

ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

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OHF Bulletin

To: OHF Members

From: Phillip McKee, Executive Director

Date: 9/17/2020

Re: OHF Bulletin –Transition Between Stages

The Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) recognizes that there is a desire from many young hockey players and their families to return to hockey that existed prior to the shutdown of sport on March 15, 2020. While the OHF has been diligently working with the Government and Members to provide safe hockey experiences during the 2020-2021 season, we understand this is not the sport we knew earlier this year.

In order to get back to the hockey experience prior to COVID-19, the OHF has been taking a cautious staged approach. Our initial focus in partnership with our Members and the Associations was to return players back to the ice as soon as safely possible within the regulations of the Government and Hockey Canada.

Now, we have progressed to Stage 3b to allow for both individual training and game play to occur. Moving forward the OHF Board of Directors will be evaluating the current stage in consultation with the Government, our Members and the data from Public Health Units. The first evaluation will occur on October 1, following this assessment, the OHF will conduct evaluations every two-weeks to establish which level in Stage 3 we are safely able to move to. It is our hope that if it is safe to do so, our jurisdiction will move closer to Stage 3c allowing for participants to be able to engage in a modified 5-on-5 game play.

It is important to recognize that the Ontario Government has permitted competition with the understanding that rules have been modified to eliminate intentional physical contact. Playing the game of hockey without intentional physical contact represents a significant shift from traditional hockey. As such, it is the equal and collective responsibility of all participants (players, bench staff, officials) to create and adhere to the gameplay structure that eliminates intentional physical contact.

While the OHF Return to Hockey Framework indicates modified 5-on-5 game play in Stage 3c to ensure that hockey is being operated within the Ontario Government's regulations, the elimination of intentional physical contact will remain a requirement. Modified 5-on-5 game play rules will be distributed prior to the OHF moving from Stage 3b to Stage 3c.



APPENDIX: OHF Return to Hockey Framework Stage 1 – Stage 4

OHF Stage	Ontario Gov. Stage	Outline	Player Contact	# of Participants¥	Structure	Travel
STAGE 1 Return to Ice	Phase 2 Stage 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict On-Ice Physical Distancing • Skill Development Only • Off-ice Training & Activity • Limited/No Use of Bench • Variety of On-Ice Set Ups 	None	Limited to 10 in group including instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Instruction • Association Instruction • Team Instruction 	Community Based Only
STAGE 2 Return to Practice	Phase 2 Stage 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict On-Ice Physical Distancing • Group Skill Development • Off-ice Training & Activity • May be Limited Use of Bench 	None	Limited to 15 in group including instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Instruction • Association Instruction • Team Instruction 	Community Based Only
STAGE 3a Return to Play	Phase 2 Stage 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict On-Ice Physical Distancing • Off-ice Training & Activity • Limited or Normal Use of Bench 	No Physical Contact	Maximum of 25 for individual training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MHA/Leagues/Teams • May be Modified Game Play or Cohort Groups 	Limited Public Health Unit (PHU)
STAGE 3b	Phase 2 Stage 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict On-Ice Physical Distancing • Off-Ice Training & Activity • Limited or Normal Use of Bench • Registration of Players for the 2020-2021 programming • Allocation of Player Groups • Group Training Prep Phase 	No Physical Contact	Maximum of 30 for individual training and game play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration is based on last year's registered Association.* • No program offered by MHA eligible to move for a program within PHU. • MHA providing some form of programming, must stay where registered last year, exception, players on AAA Waiver and LOR movement have option to stay or return home. • Leagues are Ontario Health Maximum of 50 (July 27) and based on the PHU. 	Limited Public Health Unit
STAGE 3c	Phase 2 Stage 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Training/Practices with Physical Distancing • Game Play 3 v 3 or 4 v 4, 5 v 5 modified hockey, with No Physical Contact 	No Physical Contact	Maximum of 40 for individual training and game play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration is based on last year's registered Association.* • No program offered by MHA eligible to move for a program within PHU. • MHA providing some form of programming, must stay where registered last year, exception, players on AAA Waiver and LOR movement have option to stay or return home. • Leagues are Ontario Health Maximum of 50 (July 27) and based on the PHU. 	Limited Public Health Unit
STAGE 3d	Phase 2 Stage 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Training/Practices with Physical Distancing • Game Play 3 v 3, 4 v 4, 5 v 5, with No Physical Contact 	No Physical Contact	Maximum of 40 for individual training and game play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration is based on last year's registered Association.* • No program offered by MHA eligible to move for a program within PHU. • MHA providing some form of programming, must stay where registered last year, exception, players on AAA Waiver and LOR movement have option to stay or return home. • Leagues are Ontario Health Maximum of 50 (July 27) and based on the PHU. 	Limited Adjacent Public Health Units



STAGE 3e	Phase 2 Stage 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Training/Practices with Physical Distancing Game Play 3 v 3, 4 v 4, 5 v 5, with No Physical Contact 	No Physical Contact	Maximum of 40 for individual training and game play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration is based on last year's registered Association.* No program offered by MHA eligible to move for a program within PHU. MHA providing some form of programming, must stay where registered last year, exception, players on AAA Waiver and LOR movement have option to stay or return home. Leagues are Ontario Health Maximum of 50 (July 27) and based on the PHU. 	Expanded Local Health Integrated Network
STAGE 4 Return to Regular Competition	Phase 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No On-Ice Physical Distancing Regular Practice Off-ice Training & Activity Standard Competition May be Normal Use of Bench 	Contact Allowed	Regular Team Sizes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules TBD MHA/Leagues/Teams Regular Game Play 	Expanded Tournament Year end events
<p>Disclaimer: The content of the chart if there is discrepancy is superseded by the contents of the specific sections for each Stage in the OHF Return to Hockey Framework.</p> <p>* Players that played the 2019-2020 seasoning the GTHL will follow GTHL rules for movement as well as criteria laid out in the OHF Return to Hockey Framework for AAA Waiver and LOR.</p> <p>‡ Number of Participants is a maximum number outlined by the OHF for sanctioned programming, however, all participant numbers are dictated by the restrictions for gathering that have been established by the Ontario Government, local Public Health Unit, facility or Member. Maximum numbers are based on the largest ice surface 100x200 and should be adjusted accordingly for smaller ice surfaces and/or age and size of players.</p>						

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