



RETURN  HOCKEY

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Return to Hockey Framework

Revised June 9, 2020

SECTION 1

Purpose

The Ontario Women's Hockey Association 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 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 Ontario Women's Hockey Association and its Members make no representation and assume no responsibility in respect of their information concerning COVID-19 as the circumstances are constantly changing, and 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, the OWHHA continues to work with its partners 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 be by way of a planned phased in approach. The Ontario Women's Hockey Association has developed a phased approach to return with programming aligned to the Ontario Government - Framework for the Reopening of Ontario.

Phase 1 - Protect and Support



The OWHHA'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, the OWHHA developed the standards of operations and certification protocols by 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, the OWHHA 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 or off ice sanctioned by the OWHHA in compliance with the Ontario Government Emergency Order and OWHHA policies.

- OWHHA Members may conduct programming with the use of an instructor who meets the qualifications under the OWHHA Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Instructors Policy.
- Female Hockey Associations (FHA) may conduct, with the approval of the OWHHA, instructional training for players registered with their FHA during the 2019-2020 season, where such training is conducted by a registered coach with the FHA 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 OWHHA Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Instructors Policy.
- If utilizing a private skills instructor, FHAs will need to validate that the skills instructor qualifies under the OWHHA Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Instructors Policy.
- PWHPA may conduct programming with the approval of the OWHHA for players that they have registered for the 2020-2021 season or any players from their current player pool with OWHHA approved coaches. If utilizing a private skills instructor will need to validate that the skills instructor qualifies under the OWHHA Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Instructors Policy.

Virtual Training

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

- Such programming that is being offered must be done with approval of the OWHHA 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 OWHHA policies

Stage 2 - Group Development Programming

In-Person Training

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

- OWHHA Members may conduct programming with the use of an instructor who meets the qualifications under the OWHHA Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Instructors Policy.
- Female Hockey Associations (FHA) may conduct, with the approval of the OWHHA, instructional training for players registered with their FHA during the 2019-2020 season, where such training is conducted by a registered coach with the FHA 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 OWHHA Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Instructors Policy.
- If utilizing a private skills instructor, FHAs will need to validate that the skills instructor qualifies under the OWHHA Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Instructors Policy.
- PWHPA may conduct programming with the approval of the OWHHA for players that they have registered for the 2020-2021 season or any players from their current player pool with OWHHA coaches. If utilizing a private skills instructor, they will need to validate that the skills instructor qualifies under the OWHHA Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Instructors Policy.

Virtual Training

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

- Such programming that is being offered will be done with approval of the OWHHA 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 OWHHA policies.

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 the OWHHA progressing with these stages.

Stage 3 - Informal Programming

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

Stage 3 - Integration Outside of the Province

Identifying National and International hosting opportunities for events and tournaments.

APPENDIX

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 OHA 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 aged 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 aged 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 aged 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)

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.

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 OWHHA standards that focus on athlete safety.

This validation process is provided to support current OWHHA Member Associations and independent teams.

Teams while ensuring operators that are not currently sanctioned by an NSO or PSO have a pathway to begin operation through the Hockey Canada Licensed Skills Instructors (HCLSI).

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 the OWHA. The certificate will be presented to you once you have met all the requirements set out in the OWHA Return to Hockey Framework.

For information regarding the following.

Hygiene - Safety Protocols

Return to Hockey Procedures

Positive Covid-19 Test in Hockey Environment

[Please follow the Hockey Canada's Safety Guidelines](#)

Chief Medical Officer

Mandate:

The Chief Medical Officer of Ontario women's Hockey association 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 OWHA with respect to COVID-19, with the mandate to abide by the Ontario Government and Public Health.
- Act as the medical consultant for the OWHA with respect to 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 OWHA on matter mutually agreed upon.
- Work with the OWHA on risk management issues
- Work with the OWHA as a consultant for international activities/events
- Work with the OWHA on research projects and issues especially with respect to medical issues.
- 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 for Ontario Women's Hockey from time to time

Authority:

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

Requirements:

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

Insurance Coverage:

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

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.](#)

OWHA Resources

Please visit the OWHA website (www.owha.on.ca) for additional information