



BARRHEAD MINOR HOCKEY

RETURN TO PLAY PLAN

August 17, 2020

Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| SECTION 1: HOCKEY ALBERTA RETURN TO PLAY PROGRAM SUMMARY..... | 3 |
| SECTION 2: NORTHERN ALBERTA INTERLOCK RETURN TO PLAY PROGRAM DETAILS..... | 5 |
| SECTION 3: BMHA RETURN TO PLAY PROGRAM DETAILS | 6 |
| SECTION 4: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS..... | 7 |
| SECTION 5: CLOSING REMARKS | 9 |

SECTION 1: HOCKEY ALBERTA RETURN TO PLAY PROGRAM SUMMARY

Hockey Alberta has worked with Hockey Canada and other provincial branches, Government of Alberta, provincial sport organizations, members, staff, and volunteers to develop Alberta's Return to Hockey Plan. The purpose of the Return to Hockey Plan is to provide options for a safe return to hockey in Alberta, to outline required safety protocols and requirements, and to assist our minor hockey associations with tasks they need to be undertaking for hockey to re-start.

Full details of the Hockey Alberta Return to play can be found on Hockey Alberta's website or the link provided below.

<https://www.hockeyalberta.ca/members/return-hockey/>

RETURN TO HOCKEY COMPONENTS

The province remains in a restricted state, and the primary concern for Hockey Alberta is that any programs offered as part of its Return to Play plan focus on the health and safety of all participants. The intent is not to re-create the regular season structure, but to offer local/ regional training and development opportunities before proceeding to the regular season. Safety, not competition, is paramount.

| COMPONENT | START DATE | PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA | TRAVEL RECOMMENDATIONS | ACTIVITY |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Off-Season Skill Development | June 1- August 31 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the local community area; OR For a program with Physical Distancing in place, participants that reside within a 200 km radius of the host community; OR For a program using Cohorting, participants that reside within a 100 km radius of the host community. | <p>Non-essential travel should be limited as much as possible.</p> <p>Players should access programs in their immediate area where possible.</p> <p>Travel outside the Alberta Health Region where the participant resides is not recommended.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-ice sessions Skills camps Development programs Hockey schools <p>Programs may be delivered using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical distancing; or Cohorting. |
| Development Season | TBD (no earlier than August 1) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the local community area; OR Participants from the established registration area (for example, MHA boundary, AA recruitment area, AAA draw zone). | <p>Non-essential travel should be limited as much as possible.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills Sessions On-Ice Practices Off-Ice Training 'Regional' Game Play (3v3, 4v4 or 5v5) <p>Players can be grouped by age and/or skill level.</p> <p>Programs may be delivered using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Distancing; or Cohorting <p>Programming can assist associations to determine skill levels of players.</p> |
| Regular Season | TBD | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the local community area; OR Participants from the established registration area (for example, MHA boundary, AA recruitment area, AAA draw zone). | <p>Potential restrictions on travel could still be in place.</p> <p>Scheduling play within regions / conferences would be considered.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills Sessions On-Ice Practices Off-Ice Training League Play <p>This is the finalization of a tryout, evaluations and then entry into the regular season.</p> |

Programs can be operated in one of two ways:

- i. With Physical Distancing
 - a. Aligning with current physical distancing measures, all participants remain a minimum of two meters apart during participation.
- ii. With Cohorts
 - a. Each cohort can be comprised of multiple teams, to a maximum of 50 people. Game play between teams must be limited to teams within the same cohort. Teams in different cohorts cannot play each other.

Finalized details pertaining to the regular season component of the Return to Hockey Plan will be circulated once start dates can be identified based upon updates to the Government of Alberta's Relaunch Plan.

Hockey Alberta General Guidelines outlined on Aug 12, 2020

Hockey Alberta regulations for Return to Play have instructed associations to play within their boundaries.

All members are to operate within only one (1) sports cohort. This includes coaches.

Hockey Canada has a new Coaching Module that will be required for all coaches. It will be launched next week and is free for all to take. It is focused on Return to Play during COVID-19.

Masks will be required by all coaches and players. The masks can be removed prior to entering the ice surface and not required during practices or games. Coaches will be required to wear a mask during games while on the bench.

All members are to follow local arena regulations which can be found lower in this document.

Coaches will be responsible for being cohort leaders. If the arena does not allow parents into the dressing rooms, coaches may be required to tie skates for the younger players.

If you have an older player who is unable to tie his skates, please help out by encouraging them to learn how and practice at home.

Tracking the health of players and coaches will be the responsibility of the association.

There are still many unanswered questions, but Hockey Alberta will be providing updates for all associations as it comes available, including information to transition into Phase 3 if and when possible. Hockey Alberta will be putting out additional information in the next 7-10 days.

Additional details can be found at the Hockey Alberta website provided below.

