

## Georgian Shores Minor Hockey Association

### COVID – Return to Play Stage 3 B & C

October 15, 2020

Georgian Shores Minor Hockey Association is a member of the OMHA operating within the Georgian Bay Triangle Local League must obtain OMHA approval of our Return to Hockey Plan with review from The Grey Bruce Health Unit prior to commencing the 2020/21 season.

The goal of the Plan is to meet the requirements of the OHF Return to Hockey Framework, as it relates to the Phase 2 Stage 3b and 3c that allows Minor Hockey Associations to conduct, with the approval of the OMHA. As a result, this season to a 3/3 or 4/4 NON-CONTACT program within the Grey Bruce Health Unit district. The program format will be in effect until the OMHA & Provincial Government move to the next stage of programming. A cornerstone of this Plan is to provide a safe and fun environment possible for Players and Team.

Once receiving approvals from the Town of the Blue Mountains, Municipality of Meaford, Grey Bruce Health Unit & the OMHA our Return to play process will be as follows:

#### **Georgian Shores Minor Hockey Association will be entering into Stage 3B**

- This stage will be our registration to determine the number of participants for our programming for the 2020/21 season
- 1st registration is currently open and can be found [Registration](#)
- Registration will be as per OMHA guidelines
  - Open to all participants within Grey Bruce Health Unit
  - Open to all participants that played AA & AAA level and reside and Grey Bruce Health Unit (they have the choice to register with there team from last season or return to Georgian Shores Minor Hockey Association)
  - Open to all Import players that played with Georgian Shores Minor Hockey Association last season. These players have the choice to return to their home centre or remain with Georgian Shores Minor Hockey Association for this stage of programming.

#### **Georgian Shores Minor Hockey Association will be entering into Stage 3C**

- 2 Week Player Evaluation Program: Teams to be selected based on even skill sets to assist in ensuring a fun atmosphere. As situations permit, we will move players up to fulfill the requirements for team numbers.
- Georgian Shores Minor Hockey Association Internal 3/3 or 4/4 NON-Contact program
  - Maximum players per division or bubble will be 50 participants (not including coaches, referees & timekeepers)
  - Maximum Rosters of 10 persons (9 players + 1 goalie), 1 Coach and 1 Trainer.
  - Teams will play within a Cohort or Bubble of 50 players within the Grey Bruce Health Unit.
  - Maximum teams per Bubble is 5 teams of 10 players
  - No AP or player transfer between teams is permitted while in the Stage 3C

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- Divisions will be played as per OMHA Guidelines
  
- There will be no TOURNAMENTS during this phase as per OMHA guidelines.
  
- For practice will have two types
  - Shared practice
    - 2 teams of 10 players = maximum of 20 players
    - 2 coaches
    - 2 trainers
    - Up to maximum of 25 persons on the ice at a time required to operate practices in Thornbury, and only 22 in Meaford
    - In order to satisfy the requirements at the Meaford arena, the coaching staff of the 2 teams will need to decide who is going on the ice surface, and who will remain in the bench area during the practice time, as only 22 persons are allowed on the ice at once
  
  - Team only Practice
    - require a total of 12 persons
    - 1 team of 10 players
    - 1 coach
    - 1 trainer
    - Up to maximum of 25 persons on the ice at a time required to operate practices in Thornbury, and only 22 in Meaford
  
- For games will require a total of 25 persons to operate.
  - 2 teams of 10 players = 20
    - 2 coaches = 2
    - 2 trainers (however they can stand beside the benches if needed)
    - 1 Timekeeper
    - 2 Refs (OMHA is reviewing the process of 1 or 2 refs)
    - 25 persons required to operate games
    - All games will run out of the Thornbury Arena

#### **Physical Distancing in relation to on-ice activities**

- Practices
  - Practices will be structured around OHMA guidelines in relation to Social Distancing
  - Georgian Shores Minor Hockey Association to provide assistance and guidelines to coaching staff to ensure the OMHA guidelines are followed.

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- Games
  - As per OMHA COVID Return to Play protocol (Appendix F) the following will be used within the game formats while in the current stage.
  - Any changes to the protocols will be as per OMHA guidelines and direction.

