

Recommendations and Guidance for Amateur Sports Leagues and Facility Owner/Operators

Huron Perth Public Health Recommendations

In addition to current provincial requirements under Ontario Regulation 364/20, Huron Perth Public Health strongly recommends that all amateur sport leagues and facility operators adhere to the following:

- Require that any eligible player, coach, or volunteer be fully vaccinated before participating.
- Minimize pre and post-game activities and gathering time. Participants should only arrive immediately before the beginning of an activity and should leave immediately following an activity.
- Limit inter-league play including tournaments to limit contact to a smaller group of teams within the league.
- Keep participant cohort groups as small as possible (HPPH recommends that cohorts be limited to 12-15 people where possible)
- The capacity of dressing rooms must be kept to a maximum of 50% capacity, and also should not exceed the number of people that can maintain a 2 meter physical distance.

Provincial Legislative Requirements

Ontario Regulation 364/20, schedule 2, section 16 requires the following at facilities used for indoor and outdoor sports and recreational fitness activities.

1. The total number of people in the facility must not exceed 50% capacity of the facility.
2. The number of spectators must not exceed the following limits;
 - a. Where there is a designated area for indoor spectators; 50% of the usual indoor seating capacity, or 1000 persons, whichever is less
 - b. Where there is a designated area for outdoor spectators; 75% of the usual outdoor seating
 - c. Where there is no designated area for indoor spectators; spectators must be limited to the number that can maintain at least 2 meters distance, and not exceed 50% capacity, or 1000 people, whichever is less.
 - d. Where there is no designated area for outdoor spectators; spectators must be limited to 75% capacity, or 5000 persons, whichever is less.
3. Every indoor spectator must wear a mask or face covering
4. Every outdoor spectator must wear a mask unless they are seated at least 2 meters away from anyone outside their household
5. Signs must be posted to indicate the capacity limits for the facility
6. The person responsible for the facility, or the permit holder for the facility must;
 - a. Record the name and contact information of every member of the public who enters the facility
 - b. Maintain the records for at least one month
 - c. Only disclose those records to a Medical Officer of Health, an inspector, or otherwise required by law
7. Everyone entering the facility must be actively screened
8. Prior to permitting any practice or play, the facility must ensure that the league has prepared a COVID-19 safety plan

Vaccination Policy Requirements

- As of August 24, 2021 there is a new requirement in Ontario Regulation 364/20 for businesses and organizations to create and implement their own COVID-19 Vaccination policies. (Schedule 1, s2(2.1))
- COVID-19 vaccination policies should strongly encourage all eligible employees to get two doses of the vaccine, and provide consideration to allow employees time off to get the vaccine. HPPH recommends any businesses wanting to implement a more rigorous mandatory vaccination policy for their employees seek legal counsel.
- Effective September 22, 2021, proof of vaccination will be required to enter facilities used for sports and fitness activities. HPPH recommends that vaccine policies also include how this provincial requirement will be operationalized at the facility.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Do participants and spectators need to be screened or is signage good enough?**
 - o Ontario Regulation 364/20 requires that everyone entering the facility must be actively screened. That means they must be asked the questions either directly, or through an online platform. Names and contact information must also be collected for everyone entering the facility, and kept for a minimum of one month.
- **What is the capacity limit for dressing rooms? Our facility is small and we are having trouble ensuring we have enough dressing room space.**
 - o The capacity of dressing rooms must be kept to a maximum of 50% capacity, and also should not exceed the number of people that can maintain a 2 meter physical distance.
- **Can players use the showers after practice or games?**
 - o Ontario Regulation 364/20 does not prevent shower use in recreational facilities at this time. As masks are required in dressing rooms, HPPH recommends that only showers with individual stalls be used. That way players can remove their mask while in the individual space. HPPH recommends that large, open-concept showers not be used at this time as physical distancing and masking is not feasible in those spaces. It is important that all shower areas are cleaned and sanitized at a minimum of 2x per day or more frequently where able.
- **Do players need to wear masks in the dressing room? Even if they are all on the same team, or in the same cohort?**
 - o Yes. Ontario Regulation 364/20, Schedule 1 section 3.1 requires that any person in an indoor business or organization wears a mask in a manner that covers their mouth, nose and chin. Exemption has been provided to individuals while they are actively participating in physical activity. When players are indoors and not actively participating in sports or exercising they must be wearing a mask.
- **Do coaches need to wear masks on the bench?**
 - o Yes. Masks are only exempt for those actively participating in physical activities, coaches and spectators are required to wear masks while indoors.
- **Do spectators need to show proof of vaccination, or just players?**
 - o It is the understanding of HPPH that every member or the public entering the facility must show proof of vaccination (or a medical exemption), including spectators, coaches, and players.
- **What if someone refuses to show their vaccination status?**
 - o It is the discretion of the individual to determine whether they would like to disclose their vaccination status. Should they make the decision not to divulge this information, they will not be permitted to enter setting that require proof of vaccination.