

GREY BRUCE HIGHLANDERS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
COVID 19 - RETURN TO HOCKEY PLAN
Phase 2 Stage 3b
August 27, 2020 (updated)

Overview

The Grey Bruce Highlanders AAA Hockey Association is a member of the OMHA and must obtain OMHA approval of our Return to Hockey Plan prior to commencing the 2020/21 season.

This Plan has been developed in conjunction with the Townships of Arran Elderslie; West Grey and Grey Highlands, the ice providers to our Hockey Association. The Plan has been reviewed by the Grey Bruce Health Unit.

The goal of the Plan is to meet the requirements of the OHF Return to Hockey Framework, as it relates to the Phase 2 Stage 3b that allows Minor Hockey Associations to conduct, with the approval of the OMHA, instructional training for players and modified non contact game play. A cornerstone of this Plan is to provide the safest environment possible for Players and Team Staff.

Advancement through Stages 3b to 3e will be at the approval and direction of the OMHA. Additionally, this Plan is for the period commencing September 19th and ending October 31st. The initial 2 week period will consist of player conditioning and skill development followed by modified game play during the next 4 weeks. Prior to October 31st the Association will develop a new Plan for the following 6 week period consistent with any learnings and direction from the OHF, OMHA and Public Health Unit.

At this point a return to regular hockey, including participation in the SCTA League and travel tournaments, will not occur until a Covid 19 vaccine is available and the Province advances to Stage 4.

Eligibility to Participate

Per the OHF Framework, only players registered with a Grey Bruce Highlander Team during the 2019/20 season may participate. Players have the right to return to their Home Centre for the 2020/21 season if they do not want to return to the Highlanders. Participation in Stage 3 is strictly voluntary and will not impact a player's ability to return at a later date. A player that returns to their Home Centre cannot return at a later date unless Released by the Home Centre.

A Try Out process for the 2020/21 has not been approved by the OHF at this time.

Team Staff participating in the Return to Hockey - Stage 3, is limited to Staff registered with the Grey Bruce Highlanders during the 2019/20 season. Exceptions to this will require OMHA approval.

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Participation at any Session (practice/fitness/meetings etc.) is limited 25 Participants (Players plus Team Staff). Such participation must strictly follow the social distancing guidelines established by the Government, Public Health Unit, OHF Framework, and Municipalities. It is understood that this is an evolving situation and Guidelines and Requirements may change on short notice.

COVID 19 Reporting

A record of all Participants, including name, phone number, date/time of the Session, must be maintained by the Team Manager. Upon request, this information must be provided to the Municipality and/or the Grey Bruce Health Unit, in the event there is a need to Contact Trace a COVID 19 positive case. The prescribed Health Unit Reporting Form will be provided.

COVID 19 Screening

All Participants are to be pre-screened for Covid 19 symptoms or exposure per the prescribed OHF Screening Form prior to participation at each Team Session. A record of the pre-screening is to be maintained by the Manager.

Participants who are not feeling well, exhibiting symptoms of COVID 19 or have been exposed to COVID 19 must not participate in any Session. In such instances, the Participant/Parent must communicate this information to the Team Manager. The Participant will not be allowed to return until such time as Medical Clearance is obtained through a negative COVID 19 test or a quarantine period of 14 days.

Facility Management

The following is required to enter/exit any Facility involved in a Team Session.

1. Parents are restricted from entering the Facility. Only Players, Team Staff, and GBH Executive are allowed in the Facility.
2. Team Sessions will be limited to 25 Participants including Team Staff.
3. Participants are to enter the Facility no sooner than 10 minutes prior to the scheduled Session time and must be fully dressed except for skates, helmets and gloves. Younger players who need assistance with their skates must enter the Facility with skates on with skate guards.
4. Participants are required to wash their hands at the Sanitizing Station upon entry/exit of the Facility.
5. Participants must not cough or sneeze without properly covering their face. Also, spitting on the floor or ice is not allowed.
6. Participants must physically distance upon entry by maintaining a distance of at least 2 metres from other Participants and immediately proceed to the designated

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area for putting on skates, helmets and gloves. Chairs for the Participants will be socially distanced.

