledgement Form. This will be recorded on their Skate Canada file. **Clubs and School do not need to collect the Concussion Acknowledgement Form for coaches and officials.**

## Question:

How does our club/school know if our coaches and officials have reviewed the Government of Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources and the Skate Ontario Code of Conduct?

## Answer:

Clubs and Schools **do not** have to verify if their coaches and officials are in compliance, it will be Skate Ontario's responsibility to follow up with individual coaches and officials to ensure they complete the Rowan's Law eLearning course and confirm the Concussion Acknowledgement.





## *How will the Ministry ensure sport organization compliance with Rowan's Law*



- The purpose of this legislation is to promote culture change and make participation in amateur competitive sport safer. The Ontario Government can request an audit from Skate Ontario to ensure compliance has been met within the legislation under Rowan's Law.
- Skate Ontario can also request an audit from clubs/schools to ensure compliance over the season.
- Outside of a random audit, the compliance will be based on the honour system. All Ontario Club and School Administrators must verify by completing this e-training that all required skaters have/will complete the Rowan's Law Acknowledgement.
- It is up to entities and individuals to ensure that they comply with the laws of Ontario. If organizations does not comply with the laws of Ontario, then the organization assumes any risk associated with non-compliance.



# *Rowan's Law Acknowledgement Form*



- Please download the Rowan's Law Acknowledgement Form [here](#).
- Clubs and schools can collect the forms from athletes and parents via hard or electronic copy.
- Some clubs and schools may also have the opportunity to embed the form into their registration system. Please contact Skate Ontario for specific language for your electronic system.



# *Rowan's Law Acknowledgement Form*



**By clicking here, I acknowledge that I have fully reviewed and commit to the following requirements:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ (club/school name) will ensure that all athletes under 26 and parents of athletes under 18 years of age acknowledge that they have reviewed the Government of Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources and Skate Ontario's Concussion Code of Conduct for Athletes and Parents/Guardians prior to registration and/or on the first day of skating.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (club/school name) will annually collect Rowan's Law Acknowledgement Forms from all athletes under 26 and parents of athletes under 18 years of age and securely file them with their records.

**Name of Club/School Administrator:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Club/School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



# *Inquiries or Questions:*



- Please direct questions to Derek Ventnor, Director Finance and Business Operations for Skate Ontario at [dventnor@skateontario.org](mailto:dventnor@skateontario.org).