

COVIDSafe Plan

SUMMER SEASON 2021-2022 (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 Summer Season and Preseason Hockey Activities 2021-2022.

CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

In order to conduct Summer Season and Preseason 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
- 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 advised to adhere to their facility owner's (eg. council, school) requirements

GUIDELINES FOR SUMMER SEASON AND PRESEASON HOCKEY ACTIVITIES

Summer Season and Preseason Hockey activities include the following during the 2021-22 months of November, December, January, February and March:

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

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

- **Competition** is permitted if conducted 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).
- **Training** is permitted in small groups (not more than 20 people plus a coach or the minimum number of support staff reasonably required to manage the activity).
- **Spectators** are permitted in groups of up to 30 people, socially distanced and subject to all other public gathering directions. GVHA recommends that spectator numbers are kept to a minimum until further notice.
- A Hockey pitch can be divided into maximum two zones for training, which can host 20 participants + coach/support staff per zone. Groups of 20 must not mix with each other and should remain constant, with participants and coaches strictly avoiding swapping between groups.

- No high fives, handshakes, spitting or other avoidable contact.
- Shared equipment must be cleaned between users.
- Coaches to reiterate social distancing rules at the start of each session and while off the pitch.

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.

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

- Change rooms and toilets are permitted to be open and are subject to density quotient of 1 person per 4sq m. GVHA recommends avoiding using change rooms where possible to reduce the risk of spreading COVID.
- Canteens, kiosks or at-venue dining facilities can open and are subject to the information and compliance requirements on [this State Government page](#).
- 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) during periods organised activities are scheduled.
- Low paper towel, soap, and hand sanitiser levels at the Shepparton facility should reported to GVHA promptly.

COVIDSafe PRINCIPLES

1. Ensure Physical Distancing

Participants, volunteers and organisers are to remain 1.5 metres apart as much as possible.

This can be done by:

- Modifying sporting activities to ensure participants remain 1.5 metres apart where possible except when engaging in physical activity permitted under the Chief Health Officer directions (e.g. contact sport where permitted).
- Adhering to signs displaying patron limits (where use of indoor areas are permitted under the restrictions).
- Ensuring you abide by the relevant density quotient.
- Limit the total number of patrons in an allowed enclosed area.
- Avoiding carpooling where possible.
- Minimise the build-up of people waiting to enter and exit the venue/facility.

2. Wear a face mask

- Anyone 12 years and over must wear a fitted face mask **indoors** (other than their home), unless a lawful exception applies.
- Updated public health advice on masks is available at: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/face-masks-vic-covid-19/>
- It is recommended that masks be worn outdoors when physical distancing can't be maintained.
- You must carry a face mask with you at all times unless you have a lawful reason not to.

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 spaces
 - 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 records and act quickly if participants, volunteers or organisers become unwell**
- Participants, volunteers and organisers are encouraged to get tested and stay home even if they only have mild symptoms.
 - All attendees are to register their attendance at the time of entry to the Shepparton Regional Hockey Complex by way of the free Victorian Government QR Service (or hand written record).
 - Non-Shepparton based clubs are to provide the Victorian QR Service at their venues, including for use at the time of hosting other teams/clubs for matches.
 - In the event a positive COVID-19 case attends a GVHA venue, the GVHA will act according to the Reporting Procedure below.
- 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
 - Optimising fresh air flow in air conditioning systems
- 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.

REPORTING

If an attendee to a GVHA venue tests positive for COVID-19, this should immediately be reported to a GVHA Committee member as well as secretarygvha@gmail.com. The relevant authority will be advised promptly and the GVHA will await further actions to be taken by the Association and relevant clubs.

These actions may include:

- restriction of activity, self-quarantine and quarantine of close contacts for a specified period
- notifying participants, volunteers and organisers and suspected close contacts of a positive case in the venue/facility via various communication channels
- notifying the greater GVHA Community via email distribution and social media
- undertaking extensive cleaning
- notifying DHHS, WorkSafe, the local health service and/or the property owner (council, school)

- seek information from attendees at specific times such as which areas accessed during the visit

COMPLIANCE

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

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

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