<https://www.hockeyalberta.ca/members/return-hockey/>

SECTION 2: NORTHERN ALBERTA INTERLOCK RETURN TO PLAY PROGRAM DETAILS

As of August 17, 2020 NAI has not released any plans or documentation with regards to return to play within the NAI League. We have reached out to NAI Executives, who have informed us that they will keep us posted with any details in regard to return to play. We will be attending a NAI Annual General Meeting on September 12, 2020 which will hopefully provide more details on NAI's return to play guidelines.

BMHA RETURN TO PLAY PROGRAM DETAILS

BMHA will be working with AHS, Hockey Alberta, NAI, and our neighboring communities to put together a safe environment for our kids to return to playing hockey. The health and safety of the players is our primary concern, and our focus is to ensure all players and their families have a positive experience in the 2020-2021 Season. Our association's goal is for the pandemic to reach a point where it is safe to resume league play and be a part of NAI for the upcoming season. If this does not happen in time for the season start, we are exploring the options of cohorts within our association. These cohorts will be managed as per the guidelines presented by Hockey Alberta, which follow the guidelines put forth by AHS and Hockey Canada.

At this time, we do not know exactly what this will look like, but we will continue to work diligently and provide the latest information to our members.

We are in a constantly changing environment and as new rules and regulations are updated by our governing authorities, we will continue to evolve our plan as we enter different stages as outlined by NAI, Alberta Health Services and Hockey Alberta. This plan is subject to change based on orders from the Chief Medical Officer, the Province of Alberta, the Town of Barrhead, Hockey Alberta and NAI.

RETURN TO PLAY OBJECTIVES

We understand that things will look different in the way we operate BMHA this season and have developed our plan with several objectives in mind:

- 1) Safety**
 - a. We want to create a safe and healthy environment for the players, coaches, volunteers, and spectators.
- 2) Fun**
 - a. Hockey is a fun game, and no matter how it looks we want the players to have a fun season.
- 3) Development**
 - a. We want to ensure our player continue to develop their skills and continue to stay healthy through this year of uncertainty.
- 4) Games**
 - a. We know the kids love to play games, so this season, we will continue to promote games and competition within the association as much as possible.
- 5) Flexibility to Transition into the Next Phase**
 - a. Our plan will allow us to adapt to the changing environment, so we are ready to evolve as the rules and regulations change.

SECTION 3: BMHA RETURN TO PLAY PROGRAM DETAILS

We are currently awaiting details from NAI in regard to our go forward plan for the 2020-2021 year. We will still move forward with tryouts starting on the 12th of September in preparation for a season of hockey. However, we will not be releasing finalized teams until NAI has rolled out a return to play plan. We will then update this document to give all families a better understanding of what the 2020-2021 season looks like. At that time, you will have the opportunity to remove your child from BMHA and receive a full refund minus the try out fee. Please stay tuned for updates with regards to Tryouts

Travel

There will be no travel during Phase 2. All practices and games will be held in Barrhead, unless new information arises.

No travel permits or tournament sanctions will be approved during this development phase.

Tournaments

BMHA will follow all guidelines from Hockey Alberta. Currently, this means that tournaments will not be allowed until at least January 2021.

TOWN OF BARRHEAD FACILITY USAGE GUIDELINES AS OF JULY 15, 2020

The Town of Barrhead will be putting out guidelines for arena use for both participants and spectators. Each member is required to follow these regulations. We have cut and paste the current Town of Barrhead Facility use guidelines as laid out by Shallon Touet in an email to myself and other ice users, if you have any questions, comments or concerns in regards to the Town of Barrhead facility usage, please contact Shallon Directly or your town or county councilor. BMHA's Executive is continually working with the Town of Barrhead to better understand protocols and return to play initiatives. Please stay tuned for changes or updates as they become available.

"We will be doing the same as most of the arenas around the province which means players, officials and coaching staff only in the facility, they will need to come to the arena "ice ready" as there will only be a spot in the lobby to put skates on. All participants are asked to only bring to the arena what they need, as there is nowhere to store excess items. As participants will arrive ice ready, they are asked not to show up for their allotted ice until 15 minutes prior to the ice time. Until further notice this plan will be in effect for all tryouts, practices, evaluations, test days, games, and tournaments.

At this time there will be no spectators permitted in the lobby area, or the main arena area. The inside lobby doors will be marked "IN" and "OUT" for those parents who will need to assist in tying up skates for the younger participants. Once skates are tied please have these parents leave the building as the more parents in the building the less participant can be in the lobby.

Once participants have their skates on, they will enter the ice surface though the west lobby doors and proceed to the public skating entrance. They will then skate across the ice and place their belongings on the players bench or behind in the exit hallway. After the game or practice players will return to the players boxes or the space provide behind in the hallway and exit the building from the center exit door

on the east side of the arena. From there the participants will need to walk on the outside of the building between the outdoor slab and the arena back to the parking lot.

It is strongly recommended that each ice user group executive (minor hockey, ringette, fun hockey, adult hockey) come up with a rapid response plan, that sets out a fast-action plan for when an attendee shows symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.

Please have your players, officials, coaches leave the building as soon as possible so the next group can get on the ice.

