

2021

**ADJUSTED LEVEL 3 AMENDED SA
HOCKEY OPERATIONAL GUIDE
RETURN TO TRAINING AND
COMPETITION**



**HOCKEY
ASSOCIATION**



The South African Hockey Association

1 Introduction

With the Adjusted Alert Level 3 having been announced on 28 December 2020 and subsequently amended on 11 January 2021 the SA Hockey Operational Guidelines sections regarding “Proposed Activities” is hereby updated for the period 15 January 2021 and going forward.

	Phase 3 From 01 September 2020	Phase 4 From 15 January 2021
Clubs	Clubs Registered with their Province	Clubs Registered with their Province
Provinces	Provinces & Affiliates affiliated to SAHA	Provinces & Affiliates affiliated to SAHA
Affiliates	Return to Training Return to Competition	Return to Training Return to Competition
Professional & HP Players	Authorised players only	Authorised players only
Club Players	Registered Members	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
National Championships	SAHA Approved	SAHA Approved
Tournaments	SAHA 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 All templates and paperwork to be submitted

Proposed Activities (Phase 4 – Adjusted Alert Level 3)

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



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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

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 in put in place and strictly adhered to
- That access to sanitizers and or water & soap for hand washing

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- 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

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 personnel on entering and exiting the club/training venue.
- 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 50 persons at each venue per session inclusive of all players, coaching staff, medical, event officials, venue staff and media

2.2 Standard Operation Procedure

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

Estimated date of commencement – 15 January 2021

- National/ Provincial/ Regional/ District Tournaments and Training
- International Events to resume when approved



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- 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

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.
 - 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 50 persons as Nationally regulated and taking into consideration the size of the venue. This Risk Management Assessment must be provided to SA Hockey for approval at the time the competition is being planned. 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-

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19 medical professional. It will also require each participant signing a form 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
- 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 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 and access control monitored accordingly. Each Venue/Stadium will have its own specific plan taking into consideration venue specific infrastructure such as venue layout, number of entrances, number of staff, shared spaces etc.



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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

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. This can be achieved by creating a safe hub for all event participants and teams. This will include designated accommodation with Covid-19 Protocols as issued by Minister of Tourism. The 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 mitigation protocols as set by the hotel.

Team travel airport-hotel- venue-hotel-airport to be arranged to ensure no contact with non-event persons

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



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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.

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