

RETURN TO HOCKEY

Guidelines

VERSION 9 – MARCH 8, 2021



CANADA



HNB

RETURN **to** HOCKEY

COVID-19 RESPONSE

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Hockey New Brunswick has worked in conjunction with Hockey Canada and the Government of New Brunswick to ensure that in every phase of our return to hockey 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. The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment, as the circumstances are constantly changing. Information on COVID-19 should be obtained from the Government of New Brunswick's Public Health Office.

This document is intended for use by our member Associations and Leagues. Players, Coaches, Officials and administrators will all play a critical role in combating the spread of COVID-19, both on and off the ice.

Hockey New Brunswick would like to thank our Return to Hockey work groups for their commitment and efforts in the creation of our Return to Hockey document.

CHECKLIST TO SUCCESS

✓ REVIEW & FOLLOW

- Hockey New Brunswick Return to Hockey plan
- Hockey Canada Safety & Protocol Guidelines
- Government of New Brunswick, Public Health Guidelines

✓ PLAN

- Each Minor Hockey Association to assign a 'Communication's Officer'
- Each Minor Hockey team to assign a 'Team Liaison'
- Make all team staff aware of their responsibilities
- Meet with facility, parents / guardians and participants
- Procedures if participants are sick

✓ AT THE FACILITY

- Follow Hockey New Brunswick Return to Hockey plan
- Follow facility guidelines
- Practice responsible hygiene
- Team Liaison complete screening questionnaire & registry (Appendix C)
- HAVE FUN!

SECTION 2: DISCLAIMER

The information included in this document is current to the time of publishing and is aligned with the Government of New Brunswick's Public Health Guidelines, as well as the Hockey Canada Safety and Protocols document. However, recommendations may change depending on local, provincial and national COVID-19 reports; local resources should also be consulted for up to date information. Where anything within this document conflicts with Public Health

guidelines, members must comply with Public Health and adapt as required.

As information changes, efforts will be made to amend this document when necessary, and to circulate the revisions to the Hockey New Brunswick membership.

SECTION 3: COMMUNICATIONS

A. COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Positive and open communication will be an important part of returning safely to the rink. Minor hockey associations and leagues will want to ensure they understand what controls and guidelines are in place. This information must be passed along to administrators, officials, team staff, volunteers, parents and players in advance to ensure the return to hockey and facility use is enjoyable.

Each Minor Hockey Association will assign a 'Communications Officer' who will be responsible to ensure all updated and relevant information is passed on to everyone within their jurisdiction.

In addition to the Minor Hockey Association 'Communications Officer', each team will have a 'Team Liaison', that will work in cooperation with the Minor Hockey Association's Communication Officer.

MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION 'COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER' RESPONSIBILITIES MAY INCLUDE:

- Creation and oversight of the Minor Hockey Association's Operational Plan.
- Monitoring all relevant updates from the public health authority.
- Monitoring all relevant updates from Hockey New Brunswick, Hockey Canada and the Government of New Brunswick.

- Communicating with local facilities on guidelines and updates.
- Ensuring teams are following the prevention guidelines set out by Hockey New Brunswick.
- Ensuring any COVID-19 cases are reported as required by the public health authority, Hockey New Brunswick, hockey association, league and facility.
- Provide updates to Association on the Hockey New Brunswick documents.

'TEAM LIAISON' RESPONSIBILITIES MAY INCLUDE:

- Provide overview of the Hockey New Brunswick Return to Hockey plan and Association's Operational Plan to team participants and parents.
- Ongoing communication with Minor Hockey Association's 'Communications Officer' on guidelines and updates.
- Compiling of an attendance database for all team sanctioned events, for ease of contact tracing if required.
- Ensure screening questionnaire is completed for all participants prior to each team sanctioned activity.

The appointment of a 'Team Liaison' is the responsibility of the individual team. The position can be an already existing member of the Coaching Staff, the Team Safety representative, Team Manager, or a parent.

The Minor Hockey Association's Communication Officers will meet regularly with Hockey New Brunswick to assist in facilitating updates.



