



FAQs

How do we ensure physical distancing at the arena?

The Grand Valley Community Centre is permitted to have a maximum of 50 people in the building at a time. As per the Public Health Guidelines, all people must wear a face covering when inside the building, except when they are on the ice. One spectator will be permitted per player, and the seating will be marked off to ensure physical distancing. All players and spectators will enter the building at the front doors and exit at the change room doors on their assigned side of the building. The arena doors will open for each group 15 minutes prior to the start of their ice time and players and spectators are expected to exit the building within 15 minutes of leaving the ice surface to ensure different user groups will not be mixing in the common areas of the arena.

Can players use the change rooms?

Yes, but a maximum of 8 people is permitted to use the change rooms at any time and maintain a 2m distance from others. If possible, players are to arrive at the arena with most of their equipment already on so that they can get on the ice quickly. No showers are available in the change rooms this season.

How is the arena going to be cleaned between groups?

The Grand Valley Community Centre will space out the ice times and sanitize the changerooms with a fogger between groups.

Can I still come and watch my child play hockey?

Only one spectator is permitted per player per ice time and spectators are expected to respect physical distancing guidelines while in the arena. Families do not need to send the same spectator each time, and once the spectator leaves the building, there will be no re-entry (player pick-ups will be at their change room side of the building). All spectators must sign in when they arrive at the community centre.

What changes are expected for hockey programs this year? What are the new rules? Do they only apply to Grand Valley Minor Hockey?

The Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) has prepared a Return to Hockey Framework that will be followed by GVMH and all other Ontario minor hockey centres to ensure the safety of our players. Some changes include maximum team size of 10 players, different phases of return to play based on the Public Health

Units Recommendations, no contact, etc. Please refer to the Framework here:
https://www.ohf.on.ca/media/l3pair4n/ohf-return-to-hockey_0731.pdf

Will there be any “Real Games” this year?

Our teams can play 3 on 3 or 4 on 4 hockey games with other players/teams from within GVMH, numbers permitting. There will not be typical 5 on 5 games against other centres within our this season.

Will we be playing travel hockey games?

No, at the start of this season, we will not be traveling to other arenas, and players from other towns will not be playing against GVMH. Following the OHF Return to Play Framework and our Public Health Guidelines, GVMH may be permitted to “bubble” with another centre within our Public Health Unit to play 3 on 3 or 4 on 4 games with a limited number of other teams. The GVMH Executive Team is currently investigating this possibility and will share information with our members once we have a plan in place.

How will you keep my player interested if there are no games?

Hockey games can take on many different forms other than the game style played in previous years, and our coaches and volunteers will make every effort to ensure the players have fun and enjoy some competition while developing their hockey skills. Three-on-three half-ice hockey is a fast-paced and high energy game with no lost time with face-offs and off-side whistles. Depending on the size of our teams, practices can use the full ice surface to play modified games, play shinny, have skills competitions, or mix it up with other games that will help to develop important hockey skills in more creative ways. This year will be all about energy, creativity, exercise and fun!

What other COVID precautions are happening with hockey?

The water fountain is only available for use as a fill-station and not to be used for people to drink from. That means all players must have their own water bottle, clearly labeled with their name. Strictly no sharing. Players will also be asked COVID screening questions each time before they step on the ice and all people are to wear masks while in the arena, except for when on the ice surface. Seating areas are marked to ensure physical distancing. Very little time will be spent in the change rooms and all coach talks will happen on the ice surface.

Why is GVMH not doing the volunteer bond program this year?

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, many of our fundraising events are not permitted this year (e.g. Tournaments, Hockey Day, Halloween Dance, Muskies game, etc.). Therefore, it could be difficult for parents to fulfil the required 10 hours of volunteer time. Even though this year we do not require a

specific time commitment from each family, it is still critical that all parents step up when they can to offer their time and talents to ensure our minor hockey organization has coaches, on-ice volunteers, trainers, organizers, and fundraisers so that we can continue to offer hockey in our community.

Does hockey cost less this year?

Yes! (for most ages). Typically, the players in the older teams pay more for hockey because their games take longer and require referees and timekeepers, which increases the per-game cost. This year, all teams with the exception of U7 pay the same amount for the whole season (\$450) and can expect two ice times/week. The U7 players (formerly IP and Tyke) pay \$275 for the season this year.

What is the fundraising fee for this year?

This \$110 fee is a mandatory fundraising contribution, which can be recouped by selling the chocolates and raffle tickets.

I heard that players cannot switch centres this year. Is that true?

Yes. The Ontario Hockey Federation's Return to Play Framework stipulates that, "Players can stay where they were rostered in 2019-20 or return to their home association." So, if you live within the Grand Valley & District Minor Hockey geographic boundaries, this is your "home association" and you are welcome to register with us this year, even if you played elsewhere last season. You may not be permitted to register elsewhere if you were hoping to play in a different centre this year or try out for rep hockey.

Are new players welcome this year?

Yes! This is the perfect time for new players to learn hockey without the commitment of a full-time travel schedule and the cost or time commitment of travel local league hockey. We are asking for half payment before Thanksgiving and the second half in January. Players will form teams that are grouped by age and ability and teams will focus on hockey skill development and fun competition. Spectators are limited, so this season is the perfect time for a new player to try it out stress-free! Also, there will be no public skate, no after school shinny, and no Little Lions skate this year because of COVID-19. If you want to stay close to home and provide some exercise and fun for your kids, GVMH is the only group who is able to offer safe and supervised on-ice programming in town this year.

What happens if there is another COVID-19 outbreak?

GVMH will follow all direction provided by the Public Health Unit. If the Community Centre must close, players will be reimbursed pro-rated by the number of weeks they played.