

**Hockey Regina Inc**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**Tuesday October 13, 2020**

**Attendance:**

Scott Tresek (Chair), Cory Shaw, Mark Burton, Dave Diwold, Sean Kilback, Shauna Schell, Jesslyn Gyurek, Becky Palandri, Christie Bjolverud, Larry Wees, Geoff Thachuk, Blair Watson (Staff)

**Regrets:** Jason Young

**1. Call to order**

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

**2. Approval of previous minutes**

- *MOTION: To approve the September 29 Board minutes. Moved Geoff, Seconded Cory CARRIED*

**3. Sask Hockey Return to Play (Appendix A)**

- Sask Hockey announced the Return to Hockey document last Thursday
- Highlights include:

**Time line**

- Phase 1: Evaluations - Currently in
- Phase 2: Exhibition games
  - Oct 17 to Oct 30
  - Max 2 games
- Phase 3: League games
  - Nov 1- Dec 16
  - Max 6 teams
  - Able to share practices within mini-league
- Phase 4: League games
  - Jan 18 - ???
  - Max 8 teams
- Phase 5: Playoffs
  - TBD

**Face coverings**

- Mandatory for all players, coaches, spectators, refs and timekeepers
- Players/coaches/refs wear face coverings until put helmet on before going on ice
- Coaches must wear face coverings on bench during game (not required on ice during practice)

### **General**

- All tournaments and inter-provincial travel has been cancelled
- Maximum of 3 coaches on the bench for games
- AP players are not allowed. Only your registered players are allowed on ice.

### **4. Female Development Fund**

- The female development fund is looking to pay some money out of the fund.
  - Coach development: Sean Raison \$150, Taylor Peck \$50
  - Goalie development: Pay Game Ready up to \$2,500 for goalie development
  - *MOTION: To pay funds as presented. Moved Becky, Seconded Mark CARRIED*

### **5. Director reports**

- U18
  - A teams are formed
  - B short 2 coaches
- U15
  - A teams formed
  - B short 1 coach
- U13
  - A teams formed
  - B short 2 coaches

### **6. Next Meeting**

October 27



**RETURN  HOCKEY**

COVID-19 RESPONSE

# Safety Guidelines

Version 1.0 | Published October 8, 2020

[WWW.SHA.SK.CA/RETURNTOHOCKEY](http://WWW.SHA.SK.CA/RETURNTOHOCKEY)



**RETURN  HOCKEY**  
COVID-19 RESPONSE





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## Preface

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In Canada and around the world, COVID-19 transmission is increasing. In response, some jurisdictions are decreasing gathering sizes and suspending activities such as sports to help control the spread of the virus.

To date, Saskatchewan residents have done a good job following public health orders to help manage transmission of COVID-19 in the province. However, positive case numbers are increasing in some communities and there is concern community transmission is starting to take place as we move into the winter season.

If COVID transmission continues to increase in the province, increased public health measures may need to be implemented. This may include limiting gathering sizes in communities or regions that are at higher risk, as well as potentially limiting the size of mini-leagues or suspending play altogether, if necessary.

To ensure a successful 2020-21 hockey season – from beginning to end – it is the responsibility of every player, coach, team official and spectator to ensure they are following the public health measures and doing their best to control the spread of COVID-19.



## Purpose of Document

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The purpose of this document is to support Saskatchewan Hockey Association (SHA) member programs by assisting the development of plans to guide the cautious step-by-step safe Return to Hockey during this pandemic. These guidelines provide information on numerous topics and includes links to additional information and resources that can further support decision making and communication with boards, minor hockey associations, regions, leagues, and sporting members.

## Legal Disclaimer

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The information contained in this document is not intended as a substitute for professional medical prognosis, recommendations, or treatment. The Saskatchewan Hockey Association makes no representation and assumes no responsibility regarding the information concerning COVID – 19 due to the constant updates, and any information on COVID – 19 should be obtained from the Saskatchewan Health Authority



## Terms of Reference

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**SHA:** Referring to the Saskatchewan Hockey Association

**Inter-Provincial Travel:** Travel outside the province of Saskatchewan

**Intra-Provincial Travel:** Travel within the province of Saskatchewan

**Activity:** Any SHA sanctioned training, practice, exhibition game or league game

**Phase:** Period or stage in the process as it pertains to Return To Hockey

**Face Covering:** Medical or non-medical mask which covers the mouth and nose. The material can be cloth or other material.

