

## Dear Membership,

We hope for your continued safety throughout these challenging times.

As we move toward the return of minor hockey there remains considerable uncertainty on what a season will look like. There are questions around practice structure and game play, not to mention various facility considerations that will have to be reviewed and could change on a weekly or sometimes even daily basis.

BC Hockey has been in communication with our Executive and has helped guide us to where we are at today. What we know is to start, hockey will look different, but we all remain optimistic that we can get back to the game as we know it sooner than later.

CMHA, in partnership with Kimberley Minor Hockey at the U13, U15 and U18 levels, wants to move forward with the safety of our players and their families as the priority and will not compromise this as we progress. We also realize the importance of minor hockey in our communities and for our youth as the 2020/21 season is nearly upon us.

As a result, we have provisionally reviewed each Divisional structure to provide you with some information on what to expect for the upcoming season. We have done our best to consider what the coming months may hold from a practice, game, tournament and league standpoint. Despite this, we do not have a crystal ball and we will have to adapt and adjust on the fly. It will be very important for our membership, players and parents to recognize that flexibility and understanding will be paramount as we navigate this unknown. We know things won't be perfect, that dates could change, and we may have to alter course quickly to preserve safety and to comply with BC Hockey and Health Authority recommendations. Things will look different; we have to understand that this season and how we address it may be different as well. As volunteers doing the best we can, we ask for your patience and trust.

Our Associations understand that Covid and facility restrictions have not allowed players to be on the ice to prepare as much as in the past. With Rep tryouts quickly approaching CMHA has pushed back dates and all registered U13, U15 and U18 players will be invited to a pre-skate on Sept 4-6. Your Division Head / Coach will advise more shortly.

Please find below provisional structure for CMHA age Divisions along with expected tryout/evaluation dates based upon ice availability (**note that structure and dates could change depending on facility and Return to Play information in the coming weeks**):

### U7 & U9

- Recreation evaluations - October 2-4
- Team structure will be based on numbers and to comply with next Return to Play Phase requirements
- Proceed with Hockey Canada pathway – practice with gameplay consideration in December (earliest and subject to change)
- Further information will be provided by Division Heads / Coaches

## U11

- Pre-skate - September 18-20
- Rep evaluations - September 25-27
- City League (Recreation) evaluations - October 2-4
- In the absence of tournaments and to comply with next Return to Play Phase requirements the decision to provisionally change the U11 structure within CMHA has been approved. This could be temporary or permanent for the 2020/21 season only
- Rather than an "A" and "B" Development team, CMHA will move forward with the creation of 2 equal "A" Teams. Remaining players will be divided equally into City league (Recreation) teams for the season
- Should BC move to Phase 4 and tournaments become sanctioned and opportunity for travel arises, CMHA reserves the right to hold a tryout later in the season to form an "A" and "B" team in the best interest of all members
- Further correspondence will be provided from Division Heads / Coaches regarding ice sessions, player information and playing intentions

## U13

- U13 A & B Pre skate - Sept 4-8
- "A" Bucks evaluations - September 11-13
- "B" Dynamiters evaluations – September 26-27
- City League (Recreation) evaluations - October 2-4
- All registered rep tryout players will be included in the evaluations on Sept 11-13 however only the "A" Bucks team will be selected. To ensure as much flexibility as possible, CMHA and KMHA will review numbers along with potential game structure within the East Kootenay and may choose to amend the structure and number of teams at the Development and City League level. This decision would be made to ensure appropriate gameplay within a potential cohort model and to maximize gameplay opportunity for players in the area within the appropriate competition base.
- Players released from the Bucks tryout and those who declare for "B" only will move to the "B" Dynamiters evaluation as noted above.
- All remaining players after tryouts will be divided equally into City League (Recreation) teams
- At this time, as per Health Authority requirements Inter Provincial game play is not approved. There are many unknowns about the ability to play in the SCAHL for the 2020/21 season. We continue to work with all stakeholders, BC Hockey, Hockey AB and the SCAHL
- We are confident all players on all teams will see gameplay at the level they are selected whether locally, SCAHL or within BC Hockey as defined within Return to Play requirements
- Further correspondence will be provided from Division Heads / Coaches regarding ice sessions, player information and playing intentions

## U15/U18

- U15/18 A& B Pre skate will occur on Sept 4-8
- "A" Bucks Team evaluations will occur on September 18-20
- "B" Dynamiters evaluations – September 26-27
- City League (Recreation) evaluations will occur on October 2-4
- All registered rep tryout players will be included in the evaluations on Sept 18-20 however only the "A" Bucks team will be selected. To ensure as much flexibility as possible, CMHA and KMHA will review numbers along with potential game structure within the East Kootenay and may choose to amend the structure and number of teams at the Development and City League level. This decision would be made to ensure appropriate gameplay within a potential cohort model and to maximize gameplay opportunity for players in the area within the appropriate competition base.
- Players released from the Bucks tryout and those who declare for "B" only will move to the "B" Dynamiters evaluation as noted above.
- All remaining players after tryouts will be divided equally into City League (Recreation) teams
- At this time, as per Health Authority requirements Inter Provincial game play is not approved. There are many unknowns about the ability to play in the SCAHL for the 2020/21 season. We continue to work with all stakeholders, BC Hockey, Hockey AB and the SCAHL
- We are confident all players on all teams will see gameplay at the level they are selected whether locally, SCAHL or within BC Hockey as defined within Return to Play requirements
- Further correspondence will be provided from Division Heads / Coaches regarding ice sessions, player information and playing intentions

We are working with CMHA and KMHA Board members regarding the Rep team evaluation process and how to best ensure players are placed on teams that their abilities are best suited for. There may be a need for adjustments to ensure players are placed appropriately should social distance skill-based evaluations and no gameplay be the requirement. Our priority is on the players being in the right spot and our focus will be on how to make this happen. **Please also be aware that there are limitations on spectators in facilities and CMHA may be forced to cap parent attendance to comply with facility considerations for all pre-skates and evaluations.**

Within BC we expect further information to be released, including the concept of cohorts which could expediate gameplay opportunities under the right conditions. If you have any questions on the state of Return to Play at this time, we would ask that you please consult the following resources:

<https://www.bchockey.net/Files/Return%20to%20Hockey%20Website%20one-page%20Document.pdf>

[https://cdn.hockeycanada.ca/hockey-canada/Exclusive/return-to-hockey/downloads/HC\\_RTH\\_SeasonalStructure\\_ENG.pdf](https://cdn.hockeycanada.ca/hockey-canada/Exclusive/return-to-hockey/downloads/HC_RTH_SeasonalStructure_ENG.pdf)

You can expect to receive further information throughout the next few weeks.

Respectfully yours,

CMHA