



**RETURN to HOCKEY**

COVID-19 RESPONSE

# Return to Hockey Framework

2021/2022 Hockey Season  
Updated: January 28, 2021



## SECTION 1

# Purpose

The Ontario Hockey Federation 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 traditional hockey the primary focus while ensuring a great experience in situations where we are not back to normal. This document is used for the purposes of the Ontario Hockey Federation only and does not make assertion to hockey programming that falls outside of its jurisdiction.

## 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 Hockey Federation 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 during the 2020-2021 season where traditional hockey was limited to a few areas of the OHF and only for short periods of time, while many of our participants were not able to participate in traditional hockey programming if any hockey at all.

While the COVID-19 Pandemic is still evolving, the OHF continues to work with its partners to prepare for a return to traditional programming for the 2021-2022 season with the necessary measures in response to COVID-19.

Our plan to return recognizes that hockey must comply with the Government requirements but that to the best of our ability the focus is on traditional hockey operating from the beginning of the season. Ontario has transferred its platform to the Roadmap to Reopen Ontario which is comprised of three steps.

## OHF Stage 1 - Ontario Government Step 1

No indoor sport programming allowed under the government regulations in Step 1.

## OHF Stage 2 - Ontario Government Step 2

No indoor sport programming allowed under the government regulations in Step 2

## OHF Stage 3 - Ontario Government Step 3

OHF Stage 3 programming for Minor Hockey will begin on September 7 in accordance with the OHF Regulations adopted by the OHF Members. Junior, Senior and Female programming is eligible to begin in accordance with the date established by the Member responsible.

### In-Person Training

Instructional Training – Individual athlete training on or off ice sanctioned by the OHF with numbers of participants based on the Ontario Government and Public Health restrictions

- OHF Members may conduct programming with the use of an instructor who meets the qualifications under the

OHF 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, where such training is conducted by a registered coach with the MHA.
- In process and fully licensed Hockey Canada Licensed Development Specialists who are in compliance with the OHF Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program Policy may conduct training.
- If utilizing a private skills instructor or is a registered coach with the MHA; MHAs will need to validate that the skills instructor qualifies under the OHF Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program Policy.
- Junior hockey teams may conduct programming with the approval of their Member for players that they have registered or any players that are on their protected list and eligible players that have received their Permission to Skate from their last carded Team either from the 2020-2021 season if they registered or the 2019-2020 season if they weren't registered for 2020-2021.

## 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 the OHF or Member for the purpose of sanctioning and insurance.

## Professional Development

Training of stakeholders online or in person in compliance with the Ontario Government's Roadmap to Reopen Ontario and OHF policies.

- [OHF Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program](#)
- Gender Identity and Expression
- Hockey Canada Safety Program/Hockey Trainers Certification Program
- Officials On-Line Recertification
- Respect-In-Sport
- Hockey University – Planning a Safe Return
- Etc.

## Tryouts, Team Practices and Games

- Based on OHF Playing Regulations posted at <https://www.ohf.on.ca/rules/by-laws-and-policies>.

OHF STAGE	ONTARIO GOV. STAGE	OUTLINE	PLAYER CONTACT	# OF PARTICIPANTS	STRUCTURE	TRAVEL
STAGE 1	Step 1	No programming allowed.				
STAGE 2	Step 2	No programming allowed				
STAGE 3	Step 3	Traditional Hockey  Regular Practice and games  Bench is considered field play  Dressing room use minimized, masks and distancing  Coaches must wear masks on the Bench	Full contact allowed	Max participants (players & coaches) on-ice in accordance with PHU, municipality or facility; if more restrictive than Ontario government Step 3 which is based on building fire code	MHA/ Leagues/ Teams  Regular Programming	Within Canada unless approved otherwise by your Member, on application
INTERIM STAGE	Before Step 3	Same as Step 3		If PHU applies Section 22; Associations and Programs must supersede OHF Stage 3	MHA/ Leagues/ Teams  Regular Programming	Within Canada unless approved otherwise by your Member, on application
<p>If crossing Public Health Unit boundaries or municipal boundaries, teams must comply with the regulations of the Public Health Unit or Municipality they are participating in. Minor Hockey Associations are responsible to inform incoming Teams of the requirements within the facilities the game is being played.</p>						

## 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's Roadmap to Reopen.

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.
- be required to complete a tracking document of participation use and an ice surface by ice surface training attendance form;
- each MHA/Club must have a Safety Plan as set out below; 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 Recreation Facility COVID-19 Reentering and Reopening](#).

### MHA facilities procedures meeting

Facility Entrance - 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)

#### Other Facility Specific Issues

- Tenant Dressing Room Requirements must be dealt with through a meeting with facility to determine contractual agreements on responsibilities
- Elite hockey rental requirements (i.e. longer break if require warmups)
- 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.