SECTION 3: COMMUNICATIONS

B. PARTICIPANT MEETING

It is recommended to host an initial meeting with parents/participants to review how programming will look and allow them to ask questions. This can be done virtually or in-person.

Topics can include:

- What the facility/MHA/League protocols are for spacing/limits, the number of patrons using the parking lot for drop off/pick-ups, entering and leaving the building and/or dressing room flow directions, washroom restrictions and other limits and patterns.
- Share the facility guidelines for the number of people that are permitted in the facility and/or on the ice at any given time. Families should be prepared to minimize the number of parents/guardians/spectators that attend with the player in order to limit the number of people in the facility. Work with your facility to determine what is best for your facility.
- What the system will be to limit the number of patrons entering and exiting the facility at one time. Work with your rink partner to determine what is best for your facility.
- How the on-ice sessions will be executed and further explanation on the HNB Return to Hockey phases.
- When players should arrive and what to expect on arrival and how soon players need to leave after the hockey activity.
- Players arriving dressed in their equipment and accessibility to showers.
- Steps to practicing good hygiene.
- Players not feeling well and steps to be taken by the team.

C. FACILITY MEETING

During all phases of the Return to Hockey protocol and reopening of arenas, a spirit of ongoing patience and flexibility will need to be communicated between the user and the facility owner (and their representatives). Positive interaction will be greatly increased with a recognition and understanding of public health authority direction on a variety of operational practices.

Positive and open communication will be an important part of returning safely to the rink.

At all times, government and health agency directions will supersede any general recommendation of Hockey New Brunswick.

- What are facility guidelines and requirements specific to physical distancing?
- Are there restrictions specific to the number of people allowed in public areas?
- What signage has the facility put up? Will they be posting the Government of New Brunswick's screening questionnaire at all entry points?
- How will registration lists of who's in the facility be kept – who will monitor the entrances?
- What are entry and/or re-entry rules? Will masks be required?
- Are there areas that may not be accessible in the facility – main lobby, dressing rooms, observation areas, showers, washrooms, etc.?
- If dressing rooms are not available, what alternative option may need to be conveyed to players and parents?
- Are common areas available to put on skates or remove skate guards with marked physical-distanced seating?
- What additional cleaning and disinfection processes have been implemented by facility owners and how often are common touchpoints serviced?
- In order to practice physical distancing, are multiple dressing rooms available for one team / group?

Above all else, respect the facility and all those that work within it.

SECTION 4: SAFETY GUIDELINES

The Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines are a national Return to Hockey document so that all participants have access to the resources they require to ensure we are prepared to return to the ice as quickly and safely as possible. The document outlines how to prepare your league / association for a return to hockey, hygiene, return to play protocols and the use of facilities.

It is important to recognize that in the event that the Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines conflict with Government of New Brunswick's Public Health Guidelines, members must follow direction from the Government of New Brunswick.

HOCKEY CANADA SAFETY GUIDELINES

https://cdn.hockeycanada.ca/hockey-canada/Exclusive/return-to-hockey/downloads/HC_RTH_Safety-GUIDELINES_EN.pdf

SCREENING:

All sanctioned events require participants to complete the screening questionnaire as per the Government of New Brunswick requirements. The screening questionnaire is listed in Appendix C.

Refer to Page 7 for additional Screening protocols.

CONTACT TRACING:

Minor Hockey teams and associations need to work in collaboration with the facilities they rent to provide lists of members who will be in attendance at sanctioned activities. A Contact Tracing Registry is listed in Appendix C. During games, it's the responsibility of the home team to collect the contact information for all players, coaches and spectators from visiting team.

