



EGMHA – COVID-19 Response

Return to Hockey Framework

Revised August 28, 2020

PURPOSE:

East Gwillimbury Minor Hockey Association (EGMHA) in conjunction with Hockey Canada, OHF, OMHA and the town of East Gwillimbury want 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. This document is used for the purposes of the EGMHA only and does not make assertion to hockey programming that falls outside of its jurisdiction.



DISCLAIMER

The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. The East Gwillimbury Minor 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 York Regional Public Health.

FRAMEWORK FOR RETURN TO HOCKEY

EGMHA as a member of OMHA, OHF and Hockey Canada will abide by and enforce the return to hockey policies outlined in the "[OHF Return to Hockey Framework](#)", released June 10, 2020 and subsequent updated versions.

This framework outlines a phased approach for Return to Play, with us moving into Phase 3A as of July 28, 2020.

We have put together a committee including Jeff Mackey (VP Rep), Doug Yarenko (VP LL), Ryan Gray (VP HL) and Doug Westland (VP Player Development) to implement our Return to Play plan, this will include assigning players to tiers and teams.

Phase 3A States:

Member Approved Programming in Geographic Area that is in Ontario Government Stage 3

Programming is based on Stage 1 and 2 requirements. Association programming is for participants registered with the Association for 2019-2020.

Individual and Group Training

- *Maximum of 25 participants on the ice, including instructors, or a lower number if determined by Ontario Government, local Public Health Unit, the facility, or Member.*
- *Every aspect of facility use must adhere to facility policies and physical distancing on and off the ice.*

Stage 3A applies to minor hockey associations from July 28 to August 31, 2020. EGMHA will not be offering any programming in Stage 3A.

OHF has targeted September 1, 2020, as the start of Stage 3B. As we move into Stage 3B, we will be moving forward with Tiered hockey.

General Information:

All EGMHA hockey activities will only commence provided we have approval from all governing bodies (OHF, OMHA, Town of East Gwillimbury and York Region Public Health). Prior to commencement of the program and once registration opens if the province repeals the current Stage 3 and we cannot have the program registration, refunds/pro-rated refunds will be provided.

The programs described below will run for 26 weeks, during the time between mid-September, 2020 and mid-March, 2021, should restrictions be reduced, and our governing bodies allow for conventional game play the programs will be adjusted to follow the changes. (e.g., playing 5 on 5 hockey).

Currently we will implement the following keeping in line with OHF guidelines (Appendix):

- Multi-staged approach to return to hockey
- No Tryouts, No Travel, No Tournaments, No Championships, until Stage 4



- Stages expected to move in 4-week cycles (Dependent on public health and provincial restrictions)
- Stage 3b as September 1st
 - Tiered Hockey
 - Development (Practice) only
- Stage 3c (approx. October 1st)
 - 2-week minimum mandatory development phase
 - Add 3 on 3, or 4 on 4 play
 - Internal association play only
- Stage 3d (TBD)
 - 5 on 5, no contact
 - Internal association play only
- Stage 3e (TBD)
 - Limited play between adjacent public health units
- Stage 4 (TBD)
 - Traditional Hockey Programming

All tiers will adhere to the outlined 50-person bubble limit. The formats for each tier are outlined below.

Tier 1 Divisions:

The Tier 1 Divisions will be rostered with all 2019-2020, returning EGMHA or other association A/AA/AAA players. The divisions will have 4 or 5 teams consisting of a maximum of 9 players and 1 goalie, 1 Head coach and a trainer. The divisions will consist of combined ages groups as follows:

- Tier 1 U8/U9
- Tier 1 U10/U11
- Tier 1 U12/U13
- Tier 1 U14/U15
- Tier 1 U16/U17/U18*

Each team will contain players from the minor and major age groups in each division for game play.

For Practices, current Rep Head Coaches will run practices for their respective age group. For example, the Minor Atom A coach will run the practices for the U10 Tier 1 players and the Major Atom coach will run practices for the U11 Tier 1 players. All games will be a modified format (e.g., 3v3 or 4v4), and rules will enforce social distancing (no prolonged or deliberate contacts). Each team will receive 1 practice and 1 game per week.

*Note – U16/U17/U18 will not have practices but rather 2 games per week.

