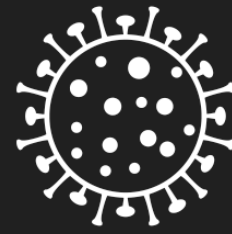




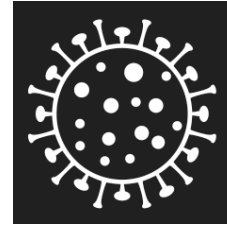
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Hockey Ireland Protocols for Returning to Competition





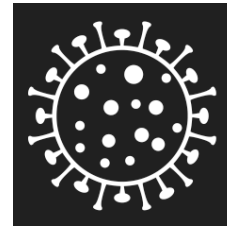
Due to the impact of COVID-19, Hockey Ireland, in conjunction with Sport Ireland and Sport Northern Ireland, wish to ensure that competitive hockey can be played in a safe manner that minimises the risks of people contracting and spreading the disease.

These protocols are additional to our 'Return to Play' document, which must always be adhered to by clubs as it reflects the most up to date governmental advice and information.

Pre-match Protocols:

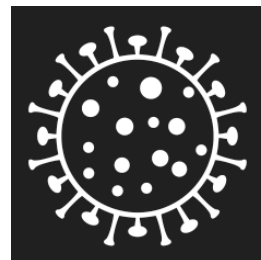
Away Team Responsibilities:

1. All protocol in Hockey Ireland's 'Return to Play' document must be adhered to including governmental travel guidelines.
2. The away team must submit a list of names and phone numbers of those travelling to the match to the home team's COVID-19 Officer (CVO) by email prior to travelling to the match. This should include any players, coaches, managers, umpires, and any parents that may travel with an underage player. This list should be updated and communicated to the home team's CVO should there be any changes. All personnel should undergo the standard COVID-19 health checks before travelling to the match.
3. The away team must confirm a time for when their team may arrive at the facility.
4. The away team should be aware of the home club's Covid-19 system prior to travelling. This may include policies around entry and exit points to the facility, use of toilets, locations of hand-sanitizer stations etc.



Home Club Responsibilities:

1. Ensure that a list of those travelling with the away team for the match is received.
2. Contact details for all match officials (umpires; technical officials) should be recorded by the home club's CVO prior to the match. For officially appointed umpires and technical officials, these details will be available through the club's own Fixture's Secretary via the official umpires appointing system.
3. Communicate the club's COVID-19 management system to the away team, umpires, and technical officials.
4. Ensure that an arrival time for all travelling parties has been agreed and confirmed.
5. Ensure that the list of those travelling is correct when players and officials arrive at the club.
6. A club CVO must be present during the build-up phase of the match and remain at the club until the away team and match officials have departed after the match to ensure COVID-19 protocols are always adhered to. ***If the home club are unable to provide a CVO during this time, the match must not take place.***
7. Ensure that travelling parties have designated areas on the pitch to base themselves safely. This includes an area for umpires and for match officials.
8. Ensure that there is sufficient space for substitutes and coaching/management staff for each team to allow social distancing when not playing. Please consider player safety when doing so (e.g. minimise the risk of a player being hit by a ball).



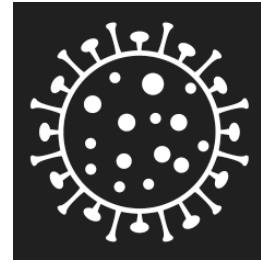
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9. Ensure that an area is designated for suspended players for each team and allow for additional space should several players be suspended at one time.
10. Ensure that the club is following governmental guidelines for numbers of people allowed inside the facility.
11. Ensure that only *essential* match personnel (players; umpires; coaches etc) are allowed inside the pitch in the lead up to and during matches.
12. Dressing rooms and showers should only be made available if essential and current government guidelines on the use of indoor facilities should always be strictly enforced. A detailed cleaning regime should be put in place by the home club.

Match Specific Guidance (for all stakeholders):

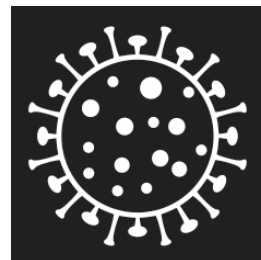
Please note: Umpires are responsible for the conduct of players, coaches etc., in accordance with the Rules of Hockey, within the playing area (the pitch and outer playing area) & COVID-19 measures within the field of play.

The CVO is responsible for the conduct of players, coaches etc, in respect of COVID-19 social distancing and compliance with the guidance, outside of the pitch (this includes the outer playing area/benches).