**Minor Hockey Association:** A local association which administers hockey in their center (also referred to as MHA)

**Exhibition Game:** A game which typically takes place prior to League Games. All Exhibition Games must be approved and sanctioned by the Saskatchewan Hockey Association.

**League Game:** A game which takes place as part of a sanctioned league with results recorded for standings

**Training:** Any hockey related activity in a team environment (such as practice or dryland)

**Mini-League:** A grouping of teams that are permitted to play against each other within a Saskatchewan hockey league.





## Phased Approach

The Saskatchewan Hockey Association (SHA) is implementing a phased in approach for minor hockey in the province. The 'Return to Hockey' plan will include four (4) phases which must be approved by the Chief Medical Officer before proceeding to the next.

Each phase within the Saskatchewan Hockey Association's Safety Guidelines is subject to approval. Dates, procedures and protocols may change as deemed necessary by the Government of Saskatchewan and/or Saskatchewan Hockey Association.

### CURRENT PHASE: EVALUATION AND TRAINING

#### Phase #1: Evaluation and Training

➤ Current Phase

#### Phase #2: Exhibition Games (Within a Mini-League)

➤ Tentative Start Date: October 17th, 2020

#### Phase #3: League Games (Within a Mini-League)

➤ Tentative Start Date: November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

#### Phase #4: League Games (Within an Expanded Mini-League)

➤ Tentative Start Date: January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

#### Phase #5: Playoffs / Provincials

➤ Tentative Start Date: TBD

\*Phase #2 and #3 start dates do not apply to Under-7, Under-9 and Under-11 age groups (see 'Age Specific Timetable' on following page)



## Overview

	Phase #1 Evaluation and Training	Phase #2 Exhibition Games	Phase #3 League Games	Phase #4 League Games (Expanded Mini-League)	Phase #5 Playoffs / Provincials
Evaluations	●	●	●	●	●
Training	●	●	●	●	●
Exhibition Games		●	●	●	●
League Games			●	●	●
Provincial Playoffs				●	●
League Playoffs					●
Number of Teams / Players in a Mini-League	N/A	4 Teams or 50 Players	6 Teams or 80 Players	8 Teams or 120 Players	TBD
Travel Permits	X	X	X	X	X
Tournaments	X	X	X	X	X

X – Denotes that this activity will NOT be permitted during the 2020-21 season.

## Age Specific Timetables

Age Division	Exhibition Games	League Games	Provincial Playoffs	League Playoffs
Under-7	December 1, 2020	January 1, 2021	N/A	N/A
Under-9	November 15, 2020	January 1, 2021	N/A	TBD
Under-11	November 15, 2020	November 15, 2020	N/A	TBD
Under-13	October 17, 2020	November 1, 2020	February 1, 2021	TBD
Under-15	October 17, 2020	November 1, 2020	February 1, 2021	TBD
Under-18	October 17, 2020	November 1, 2020	February 1, 2021	TBD
Junior	October 17, 2020	November 1, 2020	N/A	TBD
Senior	October 17, 2020	November 1, 2020	February 1, 2021	TBD

\*\* Dates are subject to approval at all phases of the Return to Hockey plan





## Phase Approval

**NOTE:** Considerations for the Chief Medical Health Officer to approve moving between phases will include:

- Positive COVID-19 cases in Saskatchewan plateauing or declining over a period of at least four weeks.
- There are no major outbreaks or COVID transmission in the province.
- There are no major outbreaks or COVID transmission related to hockey games or facilities in Saskatchewan.
- There are no major outbreaks or COVID transmission related to hockey games or facilities in other provinces.
- Positive COVID-19 cases do not increase in the three weeks following major events or holidays where people will gather in the province (e.g. back to school, elections, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's).

## Phase #1: Evaluation and Training

### Current Phase

- Max number of participants in a group during one (1) sessions: **30 PARTICIPANTS**
  - Includes players, coaches, officials, etc.
- Max number of participants in one (1) mini-league: **50 PARTICIPANTS**
  - Includes players, coaches, officials, etc.
- MHAs are encouraged to host tryouts within the current guidelines and form teams.
- **NO** Travel Permits will be issued during the 2020-21 season.
- **NO** Tournaments will be allowed during the 2020-21 season.
- **NO** games (Exhibition or League) will be permitted during Phase #1.
- Inter-squad scrimmages will be allowed.