In order to ice the number of teams that will participate in the Tier 1 Divisions we will need trainers and additional coaches. If you are a qualified coach or trainer and would like to help out, please reach out to Jeff Mackey at VPrep@egmha.com.

Tier 2 Divisions:

The Tier 2 Divisions will be rostered with all 2019-2020, returning EGMHA or other association House League or Local League players, this will include players that participated in the Select Program last season. The divisions will



have 4 teams consisting of a maximum of 9 players and 1 goalie, 1 Head coach and a shared trainer. The divisions will consist of combined ages groups as follows:

- Tier 2 U8/U9 (Minor Novice/Novice)
- Tier 2 U10/U11 (Minor Atom/Atom)
- Tier 2 U12/U13 (Minor Peewee/Peewee)
- Tier 2 U14/U15 ()
- Tier 2 U16/U17/U18

Each team will contain players from the minor and major age groups for both games and practices. All games will be a modified format (e.g., 3v3 or 4v4), and rules will enforce social distancing (no prolonged or deliberate contacts). Each team will receive 1 practice and 1 game per week, potentially with games starting in early October.

In order to ice the number of teams that will participate in the Tier 2 Divisions we will need Coaches and Trainers. If you are a qualified coach or trainer and would like to help out, please reach out to Ryan Gray at VPHL@egmha.com for the U5 to U11 age groups, and to Doug Yarenko at VPLL@egmha.com for the U12 to U 18 age groups.

Initiation Program (U7):

The U7 program will commence the week of October 13th and continue until Mid-March. The format of the program will not change with Cross-Ice practices twice a week, NO GAME PLAY. Number of participants in a cohort will not change, a max of 50 participants. With U7 that will include parents that are on the ice or in the stands. If we progress to Stage 3c by October 1st then we will be able to accommodate these numbers. If for some reason, we do not move to Stage 3c and remain in Stage 3b we will have to adjust these numbers to keep in line with Health Unit stipulations.

For a player to be eligible for the U7 program we do require the player to have basic skating skills and be able to get up on their own without assistance.

FACILITIES

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

- be listed on the OHF website and will be able to present a Hockey Canada Insurance Certificate and Certificate of Validation.
- 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
- Conduct of Parents in the stands (i.e. food and beverage maintaining facility cleanliness)
- Items allowed in the facility (bags, food, and beverage)

What does this mean for you?

EGMHA has been working in collaboration with the Town of East Gwillimbury to create procedures and protocols for how players will physically be allowed into the East Gwillimbury Sports Complex (EGSC).

Arriving at EGSC

- 1) Only 50 people will be allowed in the EGSC (not including Town staff) at any time. This will be reassessed as we move through the phases.
- 2) EGSC doors will always be locked during hours of operations.
- 3) All players should come fully dressed carrying their helmet, stick, skates, and a filled water bottle. No bags are allowed in the rink at this time. Your player may also come in with skates tied wearing skate guards. All water bottles must be labelled with the player's name. Please note the water bottle filling station at the EGSC will not be available to players.
- 4) Players will not be allowed in the EGSC until 10 minutes before their ice slot, line up on the designated spots at the main sliding door entrance.



- 5) Once your complete group has arrived, call the posted number (905)806-2949 and a Municipal Staff will open the door to let you in. Do not call until all members of your group are present.
- 6) All players entering the EGSC will be required to wear a face mask. Hand sanitizing station will be throughout the facility.
- 7) No late arrivals will be permitted, as doors will be locked once cohort has moved into the arena.

While in EGSC

- 1) Upon entry to the EGSC, players will be directed to a designated ice pad and seating area to put on helmet and skates. Once their helmet is on, their face mask can be removed. Players will be required to bring a labelled sealable bag with their name on it to store their face mask when they are on the ice.
- 2) Once dressed, the player will move to the ice for their 50-minute time slot.
- 3) For younger age groups, bench staff will be responsible for helping with tying skates, skate's guards and helmets. Bench staff assisting players must wear a face masked.
- 4) No spectators or parents/guardians will be allowed in the facility, only participants and coaches/skill trainers. (regardless of age). This will be re-assessed as we move through each phase.
- 5) Changerooms will remain closed at this time.
- 6) Access to a washroom will be provided. Use of the NewRoads washroom will be made available. Social distancing must be maintained to and from the washroom.
- 7) Water fountains/filling stations are not available at this time.