There are actions you can take to stay healthy and protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19:



HANDWASHING

Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family from getting sick. Regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



PHYSICAL DISTANCING

All reasonable attempts shall be made to respect physical distancing measures as much as possible except brief contacts on or off the ice. **To avoid contacts pre or post game, Hockey New Brunswick has removed handshakes for the 2020-2021 season.** Recommend teams reduce the number of Team Officials on player's bench during games – Hockey Canada Rule 1.9(c)



MASKS

Masks will be required by all spectators and participants while in the facility. Players, coaches and officials on the ice during games / practices will not be required to wear masks; however, coaches / team staff will be mandated to wear masks while on the bench during games. Children under two and individuals who are medically-exempt from wearing a mask do not have to.



SANITIZATION

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Hockey equipment, including sticks and pucks, should be cleaned after each practice and game.

Some equipment should also be washed (jerseys, pant shells, socks, under garments) after each training session following manufacturer guidelines.



FLU SHOTS

Hockey New Brunswick recommends that all participants (players, coaches, team volunteers and officials) get a flu shot this season.

SECTION 4: SAFETY GUIDELINES

The following are guidelines for Hockey New Brunswick members who are sick or showing symptoms of COVID-19. It is important to remember that public health authority and advice from physicians must be followed in any situation where a participant is sick.

SCREENING

Passive screening is required for all participants and spectators at HNB sanctioned events. Signage is required to be clearly visible at the entrances. Participants will not be required to have their temperature taken prior to entry but should instead check their temperature prior to leaving for the game or practice and practice self-monitoring. Participants with a temperature higher than 38°C will not be permitted to participate.

Parents are responsible for reviewing the screening questions with their children prior to leaving for the game or practice and only sending their child to the game or practice when they are well and have met the criteria outlined in the pre-screening questionnaire. Upon arrival at the activity, a volunteer must conduct an additional check by asking the child if the passive screening took place prior to coming to the activity and asking them if they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19. If it did not, the volunteer must conduct the screening with the child (parent) prior to their entrance. In addition, the volunteer must request all patrons to sanitize their hands upon entrance to the premises. NOTE: that screening may be done using an electronic system (eg. Teamsnap) provided the participant is prompted to respond to the questions and the system records the answers.

Pre-screening questionnaire:

https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/COVID-19_screeningEN.pdf

SCREENING - ORANGE ALERT PHASE

In addition to the above listed procedures, Health zones which are in the Orange Alert Phase, must complete Active Screening upon arrival to their practice.

Active screening means that a designated person must ask all the questions on GNB's symptom checklist to everyone entering the venue.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD HAS A SYMPTOM?

If your child has **ONE** or **MORE** symptoms of COVID-19 you can either:

1. Register them online for a test by clicking 'get tested' on the GNB coronavirus website (www.gnb.ca/coronavirus)
2. Contact Tele-Care 811

3. Complete the GNB **COVID-19 Self-Assessment** or
4. Contact your primary care provider.

The 811 operators or primary care provider will evaluate your child before sending them for testing.

Following Public Health advice, your child **CAN ATTEND** hockey if they only have **ONE** COVID-19 symptom. However, if the **ONE** symptom is a fever, they **ARE NOT** permitted to attend hockey.

Individuals with **TWO** or **MORE** symptoms **CANNOT** return to hockey until they are symptom free for 24 hours.

Individuals who have been advised by Public Health that they're required to **self-monitor**, due to potentially being in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, **ARE NOT** permitted to attend hockey with **ONE** symptom.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Those who are infected with COVID-19 may have little to no symptoms. You may not know you have symptoms of COVID-19 because they are similar to a cold or flu.

Symptoms may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to COVID-19.

Symptoms have included:

- Fever
- A new cough, or worsening chronic cough
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Headache
- A new onset of fatigue
- Diarrhea
- Loss of sense of taste
- Loss of sense of smell
- In children, purple markings on the fingers and toes

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST IN HOCKEY ENVIRONMENT

Immediate removal from hockey environment for anyone in the home.



Report to Public Health authorities, follow Guidelines.



Public Health determines communication protocol and tracing of all contacts -cooperate on any necessary communication.



Note required from a physician or public health authority to return to play.

