



RETURN to HOCKEY

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Return to Hockey Framework

Revised June 9, 2020

SECTION 1

Purpose

Hockey Northwestern Ontario has worked in conjunction with Hockey Canada the National Sport Organization (NSO) for hockey and the Ontario Government as one of its recognized Provincial Sport Organizations (PSO) to ensure that in every phase of our return that the safety of our Players, Coaches, Officials, Administrators and volunteers are at the center of our plan and decision making. This plan focuses on making the return to hockey fluid while enhancing the experience.

SECTION 2

Disclaimer

The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, this document is subject to change. Any information on COVID-19 should be obtained from your Public Health Authority.

SECTION 3

Framework for Return to Hockey

The impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak have been felt across Ontario, by families, workers, businesses and communities. Our hockey family has also felt the impacts of this.

COVID-19 has created a unique situation for every person, business, and government body to deal with. Sport for our youth and adults alike closed on March 12, 2020 with no identified return. While the situation is still evolving, HNO continues to prepare for a return to programming with the necessary measures in response to COVID-19.

Our plan to return recognizes that although hockey was shut down with us all playing 5 on 5 traditional hockey, our return to traditional hockey will not be instantaneous. HNO has developed a phased approach to return with programming aligned to the Framework for the Reopening of Ontario.

Phase 1 - Protect and Support



HNO's primary focus in Phase 1 is the reintroduction of the sport of hockey for the health and well-being of stakeholders in the game, their families and the greater community following the cancellation of the 2019-2020 hockey season.

During this phase, HNO developed the standards of operations and certification protocols by all individuals that provide hockey programming, as well as unique and innovative strategies to bring hockey into the lives of our stakeholders and participants, in a safe-distanced manner.

Phase 2 - Restart, Protect and Support



Following the guidance of the Ontario government, HNO will be implementing a careful, stage-by-stage approach to reintroducing hockey activities across our provincial jurisdictions. The safety of all participants and stakeholders will continue to be the priority, while balancing the needs of individuals within the game. This staged approach does not have a specific time frame, but will evolve further to guidelines of the public health authorities, the provincial government and our governing body, Hockey Canada. At any point during the progression we may need to pause or return to a previous stage in order to protect and support our participants and the public.

Stage 1 - Individual In-Person Training and Group Virtual Training

In-Person Training

Instructional Training – individual athlete training on-ice or off-ice with private business approved by HNO or a sanction Association in compliance with the Ontario Government Emergency Order and HNO policies.

- HNO Members may conduct programming with the use of an instructor that meets the qualifications under the HNO Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Instructors Policy.
- Minor Hockey Associations may conduct with the approval of HNO, instructional training for players registered with their MHA during the 2019-2020 season, where such training is conducted by a registered coach with the MHA during the 2019-2020 season.
- Private skills instructors may conduct training of individuals once the lead skills instructor on the ice has qualified as a Hockey Canada Skills Instructor as set out in the HNO Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Instructors Policy.
- MHA's if utilizing a private skills instructor will need to validate that the skills instructor qualifies under the HNO Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Instructors Policy.
- Junior hockey Teams may conduct programming with the approval of their Member for players that they have registered for the 2020-2021 season or any player that are on their protected list. If utilizing a private skills instructor will need to validate that the skills instructor qualifies under the HNO Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program Policy.

Virtual Training

Sport Science – sleep, nutrition, fitness, training, dance, flexibility, yoga, mental training and mental health.

- Such programming that is being offered will be done with approval of HNO for the purpose of sanctioning and insurance.

Professional Development

Training of stakeholders on-line in groups and one on one or small groups in compliance with the Ontario Government Emergency Order and HNO policies

- HNO Hockey Canada Skill Development Program Policy
- Gender Identity and Expression
- Hockey Canada Safety Program/Hockey Trainers Certification Program
- Officials On-Line Recertification
- Respect-In-Sport

Stage 2 - Group Development Programming

In-Person Training

Instructional Training – individual and small group training on ice or off ice sanctioned by HNO in compliance with the Ontario Government Emergency Order and HNO policies.

- HNO Members may conduct programming with the use of an instructor that meets the qualifications under the HNO Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program Policy.
- Minor Hockey Associations may conduct with the approval of their Member instructional training for players registered with their MHA during the 2019-2020 season, where such training is conducted by a registered coach with the MHA during the 2019-2020 season.
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Stage 3 and Stage 4

At this time stages 3 and 4 are conceptual and further detail and requirements will be set out in the future prior to HNO progressing with these stages.

