

Waterford Hockey Club Return to Play Guidelines for Away Team Matches

Spectators

Spectators will be limited to the number allowed by NPHEAT advice applicable at the time of the fixture. Spectators should follow the direction of the COVID Supervisors and enter/leave the spectating area through the designated access/exit routes. Spectators are only admitted to the rugby pitch side of Newtown Terrace end and **NOT** at the school end or the dugout side of pitch. All spectators should follow social distancing guideline. Spectators are required to provide their name and contact details to the COVID supervisor on duty when attending the grounds.

Pre-match

- All Match Officials/players/coaches/participants will be COVID-19 screened prior to entering the pitch on the day of the scheduled match. All participants will be asked to read COVID 19 statement prior to entering the playing area and by walking onto the pitch are confirming that they are not displaying any of the symptoms or have not travelled to countries subject to public health guidelines on self-isolation.

Away Team Responsibilities

- All protocol in Hockey Ireland's 'Return to Play' document must be adhered to including public health guidelines.
- The away team must submit a list of names of those travelling to the match to the home team's Fixtures representative by email 24 hours prior to travelling to the match. This should include any players, coaches, managers, umpires and any parents that may travel with an underage player. Should the list need to be updated on the day of scheduled match, the changes should be communicated to the COVID supervisor on duty on arrival at the grounds and prior to the match. All personnel should undergo the standard COVID-19 health checks before travelling to match.
- If the away team is bringing their own umpire then they must send contact details so that home club's fixtures Secretary can contact them no less than 24 hours prior to the start of the match, to outline the COVID-19 policies of the club and to ensure that they are symptom free.
- The away team must confirm a time for when their team may arrive at the facility.
- The away team should be aware of the home club's Covid-19 system prior to travelling. This may include policies around entry and exit points to the facility, use of toilets, locations of hand sanitiser stations, etc.

Match Card

- The Home team captain or coach should fill in the match card as much as possible before coming to the match and provide a clipboard for the match card.
- The Away team captain or coach must fill in their team on the match card before the match using their own pen.
- Umpires must use their own pen to update match card with goals, cards etc.
- After the match the umpires and either coach or captain from both the Home and Away team must sign the match card with their own pen – NO SHARING.

Player & Match Guidelines

- All match personnel (players, coaches, umpires, etc.) should follow social distancing guidelines while waiting for the pitch to fully clear from any previous activity.
- Teams must not complete line-ups, handshakes/high-fives and huddles prior to the start of the match, or before the start of each quarter.
- Ball patrol should not be used for any matches.
- Players should avoid coming within 2 meters of an umpire or technical official, if players refuse to do so they will be issued with a personal penalty.
- Players are discouraged from celebrating goals as a group.
- During penalty corners, defenders must have their own kit, clearly marked defensive equipment. Equipment cannot be shared with team members. Umpires will manage the time needed to allow the players to put on their own equipment.
- Players must not spit or clear their nose on the field of play. If observed by the umpire, they will issue a green card to the offending player, repeated offence will result in upgrading in the sanction.
- Players must not deliberately cough in the face of any other player, umpire, official, ball patrol or spectator. A red card will be issued for this offence, if witnessed by officials.
- When an injury occurs that requires attention, an agreed member of the team of the injured player should attend to the player. Standard first aid protocols apply.
- Both teams should supply managers and officials with their own equipment.

Travel to/from Club

- Anyone attending a club should, where possible, travel alone, or with a member of the same household.
- Match officials to arrive no more than 45 minutes prior to match commencing.
- Match officials must not physically greet anyone at any stage.
- Match officials should arrive ready to officiate, as there will be no access to changing rooms.

During Play

- All meetings must take place on pitch, adhering to social distancing, and must take no longer than 5 minutes.
- Ensure the umpire is the only one to touch the coin at the pre match coin toss.
- Umpires, where possible, should avoid situations that require them to be in close proximity to groups of players at once (e.g. penalty corner defence set-ups, player clashes).
- Umpires must not move or touch any players equipment with their hands.
- Umpires are recommended to sanitise their hands prior to and at the end of the game.

Post-game

- Umpires must not shake the hands of players, or each other, following the game.
- Umpires will vacate the technical area as quickly as possible once the match concludes to allow the next match to enter.
- Umpires, where possible, should shower at home. However, if essential, they may use the facilities on site if they are available but should ensure that this is done in a time efficient manner. All public health guidelines on the use of indoor facilities should be adhered to.

Umpires are responsible for the conduct of players, coaches etc., in accordance with the Rules of Hockey, within the playing area (the pitch and outer playing area) & COVID-19 measures within the field of play.

The COVID-19 Supervisor is responsible for the conduct of players, coaches etc., in respect of COVID-19 social distancing and compliance with the guidelines, outside of the pitch (this includes the outer playing area/benches).