

TOWN OF AURORA

# ■ RETURN TO SPORTS

## INDOOR ARENAS

Version 4.0 - February, 2021



## ■ RETURN TO SPORTS - INDOOR ARENAS

The purpose of this document is to provide Sport Clubs with direction and guidelines as it relates to COVID-19 Recovery and permitting arena facilities for Return to Sport. Ice arenas fall under the Provincial Order as facilities for indoor sports and recreational fitness activities.

### **All Sport Clubs that are interested in permitting Indoor Arena Facilities will be required to provide the following:**

1. Approved Return to Sport Guidelines from Provincial Sport Organization and/or National Sport Organization, and any additional Return to Sport Plans developed by your Sport Club
  - a. For amateur sports that are requesting a permit but not associated with any Provincial or National Sport Organization, there is a requirement to submit a Return to Sport Plan developed by the organization, demonstrating how they will be addressing issues relating to COVID-19
2. Certificate of Insurance, listing "The Corporation of The Town of Aurora" and the Town's full mailing address (Town of Aurora, Attention: Town Clerk, 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6J1) as Additional Insured

In situations where there are additional requirements in the Return to Sport Guidelines from Provincial Sport Organization and/or National Sport Organization that are not addressed in this document, the Town will work with the Sport Clubs and determine next steps.

It is imperative that all Sport Clubs regard health and safety as the highest priority, as one person's actions can negatively impact the health and wellness of other groups within the building. All Sport Clubs are expected to follow regulations and direction set by Town staff, respect the Return to Sport Guidelines from other Sport Clubs who share the facility, and work with the Town to create a safe environment for all. In addition, the Town expects the Sport Clubs to implement the Return to Sport Guidelines that is approved from their Provincial and/or National Sport Organizations (or "Return to Sport Plans" for amateur sport); and ensuring all Club personnel (i.e. coaches, athletes, participants, safety ambassadors, players, spectators) meet and abide by expectations as it relates to using Indoor Facilities.

#### Definition:

Safety Ambassador is a person (staff or volunteer) designated by the permit holder for the purpose of managing all COVID health screening, contact tracing and other supervision requirements outlined in this document.

### **The Town of Aurora expects all Sport Clubs to meet the following criteria:**

1. Any person who enters or uses the facility maintains a physical distance of at least two metres from any other person who is using the facility;
2. In support of the Region's Medical Officer of Health's instructions to businesses and organizations regarding Mandatory Use of Face Masks, the Town requests that all persons wear face masks/coverings while entering indoor Community Centres, especially in situations where physical distancing is not possible (i.e. Arena Dressing rooms);
  - a. The following are exempted from wearing masks or face coverings: the person is compromised by wearing a face covering because of a medical condition, the person is a child under two (2) years of age, the person is unable to place or remove a face covering without assistance or the person requires accommodation under the Ontario Human Rights Code;
3. Face masks and coverings may be removed temporarily for the following purposes: the person is consuming food or drink, the person is required to remove the face mask or covering for any emergency or medical purpose, the person is actively engaging in an athletic or fitness activity including water-based activities;
4. Sport Clubs will enter and exit the facility as directed by the Town;
5. In an effort to promote physical distancing of all facility users in Community Centres, all Sport Clubs and Arena users must arrive to the facility no earlier than 15 minutes prior to start of the permitted time, and must vacate the facility no later than 15 minutes after the end of the permitted time;

6. Sport Clubs will not exceed the gathering size set out by the Provincial Order;
7. Team sports are only permitted to engage in activities as set out in the Provincial Order;
8. Activities that are likely to result in individuals coming within two metres of each other are not practised or played within the facility;
9. All sport activities are conducted in accordance with the rules and policies of the applicable organization identified above, including the rules and policies put in place to enable a safe return to the sport;
10. At this time spectators are prohibited, except:
  - a. Where required for accommodation reasons. (ie: A child with special needs, who may require immediate access to a care giver or support worker.)
  - b. Where permitted, guardians for accommodation purposes are included in the maximum capacity allowed in accordance with Provincial Orders.
  - c. Parents/guardians of arena users are permitted for the purposes of assisting young children only, as follows:
    - i. Red Zone restrictions:
      - One guardian may enter with each participant to assist with putting on skates.
      - The Safety Ambassador is required to ensure the guardian has completed the COVID health screening and has been included in the contact tracing for the permit holder.
      - The Safety Ambassador is responsible for controlling entry and will allow a maximum of participants and guardians to a maximum of 10 people in total to enter the building.
      - As soon as the guardian is finished assisting with skates, the guardian must leave the building immediately through the designated exit, and the participants must immediately go to the player bench in the arena, under the supervision of the coach/trainer.
      - At the end of the permit time, guardians may be allowed back in the building to assist with the removal of skates, provided the Safety Ambassador, coach or trainer is at the entrance to ensure the following protocols.
      - A maximum of five guardians may be allowed in to assist with skate removal. Those five participants will return to the lobby/hallway while the other participants will remain on the bench under the supervision of the coach or trainer.
      - When the first group is ready to leave, they must leave the building immediately through the designated exit.
      - The Safety Ambassador will then allow the second group of guardians in the building and the remaining participants can leave the bench to have their skates removed.
      - All of this must be accomplished within 15 minutes following the end of the permit time.
      - Before any guardians re-enter the building the Safety Ambassador must verify that the guardian assisting with skate removal is the same guardian that assisted with putting skates on.
      - If it is the same person, no additional screening or contact tracing is required.
      - If it is a different guardian, the Safety Ambassador must verify that contact tracing has been completed and must add this person to their list for contact tracing.

