



NEW ZEALAND ICE HOCKEY FEDERATION

Quentin Blair
Director of Health & Safety
PO Box 41162
Mt Roskill
Auckland 1440
New Zealand

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The ever-evolving situation concerning the COVID-19 alert levels is beginning to raise some questions as to what this means for our sport.

As the governing body, we can provide guidance and governance but it is up to each club to mitigate risks at their local level. We believe that player and spectator safety should always come first and we support any local body making decisions advocating this.

The government endorsed guidelines established by Sport NZ give us some guidance and at Level 3 almost all sports should not be undertaken. However, when we move to Level 2 it becomes interesting for our sport.

Based on all the information we have and after discussing this with experts, we can offer the following recommendations that would not only make sure you are complying with the requirements but are ensuring the safety of all involved:

- **Separation**

Any organised attendance should be structured to have an extra minimum time of 15 minutes between the end of grooming after a public session, practice or game and the next activity such as a practice or game, etc. The majority of the previous group is to create the rink before the next activity. This will make sure that no one accidentally has more than 100 people within an indoor environment. This should also be considered for outdoor rinks in Southern.

All immunocompromised or people who are at high risk with COVID-19 should not have an active part in the sport at this time.

- **Social distancing**

This should be practiced where appropriate. This may mean limiting numbers within a specified area such as limiting people within a changing room to 6 or less or one person within the scoreboard. We appreciate that this might mean that there are other difficulties this might create but this will make sure we are keeping everyone safe.

- **Non-contact**

All practices and games within level 2 should be "non-contact". We know that further guidance is being sought in the area of contact sports under Level 2, but when we have the option to play by making this small adjustment for a short time, we should always go for the safer option, and this seems like an easy win to allow us to play. This also includes minimum hygiene practices such as no removing of gloves to shake

hands and no unnamed drink bottles. Ideally, full face guards should be worn on the ice.

- **Registers**

These will need to be in place. All participants and spectators will need to sign in and sign out. This will allow your local Public Health Officer to contact trace if someone, unfortunately, contracted COVID-19.

- **Legislation**

- Your rinks have additional legislation that allows them to operate and this generally means that another layer of requirements might be imposed by your local rink. You must also follow their COVID-19 plan. In the odd situation where two requirements do the same thing, the safer option must be chosen. An example of this is where we suggest one person within a scoreboard, but your rink notes that you can have two. The safer option would be to only have one person.

- **Illness**

Anyone who has symptoms of being unwell needs to stay at home for a minimum of 4 days **after** being symptom-free. This one is probably the most important. If anyone is experiencing any symptoms, please don't ignore these, please keep our sport as safe and as COVID-19 free as possible.

This is our goal, to keep our sport as safe and as COVID-19 free as possible. Imposing the above steps will help you manage any risks and minimise the likelihood of transmission for everyone involved with our sport.

If you want to discuss this further or want some further guidance, please feel free to contact me.

Keep safe and warm regards,



Yours Faithfully,

Quentin Blair
Director of Health & Safety
New Zealand Ice Hockey Federation