

2021

**ADJUSTED LEVEL 1 - SA HOCKEY  
OPERATIONAL GUIDE RETURN TO  
TRAINING, COMPETITION AND  
SPECTATORS**



**HOCKEY  
ASSOCIATION**

SA HOCKEY - 21 North Street, Illovo

10/12/2021



# The South African Hockey Association

## 1 Introduction

With the Adjusted Alert Level 1 having been announced on 30 September 2021 and the subsequently issuance of Government Gazette 45297 regulating the return of spectators the SA Hockey Operational Guidelines sections inclusion of Phase 5 “Return to Spectators” is hereby updated for the period 12 October 2021 and going forward.

	<b>Phase 3</b> From 01 September 2020	<b>Phase 4</b> From 15 January 2021	<b>Phase 5</b> From 12 October 2021
Clubs	Clubs Registered with their Province	Clubs Registered with their Province	Return to Spectators- Club Hockey, Provincial Hockey, Affiliates Hockey excluding Schools Hockey
Provinces Affiliates	Provinces & Affiliates affiliated to SAHA Return to Training Return to Competition	Provinces & Affiliates affiliated to SAHA Return to Training Return to Competition	
Professional & HP Players Club Players	Authorised players only Registered Members	Authorised players only Registered Members	
Coaches	Authorised coaches only registered with Club, Province or Affiliate	Authorised coaches only registered with Club, Province or Affiliate	
Leagues (authorised leagues only)	Authorised leagues per province	Authorised leagues per province	Return to Spectators – all Authorised leagues per province
National Championships	SAHA Approved	SAHA Approved	SAHA Approved
Tournaments	SAHA Approved	SAHA Approved	Provincially Approved SAHA Approved
Recreational Activities & Mass Participation Programs	SAHA Approved No more than 50 persons with social distancing and health measures	Province Approved SAHA Approved No more than 50 persons with social distancing and health measures	Province Approved SAHA Approved No more than 50% capacity of the venue with social distancing but not exceeding 750 persons indoor and not



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		All templates and paperwork to be submitted	exceeding 2000 persons outdoors
Return to Spectators Indoor	No Spectators Permitted	No Spectators Permitted	<p>Spectators at the hockey venue are permitted but limited to 750 persons or less for indoor venues.</p> <p>If the venue is too small to accommodate 750 persons with social distancing, then there must be no more than 50% of the capacity of the venue</p> <p>All health protocols must be observed – screening, wearing masks, social distancing and use of sanitizers.</p>
Return to Spectators Outdoor	No Spectators Permitted	No Spectators Permitted	<p>Spectators at the outdoor hockey venue are permitted but limited to 2000 persons or less for outdoor venues.</p> <p>If the venue is too small to accommodate 2000 persons with social distancing, then there must be no more than 50% of the capacity of the Venue.</p> <p>All health protocols must be observed – screening, wearing masks, social distancing and use of sanitizers.</p>



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## ***Proposed Activities* (Phase 5 – Adjusted Alert Level 1)**

Provinces will work in tandem with SA Hockey and submit calendars of events and any activities planned for approval. Venues will need to apply to SA Hockey via their Provinces for an Operation Certificate. The close and constant interaction with Compliance Officers at all levels will ensure that the business of mitigating risk is paramount to all activities. Updated compliance offices need to be registered. A description per phase can be further found below:



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	Category/ Criteria
<b>Phase 3:</b> From 01 September 2020 Current application as per Gazette 43667	<p><b>Athlete Criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SA Hockey Members               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Registered and paid up with SAHA</li> </ul> </li> <li>● National Teams               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SA Indoor Men and Women – In preparation for:</li> <li>○ SA National U21 Junior Men and Women Squads – In preparation for:</li> <li>○ SA National Men and Womens Squad – In preparation for:</li> <li>○ SA Masters and Grand Masters Squads Men and Women</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Provincial Teams               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ U21, Senior and Masters and Grand Masters Interprovincial HP Squads</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Clubs               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Registered club member</li> <li>○ Provincially Approved events</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Coaching Criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Appointed National, Provincial and Club Team Coaches               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Specialist trainers included</li> </ul> </li> <li>● SAHA and Provincially approved coaches</li> </ul> <p><b>Facility Criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Approved Low Risk Assessed Facility</li> <li>● Restricted access control</li> <li>● No spectators</li> <li>● Mitigating Health &amp; Safety measures in place</li> <li>● SA Hockey Certificate of Operation</li> </ul>
<b>Phase 4</b> From 15 January 2021	<p><b>Athlete Criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SA Hockey Members               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Registered and paid up with SAHA</li> </ul> </li> <li>● National Teams               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SA Indoor Men and Women – In preparation for:</li> <li>○ SA National U21 Junior Men and Women Squads – In preparation for:</li> <li>○ SA National Men and Women’s Squad – In preparation for:</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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- SA Masters and Grand Masters Squads Men and Women
- Provincial Teams
  - U21, Senior and Masters and Grand Masters Interprovincial HP Squads
- Clubs
  - Registered club member
  - Provincially Approved events