#### **Covid 19 Reporting**

A record of all Participants, including name, phone number, date/time of the Session, must be maintained by the Team Manager and/or Trainer. Georgian Shores Minor Hockey Association will be using the tracking document sent out by Ontario Hockey Federation

<https://www.ohf.on.ca/media/isintuvh/session-participation-and-health-screening-tracking.pdf>

Upon request, this information must be provided to the Municipality and/or the Grey Bruce Health Unit, in the event there is a need to Contact Trace a COVID

All parents (1 parent allowed per child under the age of 18) will be registered upon registration to ensure effective tracking

#### **COVID 19 Screening**

All Participants are to be pre-screened for Covid 19 symptoms or exposure per the prescribed OHF Screening Form prior to participation at each Team Session.

<https://www.ohf.on.ca/media/lphf5rv4/health-screening-questionnaire.pdf>

A record of the pre-screening is to be maintained by the Team Manager. Participants who are not feeling well, exhibiting symptoms of COVID 19 or have been exposed to COVID 19 must not participate in any Session. In such instances, the Participant/Parent must communicate this information to the Team Manager or use the teams app. The Participant will not be allowed to return until such time as Medical Clearance is obtained through a negative COVID 19 test or a quarantine period of 14 days.

#### **Reporting Facility Management**

The following is required to enter/exit any Facility involved in a Team Session.

1. Team Sessions will be limited to 25 Participants including Team Staff in Thornbury, and 22 in Meaford.
2. Users will arrive to the facility no more than 15 minutes prior to commencing ice rental.
3. Users will vacate the premises no more than 15 minutes following the conclusion of ice rental.
4. 1 spectator per player will be admitted for games and practices
5. Participants are required to wash their hands at the Sanitizing Station upon entry/ exit of the Facility.

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6. Players will be expected to arrive at the facility with equipment already on. Will only require dressing room/lobby access for skates, helmet, and gloves. Team personnel will monitor dressing rooms/lobbies for physical distancing.
7. There will be no shared equipment amongst team members.
8. Each player will have their own jersey to wear for the season and keep at the end.
9. Team personnel will monitor dressing rooms for physical distancing
10. Equipment shall be removed from the premises following each rental. Storage of equipment onsite is not permitted.
11. Participants must not cough or sneeze without properly covering their face. Also, spitting on the floor or ice is not allowed.
12. Participants must physically distance upon entry by maintaining a distance of at least 2 metres from other Participants
13. Participants are to wear face coverings in the Facility except when physically participating in the Session.
14. Upon completion of the Session, Participants are to proceed immediately to the designated change room to remove skates, helmets and gloves and leave the Facility without loitering or interaction with the incoming Participants. Social distancing of at least 2 metres is required upon leaving the Facility.
15. In Meaford & Thornbury, the washroom in the main lobby will be open. If using the washroom, access is limited to 1 participant at a time and hand washing is required.

### **Session Management**

The following is required by all Participants during the Team Session.

1. The bench area is closed during player development & conditioning sessions, except for a Participant requiring medical attention. The Team Trainer must practice medical guidelines when attending to a Participant, including wearing a face covering. During modified game play the bench area will be limited to a maximum 6 Players, 1 Coach and 1 Trainer who must practice social distancing.
2. Participants are always to Socially Distance on and off the ice, where possible.
3. Drills, activities, exercises, etc. are to be limited to those that can be done with Social Distancing.
4. There is to be no prolonged or deliberate drills, activities, exercises, etc. that require physical contact among players (i.e., battle drills, body contact drills, scrimmages, exercises using a partner, etc.). Incidental contact in the course of other drills is to minimize by the players (concept of non contact hockey).
5. No sharing of Water Bottles (Labeled) or other types of Equipment that is physically touched by Participants. Participants are to bring a full Water Bottle from home.
6. Any equipment used by Participants during the Session must be disinfected in between Sessions.
7. The Bench Area will be available to players during modified game play (e.g. 4v4). Players must social distance on the Bench to the extent possible.

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**Modified Game Play**

The Association will provide a noncontact game like experience. Each Team will be comprised of 6-9 players plus a goalie. Games will be 3v3 or 4v4 and will comply with all the requirements of the OHF Return to Play. There will be no more than 50 Participants per Division.

SECTION 14

# Appendix F

## Rules for 3 on 3, 4 on 4 - U12 to U21

\*At the divisions of U10 and U11 a program may choose to operate a full ice program based on the limited size of some rinks. If this occurs, those programs will follow the U12 to U21 rules.

