



CENTRAL ALBERTA HOCKEY LEAGUE

Executive Memorandum

October 2, 2020

To: To the Attention of All CAHL Member Associations

Re: Update # 4 - Return to Play Plan for the CAHL (2020 -2021 Season)

Firstly, a notable correction from Monday's meeting regarding Carryover Suspension Deferrals. Hockey Alberta has made the following decision to make this more manageable and easier for those impacted. Hockey Alberta has now stated:

- *Any player with a carryover suspension from the 2019-2020 season will have their suspension deferred for exhibition and will not be required to apply for a suspension deferral. These deferred games will not count as games served and must then be served during Tiering Play.*

Continuing with the update: Today Hockey Alberta released an update to their Return to Play plan for Minor Hockey Leagues ([link here](#)). On September 30th they also met with the Hockey Alberta Leagues Committee Members which I am a participant. From that meeting I have been advised that today a formal return to play guideline will be provided for us to start working from. Additionally, at our meeting on Monday we discussed the following and here are our next steps.

Next Steps update

Please note: In spite of the interest and support from you, Hockey Alberta does not appear willing to entertain the CAHL helping or assisting CAHL Members in the Exhibition Season. It is unfortunate as more than 40 of you have supported doing this as a collaboration. Since we do not have a sanction that allows the CAHL to help during this Hockey Alberta declared Exhibition Season, the CAHL unfortunately will not be able take part in the Exhibition Season collaborating with Members.

We will be getting more information out to you shortly, here is the current update:

- Hockey Alberta has mandated an Exhibition Season to allow time for the "AA" tryouts to finish on October 18th. That Season ends on October 23rd and goes to November 5th for a team development period. That all pushes our start dates into a situation where they are likely going to be almost a whole month behind.
- The CAHL tiering round will be starting November 6th or 7th depending on the age division with a cohort model being used with different breaks for segments of the different age groups possibly even by Declared Tier. The stagger starts or ends of the cohort periods will be setup at some point so that all the teams are not off at the same time.
- Approval for a modified competitive season – At Monday's meeting I discussed the fact we do not have any rules on this restricted season that have been placed on us. A survey will come out and allow you to vote on going down this route. A survey vote will be required for:
 - The mandate to operate the CAHL in the updated fashion including the ice submission changes
 - U11 Pathway will be followed with the exception of the current restrictions. To confirm U9 and U11 on whether or not we are still honoring the weekend after Remembrance Day and a weekend off or not? In the past that weekend was an off weekend for U9 and the intent was U11 follow the same format with the February long weekend off for both as well.
- The proposed Season Dates for the CAHL (assuming cohort, 14 day breaks throughout the year):
 - Season Start - November 6th, 2020
 - Tiering Round - November 6th, 2020 to December 20th, 2020 (with 14 day breaks between cohort play)
 - Tiering Break - December 21st, 2020 to January 8, 2021 (Jan 2/3 may be scheduled if teams are available and have completed the 14-day breaks between cohorts)

Subject to confirmation (may be impacted if restrictions change or if Hockey Alberta Provincials are declared)

 - Regular Season – January 8th, 2021 (Jan 2/3 if teams are available and have completed the 14-day breaks between cohorts) to February 21, 2021 (with 14 day breaks between cohort play)
 - Playoff Season – February 26th, 2021 to March 28, 2021 (with 14 day breaks between cohort play)
- Tournament Blackout Dates – It does not look like Hockey Alberta will sanction or Alberta Health Services will be allowing large groups coming together and participate in a Tournament. Since this likely will not happen, we will not be honoring the policy on black-out dates for tournaments this season.

