



Return to Play Protocol for Coaches, Players and Parents

September 13, 2020



AMHA Return to Play Plan

1. OVERVIEW

The Aylmer Minor Hockey Association (AMHA) cares about the health and welfare of our players. We are dedicated to ensuring that we are diligently following the OHF Return to Play Framework and the protocols of Southwestern Public Health, the Town of Aylmer and the East Elgin Community Complex (EECC). This document details AMHA's Return to Play plan.

2. COVID-19 COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

In accordance with the OHF Return to Play framework, the AMHA has formed a COVID-19 Communications Committee in order to stay connected with the latest updates provided by the OHF, OMHA, Southwestern Public Health and the Town of Aylmer. The committee's role is to disseminate this information and provide recommendations to the AMHA board and its members. The committee is comprised of a primary COVID-19 contact, a backup COVID-19 contact, and a secondary backup COVID-19 contact, in the event that one of our contacts is unavailable. Members of the committee and specific responsibilities include:

- Brent Barker – Southwestern Public Health / Primary COVID-19 Contact
- Mike Holmes – Town of Aylmer / East Elgin Community Complex / Primary Backup COVID-19 Contact
- Stephen Douglas – OMHA / OHF / Secondary Backup COVID-19 Contact

In the event that a player answers yes to any of the COVID-19 screen; reports feeling ill; or tests positive for COVID-19, team staff are to notify a member of the COVID-19 committee in the following order:

Brent Barker – Primary Contact – brentbarker25@gmail.com

Mike Holmes – Backup Contact – mtholmes45@hotmail.com

Stephen Douglas – Secondary Backup Contact – stephendouglas@amtelecom.net

3. COVID SCREENING / ATTENDANCE TRACKING

The AMHA will be utilizing MBSportsWeb software for COVID-19 pre-screening and tracking attendance at all AMHA on-ice functions. Team staff will be able to confirm that all players have completed the COVID-19 screening checklist in advance of participating in any on-ice activities. Team staff will also need to complete the COVID-19 screening checklist. Attendance will be recorded for each session and stored for 90 days after each session. The EECC will also be screening all players and



parents/guardians and team staff entering the EECC. In the event that a player neglects to complete the COVID-19 screening checklist prior to attending, team staff will have the ability to screen the player and input the information into the app. Players and parents/guardians will also be subject to screening by the EECC upon entering the complex.

Below are the various scenarios and steps to be taken if...

3.1 Player Pre-Screens with a COVID-19 symptom

1. Player is not permitted to attend any AMHA functions
2. Player to contact their physician and Southwestern Public Health and follow their direction
3. Player is required to provide a note from their physician before returning to play.

3.2 Player Feels Unwell or Displays a COVID-19 Symptom at a Practice/Game

1. Player advises team staff the he/she feels unwell or team staff observe that a player is displaying a COVID-19 symptom
2. Player must physically distance him/herself from other people
3. The AMHA will provide the player with a face mask to be worn while in the facility. Anyone attending to the player will wear a face mask
4. Team staff will contact a family member/responsible person for the player and arrange for pick-up
5. Player will leave the facility immediately. If there is no family member/responsible person available to immediately pick-up the player, a place will be found to isolate the player until a family member/responsible person arrives. Facility staff shall be informed of the use of any isolation area.
6. Player is to contact their physician and Southwestern Public Health and follow their direction
7. Player is required to provide a note from their physician before returning to play

3.3 Player reports feeling unwell and will not be attending practice/game

1. Player is to contact their physician and Southwestern Public Health and follow their direction.
2. Player is required to provide a note from their physician before returning to play.

3.4 Player or player's immediate family member tests positive for COVID-19

1. Player is to inform AMHA and the player, as well as anyone in the player's home are not to attend any AMHA functions
2. AMHA to contact Southwestern Public Health
3. AMHA to cooperate with Southwestern Public Health regarding any actions necessary



4. Player is required to provide a note from their physician before returning to play.

3.5 Player on the same team or cohort (bubble) test positive for COVID-19

1. AMHA to contact Southwestern Public Health
2. Public health authority guidelines will determine contact tracing and isolation requirements. It is possible, therefore, that one diagnosis on a team or within a cohort could lead to that team being required to pause hockey activities until the public health authority determines it is safe to return.

4. FACILITY - EECC RETURN TO RECREATION SAFETY GUIDELINES

The AMHA runs all programming out of EECC. The EECC is jointly owned by the Town of Aylmer and the Township of Malahide. AMHA has received and reviewed the policy and guidelines of the East Elgin Community Complex. The EECC typically operates 2 ice pads but at the time of drafting this document, only one ice pad is operational.