SECTION 5: EDUCATION

COVID-19 – E-LEARNING:

Hockey Canada has partnered with the Respect Group to create an interactive e-learning course for volunteers, specific to COVID-19 and the Safety Guidelines which Hockey Canada has created. Hockey New Brunswick recommends that one parent or guardian of all participants and all team staff complete the COVID-19 online training.

Hockey New Brunswick will **require** one member of each team to complete the online training prior to the team's first on-ice session.

This new e-learning module, which will be hosted on Hockey University and available at no cost to membership, offers a concise overview of Hockey Canada's Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines.

The program looks at some key information our membership needs to know to help to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in the hockey environment. Throughout this module we will point our membership toward detailed information on specific prevention topics and encourage all Members to become familiar with the Public Health Authority guidelines and restrictions and the Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines.

Length of module will be 10-15 minutes.

COACH / OFFICIATING CLINICS:

Adjustments to the delivery of Coach and Officiating clinics will be made for the 2020-2021 season, with an emphasis on e-learning.

See Appendix F for the Coach Certification update and Appendix G for the Officiating Certification update.



SECTION 6: RETURN TO HOCKEY STRUCTURE

This document has been prepared to assist and guide all those responsible for the organization and delivery of hockey in the province.

PHASE	RED / LOCKDOWN	ORANGE ALERT LEVEL	YELLOW ALERT LEVEL	YELLOW ALERT LEVEL - TOURNAMENTS / JAMBOREES
OUTLINE	No games or practices permitted.	Practices permitted within a single team. Practices can include skills & drills and or intra-squad scrimmages.	Games are permitted.	Tournaments are permitted – max of 150 participants which includes players, coaches and officials.
PLAYER CONTACT	N/A	Brief contact permitted during skills & drills / intra-squad scrimmages. Physical distancing must be adhered to outside of the field of play (dressing room, team gatherings, etc).	Contact permitted during gameplay. Physical distancing must be adhered to outside of the field of play (dressing room, team gatherings, etc).	Contact permitted during gameplay. Physical distancing must be adhered to outside of the field of play (dressing room, team gatherings, etc).
PLAYER BENCH	N/A	Maximum of 5 players on bench – players must maintain physical distance if benches are used during practice.	Physical distancing must be maintained where possible. While during game play it may be unavoidable to sit within proximity of one another. (Refer to page 12 for additional measures).	Physical distancing must be maintained where possible. While during game play it may be unavoidable to sit within proximity of one another. (Refer to page 12 for additional measures).
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ON-ICE	N/A	34 players, 6 coaches.	No limitation	No limitation
TRAVEL	N/A	No travel outside of minor hockey association.	Teams are restricted to play within their league or exhibition games within their zone (Zone A, B, C & D)	All teams must be from the same Public Health Zone.
ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES	N/A	No affiliate players permitted during practices. Dual registered players can only practice with their primary team. Minor Hockey Associations are not permitted to run Skills and Drills sessions that bring in players from multiple teams (ex: goalie clinic, power skating, etc). Should two teams be on ice together, the number of players on the ice must remain at 34 or less, and the two teams must be separated at all times (recommendation is to have rink dividers at centre ice).	Each team can only play one other team per day.	More information listed in the Tournament / Jamboree Guidelines.



Please note: Each facility may adopt stricter requirements to mitigate risk if they feel it is required.

TOURNAMENTS / JAMBOREES

All tournaments and jamborees are required to follow the below guidelines.

A tournament is defined as ***‘a schedule of games played among three or more teams, which follows an inter-locking schedule and leads to an eventual winner’***.

A jamboree is defined as ***‘a sanctioned event that does not inter-lock schedules and does not lead to a winner’***.

Tournaments / Jamborees **with less than 150 participants** will be allowed as follows:

- Tournaments / Jamborees can only be held if all participating teams are from the same Public Health zone.
- Approval to host the event must be provided by the respective facility.
- Submit a **tournament / jamboree application** and tournament / jamboree operational plan to HNB; information to be included in the operational plan is listed below.

