

Update from the Covid Officer – 21/07/2021

Hello all and I hope you are all enjoying both the nice weather and the recent relaxation of the Covid restrictions.

Following a briefing earlier today with England Hockey and the publication of their new guidance, I just want to make you all aware of what is now required and not required moving forward.

- 1) You are stuck with me for the time being – a Covid Officer is still a requirement.
- 2) England Hockey Participation Agreements (EHPAs) – these are no longer required for any new players or any returning players that didn't previously complete one.
- 3) Attendance registers – these are being encouraged to be continued from a player welfare and child safeguarding perspective although we (I) no longer need to submit them to England Hockey. They are also useful for Track and Trace purposes. Therefore please continue to complete attendance registers for all sessions/matches and send them through to me. Once you have sent them through you can delete them to meet GDPR requirements.
- 4) Pre-session risk assessments – these should still be done – if you show any of the main symptoms you should not attend.
- 5) Clubhouses and changing facilities are now available depending on the venue but should be used in a responsible manner. However, please be aware that different clubs may continue to employ different measures regarding the use of facemasks, one way systems, QR codes etc so you should respect the requirements of whichever venue you are attending. I will be talking to Warlingham to get clarification on their requirements and will advise members as soon as possible.
- 6) Stick tapping instead of handshakes is still encouraged and spitting and equipment sharing should be avoided. Please also respect officials and do not shout in their faces!!!!
- 7) Spectators and car sharing are now allowed again.

There will be more guidance published by England Hockey in respect of the upcoming league season and competitions in respect of positive tests and self-isolation and what this may mean for affected teams.

Lastly, please be aware that Covid has not gone away and everyone should continue to use common sense and good judgement when attending all hockey sessions or social events. The webinar raised the issue of anxiety amongst people (following a Sport England survey) regarding the possibility of catching the virus or of even leaving the house, so players should only be coming back to hockey when they are ready and not be put under any under pressure.

More guidance is available at englandhockey.co.uk/covid19 and englandhockey.co.uk/FAQs should you need it but also please feel free to message me if you have any questions.

Lets all enjoy getting back to a more normal hockey environment but all please stay safe.

Many thanks

Andy