



# ***BLUES***

## ***SUNSHINE COAST***

**2020-2021**

**HOME ICE  
PROTOCOL**



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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2020-2021 hockey season! Although it may look different from every other season to date, we are trying to create some semblance of normalcy to ensure the best hockey program possible is provided for our youth.

By following health and safety protocols, defined by our Public Health Authority and our Municipality, we can mitigate our risk and ensure the game will go on!

## BEFORE YOU ARRIVE: ASSESS YOUR SITUATION

**VISITORS EXHIBITING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED INTO THE FACILITY:**

- **FEVER (a temperature of 37.8C or higher)**
- **Cough**
  1. **Shortness of breath**
  2. **Runny nose, sneezing or nasal congestion (not related to other known causes such as seasonal allergies etc.)**
  3. **Sore throat**
  4. **Difficulty swallowing**
  5. **Lost sense of taste or smell**

If you think you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 you can try this quick, online self-assessment tool: <https://bc.thrive.health/>

**VISITORS THAT ANSWER YES TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED INTO THE FACILITY:**

- **Have you or someone in your household travelled outside of Canada or had close contact with anyone that has travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days?**  
Yes ☐ No ☐
- **Have you had close contact in the past 14 days with anyone with a new cough, fever or difficulty breathing or a confirmed case of COVID-19?**  
Yes ☐ No ☐



## FACILITY CLEANING & DISENFECTING MEASURES

Facility staff will:

- Ensure the washrooms are deep cleaned twice a day and the dressing rooms are sanitized after each use, as per Vancouver Coastal Health Guidelines.
- Frequently disinfect all high touch areas
- Ensure Hand sanitizing stations are placed strategically throughout the Facility

Following each session there is a 30-minute break/buffer between sessions. This 30 minute buffer is designed to help avoid occupant.

## USER GROUP CLEANING PROTOCOLS

### **Score Keeper and Timekeeper:**

- Wipe timekeeper desk, score clock console, music system, both penalty box benches and all door handles.

### **Ambassador:**

- Ensure players benches, top of boards, water bottle area, mask hanging glass, door and gate hardware are disinfected with cleaning supplies provided by the SCR D

## FACILITY CAPACITY

The maximum capacity at any time within the facility is 50 people. This includes: players, team officials, score and time keepers, on-ice officials and ambassadors.

### **Maximum participants:**

- **17 players including goalies per team**
- **4 team officials per team (Includes Coach, Assistant Coaches, Safety and Manager)**
- **2 Facility Ambassadors (provided by the home team)**
- **3 On-Ice Officials**
- **2 Score Box Officials (provided by the home team)**
- **No Spectators are permitted at this time**

## AMBASSADOR ROLE

As the host team, we are responsible to ensure all facility guidelines and expectations are being followed. To assist with this role, we will assign two ambassadors from the home team.

- Ambassador for the home team: This person will ensure the home team is following facility protocols, assist with traffic flow and ensure players benches, top of boards, water bottle area, mask hanging glass, door and gate hardware are disinfected with cleaning supplies provided by the SCRD.
- Ambassador for the visiting team: This person will greet the visiting team upon arrival, request verification of completed health checks from all participants entering the facility, ensure the visiting team is following facility protocols, assist with traffic flow and ensure players benches, top of boards, water bottle area, mask hanging glass, door and gate hardware are disinfected with cleaning supplies provided by the SCRD.

### **Both the home team ambassador and the visiting team ambassador will:**

#### Before game

- Enter facility 20 minutes prior to ice time
- Don face covering while waiting outside in the staging area and at all times inside the facility.
- Use hand sanitizer upon entrance into the facility.
- Greet respective team manager, ensure they are wearing a face covering and sanitize their hands upon arrival, confirm health checks
- Greet respective team players and officials, ensure they are wearing a face covering and sanitize their hands upon arrival, direct players to their assigned dressing room
- Secure West door after final participant enters

#### After game

- Direct team to their assigned dressing room
- Sanitize players benches, top of boards, water bottle area, mask hanging glass, door and gate hardware are disinfected with cleaning supplies provided by the SCRD.
- Direct players and officials to the East door to exit the facility
- Once the facility has been emptied, open the West door for incoming ambassador(s)

## FACE COVERING PROTOCOL

- **Face coverings must be worn by all players and team officials outside the facility in the staging area and at all times inside the facility.**
- Face coverings **MUST** be worn by players at ALL times while outside the field of play:
  - Players are not permitted to remove their face coverings until after they enter the player's bench.
  - Players must don their face coverings before exiting the player bench following the completion of the game.
- Face coverings **MUST** be worn by coaches and bench staff at all times while on the players bench.
- Scorekeeper box attendants must wear a face covering at all times while inside the facility.

