



Ridge Meadows Minor Ball Hockey Association

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Return to Play / Covid-19 Safety Guidelines

As we continue to work through the current pandemic, we've drafted out our guidelines & procedures below for the upcoming Spring Ball Hockey season. This plan has been designed with current Via Sports Phase 2 and estimated Phase 3-Return to Play guidelines. It is important to note that these guidelines are subject to change and may be done so without much notice with any new information or updates provided to us from either the provincial government, Via Sport, Work Safe BC, or Ridge Meadows Minor Ball Hockey Association (RMMBHA) and its governing bodies.

The Canadian Ball Hockey Association, its leagues and RMMBHA will strive to provide a safe, fun, and fair environment for all participants during these unique times.

All players **MUST** print out, complete, and hand in to RMMBHA the new **CBHA - Informed Consent & Assumption of Risk** waiver. No players will be permitted to participate in any RMMBHA sanctioned event unless this form has been completed and received.

Board Executives, team coaches, team managers, and all volunteers acting on behalf of RMMBHA are to inform their families and players on making sure these guidelines are being followed.

Players, coaches or team managers with any symptoms, cannot attend any training sessions, game, or competition and will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days before they may return. No spectators will be allowed at games or practices at this time.

Along with this Return-to-Play plan, RMMBHA will also follow the COVID safety protocols and guidelines set out in West Coast Minor Ball Hockey Associations of BC Return-to-Play plan.

In the information noted below, the term PPE stands for personal protective equipment which is any device or appliance designed to be worn or held by an individual for protection against one or more health and safety hazards (ie: masks, face shields, etc.).

Building Entry & Exit / Change Rooms / Spectators

Each team's Coach and/or Team Manager will be required to ensure all steps below are followed for each team:

- All coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, officials, and players are required to wear appropriate PPE when entering or leaving a playing facility.
- All coaching staff are required to wear appropriate PPE when on a bench, or when assisting a team.
- Any volunteer offering to assist (ie: score/time keep, live stream, etc.) or manage a team, are required to wear appropriate PPE when on a bench, on the playing surface, or assisting a team.
- All teams will use "Team Snap" this season to keep their team organized because it offers a COVID health screening to be completed prior to any scheduled team event.
- Players must complete the "Team Snap" health check prior to entering a building or attending a training session even if a session is being held outside.
 - In both arenas, players cannot enter the facilities until they are greeted and accepted by the team manager, coach or team representative.
 - All players will be required to meet the team's manager/representative at the main doors of Renegades or Pitt Arena prior to entry to log attendance and to ensure the health check was submitted through the Team Snap app.
 - If a player does not pass the "Team Snap" health check, they are not permitted to enter a facility, or take part in the said event.
- No member will be permitted entry if they exhibit **any** COVID-19 symptoms.
- If any attendee shows COVID-19 symptoms during an event, the participant will be excused and removed from the team event.
- Spectators (**IF** in Phase 3 Return-to-Play & **IF** allowed at the specific facility) are required to wear appropriate PPE when watching or attending a team event, must follow the standard 6ft social distancing guidelines set out by BC Health, and are not allowed to participate or enter a facility if they are suspected with COVID-19 symptoms.
- All attendees must enter facilities using the designated entrance and designated exit and must read and follow all signs posted by the facility.
 - Renegades Arena: entrance will be through the main doors; exit will be out of the northeast door (side door in the foyer)
 - Pitt Arena: entrance and exit will be through the main doors
- While awaiting entrance into a facility, players/coaches, etc. should wait in their vehicles or outside, socially distanced. **NO GATHERING!**
- All attendees must follow facilities directional one-way arrows or markings (if any) while in the facility.
- Players, coaches, team managers & spectators (**IF** allowed) may arrive no sooner than 15 minutes before the scheduled event and must leave the building no more than 10 minutes after each session. There will be no loitering/gathering in common areas or in the parking lots permitted.

- It is recommended that players refrain from bringing in any large bags or valuables in case facilities do not allow the use of change rooms.
- It is also recommended for players to arrive at the facility, completely dressed, with all equipment to limit the use of any changeroom.
- If a facility does allow for the use of a change room: a coach or team manager must be the last person to leave the change room.
 - Pitt Arena will assume all responsibility of wiping down and sanitizing all changeroom benches, door handles, and touched surfaces after a team event.
 - RMMBHA is responsible to clean all touched surfaces at Renegades. The league has purchased a fogger spray gun and sanitizing product to be used by a coach, manager, team representative to spray down all team benches, door handles or any other touched surfaces in the arena after a team event/before vacating the arena for the next team/event. These supplies will be available from the rink attendant and must be returned to him/her after their use.
- Showering at any of the rinks will **not** be permitted.
- Any items left behind by players or coaches will not be kept or stored and unfortunately will be disposed of accordingly.
- On floor officials will be required to wipe down and sanitize all player benches, gate handles, railings, penalty boxes, & timekeeper boxes after each event and prepare for the next cohort. (This will be in effect only when we are in Phase 3 Return to play; the league will organize and communicate how this will be facilitated.)

