



FYHA Guideline for Return to Play under COVID-19 Restrictions - 2020/21

FYHA will begin its 2020/21 season in October as normal. The return to play will follow Hockey New Brunswick Guidelines, which describe a phased return within municipality rules for Arena Access. A description of activities during these phases, and the necessary rules for rink activities, are included in this document. At the time of approval of this document, there are no reported cases of community-spread of coronavirus in New Brunswick. The situation remains fluid and updates to this document may be required. Association members are encouraged to follow official announcements of the FYHA Board.

Schedule for Return to Play

Activities will resume on **Saturday, October 3, 2020** across most divisions. Rules for a phased return apply to the Association and not to specific individuals. Thus, all divisions will move through phases together, in a safe and orderly, two-week long Phase-1. The length of subsequent phases will be determined by Hockey NB based on decisions of NB Public Health and the ability for our Association to demonstrate its adherence to rules described in this document.

Table 1 - Hockey NB Return to Play Guideline 20-21

| PHASE | Phase 1 RETURN TO ICE (minimum 2 weeks) | Phase 2 RETURN TO PRACTICE Date - TBD | Phase 3 RETURN TO PLAY Date - TBD | Phase 4 RETURN TO REGULAR COMPETITION Date - TBD | Phase 5 TOURNAMENTS Date - TBD |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| OUTLINE | On-ice Physical Distancing / Skill Development only | Skill Development / Competition drills (1 v 1, 2 v 2, etc) / Small area games | Regular practice structure / Regular game play - with travel restrictions | Regular practice structure / Regular game play | Tournaments permitted |
| PLAYER CONTACT | None | limited contact / checking in drills | Regular contact | Regular contact | Regular contact |
| MAXIMUM # OF PARTICIPANTS - ON-ICE | 25 players 6 coaches | 36 skaters 8 coaches | No limitation | No limitation | No limitation |
| GAMES | None | Modified games in practice (3 v 3, 4 v 4) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| TRAVEL | No travel outside MHA | No Travel outside MHA | Exhibition games permitted within Zone | Travel to be determined by Provincial Government Guidelines | Travel to be determined by Provincial Government Guidelines |

Phase-1

In this period, on-ice activities will resemble normal operations: skills & drills, player development. Sessions will be structured in zones with a limit of 25 players and six coaches on the ice at one time. Players can expect 1-2 ice times during this period. Players will be divided up by registered division, and recreation/competitive-tryout categories. Player assessments will be forwarded into the competitive try-out period of Phase-2. The Association will provide drills to coaches conducting these sessions. Division Coordinators will release rink schedule for Phase-1 for specific divisions (U7, U9, U11, etc.) once location and times have been confirmed.

Phase-2

After two-weeks, players at the U-11 to U18 levels may be re-grouped into *competitive-tryout* and *recreational* divisions. This phase will involve small area games (1 v. 1, 2 v. 2, 3 v. 3, etc.). Tryouts will commence. Competitive and recreational teams will be selected during this period. Players not selected for competitive teams will be automatically placed into the recreational player pool. Division Coordinators will release groups and rink schedule for Phase-2 once location and times have been confirmed.

Phase-3

Division Coordinators will reveal teams and rink schedule at the start of Phase-3, which is **Friday, November 6, 2020**. Teams will conduct practices as usual, under the direction of approved coaches. Bench seating restrictions are removed for the team. All other restrictions with respect to face masks and social distancing will remain. Exhibition games will be possible. Game play will remain primarily within the Association or League during this period. For some divisions, play may include travel to neighbouring Associations (Oromocto, Keswick, Tri-County, etc.). Subject to the rules of the New Brunswick Hockey Officials Association Return to Play Plan, these exhibition games will be officiated.

Phase-4

This phase is a full return to league play. Travel permissions will be subject to Public Health Guidelines and permissions of Hockey NB. Tentatively, all FYHA teams will be eligible to return to regular play on **Friday, November 20, 2020**.

Phase-5

Regular League play and tournaments are permitted.

General Rules for Participation in FYHA Events:

FYHA activities will remain in accordance with The City of Fredericton Guideline for Arena Access, Hockey New Brunswick, and the New Brunswick Public Health Authority. The following rules are considered minimum requirements for all FYHA-sanctioned events for the full 20-21 hockey season, unless otherwise announced by the FYHA Board of Directors.

