

20 August 2020



Frequently asked questions on Return to Play and Return to Competition Guidelines.

Hockey Ireland have developed these protocols in line with Government guidance and we fully support the efforts being made to reduce the spread of Covid-19.

Please note the date of publishing this document is August 20th 2020. We will update these as soon as possible when there are any changes to Government guidelines.

1. Coaches who are involved in coaching multiple groups.

Coaches who are required, or are expecting, to coach more than one group should strictly follow the below protocol.

Remain with the same group of players/personnel on the pitch for their initial training session and not mix with any other groups, as per the general Return To Play guidelines issued by Hockey Ireland.

During this session, coaches must remain socially distant from all other people in the group. Training session instructions and feedback to players must be given from a social distance.

After the initial session, any coach who is remaining to coach another group should ensure they adequately sanitise their hands and continue to be socially distant from all others in the following group entering the pitch area.

2. “Friendly”/Non-Competitive Matches/ Are Matches allowed if they have more than 15 people

As per the updated ROI Government guidelines:

- *Sporting events and matches can continue to take place behind closed doors.*

ALL matches should be played as normal under the Rules of Hockey (squads of up to 18) but ALL precautions outlined in the Return To Competition protocols must be followed. E.g. - benches should be socially distant.

3. How many in a team in a friendly match?

Within a group at training, if there are 15 people or less, a 6 v 6 or 7 v 7 may take place within that group provided there is adequate space to do so safely, and all Return to Play guidelines can be met. There should be no mixing of groups during the training session. The match will also be subject to the Return to Competition protocols in relation to socially distant areas for anyone who is “sent off”.

If a Club wishes to play an internal friendly match with their own squad, they must adhere to all the Return to Competition protocols, and this should take place separately to a training session where other groups are present.

20 August 2020

4. Spectators:

4.1 At Matches: As outlined in the Return To Competition protocols, under current ROI Government guidelines, all matches must be played behind closed doors. Therefore, spectators will be unable to attend. Under current NI Government guidelines, as of the 24th July spectators are allowed to attend outdoor sporting venues “where the operator can control access and ensure adherence to social distancing”.

4.2 At Training: As outline in the Return To Play protocols, Club members should avoid mingling outside the pitch gate waiting for other groups to leave the facility. Players should remain in the car park observing physical distancing guidelines until the pitch is free. There should be no spectators in the grounds.

5. Is Indoor Allowed?

Unfortunately, with only allowed 6 at a time allowed indoors according to current Government guidelines. We are currently recommending no Indoor Hockey training or matches take place until restrictions are lifted or sufficiently changed to allow for it to resume safely,

6. Can we change who is in each of our groups at different training sessions?

There should be no mixing of groups during a training session. Where possible all groups should remain the same day to day, however we recognise this may not always be possible. Please ensure accurate records are kept of each group.