Return to Hockey Framework – Stage 3 FAQ’s

Last Revised: August 27th, 2020

Q1 – Are spectators included in the in-person gathering limit for participants?

A- No, the in-person gathering limit for spectators is separate from the in-person gathering limit for participants using the ice. Please discuss with your facility with how many spectators will be allowed in their facility. The facilities spectator limit may be fewer than the in-person gathering limit in the Reopening Ontario Act and users must abide by the facility’s procedures and policies.

Q2 – Does the participant need to come to the arena fully dressed?

A- This is included in the meeting agenda with Facilities prior to use. HNO users must abide by the protocols and procedures outlined by each facility.

Q3 – Is 5-on-5 competition allowed in Stage 3?

A- Yes, but must be compliant with HNO’s Return to Hockey Framework.

Q4 – Are teams allowed to shake hands after the completion of a game?

A- No. Please review the Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines, teams may fist bump with gloves on or elbow bump instead.

Q5 – What is the expectation of the Participant Screening Registry?

A- All groups using a facility must have a team staff/representative take attendance of all participants and ask the three screening questions prior to the participant entering the facility. The form must be completed and only the participants answering “no” to all three questions will be allowed to enter the facility. You are not required to submit this
form to HNO after every use, but it will be required to submit to HNO in the event and incident or outbreak occurs. The team staff/representative is responsible for their own team and must retain each completed form for the duration of the season. The Participant Screening Registry is for participants only. Teams are not required to screen and track spectators.

Q6 – Can our team use Dressing Rooms?

A- This question should be asked during your teams meeting with the facility prior to using the facility. Please review the Facilities section in the Return to Hockey Framework. All users must abide by the Facilities Procedures and Policies.

Q7 – Are we allowed Exhibition games within our 50-participant league after September 14th?

A- No. Aside from team formation purposes only (i.e. tryouts), all HNO members will not be permitted to have any games, scrimmages, or exhibition games until at least October 14th. October 14th is a tentative start date for gameplay and is subject to change to be in compliance with the Reopening Ontario Act, Public Health Authorities, and the discretion of the HNO Board of Directors.

Q8 – Are you required to have 50 participants in your league or sub-leagues?

A- 50 participants per “league” or “sub-league” is a maximum. You may have fewer than 50 participants in your “league”.

Q9 – Can we change which teams are in which leagues throughout this stage?

A- No, once your teams are formed and leagues are established, participants are not allowed to compete against other participants outside of their established league. When it is deemed safe to allow participants to switch leagues and/or grow the league participant maximum by the Reopening Ontario Act and Public Health, HNO will notify their members via memo. Until that time, participants are not allowed to participate against participants outside of their league.

Q10 – Will incidental physical contact be penalized as well? Is this up to the discretion of the officials?

A- Incidental contact will not be penalized, and it is up to the discretion of the officials. Deliberate contact (i.e. body check, intentionally causes body contact between 2 or more players) will be penalized and is not allowed.

Q11 – Do you need to social distance in the dressing rooms?
A- Yes. Team Staff and the Team COVID-19 Contact person should ensure social distancing is taking place inside the dressing rooms and Team staff are wearing masks.

Q12 – Do you need to social distance on the bench?
A- No, however players are to social distance as much as possible and remember that there is to be no physical contact at all times.

Q13 – When is it expected for coaches and off-ice officials to wear a mask?
A- At all times, unless the team staff are participating on the ice surface.

Q14 – Will coaching clinics be offered this year?
A- Yes, coaching clinics will be offered this year. Dates, times, and location will be available soon.

Q15 – How do we obtain a Certificate of Insurance as a Minor Hockey Association?
A- Please visit HNO’s website at this LINK and follow the steps necessary in applying for the Certificate of Insurance. Contact info@hockeyhno.com if you have any questions.

Q16 – How early could we show up to the rink prior to our scheduled ice time?
A- This is decided by the facility and should be asked during the meeting agenda between the user of the ice and the facility. It is the responsibility of the COVID-19 Contact Person to ensure their team/user group follows all requirements and ensure all COVID-19 safety procedures are being followed.

Q17 – What is the role of the COVID-19 Contact Person for each team?
A- This individual oversees ensuring that meetings take place between their team/user group and the facility and the facilities procedures/policies are clearly outlined and being followed by their team/group. This individual is also in charge of ensuring all Safety Procedures outlined by Hockey Canada, Hockey Northwestern Ontario, and Public Health Authorities are being followed including, but not limited too; ensuring pre-screening of participants are taking place, attendance tracker is being completed fully and stored.

If a COVID-19 outbreak were to occur, the COVID-19 contact person would be the contact for the Health Unit, HNO, or Minor Hockey Association for any questions they may have, or documents required.
Q18 – Is gameplay allowed during tryouts/evaluations?

A- Yes, gameplay is allowed during tryouts/evaluations. However, it is recommended that Association’s use a blind draft format if possible. Tryouts/evaluations must be in complete compliance with HNO’s Return to Hockey Framework and Hockey Canada’s Safety Guidelines.