



ALERT LEVEL 2 MEMO to AKH Stakeholders

Date: Thursday 14 May

From: Auckland Hockey CEO Manoj Daji

Hockey at Alert Level 2

Following the Government's Level 2 announcement on Monday 11 May and HNZ's and SNZ's subsequent "Get Ready", "Prepare to Play" and "Return to Play" announcement AKH advises the following information, dates and protocols to all AKH stakeholders. Community Hockey can commence but only if **strict public health measures** are met and contact tracing is in place at Level 2.

The Golden rules for Hockey at Alert Level 2 are that we must do everything as one big team to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission at Hockey — we all have a part to play in keeping each other safe. COVID-19 is still out there. Play it safe. SNZ has made it clear - Sport does not want to be the reason we have to return to Alert Level 3.

GET READY PHASE – From 12 May onwards

Clubs and RSOs have been informed to be cautious in ensuring their facilities meet MOH and WorkSafe requirements for Level 2 and other strict public health measures including good contact tracing and hygiene practices. We encourage Clubs to refer to Sport New Zealand's website for full details and the latest updates. www.sportnz.org.nz

AKH is working through these requirements including Watercare restrictions and testing of water at LEP to ensure turf users are not put at risk. The **LEP turfs will be available from 22 May TBC for team practices under 10 person gathering restrictions in the Prepare to Play phase.**

PREPARE to PLAY PHASE – From 18 May onwards

Some turfs in Auckland will come on stream for hire by clubs at different times over the next month. Please note that with schools returning on May 18 some schools with turfs will have an immediate focus on teaching and learning and may not be available. If clubs are hiring available school turfs in the week from 18 May they will need to meet the hirer's contact tracing systems as well as adhere to the 10 person limit - Sport New Zealand has confirmed that the 10-person gathering limit, applies to all community sport. See further information in the Appendix to this memo. **Please note the 10-person gathering limit will be reviewed on 25 May.**

RETURN TO PLAY PHASE - IMPORTANT PLANNED DATES

AKH has worked with Club Presidents and Junior Co-ordinators, Intercity Organisers and College Sport to arrive at the following planned dates:

- June 6: Intercity AKL friendlies will be scheduled at LEP.
- June 13: Intercity and Senior Competition resumes (Formats TBC, no Festival of Hockey)
- Week of Jun 15: College Sport Hockey begins TBC
- June 19 - 21: Youth and Junior Competitions begin
- Sept 26 - 27: Youth and Junior Competitions end
- October 3 - 4: Last weekend available for Intercity and Senior Competition end

APPENDIX to the MEMO:

All questions regarding this memo or its Appendix should be directed to your Club President or Secretary in the first instance so collation of queries can be passed on to AKH.

1. **Team practices and training** may resume from 22 May (dependent on Watercare approval) at LEP. Bookings can be made for LEP via admin@akhockey.org.nz or using the Booking Form on our website or the AKH app. Those club personnel making bookings will need to work with AKH for contact tracing requirements and agree to the 10 person limit protocols we put in place. We will have a zero tolerance approach on teams not complying with protocols and future bookings will be compromised.
2. **Junior teams** will have the option to enter for a 20 June start or Term 3 start. The July holiday break for juniors will have two no play weekends but some AKH arranged festival mornings will be available for junior players over those weekends.
3. **Affiliation Fees** all AKH Club Presidents will be advised of revised Affiliation Fees on Thursday May 14. Fees will be based on number of games scheduled to be played.
4. **Team Entries** – Reconfirmation of Senior and Youth **team entries** from Clubs must be with AKH no later than June 1. Junior team entries are due by 8 June. Please note there will be flexibility this year with Inter-Association Intercity transfers, Regrades, etc, due to COVID19. In addition, grade formats may be different to those initially advertised due to COVID19 and the truncated season from previous years.
5. **COVID19 Hygiene Practices** should be adhered to at all times at all Hockey turfs:
 - A. Stay away from Hockey if you are unwell.
 - B. Keep your Physical Distance off the turf at all times.
 - C. Cough or sneeze into your elbow.
 - D. Use good Hand Hygiene at all times.
 - E. Do not use Hugs or Handshakes. Try the Hockey Handshake instead – see www.twitter.com/xenioshockey/status/1235819830562832384
 - F. Spitting on the turf is prohibited. You will be carded. More information to follow from Hockey NZ.
 - G. Only personal safety equipment is allowed for defensive penalty corners, no sharing.
 - H. Drink bottles – DO NOT share Drink Bottles at any time. Please ensure you take your drink bottles with you after your training session or game or place in the recycling bins provided at LEP. We strongly discourage re-filling of drink bottles at LEP.
 - I. First Aid info to follow
6. **Contact Tracing** – Protocols will be in place upon entry to LEP for training access over the coming weeks and communicated to hirers. Before the competition starts we will have a digital contact tracing solution and will communicate protocol for entry to LEP and other venues used for teams and spectators. All designated Team reps will be responsible for keeping manual attendance records of team members at training or games. AKH will also keep records manually through match cards during competition. External venues will have their own requirements for club hired training while AKH is working on matchday protocol across all venues. More information to follow.
7. **COVID19 Health and Safety Delegates** – Each AKH Club and Teams within a Club will be required to nominate a Health and Safety delegate who is a champion of all messaging and behaviour of teams while at a Hockey facility including the completion of back-up manual contact tracing attendance records of players and spectators. Team and Club delegates email and cell phone details should be submitted to Auckland Hockey no later than 26 May.