- Dressing rooms will be open with limited capacity, according to City of Fredericton Guidelines on Arena Access
- The maximum number of players permitted on the bench will vary by rink (bench length) and will never exceed 8 players until reaching Phase 3.
- Players must remain socially-distanced while off the ice
- The number of family members permitted in dressing rooms will be restricted to one per child; each dressing room will have a maximum occupancy.
- Family members are permitted to watch players, but capacity will be limited to the maximum allowable by the City of Fredericton Guideline for Arena Access (Capacity will be monitored).
- Face-masks will be required for all spectators at all times.
- All persons entering the arena must record their name and their child's name with a contact phone number.
- Officials, coaches and time-/score-keepers must wear facemasks
- There is a 15 minute window between sessions for players to arrive and leave the rink.
- All dressing rooms are sanitized by rink staff between usage. Players are not permitted to linger in rooms after ice times.
- No showers are to be used
- A gear bag is permitted. Players are expected to arrive and leave wearing most of their equipment, so as to minimize the time spent in dressing rooms before and after ice times.
- Players must arrive and leave wearing a face mask
- Players must have their own LABELLED water bottle that has been filled before arriving to the rink.
- No food may be eaten while in the arena
- Players are to remain in their assigned groups or teams; they cannot attend alternative ice times.
- Player siblings must remain with parents/guardians. Children are not permitted to roam around the rink, enter dressing rooms or loiter in common areas off the ice surface.
- FYHA expects all participants to read and answer the mandatory Public Health questions granting access to the Facility (included below) prior to each event.
- Players, coaches and families are expected to follow rules of areas they visit outside of the Fredericton Municipality. Rules of FYHA are considered minimum requirements for all association member at any event, at any location.

FYHA events will be audited for rule compliance. An individual's failure to follow these rules may result in a suspension from FYHA events.

Activities Monitoring

Volunteers will be required at each ice session to screen and register individuals entering the building (Access Officer). On-premises activities also requires monitoring (Arena Marshall). During Phase-1, division coordinators will organize this with volunteers.

The FYHA Communications Officer is Mr. John O'Toole, FYHA Executive Director. Each team will require a Team Liaison. The appointment of a 'Team Liaison' is the responsibility of the individual

team. The position can be an already existing member of the Coaching Staff, the Team Safety representative, Team Manager, or a parent.

Team Liaison responsibilities may include:

- Provide overview of the Hockey New Brunswick Return to Hockey plan and Association's Operational Plan to team participants and parents.
- Ongoing communication with Minor Hockey Association's 'Communications Officer' on guidelines and updates.
- Compiling of an attendance database for all team sanctioned events, for ease of contact tracing if required.
- Ensure screening questionnaire is completed for all participants prior to each team sanctioned activity.

COVID19 Refund Policy

In the event that the season is cancelled in full or in part due to COVID-19, FYHA has instituted the following refund policy:

ALL refunds will be subject to a \$25 administration fee. In the event of a cancellation due to COVID19, FYHA will refund parents the cost of registration minus the administration fee and any costs incurred by FYHA as listed below (if applicable):*7- HNB fees (rostering, insurance, coach courses etc.)

- Ice time purchased
- Tryouts
- Officials
- Equipment
- Any other expense (planned or unplanned)

In order to allow time to calculate the amount to be refunded and to ensure that we have covered all of our costs, a refund will not be issued until 60 days following the cancellation of the season.

PLEASE NOTE: No refunds will be issued if the season is cancelled after March 1st, 2021 or if the operations are interrupted mid-season for a period of less than four (4) weeks.

COVID-19 Communications and protocol

The Association will follow the advice and directives of the Office of Public Health regarding suspected and positively-identified cases of Covid-19. The Association will be notified by the NB Public Health Office of any positive cases identified among our players. Families will be given any necessary information should an incident requiring isolation arise. At the present time, there is no identified case of community transmission in the province of New Brunswick. Please stay isolated from others (including family members) for a period of 14 days and follow protocols described above – particularly regarding mask wearing, social distancing, and contact tracing – so that players may continue to play safely.