7. Participants are to wear face coverings in the Facility except when physically participating in the Session.
8. Upon completion of the Session, Participants are to proceed immediately to the designated area to remove skates, helmets and gloves and leave the Facility without loitering or interaction with the incoming Participants. Social distancing of at least 2 metres is required upon leaving the Facility.
9. There will be 2 designated areas for skates, helmets, gloves, one for the incoming Participants and one for the outgoing Participants.
10. Change Rooms will not be available and only the Washroom in the main lobby will be open. If using the Washroom, access is limited to 1 Participant at a time and hand washing is required.
11. The chairs in the designated area will be disinfected after each Session. The Team Manager is responsible for managing this requirement with Team Staff.

Session Management

The following is required by all Participants during the Team Session.

1. The bench area is closed during player development & conditioning sessions, except for a Participant requiring medical attention. The Team Trainer must practice medical guidelines when attending to a Participant, including wearing a face covering. During modified game play the bench area will be limited to a maximum 6 Players, 1 Coach and 1 Trainer who must practice social distancing.
2. Participants are to Socially Distance at all times on and off the ice, where possible.
3. Drills, activities, exercises, etc. are to be limited to those that can be done with Social Distancing.
4. There is to be no prolonged or deliberate drills, activities, exercises, etc. that require physical contact among players (ie, battle drills, body contact drills, scrimmages, exercises using a partner, etc.). Incidental contact in the course of other drills is to be minimized by the players(concept of non contact hockey).
5. No sharing of Water Bottles or other types of Equipment that is physically touched by Participants. Participants are to bring a full Water Bottle from home.
6. Any equipment used by Participants during the Session must be disinfected in between Sessions.
7. The Bench Area will be available to players during modified game play (eg. 3v3). Players must social distance on the Bench to the extent possible.

Modified Game Play

The Association will provide a non contact game like experience commencing October 3rd. The 7 existing teams will be reassigned to one of 3 Divisions and will compete in an Association Tournament for the month of October. There will be 4 teams in each

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Division (possibly more at the U18/U16 level). Each Team will be comprised of 6-9 players plus a goalie. Games will be 3v3 and will comply with all the requirements of the OHF Return to Play. There will be no more than 50 Participants per Division.

Participant Registration

Official registration for our Program being offered from September 19th to October 31st will be open as of September 1st and will be open to Sept 9th. Prior to September 1st, Team Managers will contact the parents of last year's Team to communicate the Return to Play Plan and determine interest level.

The initial 2 week of conditioning and skill development will be at no cost to the Participants and will be covered from Association cash reserves. Once registration is confirmed the Association will determine the cost of operating for the month of October and charge that to Participants on a revenue neutral basis.

Communication

1. The Association will post an update on the website by August 17th outlining the Plan that is submitted to the OMHA for approval.
2. The details of the Return to Hockey Plan is to be communicated to all Participants and Parents by the Head Coach.
3. A Return to Hockey Acknowledgement Form must be signed by all Participants and Parents prior to participation in the Association Return to Hockey. This process will be administered by the Executive outside the Facility. A copy of the Form will be posted on the website to encourage completion prior to arrival at the first Session.
4. The Head Coach of each Team is responsible for the adherence to this Plan at all times. Non compliance by any Participant or Parent may result in a suspension from further participation.
5. The Return to Hockey Plan may be suspended at any time based on direction from governing bodies or the Association Executive due to concerns over transmission exposure to COVID 19.
6. Any suggestions, concerns or questions regarding the implementation of the Plan must be directed to a member of the GBH Executive.

Other

The Association President will be responsible for the overall management of the Return to Play Plan, with specific focus on communication with the Participants, Parents, SCTA, and OMHA.

The Association Vice President, Hockey Operations, will be responsible for monitoring updates from the OHF, OMHA, local Municipalities and the Public Health Unit. In

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addition, the Vice President will oversee the implementation of this Plan as it relates to the Head Coaches.

The Association Secretary will be responsible for the development and implementation of all record keeping and reporting requirements. This will involve direct oversight of the Team Managers.

Submitted August 16, 2020

Doug Griffiths
Vice President, Hockey Operations
Grey Bruce Highlanders AAA Hockey Association