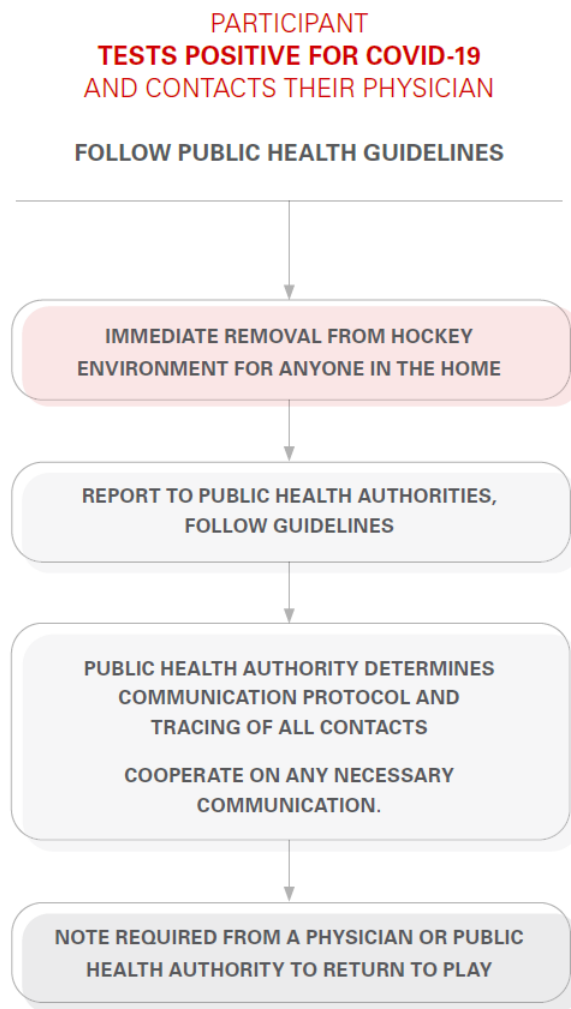
Exiting EGSC

- 1) There will be a designated exit for each ice pad. If you are on the NewRoads rink you will exit at the West Doors, and if you are using the Atlas Rink you will exit from the East doors. These doors should only be used to exit the facility. Please use the appropriate markers to assist in your safe exit.
- 2) After each game/practice, the player will be directed quickly back to their seat, to remove their skates and helmet. When the helmet has been removed, they will be required to put their face mask on. Players will have 5 minutes to exit the building, any delay will cause new group of skaters not being allowed in as we must adhere to the 50-person limit.
- 3) Once participants have cleared the arena, municipal staff will use the remaining time between rentals to clean and disinfect high touch points and the areas that have been accessed. Once cleaning is completed, the next group will be allowed to enter