8. At LEP we have the added complication of ensuring we meet the **Watercare restrictions** as well as testing our recycled water to ensure we do not put turf users at risk.
9. To meet **GATHERING restrictions** trainings and games will be phased during Level 2. Remember the 10 person limit will be reviewed on 25 May. This means that teams can train or play, subject to the combined number of players, coaches and/or officials not exceeding 10 on a field or court. We interpret this to mean groups of 10 on a quarter of the turf each as a maximum with no intermingling between the groups and distancing respected between the quarters. Coaches come within the 10 person groups, therefore you may have a small game across the turf of 5v4. Therefore, It may not be practical for junior teams to practice with the 10 person limit restrictions with parents present on or around the turf.
10. **TOILETS and SHOWERS** – at LEP downstairs toilets only will be open for training sessions. Showers are prohibited in the circumstances for both trainings and games at LEP and due to water restrictions until further notice. All toilets will be commercially cleaned daily. Where possible you should go to the toilet at home before or after hockey training.
11. **Bar, Pavilion and Café at LEP** – this will only be open when competition games start on the weekend of June 6th. Indoor Gathering restrictions and hospitality rules will apply and contactless payment only will be accepted.
12. **All Changing rooms, DUGOUTS and the Umpires Room** at LEP will be closed until the start of Competitions.
13. **New fences at LEP** – Next week with the support of Auckland Council we are able to start the replacement of the baseline fences damaged in the June 2019 mini tornado. The repair and replacement on Turf 1 will be completed by the end of May.
14. **Spectators** – Any limits on spectators at games will be known after 25 May. Please ensure you keep your physical distance from other spectators at all venues. All spectators will be required to comply with AKH contact tracing protocols at Level 2.
15. **Spectators at Trainings at LEP** – There will be no spectators allowed at LEP for training and practices leading up to June 6. Following that, spectators will be strongly discouraged except where absolutely necessary eg parents who drive children to their hockey training but should remain in vehicles where possible.
16. **Do Not Congregate** - in carparks or at entry points to turfs, please keep your distance from other stakeholders.
17. **Return to Community Hockey – In Case of illness**
Club members and individuals should not return to Hockey if in the last 14 days they have been unwell or had close contact with a known or suspected case of COVID-19. In an environment of community transmission of COVID-19, any individual with respiratory symptoms (cough, sore throat, fever or shortness of breath), even if mild, should be considered a possible case of COVID-19. All club members are advised not to attend hockey facilities if they are unwell and should use a cautious approach. Any team or club member who is unwell should be referred to a doctor in accordance with MOH guidelines. Any participant with a possible case of COVID-19 should refrain from training (even at home) until they have been cleared to do so by a doctor, given the potential for worsening illness.



- **Please note that a Localised outbreak may require us to again restrict activity.**
- **The detection of a positive COVID-19 case in our sporting environment will result in a standard public health response, which could include quarantine of a whole team or large group, and close contacts, for the required quarantine period.**

Return to Community Hockey – Vulnerable groups

Clubs are advised that Vulnerable groups such as those with medical conditions may be at increased risk. Those with concomitant medical conditions need individualised management in consultation with their regular treating doctor(s) prior to return to training/playing environments. Considerations include increased susceptibility to respiratory infections, accessibility of medical resources, risk of medical sequelae from COVID-19, and access to alternate training options.

Club Members, Coaches, Umpires and other personnel with concurrent medical conditions including; respiratory or cardiac disease, hypertension, diabetes, obesity and immunosuppression due to disease or medication may be at increased risk. Other groups that require special consideration include; individuals over 70 years of age, carers for or a household contact of a vulnerable person, athletes with suboptimal access to medical care.

Potential interventions for vulnerable participants/other personnel by a club may include:

- Delaying a return to sport
- Training scheduled at designated 'lower risk' times (i.e. with no one else around)
- Maintaining physical distancing measures
- Exclusion of 'high risk' participants/other personnel from the training/competition environment.