

Return to practice FAQ's

Version 2.0

January 3, 2022

1. When are Hawks Teams permitted to return to practice?

Provided Hawks teams comply with the Hawks 2022 Return to Practice Protocol (click here to read the Protocol), teams can resume practicing effective **Tuesday, January 4, 2022**.

2. What if I am uneasy about sending my player back to practice at this time?

Returning to practice at this time is **entirely your choice**. You may opt not to send your player back to practice at this time. Whatever choice you make, we ask that you notify your team manager of your decision and your player's attendance.

3. Why are we allowing hockey to return when players are not back to school?

The Hawks is mindful of balancing players' (a) physical and mental wellbeing, against (b) the health and safety risks associated with COVID-19. In balancing these, health and safety continues to be our priority, we are mindful that public health has permitted practices to continue throughout the holidays. We are taking extra steps to ensure a gradual safe return to hockey.

4. How are practices going to be run during this time?

The Hawks are following the guidance from Hockey Nova Scotia which you can read [here](#).

On either side of the centre-ice red line, the ice will be split into two (2) groups of ten (10) including on-ice instructors (i.e. Group A and Group B).

The two groups must remain on separate sides of the ice surface and cannot be intermingled or substituted with players or instructors from the other side of the ice at any point during the ice session.

Once again, until further notice, players are not permitted to switch from Group A to Group B.

5. How many players need to be present for a practice to take place?

This is to be determined by the Head Coach and team manager. If required they should consult with the relevant Divisional Director and Vice President for advice.

6. What about the dressing rooms?

Each group of ten (10) (i.e. Group A and Group B) must use separate dressing rooms.

7. How will the "Two Deep" Rule for dressing room supervision work?

Hockey Nova Scotia has a policy called the "Two Deep" Rule with respect to dressing room supervision which you can read [here](#). The Hawks must comply with this rule.

Every ice session needs to have at least five (5) adults who have completed appropriate clearances. This includes 4 who must be made up of 3 coaches and the manager to supervise the dressings rooms pursuant to the "Two Deep" rule. The fifth adult will be the safety rep who must monitor compliance with various arena and Hawks COVID-19 rules.

The typical team will split into two groups one of 8 players and one of 9. Two coaches will go with the group of 8. The team manager or additional rostered coach will attach to the group of 9 and be available to stand in the doorway.

8. Do I really need to arrive and leave dressed?

Yes, we expect all players to arrive dressed. Goaltenders should be as dressed as far as possible although we expect that they will need to put chest protectors and pads on in the dressing room. Players are expected to leave dressed and as quickly as possible.

9. Do the group of 10 players and coaches have to remain constant during this phase of hockey?

Yes. We are limiting exposures so groups need to constant until the Hawks advise otherwise.

10. Are we limited to our Hawks ice time – game and practice?

At this phase, yes. No team should be booking additional ice. Any ice that is booked beyond that allocated to you by the Hawks.

11. Are we permitted to replace a coach if they are not able to attend for any reason?

If at any time a coach is not able to continue with their group they can be replaced by another coach on the teams roster who is not working with another group. This replacement coach must also have the requisite certifications and clearances.

12. Can a coach work with more than one team?

No, you must pick a team and stay with it.

13. Why are U7 not returning by January 4, 2022 to practice?

Because the U7 program is structured differently than other age cohorts, we are still working out the details. For example, this program is not grouped into teams that can readily be split into two groups of 10 on either side of the ice. The Hawks will await further guidance from Hockey Nova Scotia and Public Health prior to the deadline for the current restrictions of January 12, 2022.

14. Are you providing refunds if players choose not to participate?

It is an entirely voluntary and personal choice as to if you choose to participate and therefore no refunds will be provided. We are limiting ice times to those provided by the Hawks to ensure that team budgets are not impacted. We expect this position to evolve quickly and will continue to monitor this situation.

15. What if a member of the team (i.e. player or coach) tests positive for COVID-19?

If any roster member of a team (i.e. player or coach) tests positive, team management and/or the safety rep are to notify:

Amy Fredericks covid.lead@halifaxhawks.ca

Beth Boyce admin@halifaxhawks.ca

In accordance with both (a) Nova Scotia Public Health, and (b) Hockey Nova Scotia guidance, the grouping that experiences the COVID-19 positive case (i.e. either Group A or Group B) will be considered a “close contact” and will be removed from further Hawks’ activities for a minimum period of seven (7) days. This period of time may be lengthened in accordance with guidance from public health or the Hawks’ COVID-19 Safety Committee.

16. What about the situation where a household contact is Covid positive but the player is negative?

We would suggest given the high level of risk that the player sits out until the household has become clear.

17. What does the safety manager need to do now?

They need to ensure that the groups are separated from when they attend and keep records of who is in attendance at each group at each session. The safety rep should keep track of who was in each of Group A and Group B at each ice time. Along with the team manager, the safety rep must remain at the arena for the duration of the entire ice time.

18. Who should be in attendance?

The Manager and Safety representative should be in attendance for the whole session to ensure groups are maintained and to deal with any injuries or equipment issues.

There are no spectators permitted at this time.

19. What about other hockey activities outside of the Hawks?

We only have responsibility for Hawks activities, so this is a personal decision.

20. Can we get external/specialty coaches – e.g. power skating or a goalie coach?

No. External/Specialty coaches are not permitted at this time. (i.e. no goaltending, power skating instructors, etc.)

21. Can I play with more than one Hawks group?

No call ups or playing with multiple Hawks teams is permitted.

22. What about “car-pooling” to get to practice?

If your player needs to ‘car-pool’ to practice with another player, ensure that they are car-pooling with a player in the same grouping (i.e. if your player is in Group A, they can only car-pool with another Group A player). Otherwise, if your player car pools with a player from a different group that defeats the health and safety protocols established by Public Health, HNS and the Hawks.