## Safety Plan

Each Minor Hockey Association (Minor, Junior, Senior Hockey Club, Female Hockey Association), as a result of their meeting with their facilities in accordance with “O. Reg. 364/20: Rules for Areas at Step 3 and at the Roadmap Exit Step”, paragraph 3.3, indicates each business operating a facility for the purpose of indoor and outdoor sport is required to develop a Safety Plan. The facilities all have a requirement to develop a Safety Plan for their operations but in addition facilities will be looking for the users of the facility to have their own Safety Plan in writing that outlines the following:

- The safety plan shall describe the measures and procedures which have been implemented or will be implemented in the business to reduce the transmission risk of COVID-19.
- The safety plan shall describe how the requirements of Regulation 364/20 will be implemented in the location including by screening, physical distancing, masks or face coverings, the wearing of personal protective equipment and preventing and controlling crowding.
- For facilities offering indoor sport, the safety plan shall also include information as to how the facility, place or event will,
  - o prevent gatherings and crowds in the business or place or at the event;
  - o ensure that section 3.2 of this Schedule is complied with in the business or place or at the event; and
  - o mitigate the risk of any interactive activities, exhibits or games that may be included in the business or place or at the event.

## MHA/Club Responsibility for incoming teams

Minor Hockey Associations and Clubs are responsible to ensure that incoming teams from outside of their Public Health Unit or Municipality are provided and aware of the internal requirements they must follow for participation in the home Teams facility. This may include but is not limited to the above safety plan and any safety plans and regulations of the PHU, Municipality or facility.

Refer to [OHF Tournament Covid Guidelines](#)

## Recommendations for MHA/Clubs Around Programming

- Teams should Minimize pre- and post- activity gathering time; participants should only arrive before the beginning of the activity and should leave immediately following.
- Parents should limit the gathering time and numbers of people.
- Carpooling to and from programming should be minimized and if carpooling is required that individuals should be masked.



## SECTION 5

# Vaccination Position

The Ontario Hockey Federation's (OHF) priority is the health and safety of our hockey community which includes all players, coaches, officials, volunteers, staff, families and fans. Therefore, the OHF amended our vaccination policy from August 2021 to outline requirements of all participants with respect to COVID-19 and vaccination.

The amended OHF Vaccination Policy states that all participants within the OHF that are of ages 12 and up must be fully vaccinated to take part in any OHF programming.

This policy is aligned with Occupational Health and Safety requirements and Human Rights Legislation which respects the individual's rights to privacy.

## Return to Sport after a confirmed instance of COVID-19 in Hockey

The Ontario Hockey Federation feels that the protocols that have been established Nationally, by our Members, the local associations and the OHF will reduce the chance of transmission within our programming. The OHF also recognizes that there is an aspect of inevitability that an athlete or coach within our programming will at some point have a confirmed positive case of COVID 19 and as such protocols are required for this instance.

### If anyone becomes ill at a hockey, they will:

- be immediately separated from others, in a separate room if possible, until they can go home
- be provided with a medical mask
- continue to be supervised according to the local hockey associations usual policy
- be asked to maintain physical distancing
- be unable to take team or public transportation

### If your child becomes ill at hockey, they must go home;

- the team or local hockey association will contact you and you'll need to arrange for them to get home, in a way that does not include public transportation.
- we encourage you to have a plan for this ahead of time. you should consult their health care provider.
- they may recommend your child [get tested for covid-19](#).
- if you or your child are tested for covid-19, [it's easy to get the results](#).

If a COVID-19 case is confirmed at hockey; the local public health unit will determine what happens and based on that direction the following flow charts will govern the Return to Programming.

## Covid-19 incident reporting

The [Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Guide](#) published by the Ontario government provides the most up-to-date information regarding contact tracing and outbreak management

Covid-19 exposure and isolation

In the event someone tests positive for Covid-19, is exposed for someone who tests positive for Covid-19 or lives with someone who has Covid-19; follow the [Ontario government's Covid-19 exposure guide](#)

Travel Restrictions by Canadian Government (December 2021)

For a full list of restrictions and responsibilities by the Canadian Government, [click here](#).

Further information regarding unvaccinated or are partially vaccinated children under 12 years of age includes following specific guidelines outlined by the Canadian government, including avoiding team sports for up to 14 days. For youth aged 12 to 17 years age, who are also unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, the requirements state they must complete a 14-day quarantine upon arrival back into the country.

Please also note, there are distinct implications for any participant that has been given a medical exemption from vaccination.

SECTION 6

# Certificate of Insurance

The following validation process will be put in place to ensure that each group or individual operating meets OHF standards that focuses on athlete safety.

This certificate is issued to Junior Teams, Local Hockey Associations and Hockey Canada Licensed Development Specialists under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Hockey Federation. The approved bearer of this certificate is compliant with both the OHF Return to Hockey Framework and the Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines.

Facilities will be able to verify OHF programming based on the Certificate of Insurance.

