**Windermere Valley Minor Hockey**

**COVID‐19 Return to Play Plan 2020**

\*Amended September 22, 2020

The document is intended to be in compliance with the guidelines set out by viaSport BC, Hockey Canada, BC Hockey, the Eddie Mountain Memorial Arena (EMMA), and the Canal Flats Arena. We will continue to evaluate any changes set out by the EMMA and these governing bodies and work through each part of our plan accordingly as restrictions are lifted.

The health and safety of our participants and their families, the staff of the EMMA and Canal Flats Arena, and the communities in which our association operates will be at the forefront of all programming offered by the WVMHA.

The WVMHA will Please note that each part of WVMHA Return to Play Plan is subject to change according to EMMA and CFA requirements, our governing bodies, or the Interior Health Authority.

The use of the word participants in this document refers to players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators.

**Communications Officers**

The WVMHA has two Communications Officers:

Gregg Walker – Gregg.walker@canada.ca

Jessica Gramlich – jessicajenkins14@hotmail.com

Gregg and Jessica will be our point of contacts for any questions, updates or concerns regarding our Return to Play Plan. They will also be responsible for updating our coaches and managers on their responsibilities during each phase of our plan.

**Reporting and Compliance**

WVMHA is committed to ensuring the following safety procedures and guidelines are followed. The WVMHA will review and evaluate these procedures and guidelines in consultation with our governing bodies, the EMMA, the Canal Flats Arena, and the Interior Health Authority.

**Programming will be delivered within guidelines for the following restrictions:**

* Physical Distancing
* Gatherings and Group Sizes
* Travel

**Programming will be delivered within guidelines for the following enhanced protocols:**

* Increased Hygiene Measures
* Symptom Screening (When Required)

**Programming will be delivered withing guidelines regarding participant protocols:**

* Small Group Activities, Phasing into Larger Group Activities
* No Spectators, Phasing into Limited Spectators

**Programming will be delivered within guidelines regarding activity and competition protocols:**

* Fundamental Movement and Skills, Phasing into Expansion of Training Activities
* Modified Training Activities and Drills, Phasing into Expansion of Training Activities
* No Contact Between Participants During Activities (When Applicable)
* Modified Play Introduced (When Applicable)
* Minimal Shared Equipment & Procedures for Disinfecting

**Safety Procedures and Hygiene**

**Safety**

* Dressing rooms will only be used if, and when, the facilities allow
* Social distancing markers will be followed in facilities
* Physical distancing will be practiced to the best of our ability on and off of the ice
* Benches will only be used if, and when, the facilities allow
* Assumption of Risk Waiver will need to be signed by participants prior to participation through the registration process.
* Prior to attending events, all participants will need to check off on TeamSnap that they plan on attending. Any parents, guardians or family members not on TeamSnap will need to check in with the Spectator Supervisor and sign in at the front door and provide their name, email, and phone number.
* Upon arrival, participants (including any parents, coaches, managers, or players) will all need to answer the pre-screening health check questions on TeamSnap or paper format. Participants will be asked to leave immediately if they fail to do so.

Participants answering yes to any of the screening questions will not be able to attend the event and must provide a doctor’s note clearing them to return, or evidence of a negative COVID test. Team managers and coaches must notify Gregg Walker or Jessica Gramlich of any failed tests and provide Gregg and Jessica with evidence before returning to hockey events.

All attendance and health information provided to TeamSnap will be electronically held for 90 days and submitted to the arena weekly to be destroyed after 30 days.

