



Warkworth Minor Hockey

2020-2021 Season

RETURN TO HOCKEY Covid-19 Guidelines

Our commitment and intention is to ensure we have hockey for all our members. We have been working with all our stakeholders to develop a return to play plan that allows a safe and progressive return to hockey for our players and coaches while working within the framework and protocols provided by OHF, Ontario Public Health and our local municipality. The focus will be on returning to the ice safely, retaining engagement and developing skills for the 2020-21 season.

Communication

OMHA

Ongoing communication will take place between all stakeholders. Our OMHA rep. will be responsible for receiving and conveying directions from OHF and OMHA that impacts teams, coaches, players, development, practice and gameplay.

Municipality

Our President, Fundraising Coordinator, and Secretary will be responsible for communication with our local municipality regarding current, and changing, regulations impacting facility use and protocols.

It is our understanding that the Municipality will take direction from the Health Unit and implement the necessary rules to be compliant.

Coaches

- Our coaching convenor will be responsible for conveying requirements to the coaches for their PPE requirements, the process for players arriving and existing the arenas, on-ice regulations and additional responsibilities as required.

Parents and Players

- Information regarding parent and player protocols, PPE, regulations and the tone and direction of our return to play will be conveyed through our Website and Facebook page to educate parents and players of the expectations and rules surrounding a return to the rink.

Season Structure

- We will be starting the hockey season with development and eventually working towards modified games within our Public Health Unit and our local Hockey Associations along with approval from OMHA.
- The structure and number of teams within our Public Health Unit will be determined in the future and will comply with the regulations as stipulated by OMHA and Hockey Canada return to play with a bubble of a max of 50 players. We will be working with each hockey association to address the bubble of 50 players per age group.
- WMHA will ensure all proper insurance and liability coverage is in place prior to authorizing any participants to access the facility

Arena Protocols

- As per municipal regulations, players shall arrive no sooner than 15 minutes prior to ice rental time and depart within 15 minutes after the ice rental.
- Each player will be required to complete and pass a Covid screening test prior to entering in the arena. An individual appointed by the organization will receive players at the door to ensure this assessment is completed. All players must pass the test to be allowed entry in to the Recreational Facility.
- A record will be maintained of all individuals entering the arena.
- Players will enter and exit the facility as dictated by the municipality. Trent Hills has indicated they will have designated flow patterns through their arenas to prevent the need for people to 'cross paths'.
- Current municipality regulations indicate that dressing rooms will only be used to put skates, gloves and helmets on. Players will be expected to arrive at the rink fully dressed. Players will be required to adhere to social distancing protocols and maximum numbers of occupants in dressing rooms as stated by the Municipality. No parents will be permitted in the dressing rooms.
- At this time, there will be one parent/guardian allowed in the Municipality of Trent Hills Arena for participants 13 and under. Should this change spectators will be subject to the same screening and social distancing protocols as players and required to adhere to all Municipal facility regulations.
- Coaches must be made aware of a designated adult who will remain on the arena property should an emergency occur and a child need to leave the ice.
- We will be following all arena and Public Health Unit protocols currently in place and we will adjust as needed if those change.

Hygiene and PPE

- Players **MUST** wear a mask when entering and exiting the arena. Physical distancing will be mandatory on-ice and on the bench.
- Every player is responsible for bringing their own water bottles, as they will not be provided by teams this year and they **MUST** be labelled with each player's name, as no sharing will be permitted.
- All shared equipment, pucks, pylons etc will be sanitized before each ice session.
- Teams will not be permitted to share any equipment. Each team will be assigned a set of pucks for on ice activities to be used solely by their group. This equipment will be kept by the coach or instructor to be used by this group only.
- Hand Sanitizer will be made available to all participants upon entry to the facility. Hand sanitizer will be available on the benches.
- Players are asked to sanitized hands prior to each hydration break and after any use of the washroom.
- Surfaces will be cleaned after every facility rental by Municipal staff according to the Municipality of Trent Hills guidelines.

Player Protocols

- Players will remain in their designated location until a Coach or Advisor permits them to proceed to their dressing rooms or ice surface.
- Players will continue to wear their face mask until they reach the ice surface.
- Should a player need to leave the ice surface for any reason, they will be required to notify a coach or Team Staff Member.
- There is an absolute prohibition of spitting in the facilities.
- Players will be instructed to take all their equipment home after each session. No equipment is to be left at the facility.

- All Participants must maintain social distancing while in the facility. This includes during all on ice activity. Absolutely no body contact of any kind is permitted at this time.

Player Protocols con't

- Coaches will be responsible to aid participants in tying skates when required. Coach must sanitize hands after tying each participants skate.
- If a player gets sick, they will require a doctor's note to return to hockey.

SEASON STRUCTURE - PHASE BREAKDOWN

Phase 1 - Protect and Support (3-4 Weeks)

The WMHA primary focus in Phase 1 is the reintroduction of development in the sport of hockey for the health and wellbeing of the membership in the game, their families and the greater community following the cancellation of the 2019-2020 season.

During this phase, the WMHA developed unique standards of operations and certification protocols by the individuals that provide hockey programming as well unique and innovative strategies to bring hockey into the lives of our memberships and participants in a safe distanced manner.

Phase 2 - Restart, Protect and Support

The WMHA will be implementing a careful, stage by stage approach to reintroducing hockey activities. The safety of all participants and stakeholders will continue to be the priority, while balancing the needs of individuals within the game. This staged approach does not have a specific time frame but will evolve further to guidelines of the OHF and Public Health Authorities, the Provincial Government and our governing body, Hockey Canada.

Return to Modified Play (within our Public Health Unit)

In this stage we will start ice surface modified play following the direction of our Haliburton, Kawartha and Pine Ridge District Health Unit and Facility direction. OHF and Hockey Canada guidelines will be looked upon to strengthen this stage to allow game play with 4 on 4 or 3 on 3 within our PHU.

This stage will continue for the remainder of the season until we receive direction from Hockey Canada/OHF and OMHA.