***** included in the 150 people is all players, coaches and officials.***

***** Tournaments or larger sporting events that exceed 150 participants are not allowed and for now, there will be no process to apply for exemptions.***

OPERATIONAL PLAN REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the tournament application, all tournament hosts must submit an Operational Plan to Hockey New Brunswick which outlines:

Tournament refund policy

Use of dressing rooms (number of players permitted in dressing room)

- Draft tournament schedule
- Number of spectators permitted at tournament
- Tournament / facility policy on arrival & departure times for each game
- A list of any fundraising activities that will be held during the tournament
- A plan for tracking all participants, volunteers, attendees, and event officials. It is required that these records be kept on file for 21 days.

- Identify a COVID-19 lead / volunteer responsible to enforce COVID-19 restrictions at the facility.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Eliminate or reduce the number of items at the event that will be handled by multiple people (programs, handouts, promotional materials, prizes, clipboards / pens).
- Use websites and / or social media to post tournament results.
- Avoid cash payments where possible; use contactless payment options for ticketing and 50/50 draws.
- Avoid offering hospitality rooms for participants, volunteers and attendees.
- The presentation of awards must be completed in a manner where participants maintain physical distance from opposing teams and volunteers.
- Teams are required to utilize delivery, takeout, and pre-ordering options to avoid dining in/sit-down meals at restaurants.

GAMEPLAY

AREAS OF FOCUS

Given the current global situation, playing hockey is truly a privilege. Hockey New Brunswick is focused on the health of participants and safely moving forward through the outlined phases. In order to succeed, everyone must do their part, including players, coaches, trainers, officials, administrators, spectators and supporters. HNB is committed to maintaining this privilege and expects participants to do the same.

HNB has a responsibility to all participants to keep them safe and reduce any risk to health. To that end, Hockey New Brunswick has created the 'Gameplay - areas of focus' resource to assist Minor Hockey Associations and Leagues with the communication of information once games start in Phases 3 and 4 of the HNB Return to Hockey plan. The document is intended for use at the Minor Hockey and Elite Hockey levels.

FACILITIES

As outlined in Section 3.c of the HNB Return to Hockey Guidelines; Minor Hockey Associations are encouraged to work with facilities when creating their Operational Plan. Below are facility specific guidelines, as provided by the Government of New Brunswick – please note, facilities may strengthen Government of New Brunswick guidelines.



SPECTATORS

Neither the Government of New Brunswick or Hockey New Brunswick have a specific capacity limits for spectators attending HNB events. Occupancy of any facility must be based on the ability to maintain physical distancing between people that are not close friends and family.

Capacity and the use of the facilities will be based on what the facility can safely accommodate. This will be determined through the establishment of a COVID-19 Operational Plan that addresses, but is not limited to, physical distancing, cleaning and disinfecting, hand and respiratory hygiene, and pre-screening for symptoms.



CONTACT TRACING

Venues with indoor events with controlled entry and/or controlled seating, are required to capture contact information on persons using the facility. Hockey New Brunswick requires teams to use the Contact Tracing Registry that's listed in Appendix C. The Contact Tracing lists must be kept on file by the 'Team Liaison' for 21 days. Minor Hockey Associations must coordinate the logistics of Contact Tracing as it relates to spectators attending games, with the facility. During games, it's the responsibility of the home team to collect the contact

information for all players, coaches and spectators from visiting team.



PRE-SCREENING

You must refer to 'Page 7 – Screening' for the detailed protocols.



MASKS

Masks will be required by all spectators and participants while in the facility. Players, coaches and officials on the ice during games / practices will not be required to wear masks; however, coaches / team staff will be mandated to wear masks while on the bench during games. Children under two and individuals who are medically-exempt from wearing a mask do not have to.



DRESSING ROOMS / SHOWERS

Minor Hockey Associations are encouraged to meet with the facility to discuss the use of dressing rooms. When dressing rooms are permitted, GNB guidelines state – 'For the use of locker/change rooms, a 1 metre distance must be maintained while wearing a mask and occupancy should be addressed by taking into consideration that in any enclosed, indoor space with unknown or poor ventilation quality, risk of transmission may be heightened. Additional considerations could include staggered scheduling, opening additional rooms for change room usage, changing at home as much as possible'.