Health Pre-Check and Emergency Protocols

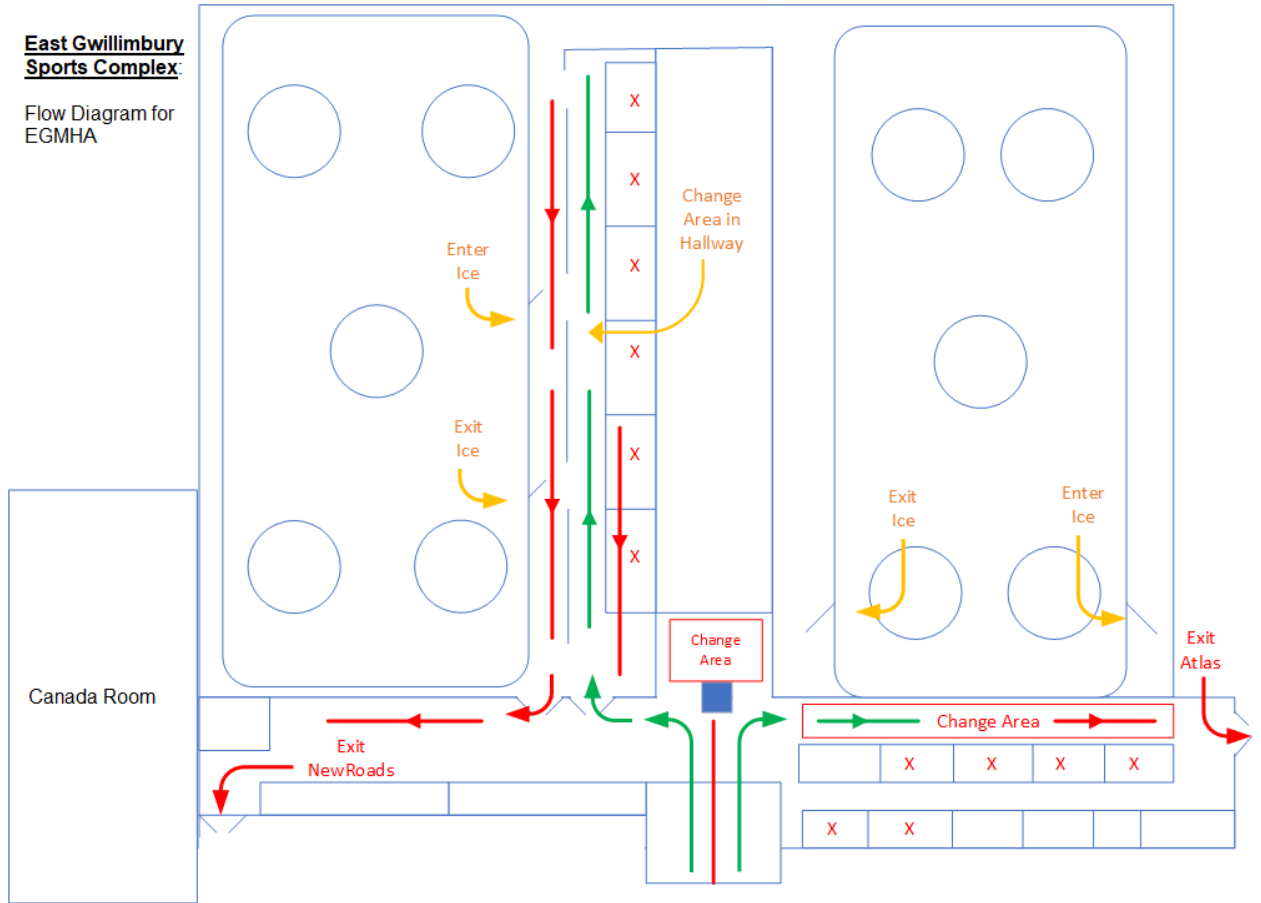
- 1) We will be using a mobile application (TBD) as our player pre-check health app. Before each practice/game parents must sign their child in on App or they will not be allowed in the building.
- 2) Parent profiles will also be required to be entered into App; in case of emergency we will require full contact information.
- 3) In case of an emergency, Bench staff will follow the emergency protocols, and will call Emergency Services, if needed. Bench Staff will also contact the player's parent/guardian and the EGMHA Representative, Ed Vetere (VicePresident@egmha.com).
 - a. If a parent/guardian needs to enter Arena, and we are at the 50-person limit, bench staff will need to have 2 players come off the ice and exit the EGSC to allow parents entry.
 - b. Emergency Services staff are York region employees and do not affect the 50-person facility limit.

- 4) If your child is exhibiting signs or symptoms of illness, he/she will not be allowed in the EGCS to participate hockey activities. If during a game or practice, a player starts to not feel well or have identified respiratory symptoms, ensure they advise bench staff immediately and put on a cloth mask. They should immediately be removed from the ice, go home, and follow up with their family physician. We need to work together to stay safe, we are asking that you please keep your sick child at home for the safety of everyone.
- 5) **IMPORTANT** Positive COVID-19 Test: If a sick participant (or their parent/guardian if the participant is a minor) elects to inform a team/hockey association/Member that they have been diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual informed shall seek the sick participant/their parent's/guardian's consent to contact public health authorities in order to obtain advice on communication with other potentially impacted participants. The sick participant (or their parent/guardian if the participant is a minor) should be asked to advise Public Health of this consent. Explain the communication that will take place and NEVER disclose the sick person's name. If you choose please inform Ed Vetere (VicePresident@egmha.com). Once participant informs Public Health unit, we will follow the outlined process from OMHA:



- 6) Parent should ensure that equipment that is able to be washed (e.g., jerseys, pant shells, socks) is done after each training session following manufacturer guidelines. It is important that equipment is kept clean.

- 7) EGSC Flow Diagram for EGMHA: This diagram outlines the path Participants will follow as they enter and exit the Arena.



