

Rowan's Law

Overview

Rowan's Law legislation was passed by the Ontario Government in 2018. This legislation is named in memory of Ontario rugby player Rowan Stringer who died tragically in 2013 at just 17 years of age of Second Impact Syndrome, the result of suffering multiple concussions playing rugby three times in six days. The legislation is designed to create a safer environment for competitive amateur athletes, children and youth to play sport.

Ontario Artistic Swimming (OAS) is committed to being a leader in the support for and implementation of Rowan's Law. OAS and, by association, all our Member clubs and registrants are legally bound by the requirements of Rowan's Law. Knowing how to recognize the signs and symptoms of a concussion, and what to do if a concussion happens, whether you're an athlete, a parent, a coach, or an official puts concussion safety information in the hands of people who need it most and saves lives.

Requirements of Rowan's Law Legislation

Rowan's Law is applicable to 65 sports in Ontario as well as educational institutions. Certain aspects of the Rowan's Law legislation came into effect on July 1, 2019. In summary:

1. From July 1, 2019, all sports must have in place a Concussion Code of Conduct for athletes and coaches.
2. From July 1, 2019, all athletes, coaches and officials must review and sign off on the Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources and the OAS Concussion Code of Conduct at the point of registration. If the athlete is under 18 years of age, their parent or guardian must sign off. This needs to be done annually.
3. From July 1, 2020, all sports must have in place concussion Removal-from-sport and Return-to-sport protocols (artistic swimming is in a good place here as we have had artistic swimming-specific concussion [Removal-from-sport](#) and [Return-to-sport](#) protocols in place since 2018).

Ontario Artistic Swimming's Actions to Comply with Rowan's Law

1. OAS will ensure that all participants in its summer programming including coaches and athletes of Provincial teams complete the necessary Government requirements

including reviewing and signing off on the Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources and the OAS Athlete or Coach Concussion Code of Conduct.

2. OAS will provide Member clubs with the resources required for athletes and their parents, as appropriate, to complete the necessary Government requirements for the 2019-20 season. Athletes must review and sign off on the Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources and the OAS Concussion Code of Conduct for Athletes before their registration is activated to allow them to participate in artistic swimming-related activities. If the athlete is under 18 years of age, their parent or guardian must sign off.
3. OAS will provide Member clubs with the resources required for coaches to sign off on the Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources and the OAS Concussion Code of Conduct for Coaches. Coaches must complete the necessary Government requirements before their registration is activated to allow them to continue to coach artistic swimming-related programs in Ontario.
4. OAS will be communicating with all currently registered officials to provide them with the resources they need to sign off on the Ontario Concussion awareness resources. Officials have until October 15, 2019 to comply with the legislation and maintain their registered status with OAS.
5. OAS will be adding compliance with the requirements under Rowan's Law legislation and regulation to the Certificate of Compliance for 2019-20. OAS requires that clubs sign and submit this certificate of compliance as evidence they are in compliance with OAS risk management policies and procedures.
6. For 2020-21, OAS will work with Canada Artistic Swimming with a view to building the necessary Government requirements under Rowan's Law into the online registration process for coaches and officials. In 2020 and all subsequent years, coaches and officials will be required to review and sign off on the Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources and the OAS Concussion Code of Conduct as part of the registration process.
7. While the legislation is only applicable to athletes under the age of 26, in the interests of athlete safety and best practices, OAS will require all athletes to review and sign off on the requirements of the legislation.

Club Action Required to Comply with Rowan's Law

1. Clubs must ensure that all participants in any summer programming including coaches and athletes review and sign off on the Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources and the relevant OAS Concussion Code of Conduct.
2. Clubs must ensure that athletes complete the necessary Government requirements for the 2019-20 season. Athletes must review and sign off on the Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources and the OAS Concussion Code of Conduct for Athletes before they are allowed to participate in artistic swimming-related activities. If the athlete is under 18 years of age, their parent or guardian must sign off.
3. Clubs must ensure that their coaches sign off on the Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources and the OAS Concussion Code of Conduct for Coaches. This must be done before they are allowed to coach artistic swimming-related programs.

Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources

There are three age variations of the Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources:

[For athletes 10 years of age and under.](#)

[For athletes aged 11 to 14.](#)

[For athletes aged 15 years and over.](#)

Athletes (and their parents for athletes under 18 years of age) are to review and sign off on the resources that are appropriate to their age. For example, if an athlete is 12 years of age, the athlete and his or her parents would need to review and sign off on the Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources for athletes aged 11 to 14.

Coaches are to review and sign off on the resources that are appropriate to the oldest age group of athletes they coach. For example, if a coach coaches 13-15 and Junior age athletes, they would need to review and sign off on the Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources for athletes aged 15 and above.

Officials are to review and sign off on the Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources for athletes aged 15 years and over.

The Ontario Concussion Awareness Resources also include two posters:

[Rowan's Law Concussion Poster 1.](#)

[Rowan's Law Concussion Poster 2.](#)

OAS Concussion Code of Conduct

Under Rowan's Law, OAS is required to have a concussion Code of Conduct in place for athletes and coaches. All athletes and coaches are required to review and sign off on the relevant Code of Conduct prior to registration each season.

OAS Concussion Code of Conduct for Athletes

<https://ontarioartisticswimming.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/OAS-Concussion-Code-of-Conduct-for-Athletes-July-2019.pdf>

OAS Concussion Code of Conduct for Coaches

<https://ontarioartisticswimming.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/OAS-Concussion-Code-of-Conduct-for-Coaches-July-2019.pdf>

Ontario Government Rowan's Law Links

For all the information relating to the implementation of Rowan's Law, please refer to the relevant Ontario Government website links:

[Rowan's Law Concussion Awareness Resources](#)

[Rowan's Law: Concussion safety](#)

[Rowan's Law Legislation](#)

[Rowan's Law Regulation](#)

For further information on Rowan's Law, please contact Ruth Belcher at rbelcher@ontarioartisticswimming.ca.