

Hawks Athletic Club

COVID-19 Response

Effective August 1, 2020

The Hawks Athletic Club (HAC) office has been receiving many requests for information on how Covid-19 will impact the season, and/or what the season could look like. As the situation evolves, we are continuing to adapt as things are continuously changing.

Our objective is to answer as many of your questions as possible with the information that we have to date. We will also provide updates as additional information is made available.

We are currently working on the **HAC Return to Play Guidelines** document. We hope to have it posted in the next two weeks so continue to check back frequently for updates. We also encourage you to view the links to guidelines and protocols that may be of interest to you. These links can be found at the end of this document.

If you have a question that is not covered below, feel free to send it to registrar@hawksathletics.ca. We understand that all parents are looking for details and we thank you for your patience as we try to navigate this unprecedented time.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the HAC doing now to plan for the upcoming season?

The Executive at the HAC are monitoring the guidance being provided from Alberta Health Services, Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta. Again, the links to the current documents from each of those organizations can be found at the end of this document.

Hockey Canada has provided general guidance to all the provincial bodies. Hockey Alberta, in turn, has provided general guidance to the local associations while taking into consideration the current Alberta Health guidelines.

In addition, you will also find the updated City of Edmonton guidelines on arena usage during COVID-19. As the facility operators, the City of Edmonton is responsible for setting the rules under which hockey programs are able to operate in their facilities.

As such, based on the current directives from Alberta Health Services, Hockey Alberta and the City of Edmonton, we are currently working on the **HAC Return to Play Guidelines** document.

It is important to note that things are fluid at this time and if any of the above guidelines are changed or modified, HAC will do the same.

What is the refund policy on camps and season registration?

HAC appreciates the increased concern from its members regarding hockey-related expenses considering the current economic situation that our members may have endured over the past several months.

HAC will ensure that our members will pay for what they receive.

HAC Conditioning Camp:

- Cancelled prior to when they are expected to start, full refunds will be processed.
- Camps cancelled *after* they begin, refunds will be processed on a prorated basis.

2020-2021 Registration Fees:

- Cancelled prior to the start of the season, a full refund will be processed.
- Cancellation *after* the season starts, refunds will be prorated based on the amount of season completed.

Please keep in mind that registration fees account for the following:

- ice allocation;
- administration (such as insurance and certifications);
- development;
- equipment;
- officials, and
- league & membership fees.

HAC appreciates your patience and asks that you trust that it will communicate information as it becomes available.

Are HAC Conditioning Camps running this year?

HAC is proceeding with all scheduled conditioning camps and has received approval from Hockey Edmonton. HAC has hired a vendor to run the conditioning camps and they are expected to operate within the guidelines provided in Hockey Alberta's off-season skill development outline in its Return to Hockey Programming.

In addition, each participant will be required to adhere to the guidelines set out by the City of Edmonton and Alberta Health Services which will be made available to the participants prior to the start of each camp.

Will there be Evaluations this year?

The HAC Evaluation Committee has been working throughout the summer to determine how to proceed with evaluations and team creation given the current COVID-19 restrictions.

Several options have been discussed and are being considered, however, it will depend on cohort sizes and the guidelines outlined by Hockey Edmonton as evaluations dates get closer.

We understand that evaluations are stressful under normal circumstances and with COVID-19 it has added an extra layer of stress. One of the primary objectives of HAC is to reduce stress for all parties involved including players, parents, and evaluation volunteers.

The Evaluation Committee is reviewing options that allow for testing players skills' that fall within the guidelines outlined in Hockey Alberta's off-season skill development detailed in the Return to Hockey Programming. As for having scrimmages during evaluations, unfortunately we will have to continue to monitor the situation over the next month to see if cohort sizes change or if they remain the same.

Is COVID-19 covered under our Hockey Canada Insurance?

Yes. *Unlike other insurance policies available to sports organizations*, as a sanctioned member of Hockey Alberta & Hockey Canada, any participant is covered for infectious disease (inclusive of COVID-19) under our collective insurance policy through till at least September 1st, 2023. For additional information please visit **Hockey Canada's Insurance Program** at: <https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/hockey-programs/safety/essentials/insurance> .

What will gameplay look like next year?

HAC is expecting some form of competitive gameplay to occur but what it will look like is dependent on cohort sizes as determined by Provincial Health Authorities at the start of the season.

Unfortunately, at this time no concrete decisions have been made as the state of the world is continuously changing as a result of the virus. The next EFHL (Edmonton Federation Hockey League) meeting is scheduled for August 12 and we hope to have some concrete decisions made.

We are considering all options, including the following:

- Creation of regional cohort groups;
- Round robin play that allows for isolation periods;
- Internal association play, etc.

HAC understands the importance of games to its members and will continue to explore all options keeping the safety of our members and our community as its' top priority.

Are players able to use the dressing rooms?

Yes. All players and coaches are allowed to use the dressing rooms keeping to the maximum capacities as outlined by the City of Edmonton facilities. At this time, players are not required to wear masks in the dressing room but will be required to remain seated in the dressing room until the ice surface is ready. They must proceed directly onto the ice. Please note that water fountains and showers are not allowed.

What would happen if a player or his/her family member tests positive for COVID-19?

HAC will have in place all COVID-19 tracing protocols including a mandatory check with questions as per Alberta Health Services. In the event any one of our participants tests positive for COVID-19, we will follow the guidance of Alberta Health Services and Hockey Alberta. All participants, coaches, bench staff and families will be advised that someone has tested positive and will be advised to get tested. Those who test positive will be mandated to quarantine and follow up with

another COVID-19 test that shows a negative result. This process will continue to be updated as additional details and information is made available.

HAC asks that families self-regulate and abide by the guidelines set forth by the policies and guidelines set out by the governing bodies.

Will face shields or masks be required for players in order to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19?

This is not a current mandate from Hockey Canada nor Hockey Alberta. Players will have the option to wear a face shield or a cage on their helmets but masks are not recommended for use during physical activity.

Will spectators be allowed in the rinks?

Spectators are allowed to be in the rinks but they are subject to the restrictions laid out by Alberta Health Services. During Phase 2, the current guidelines allow for up to 100 spectators, provided that there is sufficient room to allow for physical distancing. The City of Edmonton has assessed its facilities and has specific capacity limits for each arena.

HAC realizes that parents want to attend their child's ice sessions, however we are recommending that *whenever possible*, families limit themselves to 1 or 2 spectators per participant. This is to allow all children to have at least 1 person watching his/her ice session. If capacity limits are exceeded, facility operators will have to turn spectators away.

As more details become available, questions posed or guidelines are amended, we will update this page accordingly.

Resource Links

Hockey Alberta Return to Hockey Guide:

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

Alberta Health Services Return to Sport – Phase 2 Guidelines:

<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-relaunch-sports-physical-activity-and-recreation.pdf>

Hockey Edmonton Return to Play Guidelines:

<https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/hockeyedmonton/files/2020-21%20Season/Hockey%20Edmonton%20Return%20to%20Play%20Guidelines%20July%202020%20v3.pdf>

Hockey Canada Return to Hockey Guidelines:

https://cdn.hockeycanada.ca/hockey-canada/Exclusive/return-to-hockey/downloads/HC_RTH_Safety-GUIDELINES_EN.pdf

City of Edmonton Arena Guidelines – July 2, 2020:

<https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/hockeyedmonton/files/2020-21%20Season/City%20of%20Edmonton%20Arena%20Guidelines-July%202%202020.pdf>