

Waterford Hockey Club Return to Play Guidelines for Match Umpires

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.

Pre-Match Preparation

- Umpires should follow public health guidelines when travelling to matches. For official umpiring appointments, all umpires must follow the directive issued by IHUA regarding travel to matches.
- Umpires must arrive on site in their match day clothes and practice social distancing upon arrival to the ground.
- Umpires should sanitise all equipment that will be used for the match.
- Each Umpire is responsible to bring their own equipment if required, i.e. whistle, cards, pen, coin, water bottle.
- Players must bring their own water bottle and must NEVER share.
- All of the above must be sanitised before and after the match.

Umpiring Guidelines

Pre-match

- The home club's appointed Fixtures Representative 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.
- For regional or local games that may not have officially appointed umpires, the home and away teams should include the name and contact details of their selected umpire within the team list.
- Individuals should not attend any matches if they display symptoms, have been in close contact with a confirmed case but have not been tested themselves, have recently been in an area that requires them to quarantine.
- Umpires should wait until all personnel from the previous match have left the field of play before entering.
- **IF THREE OF THE CLUB'S COVID-19 SUPERVISORS ARE NOT PRESENT THEN THE MATCH MUST NOT TAKE PLACE.**

Check in (registration) Process/Pre-Match

- Match Officials must check in with the COVID-19 Club Supervisor of the home team on arrival to the venue.
- Match Officials must sanitise their hands upon arrival at the venue.
- Match Officials must go immediately to the pitch post check-in.
- Arrive in match gear.
- Communicate plan for Pre-Match coin toss to players to allow them to plan for social distancing.
- Pre-match preparation with umpires should be done with social distancing in mind.

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**.

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.

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.

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).