



COVID-19 Return to Play

British Rink Hockey Association



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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 has been signed and received.

The most senior representative from each team must work with the respective Regional Executive Committee to help to mitigate risk at all times before, during, and after playing activities. Everyone involved has an important role to play in facilitating our return to the sport we all know and love dearly. We are not out of the woods yet and the situation should not be taken lightly. 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. | https://brha.co.uk/documents |
| BRHA Return to Play Acceptance | Prior to phase 1 commencing. Teams, officials and not insured until this form has been signed. | http://rtpacceptance.brha.co.uk |
| COVID-19 Risk Assessment Template | Team officials should familiarise and communicate where necessary prior to phase 1. | https://brha.co.uk/documents |
| BRHA & NHS Test and Trace | Prior to entering the venue. It is extremely important we maintain a central record that can be provided to the NHS on demand for Test and Trace. | http://testandtrace.brha.co.uk |



Risk Mitigation Summary (Training & Games)

| Risk Area | Phase 1 - Training (15-Aug to 29-Aug) | Phase 2- Training (30-Aug to 12-Sep) | Phase 3 - Training (13-Sep onwards) | Phase 4 - Games (27-Sep onwards) |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| On-Rink Participants | Up to 15 players + 2 netminders + 1 coach | Up to 18 players + 2 netminders + 1 coach | Up to 21 players + 2 netminders + 2 coach | Up to 18 players + 2 netminders + 2 coach |
| Players and Netminders Not Registered to Team | No | No | No | Yes, insurance permitting |
| On-Rink Contact with Others | No | Very limited | Yes, limit where possible | Yes, limit where possible |
| Social Distancing | Yes, at all times while off-rink | Yes, at all times while off-rink | Yes, at all times while off-rink | Yes, at all times while off-rink |
| Face Mask/Covering | Yes, at all times while off-rink | Yes, at all times while off-rink | Yes, at all times while off-rink | Yes, at all times while off-rink |
| Changing Facilities | 50% of participants across 2 changing rooms/areas or change at home | 50% of participants across 2 changing rooms/areas or change at home | All players can resume changing in a single room/area or change at home | All players can resume changing in a single room/area or change at home |
| Changing with Other Teams | No | No | No | No |
| Use of Showers | No | Yes, if socially distanced, one-by- one or at home | Yes, if socially distanced, one-by- one or at home | Yes, single team only or at home |
| Sanitisation | Yes, regularly + equipment before/after each session | Yes, regularly + equipment before/after each session | Yes, regularly + equipment before/after each session | Yes, regularly + equipment before/after each session |
| Sharing of Water Bottles | Strictly Prohibited | Strictly Prohibited | Strictly Prohibited | Strictly Prohibited |
| Spectators | No, safeguarding permitting | No, safeguarding permitting | Yes, socially distanced | Yes, socially distanced |
| NHS Test & Trace | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |



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. On game days, spectators and all other non-playing individuals must record their full legal name, phone number and arrival time by completing the same form. QR codes with a web link will be strategically placed in each venue for those turning up at short notice. In all circumstances, all playing-and-non-playing participants must register their details that is held by the National Executive Committee and retained in accordance with GDPR and COVID-19 guidelines as stated on the Gov.uk website. Data will be securely shared with the facility where appropriate for transparency and improved efficiency;
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 rink 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 venue must be adhered to in addition to those in this policy;
8. The Regional 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's take this matter extremely seriously and will not hesitate to enforce more stringent disciplinary measures for unacceptable behaviour or continued abuse of this policy.



Phase 1: Return to Training

Effective 1st August, training sessions are possible in small groups according to government and public health guidelines. Team management must take every reasonable precaution to minimise risk to their players, allowing only BRHA-registered players to participate in the session, and by introducing a maximum cap of 15 players, 2 netminders and 1 bench coach. Non-registered guest players are not allowed, and this includes netminders. All players on the rink must be registered to the BRHA. At this stage, it is essential to run training sessions with minimal contact, focusing on fitness and skills and avoid contact drills and scrimmage.

