



# British Inline Puck Hockey Association

The British Inline Puck Hockey Association have been working closely with World Skate and following advice from UK authorities to understand how we can keep skaters, volunteers and spectators safe over the coming months. We understand the UK Governments approach to delaying the spread of Covid-19 and that social distancing is an important part of the strategy.

We are sure you will all appreciate that this is a dynamic and changing situation, therefore the following is based on the advice we have to date and is subject to change with little to no advance notice.

1. **The National Finals**

Have been postponed until September 2020. At this stage we cannot provide you with age group dates. We will review the month of the National Finals in mid-July and provide regions with an update.

2. **BIPHA Byelaws Rule 4.2 & 4.3**

Which addresses the 40% rule for participation in the National Finals is suspended for the remainder of the 2019-2020 season.

3. **Postponing Fixtures**

To empower our regions to make the right decision based on the circumstances of their venue, clubs, skaters, officials and volunteers we have moved the end of the regional league season to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

This will, hopefully, allow all regions the opportunity to reschedule any fixtures that may have to be or already have been postponed.

Regions should attempt, wherever possible, to reschedule a postponed fixture, however where time or circumstances does not allow, they should prioritise fixtures that have a deciding factor for the National Finals.

To facilitate this, each region is to send a list of all fixtures, for all age groups, which are scheduled to take place, and/or have already been postponed to [bipha@outlook.com](mailto:bipha@outlook.com) at their earliest opportunity. At the end of each month, regions are to send an updated list to [bipha@outlook.com](mailto:bipha@outlook.com)

In mid-July we will review any postponed fixtures and update the regions with further advice.

4. **Regional League Forfeiture Rule 67 e, f & g**

Has been suspended from 15 March 2020 until the end of the 2019-2020 season (31<sup>st</sup> August 2020). All regional fixtures that have not been played between 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, regardless of reason, will automatically be postponed and will not result in the normal win/loss rules and points.

5. **Individual Players, Officials and Volunteers who declare self-isolation**

It is the participants responsibility to inform their club AND region as soon as is practically possible about self-isolation. Any participant who declares self-isolation will not be permitted to return to the sport for 14 days.

6. **Responsibility of Clubs**

It is each club's responsibility to keep their regional league secretary/committee up to date with their status regarding their ability to field a team for a fixture. Please remember that it is your region that has booked rink hire and they may have to pay for this. As much notice as is practically possible must be given if you are unable to field a team for a fixture.



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## 7. **Returning from another country**

All participants, regardless of role, who have returned to the UK from another country will be expected to refrain from participation for at least 14 days from their date of return. We appreciate that not all countries have an outbreak currently, however, this is a fast-moving situation resulting in countries changing their strategy very quickly.

## 8. **Spitting**

Any participant found to be spitting on the rink, directly at another participant, spectator or bystander before, during or after a fixture or while in the vicinity of a venue will be immediately suspended from all activities within the BIPHA for a period of one month.

## 9. **Handshakes**

Participants should refrain from handshakes, a gloved 'fist-bump' will be sufficient.

## 10. **Government Guidance**

The guidance we have provided is to be used in conjunction with all UK Government advice about hygiene and safety. If you feel unwell, please refrain from participation and follow NHS guidelines.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

## 11. **Point of contact**

Should a situation arise within your region and a directive has not been provided for in this announcement please contact [bipha@outlook.com](mailto:bipha@outlook.com). Please refrain from contacting individual NEC officers, all communication is being channelled through Dave Shelton and Kathy Morris, this is to ensure that all regions receive the same coordinated and updated advice.

## 12. **We ask everyone to take care of their health and protect others by doing the following**

- Refrain from unnecessary contact, if possible – e.g. shaking hands and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Don't share drinks from the same bottle or glass
- Clean and disinfect your equipment
- Implement good hygiene, thus mitigating your risk of catching the virus
- Wash your hands frequently and regularly.
- Avoid travel to any countries where government warnings are in place
- If you experience any symptoms, e.g., difficulty breathing, cough and fever, seek medical advice from NHS 111. Do not return to participating until you are given the all-clear by a medical professional.