**Hygiene**

* Participants will only enter and exit through marked doors as per the facilities direction
* Participants will avoid frequently entering and exiting the facility
* Absolutely no spitting on the floors, benches or the ice surface will be permitted
* Coughing or sneezing will be done into a tissue or the bend of the arm, not the hand
* Participants will be encouraged to avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
* All participants must have their own water bottles with their name labelled on the bottle and there will be absolutely no sharing
* Participants will be encouraged to was their equipment after each session

**Signs of Sickness**

* Any participant exhibiting signs or symptoms of any illness before an activity, should not attend
* Participants must notify their team manager immediately if they are experience any symptoms of COVID-19
* Any participant exhibiting signs or symptoms of any illness during their participation should leave immediately. Players will be immediately escorted by their coaches to the isolation room in the arena.
* Any participant travelling outside of Canada must not attend any activities for a minimum of 14 days upon returning to Canada
* WVMHA will be following Hockey Canada’s recommended Safety Guidelines regarding illness.
* Link to BC COVID‐19 Self‐Assessment Tool: <https://bc.thrive.health/>

**WVMHA Return to Play Plan**

**Phase 1 – Start of the Season**

Adheres to:

* Hockey Canada’s Return to Ice Phase
* viaSport’s Transitions Measures Phase

**Entering the Facility**

* Participants enter the facility 15 minutes before ice time, no sooner
* Participants will enter the arena through the main entrance only
* Players will come fully dressed
* Participants will use benches and chairs in the lobby to put on their skates, helmets, and gloves
* Participants will have their own filled water bottles with their name on the bottle
* There will be no dressing rooms
* WVMHA representatives will screen and check in all participants
* Spectators will be limited to 2 parents and the manager and/or team designated screener and attendance recorder

**During Activity**

* Participants on the ice will be limited to 28, including coaches and players
* Only the main public bathrooms in the lobby will be open
* Bench use will be as per the arena guidelines
* The 2 parent spectators will only be allowed to remain in the designated viewing area as set out by the arena
* On ice activities will adhere to social distancing measures as much as possible
* On ice activities will focus on individual skill development and modified games
* Coaches will pick up the pucks
* Coaches will bring any training equipment with them to the arena and take them out of the arena after use

**Exiting the Facility**

* All participants will have 15 minutes to leave the arena after their ice time
* There will be no showers
* All participants will leave the arena through the designated exit doors as marked by the facility

**WVMHA Return to Play Plan**

**Phase 2 – September 28, 2020**

**Adheres to:**

* Hockey Canada’s Return to Play Phase
* viaSport’s Progressively Loosen Phase 3
* EMMA Phase 3

**Entering the Facility Before Practices or Games**

* Participants enter the facility 15 minutes before their scheduled ice time
* Participants will be able to dress and undress at the arena, but should be mindful of the 15 minutes time frames before and after events
* All participants will wear masks at all times, with the exception of coaches and players when on the playing surface.
* Players and coaches will only enter the arena through the designated entrances as determined by their team’s dressing room assignments (see below)
* Parents, guardians, or family members will only enter the arena through the main entrance of the arena
* Parents, guardians, or family members will not be able to re-enter the arena if they leave once the event has started

**Designated Dressing Room/Arena Attendant**

* Each team will designate a coach, manager or parent as the Designated Dressing Room/Arena Attendant
* The designated person will be allowed to enter the arena through the main lobby door, 30 minutes before each practice
* The designated person does not have to be the same person for every event, but they must wear a mask at all times
* The arena staff will direct the designated person to their team’s entry door
* The designated person will remain at the entry door and only allow players and coaches into the arena 15 minutes prior to their ice time, no parents will be allowed to enter the arena through this door
* The designated person will also facilitate players and coaches leaving the arena within 15 minutes through the team’s entry door
* The designated person will ensure no food or beverages are brought into the arena
* Late arrivals will not be permitted and designated team doors will be locked upon the start of an event