- The Season restrictions will be:
 - Hockey Alberta has mandated the Return to Play Plan; the CAHL and its member's will have to follow it in its entirety. Alberta Health Services (AHS) has also mandated the processes we need also to follow.
 - The Local Minor Hockey Associations and their teams are responsible for the Contact Tracking or Tracing requirements. Those are:
 - Follow the Return to Play Plan details ([click here](#)) and [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#). Also see the second last page of this document for the current checklist. During each day of a program, an individual should be designated to record the names of all participants in each Cohort that are in attendance to assist AHS should an individual test positive for COVID-19 and contact tracing is necessary.
 - Rosters are to be kept for each event/activity so there is a record of which individuals were present.
 - In the event of an illness, AHS Public Health will complete the review and make the decision on the status of the cohort.
 - Local Minor Hockey Associations and their Teams are responsible to ensure the Cohort model is properly managed by all of their participants. That includes any two sport cohorts or any other activity that does not allow the 14-day self-isolation period between cohorts.
 - Hockey Alberta has a game day checklist for the Team Managers ([link here](#)) and at the end of this document. Off-Ice Officials will wear a mask or socially distance.
 - We will be mandating that the Home Team Manager telephone the Visiting Team Manager a minimum of 48 hours before each game and review the Home Facility requirements and current expectations. These are going to be all over the place and may mean anywhere from no (zero) spectators into the facility to a maximum of 100. In the cases where a limited number of spectators can be in the facility. It is clearly expected that the Home Team Manager shall ensure 50% of the allowed spectators have been provided to the Guests if needed.
 - The CAHL will create cohort schedule and participant rotations allowing for 14 day breaks between switching cohorts.
 - The CAHL will not be auditing or monitoring any of the Return to Play requirements, AHS requirements or your local facility guidelines. That will be the Members and Teams responsibilities. Documentation of who was there must be kept in case they are asked for by AHS. Should concerns or complaints happen, the CAHL will review and address those with the appropriate groups or people.

Cohort switching Model

To follow and maintain the mandated Cohort 14-day self-isolation window prior to the new cohort being formed, the CAHL model will be the following:

- At the start of the Cohort formation a set time period and number of games will be provided the teams will then make the arrangement to get them done in the time identified. It will be the CAHL Members or Team's responsibility to acquire the ice need for the games. They then will start their 14-day self-isolation period where they will just practice and complete team development.
- Then a new Cohort will be identified and created with a set time period and number of games and the process will complete itself over and over. Not all teams will be in self-isolation the same weekend periods. So the Cohort model must be followed using a rink divider for ½ ice practices where groups practice together that are not in the same cohort.
- Please minimize the number of Coaches in the Cohort number of your team, ideally a Head Coach and an Assistant Coach per team would be a great. If we get too close to 50 we will be asking for coaches to separate from the cohort for the time period and wear masks/socially distance so we can get the players into the group. Helping with this will increase the variety of teams to play in your next cohort and make more games happen.

More details and discussions to follow.

Dates and Deadline Updates

Dates or deadlines will be changed and reassigned to allow for the latest updates; however, they still be subject to change as we cannot foresee the potential future challenges. Please see the webpage for additional details – [Click Here](#) they will be fully updated shortly.

- A Declaration to participate in League play has been mandated by Hockey Alberta to be done no later than October 8th, 2020. We will do this electronically to make it easy for you so it will not take much of your time. I realize you already have pretty much done this but this is a mandated request we have to follow. Hockey Alberta May request this information in the future.
- Governor Candidate Information Form submissions. Many Members have asked for more time so we will be moving this date to October 16th, 2020, again it will be electronically.
- Governor Training session – Will be held on October 21, 2020 invites will be sent out with the agenda for this training along with the new impacts of the restrictions we have in place.
- Association Drop clock and Flood Declarations - This should be able to be done fairly soon but since some members want some more time the deadline for this will be October 16, 2020. If you can have it done before then thank you very much. It is the same as last year just fill out the form and submit.
- Team Declaration form – It was inadvertently sent out yesterday and there will be time to pause this as we have to work through a couple of more items now the with the Return to Play Changes Hockey Alberta has mandated. The new deadline for this submission is now October 23rd, 2020. We must have the team size (total Coach and Player numbers) to assign cohorts. Please minimize the Coach participants in a cohort grouping for us. Make as many extra coaches as possible wear masks and being socially distanced. Should the need arise and we are too close to 50 cohort participants, we likely will ask for any coaches more than 2 per team switch out so more players can be added to the cohort as needed. Your cooperation is appreciated.
- Tiering Round ice submissions – A survey will be coming out shortly after this letter where I asked at the Meeting on Monday for a survey vote to support the change to allow the CAHL members to control the ice until Christmas. If approved this should resolve issues around burnt ice and that would mean that the CAHL will give your teams the game schedule, the time frame, the number of games to be played and then your Ice Schedulers would provide them, with ice. Once the Game form is all complete and agreed upon we will post the games on the website.
- Team Contact form - Must have a coach and a manager for each team in association complete with emails and a phone numbers. The deadline for this will be October 23rd, 2020
- Team Roster Submissions – The HCR Roster must be submitted on October 23rd, 2020 as we require normally. It must be in the formatted file we need and also include all player numbers.
- Data Entry Persons Contact Form – Must be submitted by October 23rd, 2020
- Regular season ice submissions – may be treated the same as tiering round ice. Final Decision to be made at the December CAHL Directors meeting.
- The model for the regular season and playoffs up to and including banner requirements will be approved at the December Directors meeting. This will include if we are going to change to a regional play model for the any portions of the remainder of the year.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I am available if you would like to discuss any of this.



