



# COVID-19 Return to Play

BRHA Limited including all affiliated regions and tournaments



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## Introduction

BRHA Limited is the acting National Governing Body and is currently evaluating the process to become a recognised body in Great Britain. This document is the official Return to Play policy for inline hockey across all six BRHA regions – notably North Wales, North West, South, South West, West, and Yorkshire – and is applicable to all registered member clubs/teams, officials, players and other representatives that are adopting the BRHA's policy. Teams, officials and players are not insured under any circumstances until 'BRHA Return to Play Acceptance' form, inclusive of the team's comprehensive risk assessment, has been approved by the BRHA National Executive Committee.

A nominated capable adult from each team must work with their respective Regional Executive Committee to help to mitigate risk at all times before, during, and after playing activities. The respective Regional Disciplinary Committee will help to rectify any non-compliance and will act where necessary.

We have made available several supporting documents and forms to help with the adoption of the new times and we ask that a copy is signed and returned where required:

Document	For use when?	Link
BRHA Return to Play Policy	At all times until further official notice by the BRHA National Executive Committee, and in accordance with government and public health guidelines.	<a href="https://brha.co.uk/documents">https://brha.co.uk/documents</a>
BRHA Return to Play Acceptance	Players and team officials are not insured until this form has been signed and submitted.	<a href="http://rtpacceptance.brha.co.uk">http://rtpacceptance.brha.co.uk</a>
COVID-19 Risk Assessment Template	Team officials should familiarise and communicate where necessary prior to phase 1 and update when moving to each phase.	<a href="https://brha.co.uk/documents">https://brha.co.uk/documents</a>
BRHA & NHS Test and Trace	Prior to entering the facility. It is extremely important we maintain a central record that can be provided to the NHS on demand for Test and Trace.	<a href="http://testandtrace.brha.co.uk">http://testandtrace.brha.co.uk</a>
DCMS Guidance	At all times until further notice	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-grassroots-sports-guidance-for-the-public-and-sport-providers">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-grassroots-sports-guidance-for-the-public-and-sport-providers</a>
Sports England	At all times until further notice	<a href="https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/return-play/frequently-asked-questions-national-coronavirus?section=step_2_-_from_12_april#exemptionscoacheducation-13123">https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/return-play/frequently-asked-questions-national-coronavirus?section=step_2_-_from_12_april#exemptionscoacheducation-13123</a>



## Risk Mitigation Summary by Roadmap Step

**IMPORTANT:** The phased outlined below are specific to the BRHA and is in addition to the Governments DCMS guidance. We have revised our guidance so that it falls in-line with the government’s 4-step spring roadmap to simply the process and help when completing your risk assessment. If there is a conflict, then the Government and DCMS guidance always takes priority. As we navigate the ever-changing landscape, this guidance is subject to change and without notice.

Risk Area	<b>Step 1</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	<b>Step 2</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	<b>Step 3</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	<b>Step 4</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2021
On-Rink Participants	Household only	Maximum of 2 x 15 players under 18 on or before 31/08/2020. Maximum of 30 in a session. No mixing.	Maximum of 2 x 15 players. Maximum of 30 in a session. No mixing.	No limit on players of any age
Officials including Coaching Staff	Household only	Exempt. Refer to DCMS guidance	Exempt. Refer to DCMS guidance	Exempt. Refer to DCMS guidance
Guest Players	Household only	Register as “COVID-19 Guest Player” – training only	Register as “COVID-19 Guest Player” – training only	Register as “COVID-19 Guest Player” – training only
On-Rink Contact	Household only	Minimise contact	Minimise contact	Minimise contact
Social Distancing	At all times off-rink unless exempt	At all times off-rink unless exempt	Where possible	No
Face Mask/Covering	At all times off-rink unless exempt	At all times off-rink unless exempt	At all times off-rink unless exempt	No



Risk Area	<b>Step 1</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	<b>Step 2</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	<b>Step 3</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	<b>Step 4</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2021
Changing Facilities	Household only	If essential or safeguarding reason. Arrive in kit if possible.	If essential or safeguarding reason. Arrive in kit if possible.	Yes
Changing with Other Teams	Household only	No	No	Minimise where possible
Use of Showers	Household only	If essential or safeguarding reason. At home preferred.	If essential or safeguarding reason. At home preferred.	Yes
Sanitisation	Hands, equipment + all touch points regularly	Hands, equipment + all touch points regularly	Hands, equipment + all touch points regularly	Hands, equipment + all touch points regularly
Sharing of Water Bottles & Equipment	No	No	No	No
Spectators	No*	No*	Limited – socially distanced	Yes
NHS Test & Trace	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

\* Spectators are not permitted to attend sporting events taking place on private land, other than adults needed to supervise under-18s that they have a responsibility for or providing care or assistance to a person with disabilities participating in an organised sporting event or activity. They should maintain social distance and not mix with other households.