STAKEHOLDERS 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 in the OHF.

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



GAME PLAY RULES

Return to Hockey - Modified Games Rules U10 to U18 Divisions

Game Play:

1. Rosters based on 9 players + 1 goalie*
 - a. Must have 5 players + 1 goalie to start a game
2. Game time based on a 50-minute ice rental
 - a. 5 min warm up / 2 x 22 min period run time / 1 min intermission
3. No overtime / no shootout for tied games
4. No faceoffs
 - a. Period 1 –visiting team has first possession
 - b. Period 2 –home team has first possession
5. No Physical Contact Players must remain one stick length apart
 - a. No body checking, only accidental/incidental contact may occur
 - b. When a scrum or gathering occurs the puck will be given to the defending team and the attacking team must retreat.
 - c. A player that loses a glove must immediately retrieve the glove or leave the ice
6. Penalties: Penalty shots will be awarded for penalties as per:
 - a. 2 min penalties = 1 penalty shot
 - b. 4+ min penalties = 2 penalty shots
 - c. All major penalties will result in 2 penalty shots and an ejection from the game
 - d. Intentional body contact or body checking = 2 penalty shots and may result in removal from the game at the discretion of the referee
 - e. Intentionally entering the goaltender’s crease = 1 penalty shot
 - f. Co-incidental penalties will result in NO penalty shot being awarded
7. The penalty shot must be taken by the individual the infraction was committed against unless they are unable to do so because of injury
8. Timing
 - a. Time clock will continue to run during penalty shot
 - b. If a delayed penalty is called near the end of the game and the clock runs out, and where the result of the penalty shot(s) could change the outcome of the game, the penalty shot(s) will be taken
9. Procedure:
 - a. The player taking the penalty shot will line up at center ice
 - b. All other players from both teams will line up by the far blue line
 - c. All players will start from a standing position
 - d. Referee will blow the whistle to start play
 - e. All players may begin skating on the whistle; players on the non-penalized team may “chase” the player taking the shot and can prevent it if able to do so
 - f. Penalties can still be called on penalty shots



- g. Should the player miss the penalty shot, play will continue
- h. If a goal is scored, the team that scores the goal must allow the other team to advance the puck past center ice before applying pressure. If the puck has not proceeded past the hashmarks within 10 seconds of the whistle the official will signal the attacking team to proceed with the attack

Return to Hockey - Modified Games Rules U7 to U9 Division

Game Play:

1. Rosters based on 9 players + 1 goalie*
 - a. Must have 5 players + 1 goalie to start a game
2. Game time based on a 50-minute ice rental
 - a. Cross-ice games (U9 would move to full ice in January)
 - b. 5 min warm up / 2 x 21 min period run time / 1 min intermission
3. No overtime / no shootout for tied games
4. No faceoffs
 - a. Period 1 –visiting team has first possession
 - b. Period 2 –home team has first possession
5. No Physical Contact
 - a. Players must remain one stick length apart
 - b. No body checking, only accidental/incidental contact may occur
 - c. When a scrum or gathering occurs the puck will be given to the defending team and the attacking team must retreat
 - d. Player that loses a glove must immediately retrieve the glove or leave the ice
6. Line changes
 - a. 1.5 min shifts (timekeeper will sound the horn to notify shift change).
7. Goals result in a change of possession
 - a. The attacking team must retreat and allow the team that was scored against the opportunity to play the puck. If this does not occur, the official may blow their whistle and signal the opposing team to provide more space.
8. Icing
 - a. There is no icing in cross-ice hockey
9. Offsides
 - a. There are not offsides in cross-ice hockey
10. Goaltender freezes the puck
 - a. The attacking team must retreat and allow the team that was scored against the opportunity to play the puck. If this does not occur, the official may blow their whistle and signal the opposing team to provide more space
11. Penalties
 - a. Penalties will be handled in the same manner as modified ice programming per the Hockey Canada Player Pathways.
 - b. Intentional body contact or body checking may result in removal from the game at the discretion of the referee.