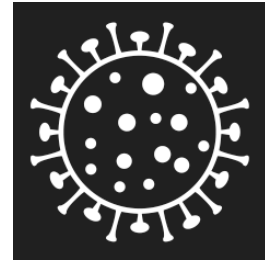


Player and Match Guidelines:

1. All match personnel (players, coaches, umpires etc.) should follow social distancing guidelines while waiting for the pitch to fully clear from any previous activity.
2. Teams must not complete line-ups, handshakes/high-fives or huddles prior to the start of the match, or before the start of each quarter.
 - a. This will be enforced through the offending team's captain receiving a verbal warning in the first instance, a green card personal penalty may be awarded to the captain for repeated offences.
3. Ball patrol should not be used for any matches.
4. Players should avoid coming within 2m of an umpire or technical official. If players are asked to retreat from an umpire and fail to do so, they will be issued a personal penalty.
5. Players are discouraged from celebrating goals as a group.
 - a. This will be enforced through the offending team's captain receiving a verbal warning in the first instance, a green card personal penalty may be awarded to the captain for repeated offences.
6. During penalty corners, defenders must have their own, clearly marked defensive equipment. Equipment must not be shared between team-mates. Umpires will manage the time needed to allow players to put on their own equipment (players are encouraged to avoid any unnecessary delay and to assist the umpires at all times).



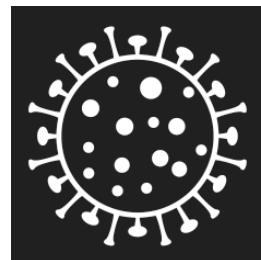
7. Players must not spit or clear their nose on the field of play. If this is observed by an umpire, they will issue a green card to the offending player. A repeated offence by any player will result in a further upgrading in the sanction.
 - a. It is acknowledged that umpires will not be able to see every occurrence of this. It is up to players to take personal responsibility and not engage in this behaviour.
8. Players must not deliberately cough in the face of any other player, umpire, official, ball patrol or spectator. A red card will be issued for this offence, if witnessed by officials.
 - a. It is acknowledged that normal coughs happen within play and cannot always be controlled. Normal coughs that occur at a distance or that are not deemed to be intentional acts of potential harm should not be sanctioned.
9. When an injury occurs that requires attention, an agreed member of the team of the injured player should attend to the play. Standard first aid protocols apply.
10. Both teams should supply managers and officials with their own equipment. E.g. captains and managers should have their own pen for signing match cards.
11. Non-playing members of each squad (substitutes; coaches; management) must adhere to social distancing guidelines when not on the field of play. It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure sufficient space is provided for this.



Umpiring Guidelines:

Pre-match:

1. The home club's appointed CVO should contact appointed umpires no less than 24 hours prior to the start of the match, to outline the Covid-19 policies of the club and to ensure that umpires are symptom free.
 - a. For regional or local games that may not have officially appointed umpires, the home and away teams should include the name and contact details of their selected umpire within the team list.
 - b. Any individual should not attend any matches if they display symptoms, have been in close contact with a confirmed case but have not been tested themselves, have recently been in an area that requires them to quarantine.
2. Umpires should follow governmental guidelines when travelling to matches. For official umpiring appointments, all umpires must follow the directive issued by IHUA regarding travel to matches.
3. Umpires must arrive on site in their match day clothes and practice social distancing upon arrival to the ground.
4. Umpires must not share any equipment.
5. Umpires should wait until all personnel from the previous match have left the field of play before entering.
- 6) IF A CLUB CVO IS NOT PRESENT THEN THE MATCH MUST NOT TAKE PLACE.



During Play:

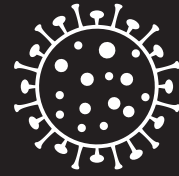
1. A pre-match coin toss should be conducted using social distancing. One umpire should handle the coin.
2. Umpires, where possible, should avoid situations that require them to be in close proximity to groups of players at once (e.g. penalty corner defence set-ups, player clashes). We recognise, however, that this is not always avoidable, and that the management and safety of players remains the primary focus of umpires.
3. Umpires must not move or touch any players equipment with their hands.
4. Umpires are recommended to sanitise their hands prior to and at the end of the game.

Post-game:

1. Umpires must not shake the hands of players, or each other, following the game.
2. Umpires will vacate the technical area as quickly as possible once the match concludes to allow the next match to enter.
3. Umpires, where possible, should shower at home. However, if essential, they may use the facilities on site if they are available but should ensure that this is done in a time efficient manner. All governmental guidelines on the use of indoor facilities should be adhered to.
4. Each umpire should bring their own pen to sign the match sheets.



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