## Coaching Criteria

- Appointed National, Provincial and Club Team Coaches
  - Specialist trainers included
- SAHA and Provincially approved coaches

## Facility Criteria

- Approved Low Risk Assessed Facility
- Restricted access control
- No spectators
- Mitigating Health & Safety measures in place
- SA Hockey Certificate of Operation

## Phase 5

From 12 October  
2021

Current application  
as per Gazette  
45297

## Return to Spectators – Venue owners, operators, clubs etc

- All health protocols must be observed – screening, wearing masks, social distancing and use of sanitizers.
- Restricted access control as per prescribed number of attendees. The club, venue operator or event organiser will be responsible to ensure that the relevant prescribed capacity for the indoor or outdoor venue numbers are strictly complied with.
- Avoid cross pollination of tournament participants and spectators
- Maintain soft bubble/hard bubble guidelines where applicable
- Ensure strict Health& Safety measures are in place including regular cleaning of the venue
- Curfew times as per current Regulations must be adhered to at all times and all fixtures must be concluded well in advance giving players and spectators sufficient time to travel home after training or matches before curfew.

- Food & Beverage to be sold as per current Regulations and prevailing licensing conditions.

## 2 Criteria for Return to Play and Return to Competition

As a minimum requirement, all of the issues below must be met and each **facility** (club) must:

- Ensure all coaches and team staff are in good standing where applicable with Club, Province, Affiliates and SA Hockey;
- Ensure all players are registered and are paid-up members (All Affiliation Fees);
- Ensure that all members abide by the SA Hockey Return to Play Framework and the Standard Operational Procedure as contained in this guide.
- Ensure that a Certificate of Operation has been issued for the facility
- That access control measures are put in place and strictly adhered to
- That access to sanitizers and or water & soap for hand washing
- A summary of permitted participants and facilities per Phase, is provided where applicable by SA Hockey, the Province, the Club and Affiliate Member.
- A specified return to training phase is initially indicated
- A specified return to matches and competition is indicated
- A phased return to spectators is indicated and the specified number of attendees is specified per venue in compliance with current Regulations

### 2.1 General Control Measures

*Applicable to all phases*

- All appropriate information material relating to COVID-19 must be displayed in a prominent place within the club/training venue.
- Mandatory screening of all persons entering and using a club/training venue
- Masks as required by the health protocols and legislation must be worn by all persons on entering and exiting the club/training venue.



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- A dedicated isolation area for use by any individual who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 while in the club/training venue must be identified.
- The club/training venue and SA Hockey will keep a register, archived for 6 months, with full contact details of all athletes and coaches.
- No more than 750 persons at each indoor venue and 2000 persons at an outdoor venue or where the venue is too small to accommodate these numbers then no more than 50% of the venue's capacity is permitted per session inclusive of all players, coaching staff, medical, event officials, venue staff, media and spectators

## 2.2 Standard Operation Procedure

### 2.2.1 **Phase 4:** *Return to training and competition all hockey*

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*Estimated date of commencement – 15 January 2021*

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- National/ Provincial/ Regional/ District Tournaments and Training
- International Events to resume when approved
- Local events and activities only on approval by Province and SAHA
- Training may resume for all hockey in format as per previously approved Operational Guidelines
- Tournaments/Events may resume as per Standard Operating Procedure. Timing to take into consideration player readiness and fitness

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## 2.3

### 2.3.1 **Phase 5:** *Return to spectators*

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*Date of commencement – 12 October 2021*

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- National/ Provincial/ Regional/ District Tournaments
- Local events and activities only on approval by Province and SAHA
- Spectators may return to hockey venues as per current Regulations
- Venue operators or event organisers are to comply with current Regulations ensuring that the allowable number of spectators for indoor and outdoor venues are complied with at all times.
- Venue operators or event organisers of events with strict testing protocols for participants must ensure that there is no cross pollination between general spectators and participants that are part of a Covid-19 testing pool
- All Health & Safety Protocols to mitigate risk must be adhered to.

### **Standard Operating Procedure for Tournaments/Events**

The respective provincial association under whose jurisdiction localized hockey commences must comply with the following guidelines:

1. Competition – Provincial
  - 1.1. A clear delineation of responsibility for the organisation of the event, the Club Management’s role, the role of the event officials (Tournament Director, Umpires etc.) and the role of the host.
  - 1.2. The provincial association should appoint a COVID-19 Compliance Officer per event or per venue and/or a COVID-19 Medical Doctor to support the event who may be on call or available at specific times.



