

Bradford West Gwillimbury Minor Hockey Association

Return to Hockey (RTH) Strategy & Outline



**WHEN CANADA IS READY,
WE WILL BE READY!**





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Message from the President of BWGMHA

As exciting as it is to share this news with our members, it is still with cautious optimism that look forward to puck drop. Safety of the players, coaches, volunteers and communities will be our number one priority as we begin the season on **September 28**. Things will look and feel a bit different this year and we ask for your patience as we all navigate this uncharted territory together. Even in the preparation for our return to hockey strategy, many aspects have changed and we expect this uncertainty to continue as waves of COVID19 increase or decrease throughout the season.

For some, this may not be the hockey they remember growing up, but for our players it's a chance to get back on the ice with friends playing a game they enjoy and making memories. We look forward to seeing everyone back at the rink.

Paul Dossey – BWGMHA President





Health and Safety Guidelines

To ensure the safety of our players, parents, coaches, volunteers and community it is imperative all Government health regulations are followed while involved in BWGMHA activities. The following information was created in conjunction with Hockey Canada and local representatives acting on behalf of BWG.

Arena Access

- All players, coaches and parents will enter the BLC at the North East Entrance ONLY.
- Players, coaches and parents will only be allowed in the arena **15 min** in advance of their scheduled ice time. If you arrive late, you risk not being allowed entrance into the rink.
- Players must come dressed, except for skates, helmet and gloves which can be put on in dressing rooms,
- At the on set of the season, only 8 people will be allowed in dressing rooms at a given time. Additional seating will be made available.
- Only **ONE** parent/guardian will be allowed in the BLC with each player
 - Age Groups U11 and below, that parent will be allowed in the dressing room,
 - Age Groups U13 and above, no parents (other than coaches) will be allowed in dressing rooms,
- Designated viewing areas and entrance to both Green and Blue Rink's will be declared by the BLC. Accommodations will always be made for those with accessibility needs.
- Upon completion of the ice time, players, coaches and parents/guardians must exit the arena.

Equipment

- Sharing of water bottles is prohibited. Each player **MUST** come with their own labeled bottle.
- The sharing of equipment will not be allowed,
- Coaches are also encouraged to ensure they have their own whiteboards, pucks and cones if needed.



Health and Safety Guidelines

COVID Pre-cautions and Safety

- Further information from the Provincial Health officials can be found here, [Guidance for facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities during COVID-19](#)
- Each team will be asked to designate a **COVID Safety Designate** to ensure adherence of safety standards,
- All those entering the BLC will be required to wear masks,
- Players masks can be taken off and placed in paper bags prior to putting their helmets on,
- All coaches, trainers and helpers must always wear masks.
- Prior to any participant entering the BLC, we ask that everyone complete the [COVID 19 Self Assessment](#)
 - If a player or parent fails the self assessment, they should **NOT** attend the event until they are symptom free.
- Upon entering the arena, all participants and parents/guardians will complete a second screening completed by a **COVID Safety Designate** from their assigned team. The team COVID Screening will then be submitted to a representative from the BLC and the team will then be granted access to their dressing room.

What happens if a player or participant tests positive for COVID19

- Participants or parents/guardians of participants who have tested positive for COVID-19 are **not** required to publicly disclose any medical information, however they will be required to abide by the relevant Public Health Unit's directions. The Participant may not participate in any hockey related activity for 14 days as per Ontario Ministry of Health guidelines and cannot return to hockey until cleared by Public Health, which is a minimum of 14 days from when symptoms began. In adherence with the Municipal Regulations, a positive COVID19 test shall be disclosed to BWGMHA, BLC and Simcoe Public Health Board to ensure proper tracing and notifications can be completed.



Gameplay Outline

- Each of our hockey bubbles will have no more than 50 players,
- Each team will have no more than 10 players (ideal roster will have 8 players and 1 goalie),
- Other than the U7 and U8 divisions, all other divisions will be mixed with minor and major players,
- For the U7, U8, U11 the OMHA Pathway guidelines will still apply.
- Bubbles will be created based on age divisions, enrollment and recreational/competitive levels,
 - Any player who was rostered with a rep team last season will be placed in a competitive bubble.
 - AP players will have the option to play in either a recreational or competitive bubble.
 - House league players from last season will be placed in the recreational bubbles.
- Game play format will be 4 on 4,
- For each team, the ice times will be split into practices and games. For example, if a team has two ice times in a week, one will be for practice and the other for games.

What to expect from the Bradford Leisure Center

- Our facility will not look and feel the same as it has in the past. To begin the season, the snack bar and pro shop **will not** be open for service.
- For the limited spectators allowing in the facility, you must adhere to the seating/standing structure as laid out by the town policy.
- There will also be a max limit of 8 people allowed in dressing rooms at a time. There has been additional seating placed outside the dressing room doors to accommodate overflow. Please remember that all dressing rooms must always have a minimum of 2 coaches present, and players/parents may be asked to leave the room in order to satisfy this request.