ii. Orange Zone restrictions or higher:

- A maximum of one guardian per participant may enter the building to assist with putting on skates.
- The Safety Ambassador is required to ensure the guardian has completed the COVID health screening and has been included in the contact tracing for the permit holder.
- The guardian will escort the participant to the dressing room or other designated area to assist with putting on skates.
- The guardian will then immediately leave the building through the designated exit.
- At the end of the permit time, guardians may be allowed back in the building to assist with the removal of skates, provided the Safety Ambassador, coach or trainer is at the entrance to ensure the following protocols.
- Before any guardians re-enter the building the Safety Ambassador must verify that the guardian assisting with skate removal is the same guardian that assisted with putting skates on.
- If it is the same person, no additional screening or contact tracing is required.
- If it is a different guardian, the Safety Ambassador must verify that contact tracing has been completed and must add this person to their list for contact tracing.
- All of this must be accomplished within 15 minutes following the end of the permit time;

11. Safety Ambassadors are required to report to the Town staff person and identify themselves as the Safety Ambassador upon entry to the building, and must confirm with Town staff that they have conducted contact tracing and verified COVID screening for all persons who enter the facility in association with that permit;
12. Sport Clubs are required to clean and disinfect any equipment that is rented or provided to users of the facility, or any shared equipment, between each use;
13. Activities that require the use of equipment or fixed structures that cannot be cleaned and disinfected between each use must not be practised or played within the facility;
  - a. If Sport Clubs choose to use common spaces (i.e. benches, bleachers, storage boxes), then they are required to clean and sanitize high touch points before and after each use;
14. Sport Clubs are required to designate a Return to Sport Coordinator to liaise with the Town of Aurora, be responsible for all communication and education to members as it relates to COVID-19, and immediately notify the Town if a person in their club who participated in practice on Town property has tested positive for COVID-19;
15. Sports Clubs are required to complete daily COVID-19 screening requirements of all participants (i.e. players, staff, volunteers, spectators, etc.) and take attendance for all activities in the event where contact tracing is required. These records must be retained by the Sport Club for a period of two years, and must be made available to the Town upon request;
16. Contact tracing (attendance) and COVID-19 screening is required for all persons entering the facility, including parents, care-givers, staff, volunteers and spectators. The Sports Club is responsible for all contact tracing and screening for anyone entering the building associated with their group;
17. Where permitted, spectators must be limited in accordance with direction from Town staff and must be restricted to seating areas as directed by Town staff; and
18. Where spectators are not permitted, but parents/guardians are required to assist young children putting on skates, they will be allowed to do so, once contact tracing and screening is completed, for the sole purpose of assisting with skates. Parents must immediately leave the building through the exits identified in this document.

## **The Town of Aurora will be providing the following service levels for Arenas:**

1. The following areas within the Arena will be cleaned and sanitized:
  - a. Spectator areas
  - b. General areas such as gates and door handles
  - c. Dressing rooms
  - d. Player's benches
  - e. Penalty Box
  - f. Timekeepers Box
  - g. Media Booth (ACC – McAlpine Ford Arena)
2. Sufficient dressing rooms (or additional space) to allow for physical distancing while putting on and taking off skates. In the event sufficient dressing rooms are not available, Sport Clubs must manage their group size and scheduling accordingly.
3. Organizations that have been provided exclusive use spaces (dressing rooms, offices, storage, etc.) will be responsible for the regular cleaning and sanitization of these spaces.
4. Extend the Player's benches where possible to allow for more players on the bench while maintaining physical distancing by adding additional chairs and floor mats at the end of the benches where possible;
5. Will designate and mark where spectator seating/ viewing area is permitted in each facility;
6. Arena users are asked to fill up their water bottle prior to arriving to the facility as the water fountains are not in service;
7. Off-ice training (i.e. warm-up) is not allowed within the facility, however space outside the facility can be used if physical distancing is followed;
8. Arena users are required to arrive to the facility mostly dressed in their attire, and only use the Dressing rooms for the purpose of putting on skates and any final pieces of equipment that can't be put on prior to arrival;
9. Arena users can use the toilets in the Dressing rooms, however they cannot use the shower amenities;
10. Arena users are asked to follow the Schedule Assignment of Dressing Rooms, and directional flow into the Arena (i.e. Home player's Dressing Rooms versus Visitor players' Dressing Rooms);
11. Specific entry, exit and other directional flow details shall be provided to arena users;
12. Arena users must maintain physical distancing of 2-metres while seating in the Bench area;
13. Arena users are asked to remain in the designated dressing rooms, unless otherwise directed by this Return to Sport Protocol, until the designated permit start time and return to the dressing room immediately following the end of permit time to reduce any interaction with other permit holders;
14. There can be no more than 1 individual in the Arena Penalty Box at any given time; and
15. Shared equipment between Sport Clubs are available for use (i.e. clock, music system), however all Sport Clubs are required to clean and sanitize the equipment before and after use.
16. When dressing room use is not permitted in accordance with Provincial Orders, chairs/benches will be provided in designated areas for the purposes of putting on skates; and
17. When dressing rooms use is not permitted, under no circumstances shall any participant dress or undress in open areas of the building.