## Phase #2: Exhibition Games (Within a Mini-League)

Tentative Start Date: October 17, 2020

- Competition in the mini-leagues can begin with a maximum of **FOUR (4) TEAMS** or **50 PLAYERS** per mini-league.
- Teams will be permitted to play in a maximum of **TWO (2)** Exhibition Games during Phase #2.
- Teams will **NOT** be allowed to switch mini-leagues during Phase #2.
- Leagues must notify SHA of which teams are in which mini-leagues.
- Teams are only permitted to participate in **ONE (1)** exhibition game, per day.
- Teams are **NOT** allowed to stay overnight when traveling for exhibition games.
- All Exhibition Games must be approved by SHA for sanctioning.
- Mini-leagues will be created within the existing hockey leagues in Saskatchewan.
- Mini-leagues should be as geographically tight as possible in an effort to minimize travel.
- Participants may only be a part of one **(1)** mini-league within a single sports organization at any given time and are encouraged to limit their personal bubbles they are involved with in the interests of their own health, the health of their families and friends and the health of their communities.
- Coaches and off-ice officials that are able to maintain two metres of physical distancing and are wearing non-medical masks (e.g. cloth or other materials) do not count in the mini-league capacity.
- Coaches and on-ice officials that cannot consistently maintain two metres of physical distancing are considered part of the mini-league numbers. The coaches are required to wear non-medical masks (e.g. cloth or other materials).

**NOTE:** If transmission levels increase, the size of mini-leagues may have to be reduced or hockey temporarily suspended in regions of the province where COVID-19 is a concern before reducing or suspending play province-wide.



### Phase #3: League Games (Within a Mini-League)

Tentative Start Date: November 1, 2020

If COVID-19 transmission levels remain manageable within the province and the Chief Medical Health Officer provides approval, mini-leagues would be able to increase to a maximum of **SIX (6) TEAMS** or **80 PLAYERS** per mini-league.

- ⦿ Leagues must gain approval of the SHA of the creation of their mini-leagues prior to games commencing within them.
- ⦿ All League Games will require approval from the respective leagues.
- ⦿ Teams must remain within their assigned mini-league.
- ⦿ Teams are permitted to play League Games within their region for competition
- ⦿ Teams are encouraged to schedule back-to-back games with one (1) opponent in a week, followed by a five (5) day break before scheduling the next opponent.
- ⦿ **Participants may only be a part of one (1) mini-league within a single sports organization at any given time and are encouraged to limit their personal bubbles they are involved with in the interests of their own health, the health of their families and friends and the health of their communities.**
- ⦿ Mini-leagues can be “reset” if the following measures are taken;
  - Your league has notified SHA of the change and has been approved.
  - Fourteen (14) days transpire since your last Exhibition and/or League game within your mini-league competition.
  - If two (2) or more teams are changing from one mini-league to another, then these teams are permitted to play each other during the fourteen (14) day period.

Additional increases to the size of mini-leagues will depend on COVID-19 transmission levels within Saskatchewan and approval from the Chief Medical Health Officer. The timing for any increases to the size of mini-leagues is to be determined.

#### EXAMPLE SCHEDULE – 6 TEAMS

We encourage league games to be played on a weekend, and to be home and home with the same team. This will allow four (4) to five (5) days to transpire between games between the two (2) teams.

Weekend #1:	Team 1 v Team 2	Team 3 v Team 4	Team 5 v Team 6
Weekend #2:	Team 1 v Team 6	Team 5 v Team 4	Team 3 v Team 2
Weekend #3:	Team 1 v Team 3	Team 5 v Team 2	Team 6 v Team 4
Weekend #4:	Team 1v Team 5	Team 3 v Team 6	Team 4 v Team 2
Weekend #5:	Team 1 v Team 4	Team 2 v Team 6	Team 3 v Team 5





## Phase #4: League Games (Within an Expanded Mini-League)

Tentative Start Date: January 18, 2021

- If COVID-19 transmission levels continue to be manageable and the Chief Medical Health Officer provides approval, mini-leagues would again be able to increase to a maximum of EIGHT (8) TEAMS or 120 PLAYERS per mini-league (at the discretion of the Saskatchewan Hockey Association) beginning on January 18, 2021 (tentative).
- Participants may only be a part of ONE (1) mini-league within a single sports organization at any given time and are encouraged to limit their personal bubbles they are involved with in the interests of their own health, the health of their families and friends and the health of their communities.