**Game Play**

- Game time structure based on a 50-minute ice rental
  - 5 min warm up
  - 2 x 22 min period run time
  - 1 min intermission between 1st and 2nd period
- No overtime / no shootout for tied games
- No faceoffs
  - Period 1 – visiting team has first possession
  - Period 2 – home team has first possession
- No Physical Contact
  - Players must remain one stick length apart
  - Accidental/incidental contact may occur
  - No body checking
  - When a scrum or gathering occurs the puck will be given to the defending team and the attacking team must retreat. A whistle will be blown to separate the players and another whistle to signal the resumption of play once the official is satisfied the attacking team has retreated and the defending team has gained puck possession.
  - A player that loses a glove must immediately retrieve the glove or leave the ice.

**Line Changes**

- Teams will change on the fly. Or a 2-minute buzzer for the start of the program

**Goals**

- Goals result in a change of possession. The team that scores the goal must allow the other team to advance the puck past center ice before applying pressure. If the puck has not advanced past center ice within 10 seconds of the whistle the official will signal the team that scored to proceed with the attack.
- Example:
  - Team A scores goal
  - Team A must allow Team B to advance the puck past center ice before applying pressure.

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#### **Icing**

- Icing the puck results in a change of possession. The team that iced the puck must allow the other team to advance the puck past center ice before applying pressure. If the puck has not advanced past center ice within 10 seconds of the whistle the official will signal the attacking team to proceed with the attack.
- Example:
  - Team A ices the puck
  - Team B retrieves puck
  - Team A cannot apply pressure until Team B has advanced the puck past center ice.

#### **Offsides**

- Offsides will result in a change of possession. The team that was called for offside must exit their attacking zone (all players simultaneously in neutral zone) before re-entering their attacking zone and applying pressure.
- Example:
  - Team A is called for offside and all players must exit their attacking zone
  - Once all Team A players are simultaneously in the neutral zone, they may re-enter their attacking zone

#### **Goaltender Freezes the Puck**

- When the goaltender freezes the puck, the attacking team must exit their attacking zone (all players simultaneously in neutral zone) before re-entering their attacking zone and applying pressure.
- Example:
  - Team B goaltender freezes puck
  - Team A must exit their attacking zone
  - Once all Team A players are simultaneously in the neutral zone, they may re-enter their attacking zone

#### **Penalties**

- Penalty shots will be awarded for penalties as per:
  - 2 min penalties = 1 penalty shot
  - 4+ min penalties = 2 penalty shots
  - All major penalties will result in 2 penalty shots and an ejection from the game
  - Intentional body contact or body checking = 2 penalty shots and may result in removal from the game at the discretion of the referee
  - Intentionally entering the goaltender's crease = 1 penalty shot
  - Co-incidental penalties will result in NO penalty shot being awarded
- The penalty shot must be taken by the individual the infraction was committed against unless they are unable to do so because of injury
- The time clock will continue to run during a penalty shot. If the buzzer sounds while the penalty shot is in process, the shot will be allowed to be completed and then the player change will occur.
- If a delayed penalty is called near the end of the game and the clock runs out, and where the result of the penalty shot(s) could change the outcome of the game, the penalty shot(s) will be taken. If the outcome of the penalty shot(s) would have no impact on the outcome of the game, the penalty shot(s) will not be taken.

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#### **Penalty Shot Procedure**

- When a penalty is called, the clock will not stop (all divisions)
- Penalty shot must be taken by the player infringed upon (if applicable) and all players on the ice must remain there until the shot is taken
- The player taking the penalty shot will line up at center ice
- All other players from both teams will line up by the far blue line
- All players will start from a standing position
- Referee will blow the whistle to start play
- All players may begin skating on the whistle; players on the non-penalized team may “chase” the player taking the shot and can prevent it if able to do so.
- Penalties can still be called on penalty shots.
- Should the player miss the penalty shot, play will continue.
- If a goal is scored, the team that scores the goal must allow the other team to advance the puck past center ice before applying pressure. If the puck has not proceeded past the hashmarks within 10 seconds of the whistle the official will signal the attacking team to proceed with the attack.