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



BFL Canada (sques) of assurance inc.  
 BFL Canada Risk & insurance Inc.  
 BFL Canada Insurance Services Inc.  
 BFL Canada Risk & insurance Services Inc.  
 c/o 2001 McGill College Avenue #2200  
 Montreal QC H3A 1G1  
 Tel: 514 943-3632  
 Toll Free: 1-866-688-9898  
 Fax: 514 943-3942

Certificate of Insurance				No: ABC-12345
This is to certify to: <b>MHA/HCSI</b>				
Address: <b>1 Hockey Dr, Hockeyville ON A1A 2B2</b>				
that the following described policy(ies) or cover note(s) in force at this date have been affected to cover as shown below.				
Named insured: <b>HOCKEY CANADA</b>				
Address: <b>2451 Promenade Riverside Drive, Ottawa ON K1N7X7</b>				
and: <b>ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION</b>				
<b>400 Sheldon Drive, Unit 9, Cambridge ON N1T 2H9</b>				
and: <b>HOCKEY CANADA SKILLS INSTRUCTOR/MHA</b>				
Description of operations and/or activities and/or locations to which this certificate applies:				
<b>PROOF OF INSURANCE: Activity: Only Hockey Canada members are covered.</b>				
<b>LOCATION(S): 1 Hockey Dr, Hockeyville ON A1A 2B2.</b>				
<b>DATE(S): July 1th, 2020 to August 31st, 2020</b>				
Type of insurance	Insurer	Policy no.	Policy period	Limits of Insurance (Canadian funds)
<b>ADDITIONAL COVERAGES:</b>				
IT IS UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED THAT THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES ARE ADDED TO THE POLICY AS ADDITIONAL INSURED BUT ONLY WITH RESPECT TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE NAMED INSURED DESCRIBED ABOVE. THIS CERTIFICATE APPLIES TO THE MEMBERS AND AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL OF THE INSURED WHILE OPERATING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THEIR DUTIES.				

This certificate is subject to all the limitations, exclusions and conditions of the above-listed policy(ies) as they now exist or may hereafter be endorsed.



SECTION 8

# 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 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	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
VSS/CRC	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Gender Identity and Expression	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Respect in Sport- Activity Leader	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Hockey Canada COVID-19 Safety Program (only individuals who have not taken)	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑

SECTION 9

# Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines

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

SECTION 10

# Appendix A

Ontario Government Resources

[Ontario Provincial Government COVID-19](#)

[Ontario Emergency Orders Step 1](#)

[Ontario Emergency Orders Step 2](#)

[Ontario Emergency Orders Step 3](#)

[Ontario Law and Safety](#)

[Hockey Canada Resources](#)

[Hockey Canada's Safety Guidelines](#)

OHF Resources

[OHF Screening Policy](#)

[OHF Code of Conduct](#)

[Recreation Facility Dressing Room Policy](#)

[Gender Identity Training](#)

[OHF Confidentiality Statement](#)

[OHF Confidentiality Implementation Manual](#)

[OHF Dressing Room Policy](#)

[OHF Dressing Room Implementation](#)

[Respect in Sport](#)

[OHF Harassment, Abuse & Bullying Policy](#)

[Dressing Room Supervision Policy](#)

[OHF 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](#)

[OHF Social Media Policy](#)

[OHF Helmet Policy](#)

[OHF Coach Policy](#)

[OHF Game Officials Code of Conduct](#)

[OHF Players Code of Conduct](#)

[OHF Team Officials Code of Conduct](#)

[OHF Volunteers Code of Conduct](#)

[OHF Policy on Body Checking in Tournaments](#)

[OHF Unsanctioned League Policy](#)

[Hockey Canada Accredited School Policy](#)

[OHF Tobacco Policy](#)

[OHF Billeting Policy](#)

[OHF Bus Policy](#)

[OHF Prohibited Use of Digital Device Policy](#)

[OHF Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program Policy](#)

## SECTION 11

# Appendix B

## OHF Hockey Canada Licenses Skill Development Program

The Ontario Hockey Federation, in conjunction with Hockey Canada, the Ontario Provincial Sport Organizations (Hockey Eastern Ontario, Hockey Northern Ontario and the Ontario Women's Hockey Association), and its Members developed the OHF Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program.

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.

### How to become certified

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



- 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.
  - The first initial training sessions 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 total fee for the OHF Hockey Canada Licensed Skill Development Program is \$1500.00 + applicable taxes. This has been split into three equal payments of \$500.00 + applicable taxes.

### How to become licensed

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

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

### Benefits of becoming certified through the hockey canada licensed skills development program

- Full Hockey Canada / Member Insurance coverage
- Endorsement through the OHF and its Members
- Opportunity to attend National / Member training and certification
- Opportunity to deliver Hockey Canada and Member approved programming
- Opportunity for Professional Development webinars throughout the hockey season.
- Hockey Canada/ Member promotion on website under certified / licensed programs to MHA’s / Parents / Players
- Opportunity to be Skills Instructors at Member / Hockey Canada High Performance programs
- Opportunities to attend Hockey Canada / Member Professional Development Workshops
- Ability to market themselves to MHA’s / Coaches / Players in conjunction with Members and Hockey Canada

SECTION 12

# Appendix C

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR REFERENCE

[Session Participation and Health Screening Tracking](#)  
[Health Screening Questionnaire](#)