In the event of a COVID exposure on a team

- If there is an exposure reported to the league, Fraser Health typically takes over guiding league executive about notifications.
- The league executive will work closely with coaches/managers and Fraser Health to ensure the safety of all team members and we will follow their direction in the event of a possible exposure.
- It is critical that managers continually remind families to follow all safety protocols followed by the league. Also remind your families to monitor their own health and stay away if they are exhibiting any COVID symptoms.
- It is also important to remind your families that in the case of an exposure the league will be held to confidentiality protocols as laid out by Fraser Health. We will NOT release any confidential information that could target or alienate any family or player. We expect this also from all team officials also. Fraser Health controls the release of pertinent details and information. We would like managers to remind their families that gossip and unconfirmed stories do not serve our league well and will only serve to increase anxieties and spread fear within the community.

Equipment

The use of hockey sticks and any form of player equipment will be limited to individual players and shared equipment will not be permitted:

- Players will be required to bring their own labelled, pre-filled water bottles to all games to help reduce the risk of transmission. Individuals must take their own water bottles home each night for cleaning and sanitation. **At no time are water bottles permitted to be shared.**
- Players cannot use fill stations at the arenas to fill up their water bottles.
- All clothing, uniforms, jersey's, and gear must be washed/cleaned/disinfected after each use.

Hygiene, Hand Washing, Touching Face

All members must practice proper hygiene:

- wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- use alcohol-based hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
- if hand sanitizer is provided by the facility, all members must sanitize upon entry into the facility.
- abstain from touching their face (mouth, eyes, or nose).
- cover their cough or sneeze with the inside of their elbow, or use a tissue and throw tissue in the trash after use.
- Washrooms may be available, however with limited capacity-this will be dependent on facility rules.

Cohorts

In the event ViaSports requires associations to facilitate cohorts for gameplay, the following procedures must be followed to minimize and control contacts:

- Participants assigned to a cohort will be required to stay within that cohort for games and/or practices.
- Participants will not be allowed to scrimmage or play outside of that cohort unless the following procedures are followed:
 - Any participant (or team) leaving a cohort, with the expectation of playing in a different cohort, must not engage in any scrimmage, or game for 14 days.
 - During this time, the participate (or team) will be authorized to practice or run drills only to ensure COVID-19 safety precautions are followed.
- Physical distancing on the floor and the bench is not required while in designated cohorts, however coaches must wear a mask on the bench.

Game Play / Team Rosters

Each team will consist of a roster no larger than 18 runners, 1 goalie, 1 head coach, 2 assistant coaches (max), and 1 team manager. (Team rosters may be smaller depending on league registration).

- During practice/game play, a maximum number of 19 will be authorized on the playing surface with no more than 3 coaches permitted at one time on a team's bench (spaced out as much as possible).
- Players will refrain from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations etc. Teams will recognize their opponents by standing on their respective blueline before play begins and raising their sticks similar to an IIHF World Junior Championships.

Officials

All officials will be required to ensure they are following any specific guidelines as laid out by BC Ball Hockey Guidelines for Officials, and required to adhere to the following:

- All officials will be required to use the new electronic whistle system and will not be allowed to use a "blow" type whistle.
- All officials are required to wear an appropriate PPE when entering or exiting a playing facility:
 - Officials may choose to wear PPE when they are officiating a game but are not required to do so.
 - All officials will be required to wear appropriate PPE when entering or leaving a playing facility.
 - Officials may remove their PPE when entering the playing surface.
- Officials using water bottles must adhere to the following rules:
 - Officials must bring pre-filled and labelled water bottles.
 - **At no time are officials authorized to share water bottles.**
- Officials will be required to keep hand sanitizer in their equipment bag and use it before and after each game.
- Officials will be required to maintain physical distancing from participants except when necessary for safety reasons.

Player Conduct

We remind all participants that we are still currently in a pandemic. Players must follow specific guidelines regarding unnecessary engagement and contact with opposing players:

- The league will be taking all the necessary measures to protect game officials, and players during circumstances involving player engagements and altercations.
- The league's goal is to minimize any unnecessary physical contact and verbal engagement that involves close contact with opposing players and officials.

- Any situation with two or more players or coaching staff in a **VERBAL ALTERCATION**, will be addressed by the officials in the following manner:
 - The referee will signal the whistle and give a verbal warning for the players to separate.
 - If player(s) refuse to comply, a **GAME EJECTION** may be called.
 - If player(s) persist, **GAME MISCONDUCT** penalties may be enforced.
 - Players are reminded to respect physical distancing between each other and officials, especially after a whistle.

Any situation with two or more players that involves **UNNECESSARY CONTACT**, may result in a **GAME EJECTION** plus any other penalties he/she may incur which may include **GAME MISCONDUCTS**

Any fighting or unnecessary rough play will not be tolerated. The current suspension matrix is sufficient in addressing these concerns and will be strictly adhered to.

Although these appendices to the Canadian Ball Hockey Association Rulebook may appear severe, it is our due diligence to:

- mitigate physical contact and rough play
- limit the number of players confined to the enclosed space of the penalty box
- lessen the impact of special teams on the outcome of the game
- respect social distancing and limit the spread of COVID-19
- recognize the privilege to be playing ball hockey again
- It will be at the referee's discretion to signal the play down along the boards if they feel there is prolonged engagement which may bring additional players into the fray

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