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1.3. The provincial association to undertake a comprehensive Risk Management Assessment with all stakeholders and agree and implement mitigation strategies including how many people at any one time can be in the facility, access and exit, cleaning etc. This in compliance firstly with no more than 750 persons for indoor events, 2000 persons for outdoor events or if the venues are too small to include these numbers, then no more than 50% of the venue's capacity as Nationally regulated taking into consideration the size of the venue. This Risk Management Assessment must be provided to SA Hockey as required from time to time as required. Indemnity requirements must be met.

1.4. All participants (players, team management, team officials, event organisers) must be informed of the Risks and Mitigation measures, as well as their Roles & Responsibilities in them.

This will include each participant completing a screening questionnaire by a required date before the event begins to be assessed by the COVID-19 Compliance Officer or medical professional. It will also require each participant signing a form (or digital disclosure where available) to confirm that they understand the process in full and take full responsibility for their participation.

1.5. Should any player have recently recovered from COVID-19, complied with self-isolation/quarantine protocols, are required to present a medical certificate confirming they are medically fit to play or participate.

1.6. Compliance with the "FIH Recommendation for Top Level, Spectated Events", where applicable as per the FIH Safety Guidelines

## 2. Competition – National and International

The FIH Safety Guidelines for Top Level Events gives guidelines for these levels of events.

The guidelines cover five essential areas:

- Arrangements at the Venue
- Organisation and Hygiene at the Pitch



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- Organisation of Accommodation
- Guidelines for Private Hygiene
- Guidelines for Covid-19 positive cases, Covid-19 infected persons and Quarantine.

Some elements are already covered within our Standard Operation Procedure and already used for the Return to Training and Competition phase.

## Arrangements at the Venue

### Zoning

The venue will be zoned per category – players, coaches, event staff, medical, media, technical officials, doping room, change rooms, spectator areas and access control monitored accordingly.

Each Venue/Stadium will have its own specific plan taking into consideration venue specific infrastructure such as venue layout, venue size, number of entrances, number of staff, shared spaces etc.

### Matches

Match schedules for a tournament format event are to be drawn up give sufficient times for teams to arrive, warm up, play and vacate the playing area and for the area to be cleaned before the next teams arrive.

Match day workflow operations will ensure that there will be limited contact of users and limited number of persons per zone.

### General match day flow protocols

Team Arrival entrances to be specified observing all standard operating procedure requirements such as – wearing masks, temperature screening and social distancing.

Team arrival to be staggered to avoid congestion of team entrances.

Change rooms will be cleaned prior and post every teams use. Teams to discard own used items such as empty water bottles etc. in bins provided.

Equipment Control and Hygiene as per standard operating procedure

Hand sanitizing before players walk on to the pitch

Team Walk on's contact to be limited at all times - there will be no handshaking, no team huddle

Team Bench usage will be set up taking into consideration social distancing



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Halftime protocol will require players to use own water bottles, to sanitize hands and use own towels.

## Organisation of Accommodation

Biological Safe Zone for events and tournaments can be created for events where appropriate. Event organisers to determine the need for a hard or soft “bubble”. This can be achieved by creating a safe hub for all event participants and teams. This will include accommodation with Covid-19 Protocols as issued by the Minister of Tourism. The team centralized accommodation will assist to mitigate the risk of multiple contact points for event participants and teams. Teams where possible must be accommodated on separate floors to other hotel/establishment guests, team meals to be served as per current Department of Tourism protocols.

Teams are to comply with all general or tournament specific mitigation protocols as set by the hotel.

Teams to comply with all general or tournament specific travel protocols to mitigate risk and to limit contact with non-event persons

Team air travel to conform with current Covid-19 protocols as issued by Minister of Transport

### 3. Masters Training and Competition

Masters training and competition is hereby specified due to additional requirements being needed to support the mitigation of risk for persons over the age of 60.

Return to training will be in compliance with the Operational Guidelines and the Standard Operating Procedure.

Training bookings must not overlap with any other venue users

A customized Declaration by Officials, Athletes or Support Staff attending training will be used

### 4. Recreational Activities and Mass Participation

All recreational activities and mass participation activities require pre-approval from Province and SAHA.

Recreation activities means those physical activities of leisure undertaken for the purpose of a lifestyle, outside of structured competitive sport. These activities would include the likes of modified, mini and community unstructured pitch & play hockey games.

These activities need to be organized in a fashion that promotes the mitigation of risks and under the jurisdiction of community lead persons, clubs, Provinces or SAHA where applicable.



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The strict control of numbers in attendance must be adhered to as per the current regulations

## 5. Vaccination Covid-19

South Africa currently has an ongoing vaccination programme, which is readily available in all communities and is free of charge. We encourage participants to get vaccinated in order to further protect themselves against the adverse effects of Covid-19.

***A sport body and its affiliate members are jointly and severally responsible for any claim for damages or negligence arising as a result of failure to take reasonable measures in curbing the spread of COVID -19.***

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***These guidelines are subject to change from time to time in line with any announcements from National Government, Provincial Government and Local Authorities.***

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