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COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST

Overview

This tool has been developed to support activity organizers, employers, businesses and facility operators in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among attendees/staff. The tool is meant to be used to assist with assessing attendees who may be symptomatic, or who may have been exposed to someone who is ill or has confirmed COVID-19.

Attendees should fill out this checklist prior to participating in the activity or program. If an individual answers **YES** to any of the questions, they **must not** be allowed to attend or participate in the activity or program. Children and youth will need a parent to assist them to complete this screening tool.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, this screening tool will be updated as required.

Screening Questions

1.	Does the attendee have any new onset (or worsening) of any of the following symptoms:	CIRCLE ONE	
	• Fever	YES	NO
	• Cough	YES	NO
	• Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing	YES	NO
	• Sore throat	YES	NO
	• Chills	YES	NO
	• Painful swallowing	YES	NO
	• Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion	YES	NO
	• Feeling unwell / Fatigued	YES	NO
	• Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea	YES	NO
	• Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
	• Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
	• Muscle/ Joint aches	YES	NO
	• Headache	YES	NO
	• Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye)	YES	NO
2.	Has the attendee travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3.	Has the attendee had close contact* with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
4.	Has the attendee had close contact with a symptomatic** close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO

* Face-to-face contact within 2 metres. A health care worker in a occupational setting wearing the recommended personal protective equipment is not considered to be a close contact.

** 'Ill/symptomatic' means someone with COVID-19 symptoms on the list above.



GAME CONSIDERATIONS CHECKLIST

HOST ASSOCIATION:

LEVEL:

The following considerations provide a checklist for a host team/ association to communicate relevant information to the teams, spectators and timekeepers prior to any games. It is important that the host communicates with its facility so that any specific guidelines/ regulations in place for that facility are shared with visiting team(s).

Teams

- ☐ MASKING REQUIREMENTS
 - o Within the municipality
 - o Within the facility
- ☐ ENTRY AND EXIT PROCESS
 - o Time restrictions
 - o Specific doors
- ☐ DRESSING ROOM ACCESS
 - o Participant maximums?
 - o Time restrictions prior to or after games?
 - o Is shower access allowed?
 - o Are parents allowed to access?
- ☐ WARM UP/COOL DOWN SPACE AVAILABILITY
- ☐ ACCESS TO WATER BOTTLE FILL STATIONS
- ☐ PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS FACILITY ACCESS (HALLWAYS, LOBBY, SPECTATOR AREA)
- ☐ SKATE SHARPENING / THERAPY TABLE SET UP
- ☐ EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN
- ☐ BUS DROP OFF, LOADING AND PARKING
- ☐ VIDEO SET UP AND LIVE STREAMING (IF APPLICABLE)

Spectators

- ☐ GENERAL FACILITY RESTRICTIONS
- ☐ MANAGEMENT OF SPECTATOR MAXIMUM
- ☐ ENTRY AND EXIT PROCESS
 - o Time restrictions
 - o Specific doors
- ☐ SPECTATOR SEATING ACCESS
- ☐ ADMISSION FEES AND FORMS OF PAYMENT (IF APPLICABLE)
- ☐ CONCESSION SERVICES AVAILABLE

Timekeepers

- ☐ Must either wear a mask or maintain a minimum 2-metre distance from everyone else.
- ☐ Must adhere to facility protocols (sanitization, audio equipment usage, shared materials)