

PPE, Masks, and Physical Distancing

When participating via Cohorting ('Cohort' coaches):

'Cohort' coaches are required to wear masks in the dressing room, on the player's bench and in the penalty box area. However, they are not required to wear a mask while on the ice.

While 'Cohort' coaches are part of the cohort and do not need to physically distance, distancing is recommended wherever possible.

When participating via Physical Distancing ('Physically Distanced' coaches):

Team officials must always maintain two-metre physical distancing from all other participants. Additionally, they must wear masks within the dressing room and on the bench but can remove them while coaching/ instructing on the ice.

Coach Referees

- Coaches will be required to 'officiate' or manage the game.
- Minimum requirements
 - U7 – no formal games, coaches will already be on the ice for practices
 - U9 – a minimum of 1 coach on the ice for each ½ ice game
 - No maximums unless restricted by the arena total numbers
 - Physical Distancing coaches on the ice must follow proper protocols (see below)
 - U11-U18 – a minimum of 2 coaches on the ice for each game
 - No maximums unless restricted by the arena total numbers
 - Recommendation of 2-4 coaches on the ice
 - Physical Distancing coaches on the ice must follow proper protocols (see below)
- PPE Protocols:
 - 'Cohort' Coach – n/a
 - 'Physical Distancing' Coach MUST:
 - Practice physical distancing and perform proper hand hygiene;
 - Keep a distance of 2 metres between all other officials while in the change room and during the transition from the change room to the ice
 - Wear a mask whenever dropping the puck
 - Wear a mask when talking with a player, team official or another official inside a distance of 2 metres
- Officiating
 - Coaches are expected to manage the game to keep it fun and safe for all participants
 - Coaches should discuss prior to the game a protocol for penalized players
 - While a traditional serving a penalty in the box is acceptable, coaches are encouraged to come up with unique ways of 'serving' a penalty (ex. penalty shot chase)
 - Associations will be responsible for handling any suspendable offenses. If coaches feel a suspendable offense requiring supplemental discipline occurs, they should consult with their associations to handle these rare circumstances

Off-Ice Officials (Scorekeeper, Timekeeper, etc.)

Off-ice officials must always maintain two-metre physical distancing from all other participants. They are required to wear a mask while acting as a scorekeeper, timekeeper, or other off-ice official role.

Benches and Dressing Rooms

All coaches are required to wear masks while in the dressing room and while on the player's bench.

Attending to an injured player:

'Physical Distancing' coaches are required to wear a mask and perform proper hand hygiene if it becomes necessary to temporarily interact with cohorting participants at a distance of less than 2 metres.

Certification and Training

The structure of certification and training clinics and seminars for Coaches and Team Officials has been confirmed by Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta for the 2020-21 season. Certification programs will include a combination of in-person clinics (using physical distancing) and online programming.

Hockey Alberta will maintain the same requirements for all Coaches and Team Officials for the 2020-21 season (November 15 deadline), with the addition of an online Hockey Canada Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines module for all head coaches. The module is now available.

[RETURN TO HOCKEY SAFETY MODULE](#)

The list of current coaching requirements is available under the Coaches tab on the Hockey Alberta website:

[GO TO COACH EDUCATION](#)

Structure of In-Person Clinics

- All clinics offered via Physical Distancing. A two-metre distance between attendees and instructors will be in place throughout all clinics.
- All participants will be required to complete a pre-screening document prior to attendance.
- Facility policy regarding masks will be followed.
- All registration must be done online, prior to the clinic. No walk ups will be accepted.
- For the clinic, ensure you bring the following:
 - Mask/ Face Covering
 - For the on-ice portion (skates, stick, gloves, CSA-approved helmet)
 - For the in-class portion: notepad, pen/pencil, and/or iPad/ laptop