# INTRODUCTION

With all the changes this year due to COVID-19, the GRA Board has put together this document for our membership to help them to understand current restrictions GRA will need follow in the 2020-21 season.

The GRA is working hard to modify our programming to comply with Ringette Canada, Ringette Ontario, Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health, The City of Guelph and the University of Guelph facility requirements.

The GRA wants to be as transparent as possible as we work through the many requirements to safely get back on the ice. We also understand that our members have questions. Please review this document, including the FAQs and be sure to check back frequently as this is a “living document” that will be updated regularly as we receive more information. If you have additional questions, please email Jared Pulleyblank, our Vice President and COVID Safety Leader (vicepresident@guelphringette.ca).

# Ringette Canada - Return to ringette Guidelines

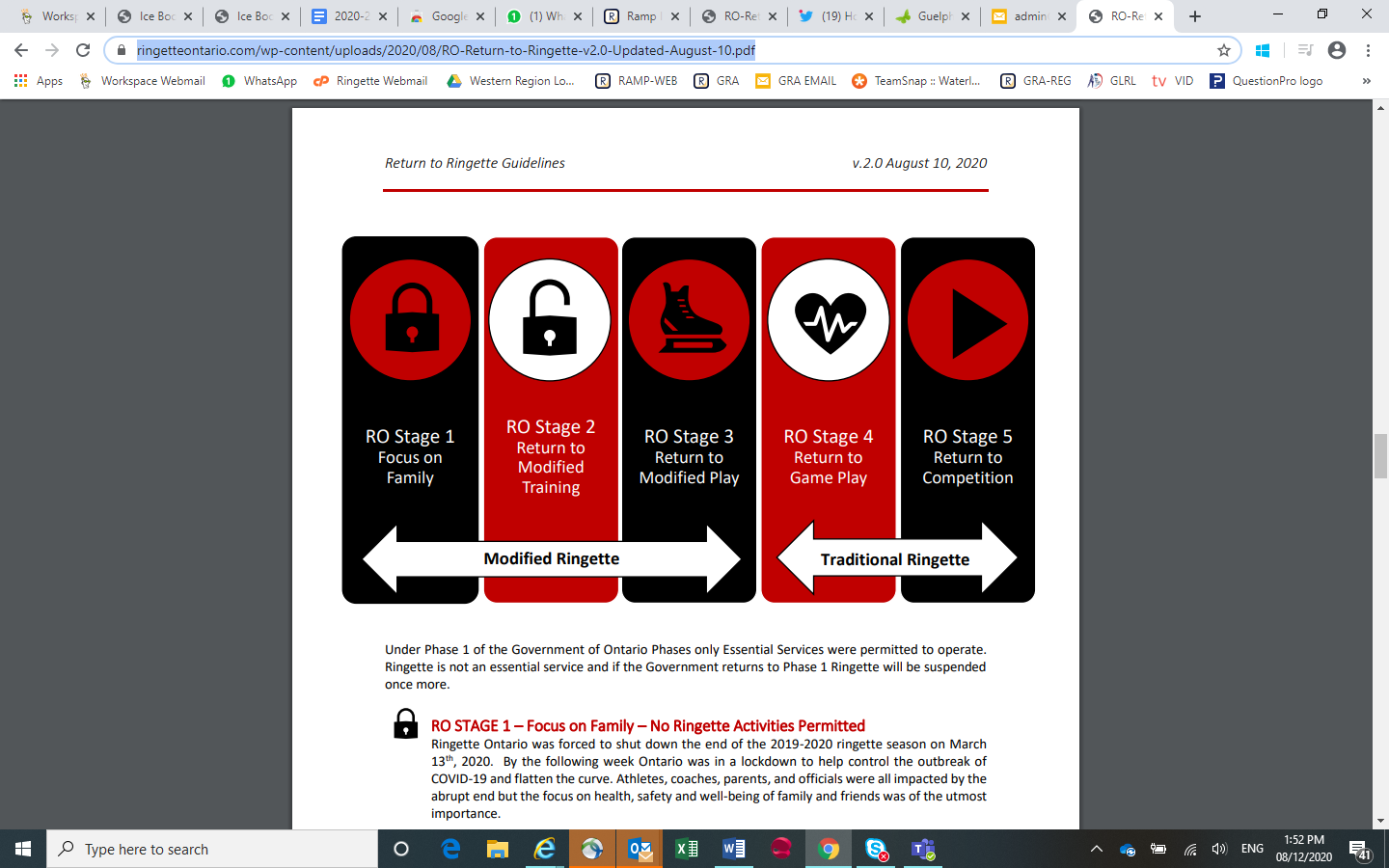
Ringette Canada’s Return to Ringette Guidelines can be found [HERE](https://www.ringette.ca/national-direction-for-return-to-ringette/).

# Ringette Ontario – Return to ringette Guidelines

Ringette Ontario (RO) has provided an update to their Return to Ringette (RTR) Guidelines (latest version released August 10, 2020) and can be found [HERE](https://ringetteontario.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/RO-Return-to-Ringette-v2.0-Updated-August-10.pdf).

