

City of London Arena Opening Plan

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of all City of London arenas on March 16, 2020 and resulted in seasons being cancelled before they were able to finish. Tryouts to take place in the spring for the following season were cancelled and off season skating programs did not take place.

As the Provincial government moved to Phase 2 of their reopening plan in the middle of June, arenas were able to reopen with strict protocols in place. Western Fair Sports Centre and London Ice Park opened and were renting ice. They had and continue to have strict protocols in place for anyone that enters their facility. The province moved to the Phase 3 of their reopening plans the middle of July which resulted in 50 people now permitted for indoor gatherings.

The City of London has followed very closely the reopening plans for all sports as we developed our reopening plan. The following document gives an overview into how and when we will reopen our arenas as well as lays out the specific protocols that will be in place of the users of our arenas. Each City of London arena is unique so a specific operation plan will be developed for each arena that will be communicated to the users of that specific arena.

All groups contracting ice with the City of London must follow the Provincial Sport Organizations return to play protocols. Associations that are not affiliated members of a Provincial Sport Organization still must adhere to their sports return to play protocols at minimum in order to be granted a permit at a City of London arena. For example all hockey association must follow the Ontario Hockey Federation's return to play plan, all Skating groups must follow the Skate Ontario return to skate plan.

The Reopening Plan will include 3 phases and guidelines for anyone participating in an ice rental within a City of London arena. It is important to point out that as we reopen our arenas they will look different than before the COVID-19 pandemic arrived. The phases will have varying degrees of time between each phase to ensure the highest level of safety precaution for everyone involved. At any point we may move back to the previous phase should the Province of Ontario slowdown or retreat to the previous stage of the provinces reopening plan.

Phase 1 - Mild Restrictions

- This phase will fall within Stage 2 of the Province of Ontario's reopening plan and all restrictions within that stage must be adhered to.
- Social Distancing Measures are still in place – Only activities respecting physical distancing measures of 2M (6 ft.) will be permitted.
- Aim to keep players in small groups respecting physical distancing measures of 2M (6 ft.).
- Mixing of skaters strongly discouraged so as to avoid the number of players interacting with an asymptomatic COVID19 carrier.
- No games during this phase.
- Any ice activity must comply with the social distancing measures as well as any gathering restrictions issued by the provincial government health authorities.

Phase 2 – Minor Restrictions – We will open in this Phase

- This phase will fall within Stage 3 of the Province of Ontario’s reopening plan and all restrictions within that stage must be adhered to.
- Social distancing measures are relaxed further to allow for closer player interactions in training.
- Training can now include now closer group interactions where sharing or competing for the puck can now take place, i.e., 1v1, 2v2, 3v3.
- Modified game formats such as 3 on 3, 4 on 4 or Inter-association 5 on 5 games permitted. Prior to any games taking place approval must be given by the City of London.
- Any ice activity must comply with the social distancing measures as well as any gathering restrictions issued by the provincial government health authorities.

Phase 3 – Limited Restrictions

- This phase will fall within Stage 4 of the Province of Ontario’s reopening plan or as modifications/revisions are made to Stage 3 that allow for more restrictions to be lifted.
- Return to tradition programming.
- No to limited restrictions in place.

At any time throughout the season we could revert back to the previous phase. It is possible that one area of the plan may move up a phase while the others remain in the previous phase.

Area	Phase 1 (Mild Restrictions)	Phase 2 (Minor Restrictions)	Phase 3 (Limited Restrictions)
Scheduling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rinks start times staggered 15 minutes at 3 pad arena and 30 minutes at double pad arena to avoid flood conflicts and allow separate entry times • Maximum 50m sessions • 30m between sessions on individual pads to allow for groups entry/exit without crossing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rinks start times staggered 15 minutes for 3 pad arena and 30 minutes at double pads to avoid flood conflicts and allow separate entry times • Maximum 50 minute sessions • Add in additional time between sessions, as necessary, to allow for appropriate cleaning of bench, penalty box, and dressing room areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rinks start times staggered 15 minutes for 3 pad arena and 30 minutes at double pads to avoid flood conflicts and allow separate entry times • Sessions can be booked for longer than 50m • Add in additional time between sessions, as necessary, to allow for appropriate cleaning of bench, box, and dressing room areas
On-ice Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assume group size limitations (starting at 10 then 15, all including instructors) • Participants must practice physical distancing and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group size limited to 20 – including instructor(s) • No body contact and physically distance where possible • Groups can utilize both benches and penalty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced limit restrictions on group size • Groups encouraged to prohibit body contact and physically distance where possible

