

ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

400 Sheldon Drive, Unit 9
Cambridge, ON N1T 2H9
T: 226 533.9070 F: 519 620.7476
www.ohf.on.ca



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Transition Between Stages

The Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) recognizes that there is a desire from many young hockey players and their families to return to hockey that existed prior to the shutdown of sport on March 15, 2020. While the OHF has been diligently working with the Government and Members to provide safe hockey experiences during the 2020-2021 season, we understand this is not the sport we knew earlier this year.

In order to get back to the hockey experience prior to COVID-19, the OHF has been taking a cautious staged approach. Our initial focus in partnership with our Members and the Associations was to return players back to the ice as soon as safely possible within the regulations of the Government and Hockey Canada.

Now, we have progressed to Stage 3b to allow for both individual training and game play to occur. Moving forward the OHF Board of Directors will be evaluating the current stage in consultation with the Government, our Members and the data from Public Health Units. The first evaluation will occur on October 1, following this assessment, the OHF will conduct evaluations every two-weeks to establish which level in Stage 3 we are safely able to move to. It is our hope that if it is safe to do so, our jurisdiction will move closer to Stage 3c allowing for participants to be able to engage in a modified 5-on-5 game play.

It is important to recognize that the Ontario Government has permitted competition with the understanding that rules have been modified to eliminate intentional physical contact. Playing the game of hockey without intentional physical contact represents a significant shift from traditional hockey. As such, it is the equal and collective responsibility of all participants (players, bench staff, officials) to create and adhere to the gameplay structure that eliminates intentional physical contact.

While the OHF Return to Hockey Framework indicates modified 5-on-5 game play in Stage 3c to ensure that hockey is being operated within the Ontario Government's regulations, the elimination of intentional physical contact will remain a requirement. Modified 5-on-5 game play rules will be distributed prior to the OHF moving from Stage 3b to Stage 3c.