***Based on RO’s RTR Guidelines, we are currently in STAGE 2.***

Ringette Ontario is following a graduated return to ringette. The process will allow for ringette activities to restart in accordance with the Provincial Health Authorities and Regional Health Guidelines. The progressions of returning to ringette could change throughout the season if restrictions by Provincial and Regional Health Authorities lessen or increase.



## STAGE 2 – Return to Modified Training

This progression allows ringette activities to begin once the association has completed their own Return to Ringette Activity package and had it approved by Ringette Ontario. GRA has submitted this package for approval.

This progression is focused on individual training and practicing but does allow participants to get back on the ice, if ice is available, under the facilities restrictions on number of participants and local health regulations. This progression should emphasize smaller groups and focuses on development of fundamental skills.

## Forming a Cohort/Mini League

Ringette Ontario requires that where physical distancing is not possible, such as during ringette competition and any training or practice that requires athletes to come within 3 metres (recommended for moderate to intense physical activity) of one another, cohorts must be used. Cohorts help mitigate the risk of widespread transmission by limiting the number of people that come into close contact with one another. This allows sports teams to return to action in a manner that most closely resembles regular practices and game play.

Even within the cohort, participants should physically distance whenever possible. It is recommended that organizations cover as little geographical area as possible while forming cohorts. Cohorts may be organized to form mini leagues to enable competition. Each mini league may consist of multiple teams, up to a maximum of 50 people. Game play is limited to the teams in each mini league.

GRA will be working to include cohort requirements in their 2020-21 ringette programming.

## Local Association Requirements

All Associations will need to designate a volunteer to be the COVID SAFETY LEADER (CSL). This individual will be the liaison with Ringette Ontario, the Facility and the Association Members who will monitor and track the following information:

* Confirm cohorts and add names to App (or tracking sheet) that they will use for attendance tracking and health screening purposes for all events
* Designated contact for the Association who is notified if a participant has COVID-19.
* Designated contact within the Association and within the League who will receive and communicate our updates on the COVID-19 to participants.

## Registration

* Players U19 and under must register in their local association.
* 18+ are permitted to register with an association outside of their local at their own risk of not being permitted on the ice outside of their public health district.
* Associations are not permitted to create official teams for competition until they reach Stage 4 and Team Formation for Sanctioned Tournament play is required.
* Associations must organize an attendance confirmation process for each session. This list should include all participations, coaches, other on-ice helpers, and the parent/guardian that attended.
* All participants must confirm a minimum of 48 hours prior with their Coach if they will be attending an event.
  + Use of RAMP team scheduling software will be used by GRA in the 2020-21 to meet this requirement.
* It is recommended that administrators change any settings in their team scheduling software program so no changes to attendance may be made less than 48 hours prior to the start time of each event.

# CITY OF GUELPH ARENA FACILITY COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS

## Allocation of City Facilities

Historical allocations may not be maintained at this time. Any changes made to facility use or schedule will not impact the historical consideration for the 2021/22 season. Facilities will be allocated using the following priorities

1. City Recreation programming
2. Existing Youth community group rentals
3. Existing Adult community groups rentals
4. Out of City organizations

Special Events and Tournaments are not permitted for the 2020/21 season.

## COVID-19 Facility Rental Protocols for City of Guelph Arenas

* Physical distancing is required at all times.
* Screening of all individuals entering the City facility is the responsibility of GRA. If anyone in participant group is feeling ill, the City requires that they should not come to the site or enter the facility.
  + The City strongly encourages all participants to use the Ontario Self-Assessment online screening tool at https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/
* There will be a maximum of 22 participants and a maximum of 2 instructors per rental (max 24 participants).
* Face coverings are required for anyone who goes to a City facility and can be removed prior to stepping on ice.
* All rentals will be 50 minutes in length.

## Arrival at the City of Guelph Facility

* Participants are not to arrive at the facility more than 15 minutes before their start time and are to line up outside the facility. Groups will be let in 10 minutes prior to the ice start time.
* Once the complete group assigned to the ice time has arrived, the instructors are to call the posted number per facility and a City Staff will open the door to let the group in. It is requested that participants do not call until all members of the group are present.
* In an effort to maintain physical distancing, please minimize the amount of personal belongings including hockey bags and come to the arena dressed for play as much as possible. Your equipment must fit in the physically distanced space you are provided
* Participants MUST wear a face covering until they put on their helmet to begin training on the ice.
* Change rooms will be available but participants are required to wear a mask and must continue to be physically distanced in the changeroom as marked. There will only be allowed 8 participants per changeroom at Victoria Arena and West End Recreation Centre. Changerooms will be sanitized every 2 hours – touch points more frequently.
* **No spectators will be permitted in the building,** although in the case of children, one parent can accompany child during the rental and must be wearing a mask and stay physically distanced. A designated standing/sitting area will be identified for that parent.

