

Proposal for Approval  
of  
Modified Broomball Leagues  
During Phase 2 of the  
NWT's "Emerging Wisely" Strategy

Submitted by the  
NWT Broomball Association



**BROOMBALL**  
NWT

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## **1. Purpose / Objective**

The intent of this proposal is to request the Government of the Northwest Territories to consider reopening Ice Arenas for modified Broomball leagues throughout the Northwest Territories in the category of small group gatherings in Phase 2 of NWT "Emerging Wisely" strategy. Ensuring a safe and healthy environment is priority for the participants and rink attendants. With adherence to physical distancing and risk reduction recommendations we believe facilities can be a safe environment for the participants and the arena staff.

This document will outline safety measures that will be put in place to limit the exposure of COVID-19. It is important to note that the City of Yellowknife will be responsible for cleaning the facility and that their procedures or safety measures may change without prior notice given to NWT Broomball. NWT Broomball will adapt to changing procedures and support arena staff in their effort to ensure a safe environment for all.

## **2. Philosophy / Mission**

To promote and enhance healthy and safe reintegration for the sport of broomball supporting participants emotional, social, physical, and mental health during the COVID 19 crisis. The NWT Broomball Association is a NWT wide Winter sport that promotes the development of broomball skills along with supporting other community development opportunities. We provide an all-inclusive sport environment that engages participants of all ages to enhance their skills, knowledge, confidence, and love of our great game. Our model is team centered and integrating community, and to engage participants in fun, fitness, social interaction, and self-fulfillment. There are 4 options for players to participate in: Adult Mixed, Adult Women, Youth Girls and Youth Boys.

## **3. Player Safety / Health**

Our goal is for the GNWT to approve modified broomball programs that align with the guidelines and reduce the risk of small group gathering. This proposal will adhere to the policies outlined in by NWT Public Health and the Canadian Broomball Federation Return to Safe Play and in many cases surpass the requirements for play to continue.

The COVID 19 virus has had an emotional, social and physical impact on everyone. Many have been restricted from environments that offer positive feedback and socialization. Many people want to return to reengaging in these positive social activities and are concerned about the long-term consequences of continued isolation and restrictions. Our plan is to place the health and safety of participants, officials, and other staff as the highest of importance.

#### **4. Program Modifications:**

We are proposing the following plan that includes safe standards and restrictions associated with the opening of Arena facilities in Phase 2 of NWT's Emerging Wisely Strategy.

##### **a. Attendance:**

Indoor activities are currently restricted to a maximum of Twenty Five therefore we propose a maximum of (21) participants in total which includes two goalies, a time keeper and two officials. Our request is for play in Yellowknife Community Arena( YKCA) which is only slightly smaller than the Shorty Brown Arena. The size ensures the appropriate distancing parameters exceed the expectations for players and officials on ice. Other jurisdictions in Canada currently have allowances for up to 27 people, including coaches on the ice for the sport of hockey. At no time, will there be more than the allocated number of 21 and there will be no increase to this without prior approval from the Chief Medical Health Officer. No spectators will be permitted in the facility.

##### **b. Dressing Rooms:**

Dressing rooms remain closed for phase 2 of NWT's Emerging Wisely Strategy. All participants arrive at the arena facility fully dressed in CBF approved broomball gear, excluding shoes, gloves and helmet which should be accompanied by the player. Participants will enter through the main entrance (East Entrance) and upon completion of the league game will exit via the side door of the arena. (South entrance).

##### **c. Program Modifications:**

A City of Yellowknife representative will open the doors 15 mins prior to ice time.

i. Participants will be expected to remain socially distant and be wearing masks during the check in phase. Participants will enter through the front/Main doors of the YKCA. These doors will be kept open to reduce high traffic touch points. Once the participants are all signed in, these doors will be closed as per fire regulations.

ii. Participants are signed in by a City of Yellowknife representative and must complete a self assessment questionnaire. Any participant that does not pass the screening process or has symptoms will be turned away and must leave the facility immediately. Participants with symptoms should stay home, self monitor and contact Protect NWT for assistance. All participants entering the facility must wear non-medical PPE(masks) when physical distancing is not possible or if the facility requires it. Participants will then proceed to the bleachers to dress for the game maintaining their social distancing. All participants have until game time to arrive for their designated time slot, at which time the doors will be closed, and no entry will be allowed for late participants.

**ALL participants** will also need to sign a waiver, prior to the program start, indicating that they will follow the expected procedures put in place. Any failure to comply will result in the removal from the league.

iii. Once all participants are checked in, they will proceed onto the ice sheet in an easy to follow flow that does not involve coming into close contact with any other player. All participants can remove masks once on the ice surface.

iv. Upon the completion of the ice session participants will, again line up and proceed off the ice surface and to their assigned seating for removal of shoes, gloves, and helmet.

v. Participants are given **15 minutes** to remove shoes, gloves, helmet and will be required to leave as directed by the Club representative.

vi. Once all players are ready to depart the Club representative will escort the participants out the South entrance of the building. The participant list for this session will then be placed in a binder for future reference should it be required for contact tracing.

vii. The City of Yellowknife is responsible for the facility and will ensure proper cleaning

protocols are performed between each game timeslot

**d. Game Modifications:**

Broomball currently has 8– one-hour time slots which take place three nights a week and are scheduled for noncontact broomball games.

All ice slots will only be used for noncontact broomball games or skills practises.

Games will have 9 players on each team including goaltenders. Six aside on ice during a shift including goaltender while the remaining three players socially distance themselves on their respective benches.

All participants will always maintain the two metres apart. Goaltenders/teams will not switch sides halfway through game.

There will be no Face-offs during the games. There will be several different restart methods put in place to ensure physical distancing.

No physical interactions between the timekeeper, referees, and players to ensure social distancing. There will be no intentional physical contact including handshakes or high fives.

Water bottles will be filled at home and be properly marked with the player's name so that they are easily identifiable. At no point will water bottles be shared between players and/or officials.

Players will handle only their own equipment and water bottles; coaches and other players will not touch other players' belongings. Players will not pick up the warmup balls, the game balls or a stick belonging to any other player.

The leagues will provide game balls that will be cleaned with sanitizing wipes before and after use.

**5. Common Areas:**

Seating will be provided for players in bleachers for putting on their shoes and this set-up will honor proper social distancing guidelines of at least 2 meters. The City of Yellowknife has closed all change rooms in the arena. Players will be encouraged to use the washroom at home prior to arriving at the arenas. Barring that, players will adhere to the City of Yellowknife washroom restrictions at the respective arenas.

**6. Proper Hygiene Standards:** Caution should be taken around common touch points and proper hand hygiene will be stressed to participants. The City of Yellowknife will ensure the proper cleaning protocol takes place. All participants should maintain proper handwashing protocols.

**7. Participation:** Disclosure statements will be signed by participants agreeing that if you are sick or symptomatic you will stay home. Players, coaches and officials showing signs of any symptoms will be asked to leave the facility immediately and they will be encouraged to take the online self-assessment that is available on the NWT Health Services website at: [NWT COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#). Failure for any player, coach or official to meet the standards as outlined in this plan, will not be permitted to remain in the facility or participate in the sport.

## **Evaluation**

This plan will be re-evaluated on a weekly basis to assess the needs for enhanced safety and meet the GNWT and the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer recommendations when required to do so.