Below are the main guidelines AMHA is to follow as part of the EECC safety plan:

- Patrons will enter through the main entrance on the south side of the building
- Patrons will exit through the south east doors of the Kinsmen rink, following the floor markings
- Physical distancing is to be practiced at all times
- Face masks are to be worn indoors at all times. Players can remove masks once their helmet is put on.
- Players must arrive fully dressed less skates, helmets and gloves. Goalie's must be dressed to the maximum extent possible. Hockey bags are not permitted.
- Spectators are strongly discouraged by the EECC, however minors are permitted to be accompanied by 1 parent/guardian as necessary
- Up to 10 players are allowed in the dressing room at one time
- Up to 25 players/team officials are permitted on the ice at one time
- Only the EECC main lobby, lobby washrooms and Kinsmen Arena will be open.
- Participants are allowed in the facility 15 minutes prior to each session and must vacate the EECC within 15 minutes of the session ending.
- Each ice booking has 30 minutes in between the next booking.
- No use of dressing room showers or washrooms.
- No outside food or beverages are to be brought into the facility
- Participants may bring a water bottle that is labelled with their name on it for their personal use (not to be shared) at the EECC. Water will not be provided by the EECC, so participants are encouraged to fill up at home.
- Players must not spit, blow their nose freely or release any bodily fluid anywhere in the facility due to an extremely high risk of virus transfer.



- Players and guardians are required to complete a COVID-19 screen and mark attendance upon entering the EECC.
- Players and parents/guardians will be required to sign a COVID-19 facility waiver upon their first entry to the EECC. Players should keep a copy in their bag, once copy will be stored by the AMHA and one will go to the complex. The waiver will cover the parent/guardian from the signed date of the waiver to March 31, 2021
- Hand sanitizer is readily available at the EECC.

5. AMHA / HOCKEY CANADA SAFETY GUIDELINES

AMHA is taking the following steps to facilitate a smooth and safe return to hockey:

- Provide coaches, team staff, players and parents with a complete guide containing information on screening, attendance tracking, facility guidelines, on-ice format, and a list of the modified game rules which encourage on-ice physical distancing.
- Emphasize the importance of good hygiene.
- Team staff will be required to wear a mask on-ice and on the bench.
- Team staff will have the authority to send any player home that is exhibiting signs of illness.
- Elimination of team pre-game dryland warmups.
- Strictly enforce that each player uses their own water bottle with no sharing.
- Team staff to encourage physical distancing on the bench.
- Constantly monitor updates from Southwestern Public Health, the EECC, OMHA, OHF and Hockey Canada.

6. PROGRAMMING STRUCTURE

AMHA is planning on running all divisions (U5 – U18) starting in October 2020. The AMHA is planning on providing 1 or 2 one-hour sessions per team per week based on available ice. The AMHA will provide at least 2 weeks of development sessions to start the season, in accordance with recommendations from the OHF and OMHA. Once the development sessions are complete, the AMHA is planning on running one – 1-hour practice session and one – 1-hour 3 on 3 or 4 on 4 game per week per team subject to available ice time.

Each team will be partnered with another team in the same age division for practices. Coaches will need to work together to plan practices and agree on which team staff will be on the ice. The EECC has limited AMHA to a maximum of 25 players/team staff on the ice at one time.

7. GAME PLAY STRUCTURE AND RULES



Game play does allow for players to engage within the 2-meter physical distancing as long as the rules of play are modified for No Physical Contact. When participants are not engaged in on-ice activity they must maintain their physical distance.

U5 – U9 Game Rules

Players in this grouping will continue to follow modified game regulations with cross ice and half ice rink dimensions. Small nets will be utilized. Game play will consist of 3 on 3 or 4 on 4 games with interval buzzers optional at the younger age groups. Games will be 44 minutes in length. There will be two 22-minute periods with one team possessing the puck at their goal for the first period, and the other team starting with possession for the second period. There will be no face offs. Penalties will be called, resulting in a penalty shot. When a goal is scored, the team scored on will possess the puck, starting on their goal line. No score will be kept for this age group. In the event that a scrum/battle for the puck occurs, and physical distancing cannot be observed, the referee will blow/sound their whistle, separating the players, and the defensive team will gain possession of the puck. At the end of the game, players are not permitted to shake hands.

As per regulations in 2019 – 2020, should the U9 age group remain combined into the new year, full ice play may commence in early January 2021. Score will be kept, from this point forward in the season for the U9 age group.

At least one referee will be utilized at this age group to control play.

U11 – U18 Game Rules

Players in this grouping will be subject to OMHA/OHF rules as per the 2020 – 2021 season. Games will consist of 3 on 3 or 4 on 4 play. Games will be 44 minutes in length, with a brief warm up. There will be two 22-minute periods with one team possessing the puck to start the first period, and the other team possessing the puck to start the second. Penalties will be called, resulting in a penalty shot. Any major penalties will be subject to regular OMHA regulations, including ejection from the game, should a major penalty be incurred. Any major penalty will be reviewed by the AMHA board, and that player may be subject to an additional sanction, at the discretion of the AMHA board. There will be no face offs. The score will be kept in these divisions. In the event that a scrum/battle for the puck occurs, and physical distancing cannot be observed, the referee will blow/sound their whistle, separating the players, and the defensive team will gain possession of the puck. At the end of the game, players are not permitted to shake hands.

There will be one or two referees used at this level.



8. RETURN TO PLAY

The AMHA is committed to returning to hockey activities in a safe manner and in accordance with the rules and guidelines provided by OHF, OMHA, the EECC and Southwestern Public Health. The AMHA has been granted permission from OMHA to proceed with hockey activities. Insurance coverage has also been granted for the 2020 – 2021 season. Please contact us if additional details are required.