On arrival, all individuals must maintain social distancing as they walk throughout the venue and adhere to the one-way system and general directions set out by the venue. The wearing of a suitable face mask/covering is mandatory and must be worn at all times when not participating on the rink; this extends to non-playing team officials including coaches. Those found not complying will be asked to do so immediately or vacate the premises. Where possible, players should change at home. Teams using the changing facilities must do so across two changing rooms/areas and not share with other teams. If this isn't possible then players must change at home or venues 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 must provide their own hand sanitiser gel for regular use. The National Executive Committee is working closely with each venue to ensure provisions are in place to make available hand sanitiser in toilets and other high traffic areas, and to ensure the high traffic areas are sanitised on a regular basis. During phase 1, showers are completely off limits and all individuals must shower at home to minimise off-rink contact and to help reduce risk.

During warm-up and warm-down, all participants must socially distance. Player benches can be used as long as social distancing is practiced at all times. Water bottles cannot be shared, and players must ensure their bottle is clearly named or numbered to avoid multiple use. Pucks and other training equipment must be sanitised before and after each training session.

To help reduce the risk to others, handshakes and other such contact is strictly prohibited. No spectators are allowed at any time. The parent/guardian of junior players should maintain social distancing at all times while the player is on the rink, or preferably wait in the car where possible as long as safeguarding is at the forefront.

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.



Phase 2: Enhanced Training

Increased intensity training sessions including closer contact drills and scrimmage; although, these should be carefully planned to limit prolonged exposure to others. Avoid unnecessary contact while continuing to practice social distancing as much as reasonably possible. Team management must take every reasonable precaution to minimise risk to their players, allowing only BRHA-registered players to participate in the session, and by introducing a maximum cap of 18 players, 2 netminders and 1 bench coach. Non-registered guest players are not allowed, and this includes netminders. All players on the rink must be registered to the BRHA.

On arrival, all individuals must maintain social distancing as they walk throughout the venue and adhere to the one-way system and general directions set out by the venue. The wearing of a suitable face mask/covering is mandatory and must be worn at all times when not participating on the rink; this extends to non-playing team officials including coaches. Those found not complying will be asked to do so immediately or vacate the premises. Where possible, players should change at home. Teams using the changing facilities must continue to do so across two changing rooms/areas and not share with other teams. If this isn't possible then players must change at home or venues 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 must provide their own hand sanitiser gel with regular use. The National Executive Committee is working closely with each venue to ensure provisions are in place to make available hand sanitiser in toilets and other high traffic areas, and to ensure the high traffic areas are sanitised on a regular basis. During phase 2, teams can use the showers in a controlled and socially distanced manner. If distancing isn't possible then players must shower one-by-one or at home.

During warm-up and warm-down, all participants must socially distance. Player benches can be used as long as social distancing is practiced at all times. Water bottles cannot be shared, and players must ensure their bottle is clearly named or numbered to avoid multiple use. Pucks and other training equipment must be sanitised before and after each training session.

To help reduce the risk to others, handshakes and other such contact remains strictly prohibited. Spectators are not allowed at any time. The parent/guardian of junior players should maintain social distancing at all times while the player is on the rink, or preferably wait in the car where possible as long as safeguarding measures are maintained.

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.



Phase 3: New-Normal Training

Normal training resumes but in a conscious manner remembering that COVID-19 remains a risk. Teams must adapt to a new-normal training environment by making every reasonable effort to continue practicing social distancing measures. Team management must take every reasonable precaution to minimise risk to their players and, where possible, allowing only registered players to participate in the session. Non-registered guest players, including netminders, are allowed but it is strongly advised to register with the BRHA for comprehensive insurance cover. Teams should introduce a maximum cap of up to 21 players, 2 netminders and 2 coaches.

On arrival, all individuals must maintain social distancing as they walk throughout the venue and adhere to the one-way system and general directions set out by the venue. The wearing of a suitable face mask/covering is mandatory and must be worn at all times when not participating on the rink; this extends to non-playing team officials including coaches. Those found not complying will be asked to do so immediately or vacate the premises. Teams using the changing facilities can do so in one changing room/area, but it remains important to not share with other teams. If single team changing isn't possible then venues 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 must provide their own hand sanitiser gel with regular use. The National Executive Committee is working closely with each venue to ensure provisions are in place to make available hand sanitiser in toilets and other high traffic areas, and to ensure the high traffic areas are sanitised on a regular basis. During phase 3, teams can use the showers in a controlled and socially distanced manner. If distancing isn't possible then players must shower one-by-one or at home.