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## Requirements across all Phases

1. Individuals must adhere to the guidelines concerning showers and toilets at all times, taking extra precautions and regularly wash or sanitise their hands.
2. The exchange of bodily fluids, most notably spitting, is strictly prohibited. The respective regional committee will issue players and team officials with an automatic and immediate 3-match ban and a 10-minute misconduct penalty to those found not complying. Spectators will be removed and banned from the premises for a period set out by the respective regional disciplinary committee.
3. A senior member of each team must submit a record of all participating players and team officials by completing the online form – <http://testandtrace.brha.co.uk>. This must include valid contact details in the event of NHS Test and Trace needing to gain contact. When permitted, spectators and all other non-playing individuals must submit their own Test & Trace record containing their full legal name, contact telephone number, and arrival date and time. QR codes with a web link will be placed in key areas of each facility for those turning up at short notice. In all circumstances, all playing-and-non-playing participants must register their details using the BRHA's national Test & Trace procedure after which are retained in accordance with GDPR and COVID-19 guidelines as stated on the [Gov.uk](http://Gov.uk) website. Attendee names will be securely shared with the facility where appropriate for a streamlined user experience and transparency of who is attending, on which date, and during which times. All other personal information including, but not limited to, email addresses and phone numbers, will be omitted and not shared by the BRHA.
4. Team officials must communicate a clear and concise reporting structure to their members for the report of COVID-19 symptoms, underlying health concerns or general illness. All reports must be treated with the highest sensitivity and confidentiality. Regular communication with players and team officials should take place to encourage proactive risk mitigation and to help keep a clear line of communication with all interested parties.
5. Individuals displaying symptoms of COVID-19, or anyone feeling generally unwell, must not attend the facility for any reason. If you attend knowing you have symptoms or are generally unwell then you will be subject to disciplinary action.
6. Players must use their own equipment at all times and routinely disinfect all playing equipment after use. All clothing – no less than jerseys, long covers, and gloves – should be washed in accordance with government and public health guidelines after each training session or game day.
7. Measures set out by the facility must be adhered to in addition to those in this policy. The policy with the most stringent measures will supersede the other.
8. The national and respective regional executive committee will make every reasonable effort to effectively communicate this Return to Play policy and associated risk assessment; however, it remains responsibility of each team manager to ensure all members are fully aware and comply at all times.
9. The BRHA National and Regional Executive Committee is take this matter extremely seriously and will not hesitate to enforce more stringent disciplinary measures for unacceptable behaviour or continued abuse of this policy.



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## Step 1: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Some facilities are opening to allow household and/or support bubbles to exercise. Please refer to the summary above and to the DCMS' guidance for more details.

## Step 2: 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Players aged 18 on or before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 are eligible to return in step 2. There is a limit of 2 x 15 participants under the age of 18 up to a maximum of 30 individuals in any one session. Match officials, medics and coaches should observe the relevant guidance in the same way as participants. Where legal gathering limits apply, people participating in a volunteering capacity (such as match officials, medics, and coaches) are exempt and therefore not included in the number of participants. However, they must remain socially distanced from players where possible during play. Should match officials not be able to remain socially distanced due to their role in the sport, this must be cleared calling out in a risk assessment to determine if other mitigations may be necessary.

Team officials must take every reasonable precaution to minimise the risk to their players, allowing only BRHA-registered players to participate in the session. Non-registered players are not permitted.

Before and after sessions, individuals should stay alert and maintain social distance from others and wear a suitable face mask/covering.

Those found not complying will be asked to do so immediately or vacate the premises. The use of changing rooms and shower facilities is discouraged, and players should, where possible, arrive in kit and shower at home. If changing rooms are used then be mindful of space, capacity, and ventilation to help reduce the risk of transmission. Spread across multiple changing rooms or areas and do not share with other teams. If this is not possible then players must change at home or the facility should allow a minimum of 15 minutes between training slots to allow for sanitisation. Changing arrangements must fully comply with safeguarding at all times and under no circumstances should players get changed in public areas or in areas where safeguarding is put at risk.

Teams should provide their own hand sanitiser gel with regular use. The National Executive Committee is working closely with each facility for hand sanitiser to be available in toilets and other high traffic areas, and to ensure the high traffic areas are sanitised on a regular basis.

During warm-up and warm-down, participants should minimise contact and socially distance as best as they can. Player benches can be used by one team at a time with off-risk contact kept to a minimum. Water bottles must not be shared, and players are encouraged to number/mark their bottle so that it is clearly identifiable. Pucks and other training equipment should be sanitised before and after each use.

Handshakes, celebrations, and other such unnecessary close contact should be avoided.

