



Communique #9 – December 3, 2020

December 3rd, 2020 PHO Order Interpretation

Adult Activity Suspension and Youth Program return to ‘First Stage’ Return to Responsible Play

Dear Field Hockey BC Members

On behalf of the Field Hockey BC (FHBC) Board of Directors, I am writing to provide for an important update concerning the intent and expectation of the December 3rd, 2020 Provincial Health Office (PHO) order. The PHO order released today can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions#sports>

Shortly after the PHO order was released, Field Hockey BC attended a viaSport BC meeting to gain the clarification required in order to provide for this communique to membership. In short, the Provincial Health Office and viaSport BC is requiring the Organized Sport Sector to further limit the amount of physical interactions and travel to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

What does this mean for Field Hockey activity?

Adults (19 years old and over):

- **Effective immediately, Field Hockey activity for Adults (19 years old and over) is suspended.**
- Individual adults may continue to train alone (where permissible within their local community).
- **High-Performance Adult athletes that are identified as Canadian Sport Institute (CSI) targeted athletes** with either Field Hockey Canada (NSO) or Field Hockey BC (PSO) have an exemption to continue to participate and travel to NSO or PSO programming. Such programming is subject to ‘First Stage’ Responsible Return to Play guidelines (now requiring a **3m** physical distancing protocol – up from the previous 2m protocol).

Youth (18 years old and under):

- **Youth Field Hockey activity (18 years old and under) may continue BUT MUST be delivered according to ‘First Stage’ Responsible Return to Play (requiring full physical distancing protocols).**
- **The ‘First Stage’ Responsible Return to Play Framework requires a 2m Physical Distancing Protocol, however, the December 3rd, 2020 PHO Order now requires (effective immediately) a 3m Physical Distancing Protocol.**
- Adult coaches and safety officers are permitted to continue to lead full physical distanced youth field hockey programming.

Can one travel to access Field Hockey programming?

- Travel at this time is restricted to the **local community** where one resides.
- It is permissible for travel to take place to a 'home' club in order to access programming (for those able to participate in such programming under the PHO order).

How long is the December 3rd, 2020 PHO order in effect?

- This order does not have a specified timeline and should be considered an indefinite order.

For further detail regarding Field Hockey's COVID-19 response and to access the Responsible Return to Play Framework documentation, please access this information housed on the Field Hockey BC website at: <https://fieldhockeybc.com/covid-19-response/>. Further reference material can be found on the viaSport BC website at <https://www.viasport.ca/return-sport>.

It is likely that that Organized Sport Sector will experience a number of further updates around this order as we approach the New Year and Field Hockey BC will continue to provide as much clarity to our community membership as possible. Despite the restrictions imposed by this latest PHO Order, Field Hockey BC trusts that our community will remain vigilant in helping to flatten the COVID-19 curve and in doing so progressively move the collective organized sport sector towards greater freedoms for participation in 2021.

Yours in sport,

Mark Saunders

Executive Director
Field Hockey BC

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