#### **Roster**

- 9 players plus 1 goaltender (per team)
- Both teams must start the game with a minimum of 5 players plus 1 goaltender

## **Rules for 3 on 3, 4 on 4 - U7 to U11**

#### **Game Play**

- Game time structure based on a 50-minute ice rental
  - 5 min warm up
  - 2 x 21 min period run time
- 1 min intermission between 1st and 2nd period
- No overtime / no shootout for tied games
- No faceoffs
  - Period 1 – visiting team has first possession
  - Period 2 – home team has first possession
- No Physical Contact
  - Players must remain one stick length apart
  - Accidental/incidental contact may occur
  - No body checking
  - When a scrum or gathering occurs the puck will be given to the defending team and the attacking team must retreat. A whistle will be blown to separate the players and another whistle to signal the resumption of play once the official is satisfied the attacking team has retreated and the defending team has gained puck possession.
- A player that loses a glove must immediately retrieve the glove or leave the ice.

#### **Line Changes**

- 2 min shifts (timekeeper will sound the horn to notify shift change).

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#### **Goals**

- Goals result in a change of possession. The attacking team must retreat and allow the team that was scored against the opportunity to play the puck. If this does not occur, the official may blow their whistle and signal the opposing team to provide more space.

#### **Goaltender Freezes the Puck**

- When the goaltender freezes the puck, the attacking team must retreat and allow the team that froze the puck the opportunity to play the puck. If this does not occur, the official may blow their whistle and signal the opposing team to provide more space.

#### **Icing**

- There is no icing in cross-ice hockey.

#### **Offside**

- There are no offsides in cross-ice hockey.

#### **Penalties**

- Penalties will be handled in the same manner as modified ice programming per the Hockey Canada Player Pathways. Intentional body contact or body checking may result in removal from the game at the discretion of the referee.

#### **Roster**

- 9 players plus 1 goaltender (per team)
- Both teams must start the game with a minimum of 5 players plus 1 goaltender

#### **Communication**

- Georgian Shores Minor Hockey Association has appointed two communication officers that will provide updates and keep coaches informed at the team level.
- Team Manager/Coach is to communicate with the communications officer to avoid confusion.
- The Association will post an update on the website outlining the Plan that is submitted to the OMHA for approval.
- A Return to Hockey Acknowledgement Form must be signed by all Participants and Parents prior to participation in the Association Return to Hockey. This process will be administered by the Executive outside the Facility. A copy of the Form will be posted on the website to encourage completion prior to arrival at the first Session.
- The Head Coach of each Team is responsible for the adherence to this Plan at all times. Noncompliance by any Participant or Parent may result in a suspension from further participation.
- The Return to Hockey Plan may be suspended at any time based on direction from governing bodies or the Association Executive due to concerns over transmission exposure to COVID 19.
- Any suggestions, concerns, or questions regarding the implementation of the Plan must be directed to a member of the Georgian Shores Minor Hockey Association Executive.



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#### **General Hygiene requirements and best practices**

- Within the sport of hockey proper hygiene should always be practiced on a regular basis.
- With the current COVID pandemic we will be reminding the teams at an operational level as to the need to remind their members on a regular basis and ensure they are using proper practices regarding this.
- Our facilities will be providing hand sanitizer. Teams will be required to use it for persons entering the facility. 1 bottle will be provided with the trainer's kit for this. As well as masks and gloves.

#### **Team Expectations**

- Each team (player, staff, and parent) are expected to follow the current regulations. As the situation evolves alternative measures could be required and they are required to follow as provided.
- Team Manager will be responsible for collecting data tracing documents upon entry to the facility and alert the association of any issues.
- Person will deal with Communications officer as required
- Documents to be stored at a team level and be available if needed for association, facility, or public health review (see attached).
  - All teams to have an electronic copy of the HEALTH SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE for their participants and spectators to view and agree they achieve the requirements for entry on the session date (a laminated copy will be provided to each team contact)
  - Each team to have participants and spectators for the specific session sign-in with the SESSION TRACKING document (digital & hardcopy copies will be provided to teams) indicating they have reviewed the HEALTH SCREENING DOCUMENT and achieve the requirements for entry to the session. A hard copy of this document is to be required for all sessions and teams must have copies with them while at the facilities.
  - There will be inspections to ensure that teams have proper records.
- All teams to follow guidelines provided from GSMHA regarding their programming and operations.
- Teams, Staff and Parents are required to exit the building within 15 minutes of player leaving the ice.
- • All PRE-GAME AND POST GAME handshakes will not be permitted including REFS and Team Staff until it is deemed safe from the OMHA and Public Health
- Coaches & Staff must maintain physical distancing with players/parents whenever possible. (If not possible than face covering is required).
- Team meeting if required to be held in controlled environment with physical distancing
- Gloves to be required when handling equipment.
- For trainer's face masks & disposable latex gloves to be worn on bench for practice and games