We will be providing a hand sanitation station next to the public skate entrance for the participants prior to going on the ice. All groups are strongly encouraged to bring their own as well.

All groups should have a sign in sheet with questionnaire prior to participant taking to the ice each time. It is recommended that these forms be kept for 14 days before they get destroyed. It is up to each user main group to police their subgroups to ensure paper work is being completed and wherever possible AHS guidelines are adhered to.

Teams or groups not adhering to will have a 1st. warning set to that groups executive members to let you know of the violation, date and time. On a 2nd occurrence that team or group will lose their ice allotment for 1 week, the 3rd occurrence will be for 2 consecutive weeks and a 4th occurrence that group will lose their ice for the remainder of the season. Anyone caught spitting in the complex anywhere on the ice, lobby, players bench, or exit hallway will immediately be banned for the ice season. In all cases the groups executive members will be notified.

This plan is subject to change based on AHS, Town of Barrhead or federal guidelines. We are hopeful that AHS will be writing specific guidelines for ice arena operations in the near future which would give all arenas the same mandate as of right now it is up to each facility to come up with their own Ringette Canada, Hockey Alberta, Skate Canada and CARHA all have guidelines or recommendations I encourage you all to have each of your coaches ready your own groups strategy to maintain as much safety as possible to all staff and participants."

SECTION 4: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. When will the season start?

A. Start dates for the 2020-2021 Season will be determined through the advice of Alberta Health Services (AHS), Hockey Alberta. BMHA has booked ice time starting in late September.

Q. How will players be evaluated?

A. Players will be evaluated in the same manner as past years (please see the BMHA try out process). The teams will not be released until we know how the hockey season will look. If we end up playing Cohort Hockey until December we will keep the evaluations until that time and create the teams from there.

Q. How will cohort teams be formed?

A. Amongst consultation with other associations in the region, BMHA has decided to form blended teams at each of the U7-U18 levels for the development phase of the season. These blended teams will

play each other in ice slots previously allocated for game play. BMHA is not large enough to tier teams and have healthy competition while playing within 50 person cohort groups. Larger associations in the region are also blending teams for internal development at this point in the season.

Q. If a player no longer wants to participate, can I get a refund on my registration?

A. Refunds will be offered prior to the start of the development phase and in accordance with BMHA Bylaws; however, if you choose to withdraw your registration for the 2020-21 season you will need to do so by September 22, 2020 so that we can finalize our numbers and sign our ice contracts with the Town of Barrhead. Once signed, our ice contract will be set for the season.

Q. What happens if someone in my cohort is sick or tests positive for COVID 19?

A. Hockey Canada has established a protocol for addressing illness. Anyone present who is feeling unwell will be required to leave the facility immediately upon detection/reporting. Each player will also be required to submit a questionnaire from AHS. For more information, visit the Hockey Canada return to hockey document.

Q. Can I leave my cohort and join a new one?

A. Movement among cohorts requires a 14-day isolation period before joining a new cohort.

Q. Can I belong to more than one sports cohort?

A. Players, coaches, and officials must belong to only one sport cohort. A sport cohort is defined as a small group of the same people who can interact regularly without staying 2 meters apart. In choosing to coach/play within your hockey cohort, you are not able to join any other sport/performance cohorts while in phase two of Alberta's relaunch plan.

Q. Can I participate in a pre-season camp and join a cohort before the 2-week period lapses?

A. If you participated in a camp that maintained physical distancing, you do not need to wait 2 weeks before joining a cohort. If you participated in a cohort-camp whereby physical distancing was not maintained, you must wait two weeks before joining a cohort with BMHA.

Q. Will my cohort operate as a team?

A. Cohorts are intended to act as a temporary grouping until AHS restrictions are loosened; at which time, we hope to form traditional teams.

Q. What are the rules around spectating?

A. All spectators will need to follow all guidelines set out by the Town of Barrhead. We will ensure all cohorts are provided the information to pass on to their families prior to the season start date.

Q. Do I have to wear a mask?

A. As per Alberta Health regulations, masks should not be worn during intense physical activity.

Spectators are encouraged to wear masks and are discouraged from cheering and yelling.

Q. Can I go into the dressing room with my child?

A. Unless you are a designated coach, you will not be permitted to enter the dressing room. During this

phase, players will be required to dress at home. Players unable to tie their own laces will need to show up in skate guards or have a coach assist. Specific guidelines outlined by the Town of Barrhead need to be adhered to.

Q. Can I make a request to be in the same cohort as my friend?

A. Teams will be selected by a group consisting of members of the BMHA Executive, Level Director and the Head Coaches. We are not taking friend requests at this time.

Q. Can I register mid-season after the cohort phase is over?

A. We will not be accepting registrations after the start of the cohort season, unless due to special circumstances which are to be presented and decided by the BMHA Executive.

SECTION 5: CLOSING REMARKS

Thank you for taking the time to understand our return to play document. This document will be a live and changing document. BMHA Executive anticipates many changes before now and September 12th 2020. Please watch our website and Facebook page for updates.

Sincerely,

BMHA Executive