

GODERICH MINOR HOCKEY COVID-19 RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

Last Updated: October 2, 2020

The following protocols and procedures will be implemented and enforced without exception by GMHI, in accordance with the Ontario Hockey Federation and Hockey Canada's [Return to Hockey Framework](#), and [Safety Guidelines](#).

The information provided is not a substitute for professional medical advice. The circumstances surrounding COVID-19 can change and GMHI recommends that the Government of Ontario and the Huron Perth Public Health Unit (HPPHU) websites be accessed regularly for the most up to date information. All timelines and guidelines within this plan are subject to change and evolve throughout the season based on environmental factors recommendations from Hockey Canada and the restrictions in place by the Government of Ontario.

All protocols and procedures remain in effect until further notice from GMHI. GMHI reserves the right to extend measures beyond that of the facility and our governing body.

Although this is not the way we are used to visiting our facilities, playing, coaching or watching hockey, we insist that all participants show respect to our volunteers, facility staff, and each other. Failure to comply with protocols and/or act in a respectful and responsible manner will result in suspension from facilities and/or Goderich Minor Hockey. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

PROTOCOL/PROCEDURE
PRE-SCREENING and FACILITY ENTRANCE
Parents of players under the age of 18 are fully responsible for the completion of their player's (paper until further notice) health screening questionnaire , to be completed and submitted upon EACH AND EVERY entry to the facility for ALL GMHI-sanctioned events. No verbal screening will be conducted due to time constraints.
Players 18+ years of age are responsible for their own self-screening, and must submit the health screening questionnaire upon EACH AND EVERY entry to the facility for ALL GMHI-sanctioned events. No verbal screening will be conducted due to time constraints.
GMHI Team Officials will collect all screening questionnaires and complete a data tracking sheet for EACH AND EVERY session that will be kept for 30 days after.
GMHI Team Staff or Officials may conduct a touch-free temperature check of players entering and/or refuse entry to any individual who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19.
Failure to comply with pre-screening WILL result in refused entry and may result in immediate, non-refundable suspension for the remainder of the 2020-21 (and possibly beyond) season.
All GMHI attendees will enter and exit through the WEST END of the MRC (Suncoast Mall) keeping a 2 metre distance wherever possible from others. No GMHI-related entrance/exit will occur at the east end.
Players, team officials and spectators may enter the MRC no more than 15 minutes before their assigned ice time. Players will arrive dressed in a minimum of "bottom gear" (shin pads, socks, pants) or fully dressed (minus skates, helmet and gloves) if possible. Goalies may wait until they arrive in the dressing room to put on their pads.

All spectators MUST vacate the MRC 20 minutes prior to the hour, with the exception of those needing to untie skates, who should report to the dressing room to await their players at this time (10 minutes prior to the end of the ice time). This will allow for the transition of adults from one hour to the next without exceeding the capacity of the viewing area.

All players and team officials MUST vacate the MRC within 15 minutes of leaving the ice (e.g., 10:05 for an ice time concluding at 9:50).

MASK WEARING and PHYSICAL DISTANCING

All persons over the age of 2 entering a facility will wear a face covering (mask) at all times while in any facility (home or away). There are absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS (medical or otherwise). Players may remove their face coverings immediately before outfitting themselves with their helmets and mouthguards. A physical distance of 2 metres is to be maintained at all times in transition to and from the ice surface. Coaches and team staff will wear proper face coverings in the dressing room and on the bench, but are not required to wear a mask on the ice, so long as a proper distance is kept from others.

Persons not wearing a proper face covering will be asked to leave the facility immediately. Failure to comply will result in immediate suspension of the family member and player from GMHI and potentially the YMCA.

On-Ice distancing protocols have been laid out in detail by Hockey Canada and OHF. GMHI will adopt and enforce all Hockey Canada and OHF protocols. All participants are expected to review in advance and comply with all protocols and regulations.

HYGIENE

Hygiene guidelines are detailed on page 13 of Hockey Canada's [Safety Guidelines](#) document.

Personal, labelled water bottles may be used. Water bottles may not be shared and must be taken home and washed after each use.

Spitting (including spitting of water) and/or nose blowing are strictly prohibited. If either is needed, a tissue must be used that is immediately disposed of, followed by thorough hand washing.

Sanitizer and protective gloves will be kept in trainers' bags.

ON-ICE and FACILITY CAPACITY

MAXIMUM GMHI capacity of the Maitland Recreation Centre is limited to a TOTAL of 47 visitors (players, team officials, game officials and spectators). To this end, individual teams will need to limit the number of spectators per player, depending on the number of players on the ice. Families of U11 and younger programs must have one (and only one) adult (in addition to team staff, only as necessary if team staff are also parents) present at all times. **Adults of U13 and older programs will not be admitted (team staff excepted). Absolutely no more than one adult per family may be in the facility (unless they are both team staff/volunteers with specific duties for the ice time in question).**

It is understood that siblings may need to accompany parents to the arena. Siblings should accompany parents only when absolutely necessary, and must stay immediately beside the parent at all times. **No siblings 12 or over will be permitted to accompany adults unless previously approved by GMHI Executive.** Children found by YMCA staff to be without parents will be returned to parents, and asked to leave the facility. Access to the facility will be managed by individual team staff.