Stage 3 - Informal Programming

- Larger group development in compliance with the Ontario Government Emergency Order and HNO policies.
- Non-traditional programming in compliance with the Ontario Government Emergency Order and HNO policies.

Stage 4 - Traditional Hockey

This stage will involve the introduction of traditional hockey (5 on 5). Any such introduction will be in compliance with the Ontario Government Emergency Order and HNO policies.

Phase 3 - Recover, Protect, and Support



Stage 1 - Registration Numbers

Implementation of a collective recruitment initiative in conjunction with the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, Culture, and Industries, and Hockey Canada to bring participants back to hockey to pre-COVID-19 numbers for the 2021-2022 season.

Stage 2 - Internal Events

Planned approach to operating and hosting of tournaments across HNO with teams from across Ontario.

Stage 3 - Integration Outside of the Province

Identifying National and International hosting opportunities for events and tournaments.

SECTION 4

Facilities

Public and Private facilities that are providing training to hockey need to ensure that they maintain their own insurance on their facility and are in compliance with the Ministry of Labour Protocols and those protocols specific to the Ontario Government Emergency Order.

All hockey programming providers that are sanctioned by the Provincial Sport Organizations in Ontario will:

- be listed on the HNO website and will be able to present a Hockey Canada Insurance Certificate and PSO Certificate of Sanctioning.
- be required to complete a tracking document of participation use and an ice surface by ice surface training attendance form; and
- be required to have a COVID-19 Contact Person.

Facilities are directed to utilize the information provided by the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (ORFA) as an industry standard material: [ORFA Reentering and Reopening](#).

Ontario Ice Sports Harmonized Ice Sports Facility Procedures

Facility Entrance - No Dressing Rooms - Come Dressed – Entrance to Arena is based on facility plan and all sport groups collectively are required to have a meeting with the facility based on the following agenda.

- Parking Lot Entrance
- Entrance Doors
- Entrance Process
- Entrance Time
- Changing of equipment location process
- Dropping off Minor participants – Parents/Attendance – number of attendees permitted to support and watch
- Conduct of Parents in the stands (i.e. food and beverage maintaining facility cleanliness)
- Items allowed in the facility (bags, food, and beverage)

Facility Entrance - Dressing Rooms - Come Dressed – Entrance to Arena is based on facility plan and all sport groups collectively are required to have a meeting with the facility based on the following agenda.

- Parking Lot Entrance
- Entrance Doors
- Entrance Process
- Entrance Time
- Changing of equipment location process
- Dropping off Minor participants – Parents/Attendance – number of attendees permitted to support and

watch

- Conduct of Parents in the stands (i.e. food and beverage maintaining facility cleanliness)
- Items allowed in the facility (bags, food, and beverage)

Facility Entrance - Dressing Rooms - Option to Change at Facility – Entrance to Arena is based on facility plan and all sport groups collectively are required to have a meeting with the facility based on the following agenda.

- Parking Lot Entrance
- Entrance Doors
- Entrance Process
- Entrance Time
- Changing of equipment location process
- Dropping off Minor participants – Parents/Attendance – number of attendees permitted to support and watch
- Conduct of Parents in the stands (i.e. food and beverage maintaining facility cleanliness)
- Items allowed in the facility (bags, food, and beverage)
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Other Facility Specific Issues

- Tenant Dressing Room Requirements must be dealt with in a meeting with facility to determine contractual agreements on responsibilities
- Elite hockey rental requirements (i.e. longer break if require warmups)
- Look to plan for longer Ice-times rental
- Warming up within the facility

Reporting of incidents of injury or COVID-19 to facility personnel

- Until a standardized form is approved with all facilities the form that is provided by the facility will be the required form.

Equipment Storage

- Each rink will have to determine private storage requirements and if applicable should be part of your meeting agendas.

SECTION 5

Certification of Validation and Insurance

To comply with the Government of Ontario's Emergency Order, declaring the opening and operation of facilities only done so by a national sport organization funded by Sport Canada or a member club of such an organization, a provincial sport or multi-sport organization recognized by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries or a member club of such an organization, or a professional sport league or a member club of such a league, through a validation process for facilities that are open on who is eligible to be on the ice. In accordance with the Government of Ontario's Emergency Order the following validation process will be put in place to ensure that each group or individual operating meets the Government and HNO standards that focus on athlete safety.

This validation process is provided to support current member clubs through our Minor Hockey Associations (MHA), and Junior Teams while ensuring operators that are not currently sanctioned by an NSO or PSO have a pathway to begin operation through the HNO Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program Policy.