As for the use of showers, GNB guidelines state 'Although there is no specific guidance related to shower usage, it is believed that higher-humidity conditions increase droplet formation and dispersion. Greater cleaning and disinfection may be advised within these settings. Additional considerations could include limiting the use of communal showers to only one patron at a time and limiting the use of showers to user groups that require them (morning practices prior to school)'.

NOTE: During the orange alert level, showers are not permitted and players need to maintain 2 metres of physical distance in dressing rooms.



ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE

Minor Hockey Associations are encouraged to check with the facilities they're using as it relates to arrival / departure times. Please ensure to pass the information onto visiting teams.

GAMEPLAY

ALTERCATIONS / SCRUMS

A common occurrence in any game is gatherings during and after the play that may result in scrums and altercations. It is important that, when possible, we promote physical distancing of players. Although it is not completely avoidable, officials are encouraged to eliminate and control scrums and altercations to the best of their ability. Players and team officials have a responsibility to show resilience and composure in such situations.

Direction for coaches and players:

- Coaches are asked to teach and communicate the importance of physical distancing once the whistle is blown to stop play. Players are expected to immediately leave the area and physically distance on the ice where possible.
- Support of the officials in these situations is required to prevent continued scrums and altercations from occurring.
- Players are encouraged not to continue the battle for the puck once the whistle has been blown and are asked to immediately leave the area after the stoppage of play.
- Although this should be the protocol at any time play is stopped, it becomes especially important during stoppages near the players' bench and in front of the net.

Direction for officials:

Officials are encouraged to utilize their whistle to stop play earlier and potentially prevent unnecessary scrums and altercations.

- Quicker whistles may be required when the puck is being trapped along the boards to avoid the gathering of players.
- Quicker whistles on net plays may be required to assist in preventing tempers to rise, resulting in scrums and altercations.

Officials are encouraged to assess appropriate penalties to players causing scrums or altercations rather than verbal warnings, if those players have not appropriately abided by the whistle and direction from the officials to leave the area.

- Strict enforcement of Unsportsmanlike Conduct minor penalties under Rule 9.2(a) may be utilized by officials to assist in limiting these situations.
- Officials are encouraged to escalate to misconducts where players are continuing to engage or where teams after receiving penalties continue to cause scrums and altercations.

It is important that officials communicate with players and team officials regarding a high standard for scrums and altercations. Team officials must assist in educating and promoting respect amongst players to prevent situations that may escalate.

Officials are required to employ zero tolerance to discourage players from "face washing" other players and shall, if warranted, assess a double minor penalty for Head Contact in minor and female hockey. In Junior Hockey and above, officials may assess a minor penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct under Rule 9.2(a) and escalate to a misconduct should such behaviour continue.

SPITTING

The act of spitting directly at any player, team official or on-ice official is currently addressed under Rule 9.7, in which a match penalty is applied. In the current COVID-19 environment, Hockey Canada encourages coaches to promote that participants refrain from spitting at any time during any on-ice activities. This would also include spitting water on the ice or in the bench area.

Aside from the current Rule 9.7 (match penalty), Hockey Canada is not instituting a "new" penalty for spitting by participants. However, it does strongly encourage all participants and team officials to promote and educate players about proper hygiene and refraining from the act of spitting.

Officials are asked to adhere to the following protocols when it comes to spitting on the ice:

- If an official sees a player spit or spit water onto the ice surface, they shall notify the head coach of the offending player's team at the next available stoppage of play. Coaches will be advised to address such instances with their team and reinforce that it is not acceptable.
- If a team has been notified two times within a game and a third occurrence occurs, officials are asked to adhere to the following escalation.

GAMEPLAY – AREAS OF FOCUS

- › Assess the offending player an Unsportsmanlike Conduct minor penalty under Rule 9.2(a).
- › After informing the coach once again, state any further instances by any player will now be assessed as misconduct penalties and reported to the league on the game report or incident report.

