

HOCKEY EASTERN ONTARIO

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Open Letter to Private Hockey Instructors and Non-Sanctioned Hockey Event Organizers in Eastern Ontario

Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO), as the provider of Hockey Canada - sanctioned hockey programs in eastern Ontario, calls on all private hockey instructors and organizers of non-sanctioned hockey events to provide responsible and safe levels of protection from COVID-19 while working with youth and young adults. Non-sanctioned event organizers and private instructors (with the exception of two in eastern Ontario) are not licensed nor overseen by Hockey Canada or HEO.

As our members rely upon private instructors to round out developmental training for individual players and teams, it is critical that private instructors and non-sanctioned event organizers have, and diligently follow, COVID-19 protocols as recommended by our health professionals. We understand that some already do this — our goal is to ensure that all operate at the same safety level as our Hockey Canada sanctioned programs.

At HEO, we've adopted the advice and direction on COVID safety protocols from our public health partners. Our HEO teams and Leagues follow these steps to ensure the health and safety of our participants, and their communities, for each and every team or League event:

- Comply with the Hockey Canada/HEO Return to Hockey Framework
- Have an approved Return to Hockey plan
- Have a COVID safety officer
- Take Hockey Canada COVID Safety training
- Have participants complete screening questionnaires before attending events and refuse entry to those who answer yes to questions
- Check in all participants and maintain a log for 30 days
- Wear masks
- Socially distance
- Participate in non-contact training and scrimmages
- Track each individual COVID case and work closely with the Health Units associated with HEO to protect team participants and the community
- Maintain the two-deep rule as required by Hockey Canada and HEO
- Ensure all team staff have the appropriate Hockey Canada certification, including attending mandatory COVID, Rowan's Law (Concussions) and Gender Identity training, and obtain Police Record Checks for vulnerable sectors.

We believe all of this contributes to a responsible and safe environment for hockey to take place. We encourage private instructors and non-sanctioned event organizers to do their part as well.

For safe and enjoyable hockey.

Gary Hopkins,
President, Hockey Eastern Ontario