Facilities will be able to verify who is on the ice based on the Certificate of Validation and Certificate of Insurance that will be provided once the requirements to operate have been met by the organization.

Certification of Insurance: Each organization will be required to have a valid Certificate of Insurance present with them for any hockey activities.

Certification of Validation: As a certified organization, you will be required to have a Certificate of Validation indicating that you have completed the training provided by HNO. The certificate will be presented to you on your meeting all the requirements set out in the HNO Return to Hockey Framework.



SECTION 6

Chief Medical Officer

Mandate:

The Chief Medical Officer Ontario Hockey is responsible for providing the Provincial Sport Organizations (being the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF), Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO), Hockey Northwestern Ontario (HNO) and Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA) hereinafter referred to as the PSOs), Boards and staff with medical advice and comprehension regarding decisions and the impact of those decisions due to COVID-19 and the direction from the Ontario Government and Public Health Authorities.

Key Duties:

- Act as the medical consultant for the PSOs to respect of COVID-19 with the mandate to abide by the Ontario Government and Public Health.
- Act as the medical consultant for the individual PSOs in respect of COVID-19 if the Ontario Government opens regionally.
- Maintain professional status and be in good standing with their respective licensing College.
- Be the medical spokesperson for the PSOs.
- Advise the PSOs on risk management issues especially with respect to medical issues.
- Advise the PSOs on research projects and issues especially with respect to medical issues.
- Advise the PSOs on event sanctioning.
- Act as a consultant for international tournaments held in the PSOs jurisdiction.
- Act as a liaison with the Hockey Canada Chief Medical Officer concerning medical issues.
- Such additional duties as may be delegated to the Chief Medical Officer Ontario Hockey by the PSOs from time to time

Authority:

The Chief Medical Officer Ontario Hockey, will exercise their authority as set out by any Hockey Canada or PSO regulation or in accordance with this job description.

Appointment:

For the role of Chief Medical Officer Ontario Hockey there will be a short canvassing period of the PSO's Boards and OHF Members Boards for potential candidates. Based on the potential candidates the Chief Medical Officer Ontario Hockey shall be appointed by the PSOs Chairs of the Board, in consultation with the CEO/EDs, for a one-year term that is renewable. The Chief Medical Officer Ontario Hockey has no voting rights.

Meetings:

The Chief Medical Officer Ontario Hockey will attend meetings in person and via conference call, via invitation from any of the PSO's Chair of the Boards. PSO's members must obtain the approval of their respective PSO Chair of the Board before making any such invitations.

Resources:

The Chief Medical Officer Ontario Hockey will receive the necessary resources from the PSOs, to the

extent approved in the annual budget, to fulfill his or her mandate. They will also receive the necessary administrative support from the PSOs office.

Reporting:

The Chief Medical Officer Ontario Hockey will report to the PSO's Board as required and to the CEO/ED.

Requirements:

The Chief Medical Officer Ontario Hockey will be licensed to practice as a Physician in the Province of Ontario. Experience as a Sport Medicine Physician and membership in CASEM will be considered an asset.

Remuneration:

The Chief Medical Officer Ontario Hockey is a volunteer role with no remuneration except for expenses related to the attendance of meetings for the purpose of this role and other expenses as determined by the PSOs.

Insurance Coverage:

The Chief Medical Officer Ontario Hockey will fall within the Hockey Canada Insurance program including the Directors and Officers Insurance for the activities of the Chief Medical Officer Ontario Hockey related to this specific role.

Regional Chief Medical Officer

If it is determined that we require Regional Chief Medical Officers to support implementation as we continue to proceed through the Return to Hockey Framework, they will be appointed at that time.

SECTION 7

Stakeholder Requirements

The following chart outlines the requirements that individuals in different leadership positions must have in order to train, support and/or coach registered hockey players.

