

HOCKEY IRELAND

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Affiliated to the International Hockey Federation and to the European Hockey Federation

Covid-19 Update 18 September 2020

Hockey Ireland will be amending the Return to Play and Return to Competition documents incorporating recent updates to government guidelines as part of the 'Living with Covid Plan'.

To clarify, Sport Ireland have issued the following advice around competitions in the case of a Level 3 situation:

"In relation to competition, it is permissible for participants that fall under the professional/elite/inter-county sports/senior club championship banner to travel to pre-planned competition to maintain fixtures."

For Hockey Ireland, this would mean:

Level 2 (ROI): Some minor changes will be made to our protocols early next week and are summarised below.

Level 3 (ROI):

Outdoor Training: Non-contact training only in pods of up to 15 (exemption for professional/elite/inter-county sports/senior club championship).

Competition: No matches or events to take place. Exemption: professional/elite/inter-county/club championship/horse-racing can take place behind closed doors. All matches should be played behind closed doors.

In the immediate future, this means that under Level 3 it is only permissible for the following to go ahead (behind closed doors):

- Hockey Ireland Challenge Finals, Senior and Junior Cup, and Trophy Finals
- EY 1 and 2 Club Competitions;
- Interprovincial Competitions;
- Highest level Branch Club Competitions

Update for the current situation in Dublin:

Dublin is currently on Level 2 with additional restrictions. While the current status remains in place, Sport Ireland's advice is as follows:

"Based on current Government advice, if the competitors are coming from outside Dublin to participate in senior national competition then that is permissible. The same principles apply for journeys out of Dublin."

Summary of changes to the Hockey Ireland protocols (Level 2):

Training Updates:

- Senior teams may train as normal within Republic of Ireland as per government guidance. Clubs within Northern Ireland should follow NI Executive guidance. Underage teams should continue to train in pods of up to 15 including coaches.
- Matches may be played in training provided HI Return to Competition protocols for playing matches are followed. Matches should only be played at the end of training sessions.
- Clubs must keep a record of underage players within each training group at each session to aid contact tracing should the need arise.
- Players may touch on-field equipment (goals, balls, cones etc.) if necessary, but should sanitise their hands afterwards.
- Goalkeeping equipment, with the exception of helmets, can be shared once fully disinfected between uses.

Covid-19 Officers (CVOs):

- CVOs must be over 18 and may not fulfil a second role (e.g. player/coach/manager) while acting as the CVO.

Matches:

- Spectators: Government guidance allows for a maximum of 100 spectators at matches (ROI only). Clubs in Northern Ireland should follow NI Executive guidance. Clubs must ensure that social distancing is strictly adhered to. The home club should ensure that attendees register their contact details on entering the venue for contact tracing purposes.
- For matches, the away team must supply the names of those travelling only to the home club's CVO by email. There is no longer a requirement to supply a phone number for each person.
- Home clubs should advise travelling clubs of the availability of their facilities.
- Dugouts may be used provided social distancing can be maintained.
- Rubbish bins within facilities may be used as normal.