

ZWIĄZEK HARCERSTWA POLSKIEGO, OKRĘG KANADA

Polish Scouting Association in Canada
L'Association des Scouts Polonais au Canada

3351 Charmaine Heights, Mississauga, Ontario L5A 3C2



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BULLETIN NR. 9

Dear Druhny and Druhowie,

In the past couple of weeks, provincial governments and public health units across this country have announced new stages in their re-opening plans and have updated the restrictions on public activities and on the size of outdoor gatherings. As a result, PSA members and participants are advised of the following updated guidelines for all approved scouting activities, effective immediately until further notice:

- Only virtual and outdoor activities are permitted, **as long as local public health restrictions are complied with. No indoor activities are permitted. No activities involving an overnight component are permitted.**
- Size of gatherings: **Follow local and provincial guidelines.** For example: if you are holding activities in a region where outdoor gatherings are limited to 100 persons, then that must be interpreted to include all leaders and parent supervisors/onlookers.
- Activities must continue to take place in **cohorts of up to 8 participants [subject to the exception for outdoor team sports below]**. A cohort is a group of participants (szóstka, zastęp, 1 or 2 patrole) of up to 8 individuals who interact with one another during a scouting activity. Several cohorts may congregate in one location under the overall supervision of the appropriate number of supervisors in accordance with our policies, but each cohort must remain distanced from other cohorts, so that if one member of their cohort reports symptoms or testing following an activity, only the other members of the cohort will need to be notified and possibly tested. Maintaining cohorts streamlines contact tracing and is recommended by experts as a strategy to minimize risk of community spread.
- Outdoor team sports such as soccer, baseball and volleyball are permitted as long as the following additional rules are followed:
 - Players may come within 2m of each other on the field or court during play.

- Players need not be masked while playing on the field or sitting on the bench, but must maintain 2m distancing while sitting on the bench or standing on the sideline.
 - Avoid all non-essential contacts such as huddles, handshakes, hugging or high-fiving. Physical contact between players whether on the same team or on opposing teams must be limited to the usual interaction of the sport. ***Any sport that requires contact (for example: wrestling, touch or tackle football) is prohibited.***
 - Spectators must maintain 2m distance between persons not from the same household, and must wear masks at all times.
 - Players may switch in and switch out during play.
 - Players use only their own sports equipment (no sharing).
 - Each team must have its own “bench”.
 - Maximum 16 players per team.
 - Maximum 2 teams at a single event
 - No sharing of water bottles or snacks/ food between players whether on the same or opposing teams (incl. no self-serve buffet style food)
 - Avoid the use of public toilets, however if necessary, wear a mask indoors and ensure hands are washed thoroughly. Carry hand sanitizer in order to enable good personal hygiene.
- **Phase 2 Standards for In-Person Activities** (including Schedule A: Self-Assessment Screening Checklist and Schedule B: First Aid Instructions) as set out in Komunikat #6 (dated August 25, 2020) regarding screening and attendance, hygiene, programs and activities, and personal protective equipment in the course of approved scouting activities, **continue to be in effect** except as specifically amended by this Komunikat (#9). **Please ensure that these standards continue to be implemented.**

In addition to the above guidelines, below are two questions we anticipate may be asked as regions and health units increase the size of outdoor gatherings. Please continue to abide by these and all PSA guidelines for approved scouting activities:

Q: Now that public gatherings may be held up to 100 people, may we have an “ognisko” for the whole Szczep, as long as zastępy sit together and parents sit 2m apart?

A: Singing continues not to be permitted during in-person activities, as evidence shows it is a high risk for spreading the coronavirus. Okrzyki are in the same category as singing.

Q: May we hold a “rozpoczęcie roku” event for our whole Szczep plus parents?

A: Mass gatherings are not encouraged. Scouting activities are to take place in cohorts of up to 8 participants. Distancing of 2m between cohorts must be maintained. In addition, screening and attendance/ contact tracing requirements need to be followed for all events.

Please remember that whatever our PSA guidelines, **local public health rules must be followed at all times.**

Thank you for your continued commitment and dedication in providing safe programs and activities to all our participants.

Czuwaj!

Polish Scouting Association in Canada
COVID-19 Response Management Team