

RETURN TO PLAY

SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN – JUNIOR COMPETITION (v1)

1. PURPOSE

- To establish agreed practices across Goulburn Valley Hockey Association (GVHA) Clubs for the management and control of illness in club members and their families
- To reduce exposure to and spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus
- To enable a return to competitive Junior hockey activities amongst GVHA Clubs

2. SCOPE

This Safety Management Plan (SMP) applies to all GVHA Clubs and their members, GVHA Committee Members and visitors to the Shepparton Regional Hockey Complex for the purpose of participating in or the running of Junior Competition hockey.

3. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

In order to conduct hockey activities GVHA Clubs are aware of the following responsibilities:

- Adoption of and compliance to this SMP
- Hockey Victoria's Return to Hockey Guidelines are adhered to and ensure all club personnel including players, umpires, coaches and managers will be required to fulfil these guidelines
- Appoint a club representative to liaise with GVHA and assist their club in adherence to this SMP and HV's Return to Hockey Guidelines.

4. GENERAL HYGIENE MEASURES

Social distancing rules apply to all coaches, spectators, umpires and volunteers aged 19 years and older.

- Sharing of equipment is not permitted, including but not limited to Uniforms, Hockey sticks, shin pads, mouthguards, etc
 - All communal equipment should be sanitised at the end of each session
 - Bibs must not be used (players to bring their own alternate tops)
 - See below for use of Facemasks during Penalty Corners
- Shower at home prior to playing and wear clean clothing
- Use hand sanitiser when entering the venue and moving in and out of indoor facilities
- Wash your hands before and after playing
- Shower at home after playing and wash clothing and other personal equipment
- Take care to store your mouthguard appropriately when not in use and don't rinse it in public
- Bring your full water bottle with your name clearly visible on the bottle. Participants must not share water bottles. The use of Water fountains is discouraged
- If participating in more than 1 match in a day, players are to change their clothes, sanitise their equipment and wash their hands between matches

5. GUIDELINES FOR JUNIOR COMPETITIONS

Participants, coaches, umpires, support staff, parents, and guardians are strongly advised to not attend any hockey activities if they are feeling unwell.

- Competition for participants 18 years and under is permitted under the FIH Rules of Hockey as they relate to the number of players (or less than 11 players per side on the pitch – i.e. 7-a-side).
- At least 15-minute gaps will be scheduled in between matches to allow adequate time for commonly used areas to be sanitised, eg. Player benches, dugouts, gates etc.
- No high-fives, handshakes, spitting or deliberate contact
- Spectators are required to follow the Chief Health Officers' Directions for public gatherings and maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres – spectators should be in groups of no more than 10 and spread out around the field or venue.
- **Each team** is responsible for the sanitisation of Player benches, dugouts and any other commonly used areas after that team's match. Sanitiser spray will be available at the Tech Bench on Pitch 1.
- If participating in more than 1 match in a day, players are to change their clothes, sanitise their equipment and wash their hands between matches.

Facemask use for Penalty Corners

The following rules are to be followed for the use of Facemasks in Junior Competition:

- Facemasks to be worn by all field players defending a penalty corner.
- Each mask is to be allocated to a player for the game and only that player to touch or wear that facemask. Players are not to share facemasks under any circumstances.
- Teams to allocate a minimum of 5 facemasks per full field side (3 for half field sides).
- Teams and individuals to be responsible that masks are not shared.
- Masks are to be sanitised after each game – club responsibility.
- Masks should be clearly identified with coloured tape to minimise the time required to find masks when a penalty corner is called.
- Should a team not have a full contingent on the field at the time of a penalty corner being called, the officials will stop play and allow for a players to be substituted to ensure the team can have the required number of facemask-allocated-players + GK defending the penalty corner.
- Play will continue as per normal following a penalty corner. Play will not be stopped to allow for substitutions following a penalty corner.

6. EQUIPMENT

- Sharing of equipment is not permitted, including but not limited to Uniforms, Hockey sticks, shin pads, mouthguards, etc
 - All shared equipment should be sanitised at the end of each session
 - Bibs must not be used (players to bring their own alternate tops)
 - See above for use of Facemasks during Penalty Corners
- It is advisable to clean and disinfect hockey balls and cones/markers following use and prior to being used again for another session.

7. MOVEMENT IN, OUT AND AROUND VENUES

Groups of visitors congregating are discouraged. All visitors are advised to be in groups of no more than 10 and be spread out around the venue.

It is recommended for parents and guardians to remain in their cars until matches are about to start. Players can enter earlier to partake in warm-up activities.

8. FACILITIES

As the tenant of the Shepparton Regional Hockey Complex, the GVHA has sought and received approval from Greater Shepparton City Council for the resumption of hockey activities.

The following guidelines are to be applied.

- Communal indoor facilities such as clubrooms and change rooms (including shower facilities) can be used provided there are no more than 20 people per indoor space and in groups of up to 10, subject to the 4 square metre rule.
- The canteen and function area may operate provided it strictly adheres to the restrictions on hospitality venues including 20 patrons per enclosed space subject to the 4 square metre rule. Detailed guidelines of the requirements for cafes, restaurants and food and drink facilities to reopen are now available on the [Business Victoria website](#).
- To support contact tracing, food and drink facilities must request that each person who attends the premises for more than 15 minutes provide contact details. This includes staff.
- It may be decided by the GVHA to not allow indoor dining. If so, signage will reflect this.

A full venue clean will be conducted prior to and after competition matches each week.

Each team is responsible for the sanitisation of Player benches, dugouts and any other commonly used areas after that team's match. Sanitiser spray will be available at the Tech Bench on Pitch 1.

Clubs are asked to contact the GVHA with any issues with the cleaning and sanitation of facilities following use.

9. OUTBREAK & REPORTING

If an outbreak of COVID-19 does occur among the GVHA Community, the club/s, the association and Hockey Victoria must fully cooperate with the relevant local authorities. Should an outbreak occur, we must be ready to act quickly following instructions which may include restriction of activity, quarantine of teams and close contacts for a specified period.

If a member of your Club tests positive for COVID-19, this should immediately be reported to a Club Committee member who will then report it to the relevant authority who will advise of actions to be taken. Once the authorities have been contacted, please make prompt contact with the GVHA to report the case at secretarygvha@gmail.com. The GVHA will then inform Hockey Victoria and if necessary, other clubs.