



ENGLAND HOCKEY

Player Pathway guidelines

This summary is aimed at helping Regional and County Associations understand their responsibilities when delivering Player Pathway activity.

The document focuses on what is different for delivery in the Player Pathway with the aim of supporting delivery of activity when suitable in line with Covid-19 Return to Play guidelines. Unless explicitly referenced beneath all the wider Covid-19 guidelines still apply and so all County and Regional Administrators should have a strong working understanding of these.

Specific Issues for the Player Pathway

Activity:

- Performance Centre delivery is co-ordinated nationally and activity will be agreed by the Performance Centre Working Group.
- Academy Centre and Development Centre delivery are devolved to local decision making. However, all activity must be in line with England Hockey Getting Back on the Pitch – Step 4 Guidance, which is available [here](#). We recommend reading the full guidance if you have wider responsibilities or would like to gain a greater understanding of the requirements and measures in place.
- Academy Centre and Performance Centre competitions should be aligned to Step 5 of the England Hockey Return to Play plans and therefore, at this time should not take place.

Actions related to Covid19 Guidelines:

- All Counties/Regions must appoint a Covid Officer and register with England Hockey [here](#).
- Participation Agreements - are required to be completed by all participants, coaches and umpires. These only need to be done once and allow participants to select all the environments they play in once a Covid Officer is registered. They can sign up [here](#).
- Risk assessments must be completed for all venues (template and check list [here](#)). Every venue does not need a separate Covid Officer but all coaches/managers must be fully aware of their responsibilities if a Covid officer is not present at the venue.
- Registers – Registers must be kept and made available to England Hockey.
 - Where organisations use the Player Pathway System then using the register function within the Schedule section is sufficient and no further information needs to be sent to England Hockey. You can find out how to use the Player Pathway System register [here](#) (Page 37 of User Guide for Administrators). If you require further support, please contact support.playerpathway@englandhockey.co.uk
 - Where organisations don't use the Player Pathway System then attendance registers must be shared with England Hockey as per the wider Step 4 Return to Play guidance.

In light of the list above we have amended the guides for players, coaches, facility operators specifically for use within the Player Pathway only. These are included in the appendix to this document.

For any further queries please contact clubs@englandhockey.co.uk or support.playerpathway@englandhockey.co.uk

Appendix

Player Pathway Specific Guidance

Hockey Activity – Player Pathway Summary Guidance

The maximum group size (including coaches) is 30 for competitive training. More than one group of 30 can use a pitch but must remain separate from the other group. Coaches (that remain socially distanced) can move between groups.

Think about how you divide the pitch if more than one group is using it to ensure there is sufficient space between groups. The aim should be to ensure groups have significant space at all times including at the start and end of sessions. Groups should not mix but coaches can move across groups.

Social distancing, to a distance of at least 2m, must be maintained outside of competitive training or matches.

It is recommended that time is left between sessions (10 mins) to allow for minimal opportunity for bottlenecks to occur.

A risk assessment of activity should be undertaken for each delivery venue.

A Covid Officer must be nominated for each delivery venue. Organisations can have one Covid Officer and if they are not present then coaches or centre managers must be fully aware of their responsibilities.

Registers – Registers must be kept and made available to England Hockey.

- Where organisations use the Player Pathway System then using the register function within the Schedule section is sufficient and no further information needs to be sent to England Hockey. You can find out how to use the Player Pathway System register [here](#).
- Where organisations don't use the Player Pathway System then attendance registers must be shared with England Hockey as per the wider Step 4 Return to Play guidance.

It is recommended that players bring their own personal equipment (sticks and personal protective equipment).

Where this isn't possible, and the organisation provides them:

- Fresh balls and sticks should be used for each session – balls and sticks should be stored separately
- after use equipment should be disinfected or stored for at least 72 hours before being used again.
- Coaches should collect balls, or the player return them with their stick/feet, not hands.
- No contact between player and other coaching equipment – it is recommended that limited equipment is used if possible.

Suitable first aid provision should be provided. St John's Ambulance advice is [here](#).



Organisers should ensure that the venue has the necessary standards in place before, during and after the activity before deciding to use the venue.

Coaches – Player Pathway Summary Guidance

Coaches must be aware who the Covid Officer is for their organisation and be suitably briefed in the expectation for coaches.

Coaches must sign an England Hockey Participation Agreement before delivering any activity (this only needs to be done once), where they agree to the terms and conditions and Code of Ethics and Behaviours. They can sign up [here](#).

Coaches must understand all the expectations placed upon players and play a role ensuring that protocols are followed.

Coaches should take all reasonable steps to ensure that sessions are as safe as possible.

Coaches should adapt sessions accordingly following England Hockey guidance. Free online training sessions are being offered to support this. Register your interest in the free online training sessions [here](#).

Coaches should avoid delivering training exercises that involve overly repetitive close contact between players. There is an additional risk of infection in close proximity situations where people are shouting or conversing loudly.

This particularly applies indoors and when face to face. If possible, players and coaches should therefore avoid shouting or raising their voices when facing each other during, before and after games. This will be included within England Hockey's Code of Ethics & Behaviour.

Coaches should regularly remind participants (and parents/guardians where appropriate) of the expectations and standards required.

When communicating with players, avoid regular removal of gum shields.

If a coach shows symptoms of Covid-19 they should phone NHS Track and Trace and let the organisation Covid Officer know immediately. They should also contact anyone who they have been in contact with during one of their sessions in the past 48 hours.

Facilities – Player Pathway Summary Guidance

Some facility operators may have their own guidelines and standards in place.

Facility operators and organisations should cooperate to ensure best practice is followed. Any hockey bookings must comply with the guidance issued by England Hockey.

Facilities should carefully follow government advice on facility opening. This should include a Covid-19 Risk Assessment.

Cleaning – suitable cleaning and hygiene arrangements should be put in place.

Indoor facilities:

- Clubhouses – Should only open in line with government advice relating to the opening of indoor facilities and hospitality guidelines.

- Toilets – should be opened in line with guidance and, between sessions, should be cleaned, with appropriate cleaning fluids and water available.

Outdoor facilities:

- Prepare for sessions with equipment ready and in the right place so that, wherever possible, players/coaches/officials have no contact with doors, gates, fencing, goals.
- First aid equipment accessible and facility operator or St John's ambulance advice followed. See [here](#).
- Hand sanitisers should be made available and facility operators should clean all common use areas in between sessions.

Leave gates / doors open and consider a one-way system if possible (in / out).

Consider parking arrangements and maintaining social distancing wherever possible, including marking 2m distancing if you can.

Standard England Hockey safety advice should be followed [here](#).

Facility operators should provide clear signage and regular reminders of Covid-19 guidelines.

Facility operators should ensure that there is clear and regular communication with organisers reminding them of standards required.

Facility operators should disinfect equipment and areas that have been used.

If any users of the venue, or venue staff, show symptoms of Covid-19 they should phone NHS Track and Trace immediately. The facility operator should contact the hockey organisations Covid Officer immediately and inform any other recent users of the facility.