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#### **Player Expectation**

- Players required to complete COVID questionnaire prior to entering the building (see Attached). If issues arise from questionnaire, they will not be permitted entry to the facility.
- If a player refuses to complete the questionnaire, they will be refused entry into the building and will not be permitted back until situation reviewed by GSMHA executive.
- Players required to come to rink dressed. Dressing rooms/lobby available for Skates, Helmet & Gloves
- There will be no alternate change rooms for boys and girls this season. A limited number of players will be allowed in each dressing room as per facility guidelines.
- Players are expected to wear face covering until they put their helmet on and once completed the session, they are required to put face covering back on until they have left the facility.
- Players will provide their own Water Bottle (no sharing between players, coaches, and on/off ice officials)
- Players always required to be respectful of situation and others.
- Players will refrain from spitting and or chewing gum during their time in the facility.
- No sharing of food or drink at any time while at the facility.
- For participants equipment that is safe to wash and clean this should be completed after every on-ice session (Jerseys etc.).
- Any player that does not follow the rules and protocols will be removed from the program with NO refund.

#### **Parent/Spectator Expectation**

- 1 Parent/Spectator per child permitted to attend skate or event
- Parent/Spectator required to complete COVID questionnaire prior to entering the building (see attached). If issues arise from questionnaire, they will not be permitted entry to the facility.
- If a parent/Spectator refuses to complete the questionnaire they will be refused entry into the building and will not be permitted back until situation reviewed by GSMHA executive.
- Parent/Spectator are expected to wear face covering while in the facility.
- Parent/Spectator to exercise social distancing as indicated in facility.
- Parent/Spectator always required to be respectful of situation and others.
- Any Parent/Spectator that does not follow the rules and protocols will be removed from the facility and a meeting with GSMHA will be required to determine next steps.

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#### **Procedure for Illness at or during session as per OMHA guidelines:**

- Signs of sickness at or during Activity
  - The participant will advise the staff immediately of their symptoms
  - A coach should be prepared to require that anyone exhibiting signs or symptoms of illness should leave the practice/activity. Refer to public health authority guidelines with respect to wearing a mask.
  - When coughing or sneezing, cough or sneeze into a tissue or the bend of the arm, not the hand.
    - Dispose of any tissues as soon as possible in a lined waste basket and wash hands.
    - Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
    - Avoid contact with anyone who is sick.
- If participants do not feel well or have identified respiratory symptoms, ensure they advise team staff immediately and put on a cloth mask. They should immediately go home and follow up with their physician.
- Facility staff should be provided with an incident report based on facility protocol prior to the coaching staff leaving the facility.
- The parent will be notified to go home and contact their family physician/public health while they monitor their symptoms on the advice from the physician and public health officials
- The trainer will log the event on our tracking sheet and follow up with the participant/parent the next day
- Trainer will communicate to the group on the status of the player as soon as notified by the parent.

#### **Participant/Parent/Staff report they have tested positive for Covid 19:**

If a sick participant (or their parent/guardian if the participant is a minor) elects to inform a team/hockey association/Member that they have been diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual informed shall seek the sick participant/their parent's/guardian's consent to contact public health authorities in order to obtain advice on communication with other potentially impacted participants. The sick participant (or their parent/guardian if the participant is a minor) should be asked to advise Public Health of this consent. Explain the communication that will take place and NEVER disclose the sick person's contact information.

#### **Conclusion**

Georgian Shores Minor Hockey Association will continue to work with the OMHA, Municipality of Meaford, The Town of the Blue Mountain, and the Grey Bruce Public Health unit as this situation evolves and parameters require modifications or alterations. Our focus for this season will be SAFETY and FUN while providing our participants the ability to continue their development as players and persons. Please let us know if any recommendations or modifications are required to the Georgian Shores Minor Hockey Association return to play document.