## HOCKEY CANADA SAFETY PERSON

Each team shall have a Hockey Canada Safety Person (HCSP) listed on their official roster. The focus of this role is on injury prevention and safety through risk management.

**Before the Game:** The HCSP will assist players with the removal of the face covering if needed.

**After the Game:** The HCSP will assist players to redon their face coverings.

## TIMEKEEPER AND SCOREKEEPER

The Home Team shall pre-assign a scorekeeper, timekeeper and penalty box supervisor for every home game.

Assignees shall arrive 15 minutes prior to the ice time, sanitize their hands upon entrance and wear a face covering at all times while in the building. Following completion of the game, the scorekeeper and timekeeper will sanitize the scoreboard, penalty benches and all door handles.



## ON-ICE OFFICIALS

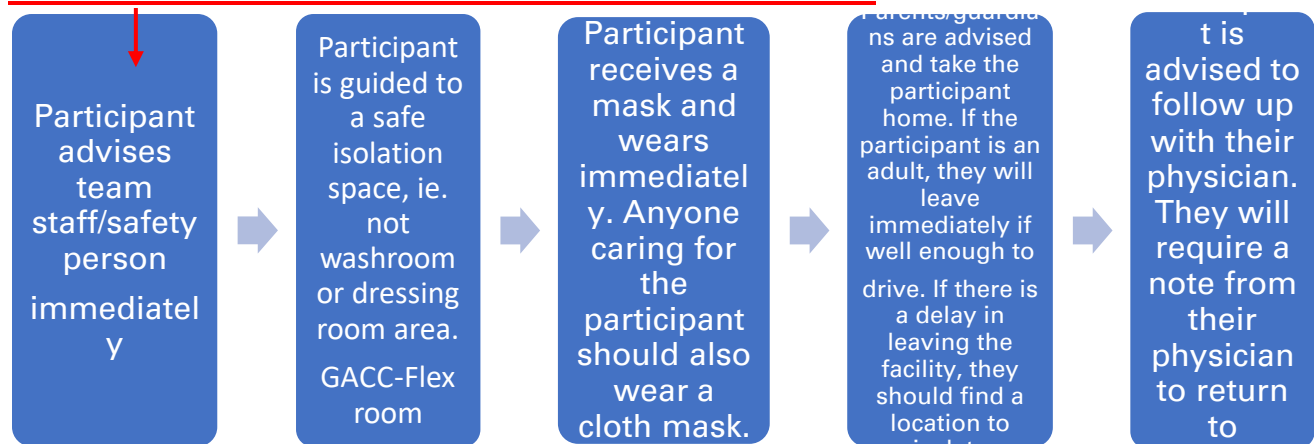
On-Ice Officials shall enter the facility 15 minutes prior to the game time.

## SHOULD A PARTICIPANT BECOME ILL WHILE AT THE FACILITY

**Note that the procedure below applies to non-injury related illness and all other return to play guidelines specific to injuries still apply.**

The following are recommended guidelines for team staff, parents and guardians for participants who are sick or showing symptoms of COVID-19. It is important to remember that public health authority guidelines and advice from physicians must be followed in any situation where a participant is sick.

### PARTICIPANT FEELS ILL- AT THE FACILITY/ACTIVITY





## APPENDIX: BC HOCKEY: POINTS OF FOCUS

### Focus #1: Altercations

Direction for Coaches and Players:

1. During play, players are permitted to make physical contact (e.g. puck battles and legal body contact or body checking) as regularly prescribed within the playing rules.
2. Coaches must communicate the importance of physical distance (2-metres) after the whistle.
3. Upon a stoppage of play, when no altercation has occurred, Players are expected to immediately physically distance from opponents & proceed to one of the following locations:
  - a) proceed immediately to the ensuing face-off location or
  - b) proceed immediately to their players' bench.
4. When an altercation has occurred, all players not involved must:
  - a) proceed immediately to their players' bench.
  - b) If the altercation occurs in front of the players' bench, the players must immediately proceed to their defending zone.
5. Should any player not comply to proceeding to their players' bench during an altercation (as outlined in #4 above), the Referee shall:
  - a) Deliver a single warning to the coach that subsequent violations will result in a misconduct.
  - b) If the altercation is deemed to be a fight, no warning will be issued and a Misconduct will be assessed immediately [Rule 6.7 (f)].
6. Should a goal be scored, players will be permitted to celebrate briefly granted there is no altercation, before proceeding to the players' bench or centre ice (ensuing face-off).

### Focus #2: Interference / Protection of the Goaltender

With an understanding that many altercations occur on stoppages at the net, there will be a heightened emphasis on protection of the during and after the play.

