



8 September 2021

Pennie Pokiak
Hay River Minor Hockey Association
PO Box 4589 Hay River NT X0E 1G3

Dear Pennie Pokiak:

Regarding Formal Approval for Minor Hockey in Hay River

Chief Public Health Officer Approval to allow the Hay River Minor Hockey Association to implement an adjusted return to play for minor recreational hockey programs in Hay River following the mitigation plans that they have submitted, and the below directions provided (*Public Health Order – COVID-19 – Gatherings Order – Relaxing Restrictions, effective June 29, 2021* Subparagraph 2 (j))

WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer may take certain actions including issuing directions or orders for the purpose of protecting the public health under the authority of the *Public Health Act, S.N.W.T. 2007, c.17, I, Dr. Kami Kandola, as Chief Public Health Officer of the Northwest Territories have issued the Public Health Order – COVID-19 – Gatherings Order – Relaxing Restrictions, effective June 29, 2021*

This **Exceptional Circumstances** approval is issued in accordance with subparagraph 4 of the above-mentioned Order. This approval allows the applicant to offer modified hockey programs in Hay River following their approved application to vary and guidelines as recommended below.

Minor hockey may proceed with a maximum of 50 participants on ice and 100 persons in the spectator areas (distanced by household group). Minor hockey may proceed with a maximum of 50 participants including players, officials, coaches and employees.

During the duration of the season the applicant will ensure teams are aware of these requirements:

- As per modified Return to Play Phase 5 of the return to play document and recommended modified rules to reduce exposure. Encourage all players and participants to be vaccinated.
- Ensure staff and players know the [symptoms for COVID-19](#) and they remain at home if they have those symptoms.
- Players and staff are provided information regarding COVID-19, how to monitor for symptoms and when to stay home if they are symptomatic and how to access medical care for assessment and possible testing for COVID-19.

.../2

- Ensure players and staff do not attend practice while in required self-isolation (travel or medically directed).
- Complete screening for players/referees/on ice participants for COVID-19 – symptoms, travel, and self-isolation questionnaires. If a player has symptoms, they should follow public health and medical directions.
- Recommend providing a waiver for players to sign that identifies the risks and that they will not attend practice if they are isolating or have symptoms.
- Regular hand washing and access to alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be maintained to ensure frequent hand washing.
- Adherence to appropriate public health mitigations is required. These include physical distancing and use of non-medical masks when not on the ice/bench, physical distancing must be maintained on the bench between players and coach.
- Maintain physical distancing on ice and on benches.
- Stagger arrival times and use of change rooms/ changing areas to prevent crowding
- Change rooms can be used, but capacity must be reduced to maximum number of persons that can safely distance. All persons must be 2 m from others; non-medical masks must be worn in this area.
- Minimize communal settings (i.e. limiting seating, blocking off areas).
- Players/staff minimize contact and congregation opportunities with no socializing before/after practice.
- Avoid physical contact (no handshakes, physical greetings, hugs, no body checking).
- Spectators are permitted with physical distancing, screening for Covid-19 symptoms, travel, self-isolation questionnaire along with contact information (name and phone number) being kept for contact tracing should it be needed
- No communal/shared food, condiments (i.e. buffet style).
- Players to provide their own labeled water bottles and not share.
- No sharing of personal items (food, clothing, equipment).

If you require any additional information, please contact Protect NWT toll-free at 1-833-378-8297 or by email at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm MT.

Sincerely,



Kami Kandola, MD, MPH, CCFP, FCFP,
ACBOM, DTM&H, ABPM
Chief Public Health Officer

By email

ppokiak@ntpc.com