Spectators are not permitted to attend sporting events taking place on private land, other than adults needed to supervise under-18s that they have a responsibility for or providing care or assistance to a person with disabilities participating in an organised sporting event or activity. They should maintain social distance, not mix with other households, and within the limit of 15 adults.

Anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19, with underlying health concerns or anyone feeling generally unwell, must not attend the rink for any reason. It is recommended to seek immediate medical advice in accordance with the latest government and public health guidelines. Individuals displaying signs will be asked to immediately vacate the premises and, in such event, those travelling in the same shared transport must be considered high risk and will also be asked to vacate.



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## Step 3: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Players aged over 18 are eligible to return in step 3. There is a limit of 2 x 15 participants of any age up to a maximum of 30 individuals in any one session. Match officials, medics and coaches should observe the relevant guidance in the same way as participants. Where legal gathering limits apply, people participating in a volunteering capacity (such as match officials, medics, and coaches) are exempt and therefore not included in the number of participants. However, they must remain socially distanced from players where possible during play. Should match officials not be able to remain socially distanced due to their role in the sport, this must be cleared calling out in a risk assessment to determine if other mitigations may be necessary.

Team officials must take every reasonable precaution to minimise the risk to their players, allowing only BRHA-registered players to participate in the session. Non-registered players are not permitted.

Before and after sessions, individuals should stay alert and maintain social distance from others and wear a suitable face mask/covering.

Those found not complying will be asked to do so immediately or vacate the premises. The use of changing rooms and shower facilities is discouraged, and players should, where possible, arrive in kit and shower at home. If changing rooms are used then be mindful of space, capacity, and ventilation to help reduce the risk of transmission. Spread across multiple changing rooms or areas and do not share with other teams. If this is not possible then players must change at home or the facility should allow a minimum of 15 minutes between training slots to allow for sanitisation. Changing arrangements must fully comply with safeguarding at all times and under no circumstances should players get changed in public areas or in areas where safeguarding is put at risk.

Teams should provide their own hand sanitiser gel with regular use. The National Executive Committee is working closely with each facility for hand sanitiser to be available in toilets and other high traffic areas, and to ensure the high traffic areas are sanitised on a regular basis.

During warm-up and warm-down, participants should minimise contact and socially distance as best as they can. Player benches can be used by one team at a time with off-risk contact kept to a minimum. Water bottles must not be shared, and players are encouraged to number/mark their bottle so that it is clearly identifiable. Pucks and other training equipment should be sanitised before and after each use.

Handshakes, celebrations, and other such unnecessary close contact should be avoided.

Limited spectators allowed in the facility and should maintain social distance and not mix with other households.

Anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19, with underlying health concerns or anyone feeling generally unwell, must not attend the rink for any reason. It is recommended to seek immediate medical advice in accordance with the latest government and public health guidelines. Individuals displaying signs will be asked to immediately vacate the premises and, in such event, those travelling in the same shared transport must be considered high risk and will also be asked to vacate.

## Step 4: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021

Players of all ages are eligible to return in step 4. All restrictions are due to be removed.

Team officials should continue to take every reasonable precaution to minimise the risk to their players, allowing only BRHA-registered players to participate in the session. Non-registered players are not permitted.





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The use of changing rooms and shower facilities is allowed but should remain within the team bubble where possible. Changing arrangements must fully comply with safeguarding at all times and under no circumstances should players get changed in public areas or in areas where safeguarding is put at risk.

Teams provide their own hand sanitiser gel and should continue to use regularly. The National Executive Committee is working closely with each facility for hand sanitiser to be available in toilets and other high traffic areas, and to ensure the high traffic areas are sanitised on a regular basis.

Water bottles must not be shared, and players are encouraged to number/mark their bottle so that it is clearly identifiable. Pucks and other training equipment should continue to be sanitised before and after each use.

Spectators are permitted.

Anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19, with underlying health concerns or anyone feeling generally unwell, must not attend the rink for any reason. It is recommended to seek immediate medical advice in accordance with the latest government and public health guidelines. Individuals displaying signs will be asked to immediately vacate the premises and, in such event, those travelling in the same shared transport must be considered high risk and will also be asked to vacate.

## Message from the NSPCC Childline:

As all sport has been cancelled for many weeks, along with schools and social isolation, we need to be aware that many children and young people may become more vulnerable. Clubs are encouraged to look out for this and use their links and methods of communicating to promote Childline.

Childline (UK) [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) Tel: 0800 1111  
NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 (8am-10pm Mon-Fri/9am-6pm weekends or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) anytime.

## Questions

We fully appreciate the minefield we are all trying to navigate and with the guidance changing literally every day, we are here to support you as best we can. If you have questions or need pointing in the right direction, please email us: [nationalexec@brha.co.uk](mailto:nationalexec@brha.co.uk).