During warm-up and warm-down, all participants must socially distance. Player benches can be used as normal but social distancing is encouraged. Water bottles cannot be shared, and players must ensure their bottle is clearly named or numbered to avoid multiple use. Pucks and other training equipment must be sanitised before and after each training session.

To help reduce the risk to others, handshakes and other such contact should not occur unless absolutely necessary. Spectators are allowed as long as the measures set-out in this policy are adhered to at all times; however, the National Executive Committee will be encouraging each region and/or venue to provide on-premise WiFi and live streaming services on match days to help reduce the number of individuals in the rink at any one time.

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.



Phase 4: Return to Game Days

League game days resume. COVID-19 remains a risk so increased measures remain in place over and above prevailing government and public health guidelines. All individuals must adapt to a new-normal game day environment by making every reasonable effort to continue practicing social distancing measures. Team management must take every reasonable precaution on-and-off-rink to minimise the risk to their players by following the rules stated in the BRHA rule book - a maximum of 18 players and 2 netminders. It is advised to have no more than 2 coaches at any one time.

Teams should arrive no more than 45 minutes prior to face-off time.

On arrival, all individuals must maintain social distancing as they navigate through the venue. The wearing of a suitable face mask/covering continues to be mandatory and must be worn at all times when not participating on the rink. The National Executive Committee will inform teams when this is no longer required taking into consideration the latest government and public health guidelines. Those found not wearing one will be asked to do so immediately or vacate the premises. Changing rooms should be allocated to teams and communicated to members in accordance with the regions standard processes. All changing rooms must be appropriately cleaned using bleach or other virus-killing solution. Teams using the changing facilities can do so in one changing room/area, but it remains important to not share with other teams. 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 must provide their own hand sanitiser gel with regular use. The National Executive Committee is working closely with each venue to ensure provisions are in place to make available hand sanitiser in toilets and other high traffic areas, and to ensure the high traffic areas are sanitised on a regular basis. During phase 4, teams can use the showers with their own teammates only. Multi-team showering is strictly prohibited. If the venue only has one set of showers, then teams should coordinate between themselves. If this guidance is ignored, then showering will be prohibited and players will be told to shower at home.

During warm-up and warm-down, all participants must socially distance, and it is highly recommended to issue one puck per player. Player benches can be used as normal but social distancing is encouraged. Water bottles cannot be shared, and players must make sure their bottle is clearly named or numbered to avoid multiple use. Please continue to sanitise pucks and other equipment before and after each game day.

To help reduce the risk to others, handshakes and other such contact is prohibited. Teams will be encouraged to stand on opposite sides of the centre line prior to first face-off and tap their sticks in respect of their opponents. Spectators are allowed as long as social distancing is practiced, and face masks/coverings are worn.

Contact with match day officials is strictly prohibited. Essential contact with a referee must be carried out while practicing social distancing and by the team captain or bench official only. Direct and unnecessary contact with any match day official will result in a 3-game match ban and a 10-minute misconduct penalty. The BRHA National and Regional Executive Committees take this matter extremely seriously and will not hesitate to enforce more stringent disciplinary measures for unacceptable behaviour towards an official or continued abuse of this guidance.



Referees must supply their own whistle and referee jersey. Whistles and jerseys are available upon request to the Regional Executive Committee and may incur a fee. The sharing of a whistle and/or jersey is strictly prohibited. Match day officials must respect social distancing measures at all times. The National Executive Committee is working closely with each regional committee to introduce suitable barriers between public areas and the areas occupied by match day officials. Referees must proceed to their dedicated changing area before, during and after games to minimise contact with others, and ensure the minimum distance is maintained throughout. Referees are encouraged to wear a half visor to help mitigate risk.

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.