



RETURN to HOCKEY

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Parent Meeting Guidelines

Introduction

How a local club, age division, or team staff choose to host a meeting with their parent group will be dependent on public health authority guidelines. Regardless of whether a meeting is hosted virtually or in person (where permitted), the following is a series of topics to be covered.

Meeting with parents/guardians either virtually or face-to-face will give everyone a level of confidence knowing that the safety of all players and staff is of the utmost importance. Covering each of these topic areas will provide a thorough overview of how coaches and staff will manage the hockey environment in the best manner possible.

Parent Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome

Welcome everyone to the meeting and identify that, during all phases of re-opening, everyone needs to be patient and flexible. Throughout all phases, safety must be the top priority, and this means following the guidelines of:

- Provincial/territorial government and health authority
- Local health authority
- Hockey Canada
- Hockey Canada Member
- Local hockey association
- Facility

Through the cooperation of all participants, hockey will return safely and provide a positive and fun experience for everyone.

2. Key Areas of Focus

Explain the areas that will be focused on throughout the meeting. The objective of the meeting is to outline what to expect as it relates to:

- What parents/guardians and players can expect as they return to the game
- Member Return to Hockey plan highlights, including requirements and ongoing communication
- Local hockey association messaging
- Facility guidelines
- Hygiene
- Physical-distancing
- Participant illness and return to play
- On-ice frameworks

3. Member Plan

It is recommended that, prior to having a parent/participant meeting, a representative from the organization meet with the Member to discuss the contents of the plan and the expectations of the Member moving forward.

This part of the meeting will highlight key elements and expectations of the plan, including:

- The Members approach to re-starting hockey
- Requirements around participant COVID-19 screening
- Other key topic areas in the Member plan.

During this portion of the meeting, take the time to highlight any local hockey association information and guidelines.

4. Facility Guidelines & Expectations

The objective will be to highlight the guidelines and expectations of the facilities where hockey will be played. It will be important for an organization representative to meet with the facility prior to hosting the meeting. Topics of discussion may include:

- Clearly identifying areas for players to arrive and where players place their belongings while considering physical-distancing requirements. Identify drop-off and pick-up procedures.
- Facility guidelines specific to physical-distancing and restrictions on the number of people allowed in the facility. Determine whether parents/guardians are allowed to attend the session.
- Mask requirements for the facility.
- Areas that may not be accessible in the facility – main lobby, dressing rooms, observation areas, showers, washrooms, etc.
- Alternatives if dressing rooms and showers are not available.
- Players arriving dressed in their equipment.
- What additional cleaning and disinfection processes have been implemented by the facility, and any impact on scheduling or length of ice time due to cleaning time.
- Facility rules around hygiene.

5. Hygiene

Hygiene is key to helping prevent COVID-19 in the hockey environment. Using Member guidelines and the Hockey Canada Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines as a reference, stress the following:

- Proper hand hygiene.
- Responsible physical-distancing, on-ice and off-ice.
- Anyone entering the facility should wear a cloth mask when physical distancing cannot be followed (it may also be required by the public health authority and/or the facility).
- Steps to reducing the spread of infection if coughing or sneezing.
- Players having their own labelled water bottles.
- When possible, avoid touching high risk touch points such as door handles.
- The importance of not sharing food or drinks.
- Spitting and open nose blowing is absolutely forbidden.
- No shaking hands.
- Keeping equipment clean.
- Minimizing time in and around the facility.
- How many parents/guardians, if any, are allowed in the dressing room.
- Parents/guardians providing a prevention kit to players as outlined in the Hockey Canada Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines.
- Ensuring each player goes home with their designated household contact.
- Recommended guidelines if teams are traveling to tournaments.

(Note that these are just a few highlights; it is important to review the Member guidelines and Hockey Canada Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines prior to the meeting.)

6. Symptoms, Illness & Responsible Return to Hockey

Begin this part of the agenda stressing to participants that if they are feeling ill or have symptoms or suspected/confirmed COVID-19, that they not come into the hockey environment and must follow the public health authority and Member guidelines.

It will also be important that parents/guardians and players understand the steps that will be taken if a participant is ill at a hockey activity, is ill and does not attend a hockey activity, or has suspected or confirmed COVID-19. This includes the steps that need to be taken for a player to return. These steps will be defined based on many different factors and it is important that prior to your meeting you become familiar with:

- Public health authority requirements
- Hockey Canada Members requirements
- Recommendations outlined in the Hockey Canada Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines
- Facility guidelines

7. During All Hockey Activities

Offer some general steps everyone can assist with as the Return to Hockey plan goes into effect.

- Assist the coaches and staff in following required guidelines during hockey activities both on and off the ice.
- Talk to your kids about the importance of preventing COVID-19 in the hockey environment, including physical-distancing guidelines.
- Encourage players to enjoy practicing and playing hockey in the current format.
- Be flexible and be ready to adapt when necessary.

At the conclusion of the meeting, thank everyone for their patience and cooperation as hockey returns during these unprecedented times!