	<p>perform skill drills only – no game play and no body contact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benches and penalty box areas to be avoided • No sharing of sticks, gloves or any equipment other than nets and pucks/rings • All participants must bring their own individual water bottles • No sharing pylons, skate assists or any equipment between sessions unless sanitized 	<p>boxes, spacing accordingly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No sharing of sticks, gloves or any equipment other than nets and pucks/rings • All participants must bring their own individual water bottles • No sharing pylons, skate assists or any equipment between sessions unless sanitized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups can utilize both benches and penalty boxes, spacing accordingly • No sharing of sticks, gloves or other equipment (other than nets/pucks) • All participants must bring their own individual water bottles
Entry/Exit Req's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each arena to set specific entry and exits as per individual arena plans • Participants to arrive no more than 15 minutes before their ice time, fully dressed except for skates, helmet and gloves, and to go directly to their assigned rink. • Participants will be required to depart following their ice time, no lingering in any area is permitted. • Youth may have a parent/guardian over 18yrs accompany them to tie skates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each arena to set specific entry and exits as per individual arena plans • Participants may arrive no earlier than 15 minutes before their ice time and can enter with their coach or representative of the association. • Participants must exit the arena 15 minutes after the conclusion of their ice time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each arena to set specific entry and exits as per individual arena plans • Participants may arrive 30 minutes before their ice time • Participants must exit the arena 15 minutes after the conclusion of their ice time
PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks mandatory for all entering the facility. Players can remove their masks prior to entering the ice surface but must put them back on immediately after. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks mandatory for all entering the facility. Players can remove their masks prior to entering the ice surface but must put them back on immediately after. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks mandatory for all entering the facility. Players can remove their masks prior to entering the ice surface but must put them back on immediately after. • Spectators must wear a mask at all times

Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spectators Parent/Guardian can enter to tie skates but must leave after they have done so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spectators at this time. Parent/Guardian can enter to tie skates but must leave after they have done so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spectator limitations will be put in place based on group/event. Spectators are not permitted to enter until their participant ice time is to begin and must leave the arena at the conclusion of the ice time. No lingering in common areas.
Dressing Rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No access to Dressing Rooms Chairs will be set up, appropriately distanced, inside each rink to allow users to put on skates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dressing Rooms available for distanced use – maximum of 9 people per dressing room. Shower use to remain closed No dressing room keys will be handed out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dressing Rooms available for distanced use – where necessary teams may be given 2 rooms to use Shower and washroom facility use is permitted, under new guidelines Dressing Room keys will be given out
Washroom Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washrooms will be sanitized at least once per hour and major cleaning twice a day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washrooms will be sanitized at least once per hour and major cleaning twice a day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washrooms will be sanitized at least once per hour and major cleaning twice a day
Multi-Purpose Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No use of multi-purpose rooms or common area space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited use of multi-purpose space by small cohort groups, provided physical distancing can be followed No warm-up or physical activity permitted in multi-purpose or common area spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-open multi-purpose space and common use areas throughout facility Encourage physical distancing No warm-up or physical activity permitted in multi-purpose or common area spaces
Leased Storage Space		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations with storage space permitted limited access by appointment only, must adhere to additional cleaning/storing requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations with leased space permitted access during building hours of operation, must adhere to additional cleaning/storing requirements
Food Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concession to remain closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concession to remain closed Allow use of all vending machines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concessions open Allow use of all vending machines
Staffing Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 driver + 1 attendant per twin pad, additional attendants as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 driver + 1 attendant per twin pad, additional attendants as needed 1 cleaner for common area cleaning – hallways, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 driver + 1 attendant per twin pad, additional attendants as needed 1 cleaner for common area cleaning – hallways,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 cleaner for common area cleaning – hallways, washrooms, employee areas, entrances 	washrooms, employee areas, entrances	washrooms, employee areas, entrances
Maintenance & Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rink cleaning will be the focus of attendants/drivers Common area cleaning will be the focus of cleaning staff Overall emphasis on cleaning over maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rink cleaning will be the focus of attendants/drivers, with assistance from cleaning staff Common area cleaning will be the focus of cleaning staff Overall emphasis on cleaning over maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rink cleaning will be the focus of attendants/drivers, with assistance from cleaning staff Common area cleaning will be the focus of cleaning staff Heavy emphasis on cleaning, with ability to turn more attention to maintenance and improvement
Comm. Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage throughout facility outlining new protocol, safety measures taken, hygiene expectations, physical distancing requirements, directions to rinks and exits, and out of bounds areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage throughout facility outlining new protocol, safety measures taken, hygiene expectations, physical distancing requirements, directions to rinks and exits, and out of bounds areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage throughout facility outlining new protocol, safety measures taken, hygiene expectations, physical distancing requirements, directions to rinks and exits, and out of bounds areas
Public Skating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Public Skating programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited public skating with limitations on number of people on the ice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited public skating with limitations on number of people on the ice

Arena Openings

The City of London will open our arenas in a staggered approach. Oakridge will not open this season as they are a COVID-19 assessment centre. Farquharson Arena will not open for the time being. Below is the dates when we will open the City of London arenas.

September 26 – Nichols, Lambeth, Carling and Argyle will open for bookings. The City of London as per our joint venture agreement with Western Fair will begin allocating ice at Western Fair starting September 28

October 10 – Kinsmen, Stronach, Medway and Bostwick will open for bookings.

With the closure of arenas for the season the allocation of ice to the groups this season will look different. All groups will be affected. Best efforts will be made to keep ice times as close to last season and to provide ice times in the area of the city that the association is located.

Tournaments/Events

As per the OHF and OSSA return to play documents no tournaments or events are permitted until Stage 4 so the City of London has decided to cancel all tournaments for the season. Should this direction from the OHF change come January we are happy to revisit this decision.