## Equipment Requirements

* Water fountains and drinking stations will not be available for use
* No equipment will be provided by the facility; this includes rings, training aids, cones, ice jugs, water jugs, first aid equipment or other training aids
* Arena divider boards will not be used to separate the ice surface
* Two nets will be provided only

## While in the Facility

* Face masks can be removed to participate on the ice but must be put back on to exit the facility.
* All personal belongings (i.e. shoes, water bottle, hat) will be kept at the participant’s designated spot in their changeroom.
* Participants should remain on the ice, if they need a break they should return to and sit on their designated chair.
* Players benches will be marked for physical distancing requirements and will have limited space.
* Except for player water bottles, please do not bring any outside food or beverages.
* No spitting allowed in the facility or outside areas.

## Exiting the Facility

* Follow all signage posted inside and outside of the facility. Participants must depart within 10 minutes of the completion of your ice time.
* There will be a designated exit directly from the arena, that door should be the only door used to exit the facility.
* All participants will need to exit the building prior to the next group entering the facility.
* Once participants have cleared the arena, staff will use the remaining time between rentals to clean and disinfect high touch points and the areas that have been accessed.

# University of Guelph ARENA Facilities COVID-19 Requirements

***\*REQUIREMENTS WILL BE FINALIZED AND UPDATED BY U of G ON SEPT 4, 2020.\****

## 1. Do not enter the facility if:

* You have travelled outside Ontario in the last 14 days.
* You have symptoms of COVID-19 or are feeling unwell.
* Someone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms in the past 14 days.
* If anyone in your household has been exposed to someone who has or is recovering from COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

## 2. Maximum numbers on each ice surface:

* It is anticipated that there will be a maximum of 22-24 participants total allowed per group which includes players, goalie, coach, etc.
* No spectators may be permitted at the facility, other than up to one accompanying parent, guardian or other adult for each athlete under the age of 18.
  + All guardians may be allowed into the ice surface area and must remain standing, if able, at respective athlete station, maintain a physical distance of 2m from each other, and **MUST** always have a face covering on while in attendance.

## 3. Parking Lot:

* Players are not permitted to get dressed in the parking lot.
* Players **MUST** wear a face covering until they begin training on the ice.
* Everyone must follow physical distancing rules in the parking lot the same as at the arena.
* No loitering at arena is permitted during booked times by parents/guardians who are waiting for their child. If waiting, you must remain in your car.
* Please bring your own hand sanitizer or use the hand sanitizer provided near the “bench” areas.

## 4. Equipment Requirements:

* Dressing rooms will be available but distanced with a maximum number of participants to maintain physical distancing requirements.
* In an effort to maintain physical distancing, please minimize the number of personal belongings including hockey bags and come to the arena dressed for play as much as possible. Your equipment must fit in the physically distanced space you are provided.
* Arrive with your water bottle filled already. Facility users will not be permitted to use the washroom to fill their water bottle. Water fountains and drinking stations will not be available for use.
* Ensure your water bottle is clearly marked with your name.
* Arena divider boards will not be used to separate the ice surfaces.
* No equipment will be provided; this includes rings, training aids, cones, ice jugs, water jugs, first aid equipment or other training aids

## 5. Arrival & Departure:

* Follow all signage posted inside and outside of the facility.
* You may arrive 10 minutes prior to your ice time and you must depart within 5 minutes of the completion of your ice time. Facility users will only be granted access to the facility by a designated U of G staff greeter 10 minutes before their rental time. Waiting outside of the facility is not permitted. Users must wait in their vehicles.
* Anyone entering the facility is required to wear a face covering. Face coverings are required for anyone who comes to campus when physical distance can’t be maintained or predicted. This includes indoors and outdoors.
* Please bring your own hand sanitizer or use the hand sanitizer provided throughout the facility.
* Except for player water bottles, please do not bring any outside food or beverages.
* Facility users using the Red rink will enter through the doors clearly marked “Red Rink Entrance” (sliding doors), Gold Rink users will enter through the doors clearly marked “Gold Rink Entrance” (non-sliding doors).
* Abide by the 2m physical distancing rule while entering/exiting the facility.
* The U of G will not permit people from coming/going in and out of the building during your rental.
* Once the incoming rental group has left the lobby the U of G greeter staff will sanitize the stations and entrance doors prior to the arrival of the next group.

## 6. While You are at the U of G Facility:

* Always abide by the 2m physical distancing rule.
* Limit use of the washrooms to emergencies only.
* Face coverings are required for anyone who comes to campus when physical distance can’t be maintained or predicted. This includes indoors and outdoors.
* Read the signs that are posted and follow the directions.
* We will not process registrations or bookings in-person. We will coordinate via phone/email only or you may register/book online.

## 7. While You are on the Ice:

* You must practice physical distancing while entering/exiting the ice surface and during your time on the ice.
* There will be no official game play permitted (scrimmages are allowed). If we witness this, you will be asked to leave the surface and exit with no refund or credit and all future bookings may be cancelled.
* **NO SPITTING ALLOWED IN THE FACILITY OR OUTSIDE AREAS.**

## 8. What is Provided:

* Two nets will be provided.
* Everyone on the ice is required to have at least skates, gloves, and helmet on.