**Sport Clubs and Arena users are required to abide by the following facility specific items:**

**Aurora Community Centre, McAlpine Ford Arena:**

1. The main entrance can be used as an entrance only;
2. Due to physical distancing measures, the recommended capacity for Dressing rooms is no more than 8 individuals;
3. Home Team players who use Dressing Room 1 & 2 are required to enter into the Arena through the East entrance;
4. Visitor Team players who use Dressing Room 3 & 4 are required to enter into the Arena through the North entrance;
5. Spectators, where permitted, are required to enter into the Spectator seating area through the South West entrance, and sit adjacent to the Visitor's benches and exit from the North West entrance;
6. Sport Groups are recommended to not leave any personal belongings in the Dressing room as it will remain unlocked during permitted use;
7. Sport Clubs must exit through the emergency exits located in the main foyer North of the snack bar or South of the Pro Shop.

**Aurora Community Centre, Lincoln Arena:**

1. The main entrance can be used as an entrance only;
2. Due to physical distancing measures, the recommended capacity for Dressing rooms is no more than 10 individuals;
3. Home Team players who use Dressing Room 1 & 2 are required to enter into the Arena through the gate opposite the Home Team player's bench area;
4. Visitor Team players who use Dressing Room 3 & 4 are required to enter into the Arena through the gate opposite the Visitor player's bench area;
5. Spectators, where permitted, are required to enter into the Spectator seating area through North East staircase, and sit at the South East corner, and must exit from the South emergency exit of the arena;
6. Sport Groups and Arena users need to bring their own personal padlock if they wish to secure the belongings in the Dressing room;
7. Sport Groups must exit through the emergency exit at the South end of the arena, beside the Zamboni door.

**Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, Pfaff Arena:**

1. The main entrance can be used as an entrance, however all Sport Group, Arena users, and spectators must follow directional flow and exit by the North East corner Emergency Exit;
2. Due to physical distancing measures, the recommended capacity for Dressing rooms is no more than 10 individuals;
3. All Sport Groups and Arena users must travel from Dressing Room to Arena through the North West Doors, and must exit from the Arena into the Dressing Room through the South East Doors;
4. Spectators, where permitted, are required to enter into the Spectator seating area through the South East entrance, and sit at the North East corner, and exit from the North emergency exit; and
5. Sport Groups and Arena users need to bring their own personal padlock if they wish to secure the belongings in the Dressing room.

**Sport Clubs and Arena users are required to abide by the following facility specific items:**

**Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, Aurora Toyota Arena:**

1. The main entrance can be used as an entrance, however all Sport Group, Arena users, and spectators must follow directional flow and exit by the North East corner Emergency Exit;
2. Due to physical distancing measures, the recommended capacity for Dressing rooms is no more than 10 individuals;
3. All Sport Groups and Arena users must travel from Dressing Room to Arena through the North West Doors, and must exit from the Arena into the Dressing Room through the South West Doors;
4. Spectators, where permitted, are required to enter into the Spectator seating area through the South West entrance, and sit at the North West corner, and exit from the North emergency exit; and
5. Sport Groups and Arena users need to bring their own personal padlock if they wish to secure the belongings in the Dressing room

**Aurora Family Leisure Complex, Judy Sherin Memorial Arena:**

1. The main entrance can be used as an entrance, however all Sport Group, Arena users, and spectators must follow directional flow and exit by the West doors beside the South seating area;
2. Due to physical distancing measures, the recommended capacity for Dressing rooms is no more than 10 individuals;
3. All Sport Groups and Arena users must travel from Dressing Room to Arena through the gates opposite their player bench (Home or Visitor) the Arena into the Dressing Room through the same gate;
4. Spectators, where permitted, are required to use the South seating area only, and exit from the East exit; and
5. Sport Groups and Arena users need to bring their own personal padlock if they wish to secure the belongings in the Dressing room.

Sports Clubs are encouraged to remind their members to wash and sanitize their hands before and after using the facility and not touch their face. By using the indoor recreation facilities, the Sports Club and each member voluntarily assume all risks, including any risk of injury, loss, damage and possible exposure to a communicable disease such as COVID-19.