At this time, the number of players and team officials permitted on the ice is a **TOTAL of 25**. This will limit team sizes for game play to 10.

Game play numbers within GMHI will be structured in a way that suits the number of registered players and available team officials and volunteers. Inter-organizational play is extremely unlikely for Phase 1.

Dressing room capacity at the Maitland Recreation Centre is limited to 9-10 (depending on the room) skaters, physically distanced (plus team officials as physical distancing will allow). Sinks, showers and toilets will not be available in dressing rooms. Washrooms at the EAST end at ice-level will be available. Two (2) dressing rooms will be assigned for each hour of ice. Limited open space at the EAST end at ice-level will be available for dressing, and may not be a good option for back-to-back ice times.

TEAM STAFFING

More team staff will be needed than normal, due to the 2-deep rule and the need to spread players between 2 dressing rooms. Additional volunteers will be needed for pre-screening requirements.

Only currently certified coaches and trainers should be permitted on the ice.

PLAYER ROSTERS

There are no tryouts for the 2020-21 season (see OHF documents).

Rostering structures will be determined for Phase 1 based on registration, and the best fit for development of ALL players. Tiering is a possibility, but will be closely managed due to the lack of tryouts.

Game play will be structured such that players will compete against players closest to their own ability and level of competition.

GETTING DRESSED/UNDRESSED

Players and on-ice team staff will arrive no more than 15 minutes prior to their assigned ice time and will maintain physical distance and face coverings (masks) while dressing. Players will remove face coverings immediately before departure from the dressing room AND will immediately outfit themselves with helmets and mouthguards upon removal of their masks.

Upon re-entry to the dressing room, players will maintain physical distance, and immediately replace their face covering upon removal of helmets and mouthguards. Mouthguards will be placed in containers, and NOT on benches or boards in any part of any facility.

Players will remove skates and upper body equipment promptly, and exit the facility as soon following their ice time (and no longer than 15 minutes following the conclusion of their ice time). Team staff will ensure this protocol is followed strictly, so that they can also exit the facility within the allotted 15 minutes.

Team officials will remove their face coverings immediately before stepping on the ice, and replace them immediately upon exit of the ice surface. Team officials on the bench will wear face coverings at all times.

Sinks, toilets and showers in dressing rooms at the Maitland Recreation Centre are off limits. Washrooms are available at the east end of the facility at ice level.

Players will wear their own jerseys for all practices. Jerseys and other washable equipment should be washed between ice times. Two pinnies will be provided for each player as soon as they are available, and are not to be shared.

The use of GMHI team jerseys for game play is prohibited until further notice.

ON-ICE PROGRAMMING

Physical distancing is to be maintained during on-ice activity. Body contact is prohibited, although incidental contact may naturally occur. Provisions in “Game Play Structure” (see below) will limit any contact.

Details of “Game Play Structure” can be found in Section 13, Appendix E of Hockey Canada’s [Return to Hockey Framework](#). Rules for game play are detailed in Section 14, Appendix F of Hockey Canada’s [Return to Hockey Framework](#).

Physical distance must be maintained on benches. As such, bench use will be limited during practices and game play.

NON-INJURY RELATED ILLNESSES

Specific details of procedures related to non-injury related illnesses are found in Section 7 (beginning on page 17) of Hockey Canada’s [Safety Guidelines](#) document.

Players or team officials who fall ill will be required to obtain a physician’s note before returning to participate.

What to do if a GMHI member is sick

Should a player in GMHI become ill or find themselves in any one of the below situations they must contact our GMHI Head Trainer immediately

GMHI Head Trainer

Ben Craig

519-955-2829(c)

headtrainer@goderichminorhockey.ca

What do I do if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

Keep your child home and out of the hockey environment. It is also important to communicate with your physician and public health authority, ensuring you follow the steps identified.

What if a parent/family member tests positive for COVID-19? What protocols do we follow?

If a parent or family member tests positive for COVID-19, the player and their family will need to stay out of the hockey environment. They should contact their physician and public health authority for instructions. The player will need a note from their physician or public health authority to return to play.

If someone on my child's team tests positive for COVID-19, will the team be allowed to continue to play hockey?

If someone on your child's team tests positive, public health authority guidelines will determine contact tracing and isolation requirements. It is possible, therefore, that one diagnosis on a team could lead to that team being required to pause hockey activities until the public health authority determines it is safe to return.

What if my child is sick but does not have COVID-19?

The player should follow up with their physician and the public health line. They will require a note from their physician to return to play.

What should I do if my child is exhibiting signs of COVID-19 but has not been tested?

The player should remain out of the hockey environment and contact their physician or public health authority for required steps to be taken. The player will require a note from their physician or public health authority to return to play.