

Waterford Hockey Club Return to Play Guidelines for Home Team Matches

Spectators

Spectators will be limited to the number allowed by NPHEAT advice applicable at the time of fixture. Spectators should follow the direction of COVID Supervisors and enter/leave the spectating area through the designate 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 guidelines. Spectators are required to provide their name and contact details to the COVID supervisor on duty when attending the grounds.

Pre-match

- The home club's fixtures Secretary should contact appointed umpires 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 umpires are symptom free.
- 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 guidance on self-isolation.

Home Club Responsibilities

- Ensure that a list of those travelling with the away team for the match is received 24 hours in advance of scheduled match and sent to COVID-19 Officer on receipt by email.
- Ensure list of players & support staff are sent to the home club's COVID-19 Officer 24 hours in advance of scheduled match. For officially appointed umpires and technical officials, these details will be available through the club's own Fixture's Secretary via the official umpires appointing system.
- Send pitch layout protocol to away team and umpires to ensure they know parking arrangements and point of entry and exit from the pitch and their designated area on the pitch side.
- Ensure that an arrival time for all travelling parties has been agreed and confirmed.
- Ensure the list of those travelling is correct when players and officials arrive at the club and any changes are given to the COVID Supervisor on duty at the ground. The COVID supervisor will inform the COVID Officer of any changes.
- A minimum of **three COVID Supervisors** must be present during the build-up phase of the match and remain at the club until the away team and match officials have departed after the match to ensure COVID-19 protocols are adhered to. **If the home club are unable to provide three COVID-19 Supervisors during this time, the match cannot take place.**
- Ensure that travelling parties have designated areas on the pitch to base themselves safely. This includes an area for umpires and match officials.
- Ensure that there is sufficient space for substitutes and coaching/management staff for each team to allow for social distancing when not playing and consider player safety (e.g. minimise the risk of a player being hit by a ball).
- Ensure an area is designated for suspended players for each team and allow for additional space should there be more than one player suspended at one time.

- Ensure that the club is following public health guidelines for numbers of people allowed inside the facility.
- Only **essential** match personnel (players/umpires/coaches etc.) are allowed inside the pitch in the lead up to and during matches.
- Dressing rooms and showers should only be made available if essential and current public health guidelines on the use of indoor facilities should always be strictly enforced. A detailed cleaning regime should be put in place by the home club.

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 clear fully 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.
- Only one parent/guardian should travel with younger match players where possible.
- 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.

- Match officials should refrain from touching the ball.
- 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 player's 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).