	Coach	Trainer	Team Manager	On-Ice Volunteer	Skills Instructor	On-Ice Official
CAC Training/ Certification	☑					
HNO Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program					☑	
Trainers Program		☑				
HCOP						☑
Rowan's Law	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Gender Identity and Expression	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
VSS/CRC	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Respect in Sport- Activity Leader	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑

SECTION 8

Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines

- [Hygiene - Safety Protocols](#)
- [Positive Covid-19 Test in Hockey Environment](#)
- [Return to Hockey Procedures](#)

SECTION 9

Appendix A

Ontario Government Resources

- [Ontario Provincial Government COVID-19](#)
- [Ontario Emergency Orders](#)
- [A Framework for Reopening our Province](#)
- [Ontario Law and Safety](#)

Hockey Canada Resources

- [Hockey Canada's Safety Guidelines](#)

HNO Resources

- [HNO Screening Policy](#)
- [Gender Identity Training](#)
- [HNO Confidentiality Statement](#)
- [HNO Confidentiality Implementation Manual](#)
- [HNO Dressing Room Policy](#)
- [HNO Dressing Room Implementation](#)
- [Respect in Sport](#)
- [HNO Harassment, Abuse & Bullying Policy](#)
- [HNO Concussion Code of Conduct](#)
- [Rowans Law Resources Ages 10 and under](#)
- [Rowans Law Resources Ages 11 - 14](#)
- [Rowans Law Resources Ages 15 and up](#)
- [Hockey Canada Concussion Card](#)
- [HNO Social Media Policy](#)
- [HNO Game Officials Code of Conduct](#)
- [HNO Players Code of Conduct](#)
- [HNO Team Officials Code of Conduct](#)
- [HNO Tobacco Policy](#)
- [HNO Billeting Policy](#)

SECTION 10

Appendix B

HNO Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program

HNO, in conjunction with Hockey Canada, the Ontario Provincial Sport Organizations (Hockey Eastern Ontario, the Ontario Hockey Federation and the Ontario Women's Hockey Association), and its Members developed the HNO Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program to provide skills coaches the opportunity to become certified to deliver training within the Province of Ontario.

Coaches who complete the HNO Hockey Canada Licensed Skills Development Program will be compliant with the Ontario Government's Emergency Order that has allowed for the opening and controlled use of sporting facilities by a national sport organization funded by sport Canada or a member club of such an organization, **a provincial sport or multi-sport organization recognized by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries or a member club of such an organization**; or a professional sport league or a member of such a league.

Hockey Canada Licensed Development Specialists are qualified, skilled and capable of running the highest quality programs on the ice for Minor Hockey Associations (MHAs), Female Hockey Associations (FHAs) Coaches and Players. The certification process equips skills coaches to deliver approved curriculum as set out by Hockey Canada Development, Men's High Performance and Female High Performance and ensures all participants engaging in private skill development are covered by Hockey Canada insurance.

On completion of the certification process coaches will be considered a Hockey Canada Licensed Development Specialist, which includes:

- Hockey Canada Certified Skills Instructor
- Hockey Canada Certified Goaltender Instructor
- Hockey Canada Subject Matter Expert/Skating Specific Instructor

Once certified, Hockey Canada Licensed Development Specialists can then operate both individual and group skill development sessions, Hockey School / Day Camp (if not hockey only additional insurance rider may be required) and/or Coach Mentoring Sessions provided for sanctioned hockey associations according to provincial regulations.

How to Become Certified

1. Please apply online by using the following links specific to your area of interest:
 - o [Skill Instructor](#)
 - o [Goaltender Instructor](#)
2. HNO will then work with applicants to ensure they receive the following prerequisite training:
 - o Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS) or Criminal Record Check (CRC)
 - o Respect in Sport – Activity Leader Course
 - o Gender Identity and Expression Course
 - o Rowan's Law Concussion Awareness and Acknowledgment Form

- o Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program In-Process License Agreement
3. Following the completion of the Prerequisite Training, candidates will be provided with details to the online training course.
 - o **The first initial training sessions being offered by the OHF will start the week of June 22, 2020 and will include:** Skills Analysis /Teaching Skills, Skating, Puck Control, Developing Defencemen, and Shooting and Scoring.
 4. Post-Seminar Tasks will be issued following the completion of the online course.
 5. Complete In-Person Training Weekend, which will consist of in-class and on-ice sessions.
 6. Complete a Field Evaluation.

The fee for the HNO Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program is \$1500.00 + applicable taxes.

How to Become Licensed

1. Must have been certified as a Hockey Canada Certified Skills Instructor, Hockey Canada Certified Goal-tender Instructor or a Hockey Canada Subject Matter Expert/Skating Specific Instructor.
2. HNO will then work with applicants to ensure they receive the following prerequisite training:
 - o Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS) or Criminal Record Check (CRC)
 - o Respect in Sport – Activity Leader Course
 - o Gender Identity and Expression Course
 - o Rowan’s Law Concussion Awareness and Acknowledgment Form
 - o Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program License Agreement

The annual licensee fee for Hockey Canada Licensed Development Specialist is \$1500.00 + applicable taxes.