

## DCMHA Member Statement

Aug 12, 2020

Welcome to the 2020/ 2021 Season. I first off want to thank everyone that has enrolled their children into Dawson Creek Minor Hockey for the upcoming season. With everything that is going on and all the uncertainty these days you have all put a lot of faith in the organization.

We have been in close contact with Hockey Canada, BC Hockey, Via-Sport, Northern Health and the City of Dawson Creek to make sure that we are returning to the ice in the safest manner. We ask for your patience, understanding and support in this. Try to remember it is not the organization or the City that has put these rules in place. If we can not follow the guidelines that are being put forward, then we will be shut down.

We have created a Return to Play plan that follows BC Hockey phase 2 return to sport guidelines. It will be posted on the [www.dcmha.ca](http://www.dcmha.ca) website. We need every parent and player to read through it and understand the guidelines that need to be followed. Using the excuse that I did not know the plan will not be acceptable. We are also going to have an agreement form emailed out that states that the players and parents will follow the guidelines set forth. This will have to be signed and handed in **before** the player will be allowed on the ice.

### September Ice

The City has announced that Ice is going in the Memorial Arena Sept 8, 2020. Normally we start our rep tryouts as soon as the ice is in. Rec divisions start a couple of weeks later and the younger kids start the first week of October. This is going to change for this year for the following reasons:

- Our enrollment numbers are lower than previous years.
- As of right now there is no Tiering games/tournaments that are scheduled so there is no rush to make rep teams and organize Recreational teams.
- With the Covid Restrictions in Place we can only have 16 players on the ice. This effects how much registration fees received by DCMHA covers for the total ice costs for the year.

Because of all these factors we really couldn't afford to book ice for the first 2 weeks. Cancelling the ice for the first 2 weeks would cause the City of DC to have only one user group using the ice, causing a huge loss. Also, many players and coaches are anxiously waiting to be able to return to the ice.

Instead of Cancelling the ice we have decided to host an Ice Breaker Camp for Players that are registered in Dawson Creek Minor Hockey, U9 to U18 divisions:

- Camp will run from Sept 8- 24<sup>th</sup>
- \$100 per player to Register
- Registration Aug 14- 28<sup>th</sup>

- Registration for the camp is online via your ramp account
- Max 16 players per group
- Limited spots available
- Groups of U9 (Novice) right up to U18(Midget).
- Guaranteed at least 4.5 hrs (approx. 6 ice sessions) – may be more depending on ice time available and number of registrants
- Skill development only sessions with Social Distancing guidelines.

#### **Tryouts – Sept 25 to Oct 4**

Tryouts for the Rep teams will Start Sept 25 and must conclude Oct 4. The reason for the hard end deadline is we need to be able to make the Groups for the Rec division as we can not add players like in the year's past because of the on ice restrictions, i.e.: number of players, we need to have the groups set.

#### **Regular Season - October 5**

The regular season will start Oct 5, 2020. We do not know the schedule and how much Ice time there is going to be available for each group as of right now. There are a lot of factors that are going to come into play with that decision. Our number one goal is, if possible, get every player that wants to play hockey this year a chance to play. With so many variables out of our control we are going to have to be extremely flexible.

Much more information will be coming out when we get closer to start of the season. DCMHA is excited to start the Process of returning to the ice.

Aaron Bull  
President  
Dawson Creek Minor Hockey