Phase and Gameplay Outline



Phase	Phase 1 Skill Development	Phase 2 Game Play	Phase 3 Competitive Play	Phase 4 Competitive Play with travel (competitive stream)
Focus	Get players back on the ice with focus on general development.	Teams built out based on skill level to prepare for P3 (both rec and comp levels).	Continue with teams and hockey skill preparation for phase 4 potential.	Returning to a more traditional hockey program that involves other centers.
Description	Getting players back on the ice with an emphasis on athletic skill development.	Introduce game play for both recreational and competitive levels. Teams will be limited on number of opposition they can play.	Will continue with game play but expand on eligible opposition that teams can play within Bradford.	Travel for game play outside of BWG. This will also be dependant on other centers willing to play.
Start Date	Sept 28	U7 – U11 = Oct 26	TBC	TBC
Frequency	Recreational: 2x/ week ave Competitive: 2x/ week ave	Recreational: 2x/ week ave Competitive: 2x/ week ave	Recreational: 2x/ week ave Competitive: 2x/ week ave	TBC
Format	Skill based	4 on 4	4 on 4	TBC



Question	Answer
If we are able to create rep teams in the 20/21 season, when will try outs occur?	It is expected that any programming allowing for competitive travel play will be set out by the YS Minor Hockey Association and this will allow for a tryout period.
Will kids be allowed to play up?	Yes – the coaches and board will review any players to consider movement within BWGMHA divisions. This will be dependant on the skill level of the player in question and if divisions have enrollment to satisfy this consideration.
Will players be mandated to wear masks/splash guards?	Nothing in motion at this time by the OMHA or BWGMHA.
Will BWGMHA have pre-tyke and U7 programming this season?	Yes - Pre-tyke programming will be paused for the time being with a tentative target date of November 1. IP players must be able to stand and skate on their own before being approved for IP programming in the 20/21 season
My child is just learning how to skate, would IP be open for them?	No – at this time we are asking that players are able to stand and skate on their own. Due to restricted numbers on the ice and in facilities we won't have enough volunteers to properly help these players. Pre-tyke may be an option to consider.
Will on ice coaches and helpers be required to wear masks?	Yes – all on ice officials including coaches and trainers will be required to wear masks.



Question	Answer
How will players be placed into the recreational and competitive divisions?	<p>Players will be assigned into these divisions based on enrollment from last season. For players returning to Bradford, they will be initially placed in their age appropriate divisions. For house league players that signed AP cards last year will have the option to be placed in the competitive or recreational divisions.</p> <p>U7 – will not have divisions based on skill, all teams will be balanced. U8 – will be allotted based on feedback from coaches last season.</p>
Will parents be allowed in the dressing rooms?	<p>Yes, Atom U10 and below – One family member per player. No, Peewee U13 and above – no family members allowed in dressing rooms.</p>
Is my child allowed to play in other leagues, such as those at private rinks?	<p>Follow this link to learn more about the OHF rule for playing in Non-sanctioned hockey leagues.</p>
I’m interesting in being a coach, how can I complete courses to become certified?	<p>New for this season, many coaches can become certified with online courses. Please read more here about the Team Official Requirements for the 20/21 Season.</p>
Will we be given a refund if the season is interrupted or cancelled due to COVID?	<p>Yes – prorated refunds will be granted based numbers of games played and any costs incurred.</p>

Forecasted Bubble Formats

U7 Bubble 1	Players
U7 1	9
U7 2	9
U7 3	9
U7 4	9

U7 Bubble 1	Players
U7 5	9
U7 6	9
U7 7	9
U7 8	9

U8 Rec Bubble	Players
U8 1	9
U8 2	9
U8 3	9

U8 Comp Bubble	Players
U8 4	9
U8 5	9
U8 6	9

U9 Rec Bubble	Players
U9 1	9
U9 2	9
U9 3	10

U9 Comp Bubble	Players
U9 4	9
U9 5	10
U9 6	10

U11 Rec Bubble 1	Players
U11 1	10
U11 2	9
U11 3	9
U11 4	9

U11 Rec Bubble 2	Players
U11 5	10
U11 6	9
U11 7	9
U11 8	9

U11 Comp Bubble	Players
U11 9	9
U11 10	9
U11 11	9
U11 12	9

U13 Rec Bubble 1	Players
U13 1	10
U13 2	10
U13 3	10

U13 Rec Bubble 2	Players
U13 4	10
U13 5	9
U13 6	9

U13 Comp Bubble	Players
U13 7	10
U13 8	10
U13 9	10
U13 10	10

U15 Rec Bubble	Players
U15 1	9
U15 2	9
U15 3	10
U15 4	10

U15 Comp Bubble	Players
U15 5	9
U15 6	9
U15 7	9

U21 Rec Bubble	Players
U21 1	10
U21 2	10
U21 3	10
U21 4	10

U21 Comp Bubble	Players
U21 5	10
U21 6	10
U21 7	10
U21 8	10