BENCHES

Physical distancing must be maintained where possible. While during game play it may be unavoidable to sit within proximity of one another, there are some measures around benches that need to be taken:

- While on the bench, the back-up goalie must wear a mask.
- Injured players not participating in the game are not permitted on the bench.
- No team cheers.
- No team huddling around the benches at start of periods.
- During a time-out, players need to maintain physical distance.
- Officials will be encouraged to start play quickly between periods to avoid any congregating around benches.

All players must have their own water bottle and those bottles are to be clearly identified.

GOAL CELEBRATIONS

When a goal is scored the player can only celebrate with their teammates in a physically distanced manner.

Players **cannot** skate by the bench giving 'high fives' or 'stick taps' to their teammates. Celebrations must only include the players that were on the ice at the time of the goal – players coming off of the bench cannot be included in the goal celebrations.

HANDSHAKES

No handshakes pre or post game.

SUSPENSIONS

Under current regulations, fighting is not permitted at the Minor Hockey level and results in a suspension. Should a player engage in a fight this season, all Fighting Major Penalties (Hockey Canada rule 6.7)

will be doubled as per the HNB Minimum Standards of Discipline. Players who engage in a second or subsequent fight during the 2020-2021 season will be suspended indefinitely, pending review of the League President.

Officials will encourage teams to follow physical distancing guidelines after the scoring of a goal, after periods and during time outs. After an initial warning, officials may issue a bench minor penalty under rule 9.2 Unsportsmanlike conduct, to those teams not adhering to physical distancing guidelines. Any team issued a bench minor penalty for this will be reported to the league President for further discipline.

COACH GUIDELINES

- Through efficient planning, coaches will play an integral role in maintaining a fun atmosphere and healthy environment for all to play hockey, within the new Return to Hockey guidelines.
- Coaches and team staff should wear cloth masks where physical distancing is not possible, for example, in the dressing room or on the team bench.
- Members of the coaching staff must maintain physical distancing with players whenever possible.
- Minimize going in and out of doors including the dressing room door. Facility doors are considered high risk touch points. Team staff should try and control the number of times players enter and exit dressing rooms, as this avoids hands making contact with door handles.
- Team warm-ups and practices should adapt to proper spacing, reduce the number of one area stations including the players coming together in one group for instruction.
- For age groups where parents need to assist players with equipment, limit the number of parents in the locker room/change area at one time to one per player. Parents entry should be controlled to meet physical distancing requirements.

COACH RESOURCES

Sample practice plans with an emphasis on physical distancing are listed in Appendix D. Additional resources are available on the Hockey Canada Network app.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ON-ICE SET-UP

PYLONS

- To divide ice into zones
- To mark proper spacing distances
- Indicator of where player not in activity should wait for their turn
- Use as obstacles for stickhandling

SPRAY PAINT/BINGO DABBER/MARKERS

- To divide ice into zones (water-based spray paint to be used after getting permission from facility)
- To mark proper spacing distances
- Indicator of where player not in activity should wait for their turn

RINK DIVIDERS

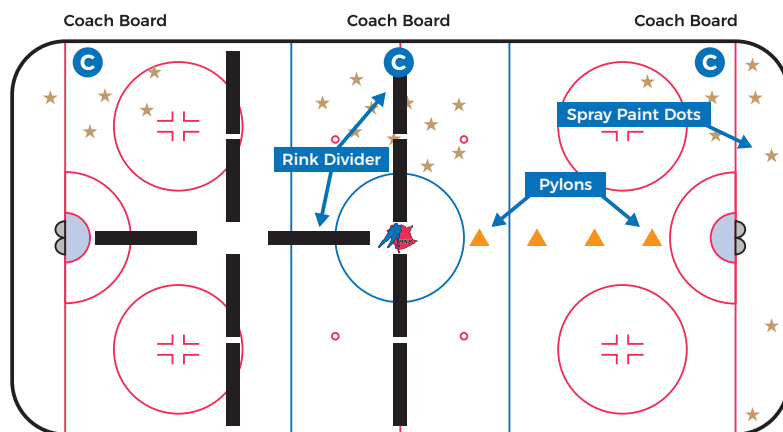
- To divide ice into zones
- To mark proper spacing distances
- Indicator of where player not in activity should wait for their turn
- Can be used to sit on

REGULATIONS REVIEW

Hockey New Brunswick has compiled a Regulations Review document so all participants have access to the information they require to ensure our leagues and teams are prepared to return to the ice as quickly and efficiently as possible, and with a level playing field, when it is safe to do so.

