

COVIDSafe Plan

WINTER SEASON (v1.0)

PURPOSE

- To establish agreed practices across Goulburn Valley Hockey Association community 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 hockey activities within the Association

SCOPE

This COVIDSafe Plan applies to all GVHA Clubs and their members, GVHA Committee Members and all visitors to the Shepparton Regional Hockey Complex for the purpose of participating in or the running of Winter Season Hockey Activities. These activities include but are not limited to games, trainings, trials and events.

Winter Season Hockey includes the following activities during the 2021 months of April through to September.

- All hockey activities organised by the GVHA and GVHA clubs;
- All hockey activities permitted by the GVHA at the Shepparton Regional Hockey Complex.

CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

In order to conduct Winter Season Hockey Activities, GVHA Clubs are aware of the following responsibilities:

- Adoption of and compliance to this COVIDSafe Plan
- The latest Hockey Victoria's Return to Hockey Guidelines are adhered to and ensure all club personnel including players, coaches and managers will be required to fulfil these guidelines
- Produce a short 1-2 page COVIDSafe Plan and distribute this to members, informing them how the club will fulfil its responsibilities as outlined here.
- Appoint a club representative to liaise with GVHA and assist their club in adherence to this COVIDSafe Plan and HV's Return to Hockey Guidelines.
- Non-Shepparton based clubs are to adopt a sign-in procedure at their venue to be used by all attendees, including those of visiting teams/clubs for matches.

GUIDELINES FOR WINTER SEASON HOCKEY ACTIVITIES

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

- **Outdoor contact sport** is permitted, being limited to up to 100 patrons maximum with a density quotient of 1 per 2 square meters and a patron cap of 1000 people per venue.

- **Competition** for all age groups 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).
- **Full contact training** is permitted for all age groups. It is recommended that training for all participants is kept to a maximum of two zones per pitch (one zone = one half of FIH dimensions hockey pitch) and a maximum of 50 participants per zone. Limit movement of coaches, support staff and players between groups unless it is not reasonable and practical.
- Ideally, groups and teams should not mix with each other and should remain constant, with participants and coaches advised to avoid swapping between groups/teams wherever practical. It is advised to establish a “zone” for your group to train within, ensure the zone is clearly marked, which will allow other groups to avoid any unnecessary contact. Ideally, leave a 5m space between the zones.
- **Spectators, parents, carers** are permitted but are included in the total patrons limit. Groups are limited to 100 and adherence to 1.5m physical distancing applies. For example, this means that there could be 3 groups of 100 spectators, who still need to maintain physical distancing of 1.5m or wear a face mask if it is not possible to physically distance.
- It is recommended that adequate gaps are scheduled in between matches or trainings to allow ample time for commonly used areas to be wiped with disinfectant (i.e. player benches/dugouts, gates, etc).
- No high fives, handshakes, spitting or avoidable contact.

COVIDSafe PRINCIPLES

1. Ensure Physical Distancing

- Participants, volunteers, organisers, parents, carers and spectators are to be 1.5 metres apart as much as possible
- Modify sporting activities to ensure participants remain 1.5m apart where possible except when engaging in physical activity permitted under the current directions.
- Patron limits in enclosed spaces, such as change rooms, are to be followed and adhered to
- Those feeling unwell, experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or awaiting results of a COVID-19 test are advised not to attend
- Avoid carpooling where/when possible

2. Wear a face mask

- All attendees are to carry a face mask at all times.
- Face masks are recommended to be worn whenever physical distancing of 1.5 metres from others cannot be maintained and when not engaged in physical activity
- For more information on current face mask requirements, see [Face masks page](#)

3. Practice good hygiene

- Participants should use their own equipment where possible. Sharing of equipment is to be minimised. If equipment is to be shared, it should be cleaned and sterilised after use.
- Shower at home prior to training/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 training/playing
- Shower at home after training/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 to training/playing with your name clearly visible on the bottle. Participants must not share water bottles. The use of Water fountains is discouraged.

4. Keep attendance records

- All attendees are to register their attendance at the time of entry to hockey venues.
- The GVHA will establish an electronic sign-in procedure for all attendees to use at the Shepparton Regional Hockey Complex.
- Non-Shepparton based clubs are to conduct their own record keeping for their venues, including for use at time of hosting other teams/clubs for matches.

5. Avoid interactions in enclosed spaces

- All attendees are to minimise their time in enclosed and indoor spaces such as entrances, bathrooms, change rooms and club houses.
- Doors to indoor spaces other than bathrooms and toilets are to be kept opened to enable greater airflow

6. Create Activity Bubbles

- The number of participants, volunteers and organisers engaging in activities across multiple teams/venues/facilities is to be minimised where practical. This includes avoiding participants playing across multiple teams.
- Attendees are to be clear on the event starting time and where to proceed to within facilities upon arrival.
- Attendees are to minimise time in shared facilities when not participating in physical activity.

FACILITIES

Non Shepparton Regional Hockey Complex-based clubs; Benalla, Euroa, Echuca-Moama, Kyabram and GVGS are to seek approval and any facility specific guidelines from their facility owner (eg. council, school) that hockey activities can be undertaken at their facility in compliance of this COVIDSafe Plan. This approval and any facility guidelines are to be forwarded to the GVHA.

As the tenant of the Shepparton Regional Hockey Complex, the GVHA will seek approval and any facility specific information from Greater Shepparton City Council.

The following guidelines are to be applied at all facilities GVHA Clubs use.

- Communal indoor facilities such as clubrooms and change rooms (including shower facilities) can be used provided the limits of the number of people per indoor space are adhered to. These limits are equal to the total accessible space (in square meters) divided by 2.
- Signage is to be placed advising of the limit of the number of people per indoor space. Additional signage is also recommended, promoting physical distancing and hygiene awareness.
- The canteen, bar and function area may operate provided it strictly adheres to the restrictions on hospitality venues. Detailed guidelines of the requirements for cafes, restaurants and food and drink facilities to reopen are available on the [Business Victoria website](#).

A full venue clean should be carried out on a weekly basis by the venue tenant (eg. the GVHA with respect to the Shepparton facility). After each session, the following shall be conducted:

- Sanitising of high-touch surfaces such as door handles, entry gates, padlocks, hand rails and switches.
- Sanitising of Toilet facilities; concentrate on touch points such as doors handles, benches, soap dispensers, hand dryers, bins.
- Paper towel, soap, and hand sanitiser levels reported to GVHA

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, self-quarantine and quarantine of close contacts for a specified period.

The GVHA is to be notified immediately of anyone who has attended a GVHA event and/or attended the Shepparton Regional Hockey Complex within the 14 days prior to testing positive to COVID-19. This notification can be made directly to the GVHA via secretarygvha@gmail.com or to the organiser of the event.

Following a report of a positive test, the GVHA will notify Hockey Victoria, Greater Shepparton City Council and other attendees. The GVHA will assist DHHS with contact tracing by providing visitor information. The Shepparton Regional Hockey Complex would be closed, cleaned and only reopened after consultation with DHHS and Greater Shepparton City Council.

COMPLIANCE

The following clubs have satisfied GVHA for compliance to this COVIDSafe Plan for Winter Season Hockey Activities:

SYC Hockey Club
Mooroopna Hockey Club
Echuca Moama Hockey Club
Shepparton Strikers Hockey Club
Benalla Hockey Club

The following venues have satisfied GVHA for compliance to this COVIDSafe Plan for Winter Season Hockey Activities:

Shepparton Regional Hockey Complex – Main Pitch (Greater Shepparton City Council)
Shepparton Multi-Purpose Field – Pitch 2 (Greater Shepparton City Council)