Hockey Canada Rule 7.3 (b) enhancements: Unless the puck is already in the goal crease area, a player of the attacking team may not stand in the goal crease. For a violation of this aspect of the rule the Referee shall stop play unless the defending team is in possession and the ensuing face-off will take place in the neutral zone for a 'crease violation'. It is important that the Referee immediately signal the violation by pointing to the offending player and then to the neutral zone to identify the face-off location. If the puck should enter the net while such conditions prevail the goal shall not be allowed.

If a player of the attacking team has been physically interfered with by the actions of any defending player so as to cause them to be in the goal crease and the puck should enter the net while the player so interfered with is still in the goal crease, the goal shall be allowed. Under these circumstances when a





goal is not scored but a defending player causes an attacking player to enter the goal crease, the attacking player will be provided a reasonable opportunity to vacate the crease without an immediate stoppage in play. At the discretion of the Referee, upon a reasonable opportunity for the attacking player to vacate the crease, should that attacking player not do so then the Referee shall stop play and the ensuing face-off will take place in the neutral zone. Upon a stoppage of play, should any attacking player enter the goal crease on their own accord, the Referee must warn the team that subsequent violation(s) will result in a minor penalty (USC). Upon the above warning, the ensuing face-off for this first violation will take place in the neutral zone. Should subsequent violation(s) occur, a minor penalty (USC) shall be assessed. In this case that a penalty is assessed the face-off shall take place according to Rule 4.13 (a).

### Focus #3: Face-off Procedure

Face-offs are an important duty that a Linesperson have during a game. This season additional precautions will be taken to minimize official proximity to participants during the face-offs.

1. Officials must immediately identify the face-off location upon a stoppage of play.
2. Linespeople will drop the puck for all face-offs, Referees will no longer drop the puck.
3. The Linesperson that retrieves the puck will drop the puck. There will be no hand-offs.
4. Should the goaltender freeze the puck for a stoppage, the goaltender shall place the puck on the ice just outside the goal crease (to allow for 2-metres physical distance).
5. Should a goal be scored, the goaltender may temporarily leave their crease to allow the official to retrieve the puck or place the puck just outside the crease.
6. A Linesperson must position themselves halfway between the hash marks and the face-off restraining lines prior to the whistle to end the line change procedure. It is from this position that they must don their mask / face covering, covering their nose and mouth prior to approaching the face-off dot.
7. The Referee will now be responsible for blowing the whistle and pointing to the Linesperson dropping the puck at the end of the line change procedure.
8. Once the whistle has blown the centers must set in a stationary manner for the face-off.
9. Face-off ejections will be signaled by an arm signal by the front Linesperson, not a whistle. The back Linesperson may use their whistle to signal an ejection for violations.
10. Officials must avoid a significant crouch or presenting the puck. They should stay upright with a slight knee bend, while keeping as safe a distance from the centres as possible.
11. Upon dropping the puck, the Linesperson should immediately move to a position that reestablishes 2 metres physical distance from all participants. In the case of the end zone, they should exit as soon as it is safe to do so. The Linesperson may remove their mask / face covering to blow the whistle or once they have fully established a safe position.



## Focus # 4: Spitting

The act of spitting directly at any participant is addressed under Rule 9.7 in which a Match penalty is applied. In the current COVID-19 environment, Hockey Canada encourages coaches to promote that participants refrain from spitting at any time during activity. This would also include spitting water on the ice or within the bench area. The act of spitting may increase the possibility of propelling droplets into the air and potentially exposes participants to a potential virus.

Officials are asked to adhere to the following progression when it comes to spitting on the ice:

1. If an official sees a player spit or spit water onto the ice surface, they shall notify that player's head coach at the next stoppage of play. Coaches will be advised to address such instances with their entire team immediately, this will be considered a 'warning'.
2. If a team is notified a second time within a game (2nd 'warning') and a there is a third (3rd) occurrence, officials are asked to adhere to the following penalty progression.
  - a) Occurrence 1 & 2 are warnings to the head coach
  - b) 3rd occurrences result in a USC penalty under Rule 9.2 (a)
  - c) Further occurrences (4th or subsequent) result in a Misconduct & report to the league.

## Focus #5: Respect

Under the current environment of COVID-19, Hockey Canada's primary objective is to provide a safe playing environment for all participants as the game returns for the 2020-21 season. It is imperative that all participants respect the rules of the game and any measures that may be adopted by Hockey Canada and/or Members (e.g. BC Hockey) to create a safe environment.

Officials are directed to utilize appropriate playing rules / penalties that may be required to address any issues of disrespect that may occur during the course of a game (Rule 9.2).

## Focus #6: Player Safety and Standard of Play

Above and beyond the focuses already outlined in this document, officials are expected to maintain previously established standards of play in many areas of play, particularly:

1. Head Contact
2. Checking from Behind
3. Restraining Fouls
4. Stick Infractions
5. Harassment of Officials