This document will outline recommendations that have been approved by the Hockey New Brunswick Board of Directors, including changes to the HNB Constitution, as well as Operations Manuals for Minor, Elite Hockey, Junior and Senior. These recommendations speak to regulations that impact player registration, affiliation, roster composition, league scheduling and Development Weekend.

See Appendix H for the Regulations Review document.





SECTION 7: MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION OPERATIONS PLANS

Minor Hockey Associations and Leagues are required to follow the Hockey New Brunswick Return to Hockey plan. In addition to following the Hockey New Brunswick plan, Minor Hockey Association must complete an Operations Plan, as required by the Government of New Brunswick.

To assist with the creation of an Operations Plan and to have consistency across our membership, Hockey New Brunswick has created an 'Operational Plan' template for Minor Hockey Associations to use.

Hockey New Brunswick will require all Minor Hockey Association Operational Plans be submitted to the HNB office. As well, each team must have a copy of their Operational Plan available on-site during all Hockey New Brunswick sanctioned activities, as per Government of New Brunswick guidelines.

Failure to comply with the Hockey New Brunswick Return to Hockey plan or the Minor Hockey Associations Operations Plan, may result in sanctioning at the discretion of the Hockey New Brunswick Board of Directors.

SECTION 8: CONCLUSION

These uncertain times have necessitated specific measures to allow us to return to the sport we love. Hockey New Brunswick has worked with its Members and subject-matter experts to prepare our participants in the best manner possible.

We encourage a full understanding of these health and safety protocols and full distribution throughout our participant base. We fundamentally believe these protocols, if adhered to, put Hockey New Brunswick,

its Members and all participants in the best position to return to hockey in a safe and healthy manner. Together, we can return to the sport we love and do so in an environment that is as safe as possible.



APPENDICES

A. HOCKEY CANADA SAFETY & PROTOCOLS / FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

https://hnb.ca/images/hnb/pdf/HC_RTH_SafetyGUIDELINES_8.5X11_ENG_FINAL.pdf

https://hnb.ca/images/hnb/pdf/HC_RTH_SafetyGUIDELINES_8.5X11_FAQ_ENG_FINAL.pdf

B. MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION - OPERATIONS PLAN TEMPLATE

https://hnb.ca/images/hnb/2020/pdf/Minor_Hockey_Association_Operations_Plan.pdf

C. SCREENING & CONTACT TRACING

GNB Screening Questionnaire -

https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/COVID-19_screeningEN.pdf

Contact Tracing Registry - https://hnb.ca/images/hnb/2020/pdf/RTH_-_Appendix_C.pdf

D. COACH RESOURCES

Hockey Canada Network app - <https://www.hockeycanadanetwork.com>

Sample Practice Plans - https://hnb.ca/images/hnb/2020/pdf/RTH_-_Appendix_D.pdf

E. GOVERNMENT OF NB GUIDELINES

COVID-19 website - <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19.html>

F. COACH CERTIFICATION UPDATE

https://hnb.ca/images/hnb/2020/pdf/Certification_Update.pdf

G. OFFICIATING CERTIFICATION UPDATE

https://hnb.ca/images/hnb/2020/pdf/New_Brunswick_Hockey_Officials_Association__2020-2021_Certification.pdf

H. REGULATIONS REVIEW

https://hnb.ca/images/hnb/2020/pdf/HNB_-_Regulations_Review.pdf

I. GNB COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

<https://hnb.ca/images/hnb/2020/pdf/Covid-19-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>