APPENDIX

OHF Stages:

OHF Stage	Ontario Gov. Stage	Outline	Player Contact	# of Participants‡	Structure	Travel
STAGE 1 Return to Ice	Phase 2 Stage 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict On-Ice Physical Distancing • Skill Development Only • Off-ice Training & Activity • Limited/No Use of Bench • Variety of On-Ice Set Ups 	None	Limited to 10 in group including instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Instruction • Association Instruction • Team Instruction 	Community Based Only
STAGE 2 Return to Practice	Phase 2 Stage 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict On-Ice Physical Distancing • Group Skill Development • Off-ice Training & Activity • May be Limited Use of Bench 	None	Limited to 15 in group including instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Instruction • Association Instruction • Team Instruction 	Community Based Only
STAGE 3a Return to Play	Phase 2 Stage 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict On-ice Physical Distancing • Off-ice Training & Activity • Limited or Normal Use of Bench 	No Physical Contact	Maximum of 25 for individual training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MHA/Leagues/Teams • May be Modified Game Play or Cohort Groups 	Limited Public Health Unit (PHU)
STAGE 3b	Phase 2 Stage 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict On-Ice Physical Distancing • Off-Ice Training & Activity • Limited or Normal Use of Bench • Registration of Players for the 2020-2021 programming • Allocation of Player Groups • Group Training Prep Phase 	No Physical Contact	Maximum of 30 for individual training and game play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration is based on last year's registered Association.* • No program offered by MHA eligible to move for a program within PHU. • MHA providing some form of programming, must stay where registered last year, exception, players on AAA Waiver and LOR movement have option to stay or return home. • Leagues are Ontario Health Maximum of 50 (July 27) and based on the PHU. 	Limited Public Health Unit
STAGE 3c	Phase 2 Stage 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Training/Practices with Physical Distancing • Game Play 3 v 3 or 4 v 4, with No Physical Contact 	No Physical Contact	Maximum of 40 for individual training and game play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration is based on last year's registered Association.* • No program offered by MHA eligible to move for a program within PHU. • MHA providing some form of programming, must stay where registered last year, exception, players on AAA Waiver and LOR movement have option to stay or return home. • Leagues are Ontario Health Maximum of 50 (July 27) and based on the PHU. 	Limited Public Health Unit
STAGE 3d	Phase 2 Stage 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Training/Practices with Physical Distancing • Game Play 3 v 3, 4 v 4, 5 v 5, with No Physical Contact 	No Physical Contact	Maximum of 40 for individual training and game play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration is based on last year's registered Association.* • No program offered by MHA eligible to move for a program within PHU. • MHA providing some form of programming, must stay where registered last year, exception, players on AAA Waiver and LOR movement have option to stay or return home. • Leagues are Ontario Health Maximum of 50 (July 27) and based on the PHU. 	Limited Adjacent Public Health Units
STAGE 3e	Phase 2 Stage 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Training/Practices with Physical Distancing • Game Play 3 v 3, 4 v 4, 5 v 5, with No Physical Contact 	No Physical Contact	Maximum of 40 for individual training and game play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration is based on last year's registered Association.* • No program offered by MHA eligible to move for a program within PHU. • MHA providing some form of programming, must stay where registered last year, exception, players on AAA Waiver and LOR movement have option to stay or return home. • Leagues are Ontario Health Maximum of 50 (July 27) and based on the PHU. 	Expanded Local Health Integrated Network
STAGE 4 Return to Regular Competition	Phase 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No On-Ice Physical Distancing • Regular Practice • Off-ice Training & Activity • Standard Competition • May be Normal Use of Bench 	Contact Allowed	Regular Team Sizes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules TBD • MHA/Leagues/Teams • Regular Game Play 	Expanded Tournament Year end events
<p>Disclaimer: The content of the chart if there is discrepancy is superseded by the contents of the specific sections for each Stage in the OHF Return to Hockey Framework.</p> <p>* Players that played the 2019-2020 seasoning the GTHL will follow GTHL rules for movement as well as criteria laid out in the OHF Return to Hockey Framework for AAA Waiver and LOR.</p> <p>‡ Number of Participants is a maximum number outlined by the OHF for sanctioned programming, however, all participant numbers are dictated by the restrictions for gathering that have been established by the Ontario Government, local Public Health Unit, facility or Member. Maximum numbers are based on the largest ice surface 100x200 and should be adjusted accordingly for smaller ice surfaces and/or age and size of players.</p>						

HOCKEY CANADA SAFETY GUIDELINES

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

