

## **2020 Grand Valley & District Minor Hockey Return to Hockey Plan**



**October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Grand Valley & District Minor Hockey (GVDMH) is a member of the OMHA and understands that we must obtain approval for our return to play plan for the beginning of our 2020/21 season.

GVDMH has been in contact with the Grand Valley Community Centre Board and attended the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the plans for re-opening. The Grand Valley Community Centre has met with Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health to ensure that the arena meets all requirements prior to opening in October. GVDMH is in regular communication with the arena and will be informed of any changes or modifications to their plan.

The main goal of this plan is to meet the requirements of the OHF Return to Hockey Framework, as it related to Stage 3B, that permits minor hockey associations to conduct instructional training for players and modified non-contact game play in a safe manner for both players and team staff. Should there be advancement beyond Stage 3B, GVDMH will modify this plan under the guidance of OMHA and seek re-approval.

### **Eligibility to Participate:**

As per the OHF Framework, all players that played with GVDMH in the previous year or have GVDMH as their home centre are eligible to register. Additionally, players who have never been registered to any organized hockey association are eligible to register with GVDMH.

Team coaches who were registered with GVDMH in the previous year are eligible to coach again this season, and GVDMH understands that if there is a new coach who requires certification that they can receive their full qualifications online.

### **COVID-19 Screening**

All Participants are to be pre-screened for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure per the prescribed OHF Screening Form prior to participation at each team session. A record of the pre-screening is to be maintained by the Team Manager.

Participants who are not feeling well, exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19 must not participate in any Session. In such instances, the Participant/Parent must communicate this information to the Team Manager. If the participant has knowingly been exposed to COVID-19, they will not be allowed to return until such time as Medical Clearance is obtained through a negative COVID-19 test or a quarantine period of 14 days.

### **Attendance for Contact Tracing:**

Team Managers will keep an attendance record of all participants and on-ice coaching staff including name, phone number, and date/time of all on-ice activity. This list will be initialed by a team representative to ensure that each player was verbally asked the screening questions before participating, and to ensure an accurate attendance list is maintained for each visit to the arena.

Additionally, any parent spectators that enter the arena building are required to sign in as they enter the building.

Upon request, this information will be provided to Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit if there is a need for contact tracing.

### **Entering/Exiting the Building:**

All people will enter the building through the front doors, sanitize their hands as they enter, and exit via the side door closest to their assigned changeroom. This will keep the flow of visitors in one direction and limit person-to-person interactions in the front foyer.

Each ice rental group will be able to enter the building 15 minutes prior to the start of their scheduled ice time and be assigned either changerooms 1 & 2 (North side of the building) or changerooms 3 & 4 (South side of the building). All members of the group (players, staff, and spectators) must exit via the side doors within 15 minutes of the end of their scheduled ice time.

Groups may not enter the arena during ice times that are not scheduled to them (doors will be locked), and if a spectator leaves the building they are not permitted to re-enter, but must wait for their player outside the designated exit door.

### **Encouraging Physical Distancing within the Building:**

The GV Community Centre will have the doors locked between ice rental groups. Spectator benches will be marked off with tape to illustrate where spectators can sit while maintaining a 2m distance from others.

Changerooms will be available to a maximum of 8 players per changeroom at a time. No parents are permitted in the changerooms. Benches will be marked off with tape to illustrate where players may sit while maintaining physical distancing. Players will be encouraged to dress for hockey before they enter the area as much as possible to limit the time spent in the changerooms. Players who are unable to tie their own skates can either use the board room of the arena near the main entrance where chairs will be set up and distanced 2m apart, or players may enter the arena with their skates fully tied and protected by skate guards. Face coverings are required for all people when not on the ice surface.

Additional time is given between different ice rental groups to ensure that groups do not intermingle within the arena. GVDMH will communicate with players, coaches, parents, and arena staff to ensure that the maximum number of people inside the building does not exceed 50. Front doors are for entering and side doors are for exiting. The snack bar will not be open for refreshments.

### **Additional Cleaning and Sanitizing:**

The GV Community Centre Staff will do a disinfecting fog with a fogging machine in the changerooms after each ice rental group. Additionally, high-touch areas will be regularly wiped. Showers will not be available in the changerooms this year, but toilets and sinks will be available for players and will be sanitized after each group. Water fountains will not be available for direct drinking, but the touch-less water bottle fill station is available.

### **Arena Maximum Capacity:**

The inside capacity for the Grand Valley Community Centre is 50 people, excluding the staff members. In discussions with the GV Community Centre Board and GVDMH, it was agreed that one spectator will be permitted per player. This allowance will permit our younger hockey players to have the help of a parent if the need arises (e.g. equipment adjustment, skates, bathroom needs) so that the

Coach/Trainer does not have to come in close contact with players to assist them with personal needs. It is the intention of GVMH to group two teams together for practices, such that the maximum number of players on the ice surface at any one time is 20.

The Community Centre will have two staff present during ice rental times; one staff member will be assigned to the front foyer to unlock the door 15 minutes prior to ice time, lock the door once the ice time has begun, ensure that the direction of travel is one-way, ask visitors to wear a face covering as per PHU guidelines, and ask all spectators to sign in.

**Additional Considerations:**

- Participants are asked to cover their face and turn their head away from other people if they need to cough or sneeze
- No spitting on the ice or floor will be tolerated
- Participants are to physically distance at all times on and off the ice, wherever possible
- On ice drills and activities will be non-contact
- Strictly no sharing of water bottles
- Any equipment used by participants will be disinfected between sessions

**GVDMH Return to Play Model:**

Registration closed on September 30<sup>th</sup>, and any players who wish to register after this time will be put on a waiting list. The first on-ice session for GVDMH will be October 14<sup>th</sup> at the earliest. From October until December, GVDMH activity will consist of conditioning, skill development, and player skill evaluation only in Grand Valley with players registered to GVDMH. It is the intention of GVDMH to divide our players into teams of 10 maximum (as per the OHF Return to Hockey Framework) based on both age and skill level, such that all players will be challenged while having fun with their peers. Once the players are evaluated and grouped into teams, GVDMH will continue our initial conversations with a “bubble planning group” consisting of other nearby minor hockey centres within our public health unit (Arthur, Mount Forest, Minto, Drayton, Honeywood). This planning group aims to match teams into a bubble based on both age and skill level to ensure that once the centres are ready to play recreational 3 on 3 games, that the teams within each bubble are well matched. After Christmas, teams U9 and higher will play recreational 3 on 3 games within their assigned bubble with other centres, where feasible.

**Communication:**

All parents will be contacted via email outlining the plan that is approved by OMHA. The GVMH website will also have a link to this plan, and a short video clip post that will be shared on social media explaining the plan and expectations of players and parents.

This return to hockey plan may be suspended at any time based on direction from OMHA, our Public Health Unit, or the GVDMH Executive due to concerns over transmission and exposure to COVID-19.

The GVDMH Executive will communicate regularly with our members and coaches and frequently monitor updates from OHF, OMHA, and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health that could require changes to this plan.

*Submitted October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

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