**Spectator Supervisor**

* Each team will designate a manager or parent as the Designated Spectator Supervisor
* This designated person does not have to be the same person for every event
* The designated person will be allowed into the building 15 minutes prior to the event
* The designated person will be responsible for ensuring that no more than 50 people are in the arena at all times.
* The 50 people allowed in the arena includes, players, coaches, team staff, arena staff, parents, and officials
* It is recommended that the designated person only allows one parent or guardian per child on the ice in the building for viewing practices. No children or siblings are allowed at this time.
* For games, the visiting team players and coaches will need to be considered when determining how many parents or guardians are allowed into the building
* The designated person will ensure all parents or guardians wear masks at all times and remain in the main lobby viewing area
* The designated person will ensure that no parents or guardians enter the building until the event has started. No exceptions.
* The designated person will ensure no food or beverages are brought into the arena
* The designated person will ensure social distancing in the main lobby area is maintained and masks are worn at all times.
* The designated person will record the names, emails, and phone numbers of all parents or guardians attending events and forward the information to the Designated Dressing Room/Arena Attendant.
* All information collected will be forwarded to the arena weekly, to be held for 30 days for contact tracing.

**Dressing Room Use**

* Dressing rooms will be able to be used by players and coaches
* Dressing rooms will alternate by ice times. Dressing rooms 1, 6, and the officials’ room will be used for one practice and dressing rooms 3, 4, and 5 for alternating practices
* For games, one team will use rooms 3,4, and 5 and the other team will use rooms 1, 6 and the officials’ room
* Each dressing room will have a capacity as follows

Dressing Room 1 – 10 Dressing Room 3 - 10

Dressing Room 6 – 11 Dressing Room 4 - 10

Officials’ Room - 4 Dressing Room 5 – 6

* The officials’ room and dressing room 5 will be designated as female dressing rooms for mixed teams.
* Coaches must dress in the rooms with the players with the exception of male coaches of the U18 Female team and male coaches in the Officials’ Room or Dressing Room 5
* The two-deep rule must be adhered to at all times.
* There will no use of showers
* If there are not enough coaches at practices to adhere to the two-deep rule in all rooms, the Designated Dressing Room/Arena Supervisor will be asked to be in the room with one coach.

**Entering the Ice**

* Players will not line up in the hallways before their ice time.
* Players are to remain in the dressing room until the ice is ready to be used.
* Players and coaches will wear masks in the dressing rooms right up until the time they are to go onto the ice.

**Exiting the Ice**

* Players will go straight into the dressing rooms after their ice time.
* Players will wear masks immediately after returning to the dressing rooms.

**During Activity**

* Participants on the ice will be limited to 28, including coaches and players
* Bench use will be limited to 5 players and a coach until further direction from viaSport BC.
* Spectators will only be allowed to remain in the designated viewing area as set out by the arena
* On ice activities will expand into competitive drills and contact will be introduced
* Modified, regional games will be permitted subject to approval and direction from BC Hockey
* Participants will have their own filled water bottles with their name on the bottle
* Some equipment may be shared, WVMHA will be responsible for sanitizing the equipment

**Cohort Formations**

* WVMHA will be forming cohorts amongst each level of play during this phase
* Cohorts groups form when social distancing guidelines are broken during hockey activities
* Each team will be forming a cohort group with up to 3 other teams from our association, the East Kootenay District, or outside of our district (upon approval).
* Once cohort groups are formed, participants will not be permitted to break social distancing guidelines during hockey activities outside of their cohort, without having to remain outside of their cohort for up to 14 days.
* Participants who are deemed to have broken social distancing guidelines in another cohort, are permitted to participate with their original cohort during the 14-day period as long as the group only performs Phase 2 viaSport hockey activities only.
* Activities such as practices, hockey schools, camps, or skills sessions are permitted for participants of a cohort, without breaking their cohort, as long as they are Phase 2 viaSport hockey activities only.

**Exiting the Facility**

* All participants will have 15 minutes to leave the arena after their ice time, subject to capacity restrictions in the facility
* Players and coaches will exit the arena 15 minutes after their ice time.
* Players and coaches will only exit the building through their designated doors.
* All spectators will exit the building through the door by the vending machines immediately after the event.

**WVMHA Return to Play Plan**

**Phase 3 – TDB**

Adheres to:

* Hockey Canada’s Return to Competition Phase
* viaSport’s New Normal Phase

**Hockey returns to normal, or close to it!**