## Phase #5: Playoffs / Provincials

Tentative Start Date: TBD

- Participants may only be a part of one mini-league within a single sports organization at any given time and are encouraged to limit their personal bubbles they are involved with in the interests of their own health, the health of their families and friends and the health of their communities.

### Provincial Playoffs

- All minor, female and senior series will be played in a Modified Best of three (3) series.
  - The games will be played using Regular Game timing procedures
    - Three (3) twenty (20) minute Stop time periods.
    - If the first game is tied, it will remain tied.
    - If one team wins game 1 and ties game 2, the team with the win will be the series winner.
    - If the teams split the two games, or if the first two games both end in a tie, then a (10 Minute) Mini-Game will be played to decide the series winner regardless of what the score was in the first two games.
- Proximity will be the determining factor in beginning round(s)
- No Provincial Playoffs will be conducted in the U7, U9 and U11 age categories

### Phase #5: League Playoffs

- The tournament format will NOT be allowed when conducting playoffs
- All series will be played in a Modified Best of three (3) series.
  - See 'Phase #4: Provincials' for format





## Face Covering Policy

The Saskatchewan Hockey Association's face covering policy has been implemented for all members of minor hockey; including players, coaches, bench staff, on-ice officials, off-ice officials and parents / spectators. The policy will apply to all SHA membership until such a time that it has been deemed safe to remove this policy.

It is the intentions of SHA to have a consistent environment so when players, officials, coaches and spectators are headed to a rink, they will know what to expect.

**Face Covering:** Non-medical mask which covers the mouth and nose. The material can be cloth or other material). Please refer to the Government of Canada - [How to safely use a non-medical mask or face covering](#) for further instructions.

### Players:

- **Players** must be properly wearing a face covering when entering the arenas and continue wearing their face covering until they reach the spot where they will finish getting their skates / equipment on (chair, bleacher, dressing room). **Players** must keep their face covering on until they put their helmet on to head to the ice surface;
- **Players** should promptly put their face covering back on once they get back to their spot and remove their helmet;
- **Players** should exercise physical distancing while entering and exiting arenas and while putting on their skates / equipment;

### On-Ice Coaches:

- **On-Ice Coaches** must be properly wearing a face covering when entering the arenas and continue wearing their face covering until they reach the spot where they will put their skates on (chair, bleacher, dressing room). **On-Ice Coaches** must keep their face covering on until they put their helmet on to head to the ice surface;
- **On-Ice Coaches** are not required to wear a face covering while on the ice. They should have one on their person for any instances where they will need to be closer than six feet from a player or fellow coach (injury, equipment issue, etc.);
- **On-Ice Coaches** should promptly put their face covering back on once they get back to their spot and remove their helmet;
- **On-Ice Coaches** should exercise physical distancing while entering and exiting arenas and while putting on their skates;



**Bench Coaches/Staff:**

- **Bench Coaches/Staff** must be properly wearing a face covering when entering / exiting the arenas and continue properly wearing their face covering at all times - including while on the bench during games;
- **Bench Coaches/Staff** should exercise physical distancing while entering and exiting arenas;

**On-Ice Officials:**

- **On-Ice Officials** must be properly wearing a face covering when entering the arenas and continue wearing their face covering until they reach the spot where they will put their skates on. **On-Ice Officials** must keep their face covering on until they put their helmet on before heading onto the ice surface;
- **On-Ice Officials** are not required to wear a face covering while on the ice;
- **On-Ice Officials** should promptly put their face covering back on once they get back to their spot and remove their helmet;
- **On-Ice Officials** should exercise physical distancing while entering and exiting arenas and while putting on their skates;

**Off-Ice Officials (timekeepers / scorekeepers):**

- **Off-Ice Officials** must be properly wearing a face covering when entering / exiting the arenas and continue properly wearing their face covering at all times - including while working in the timekeeper's box / area;
- **Off-Ice Officials** physical distancing should be exercised in the timekeeper's box as much as possible;
- **Off-Ice Officials** should exercise physical distancing while entering and exiting arenas;

**Parents / Spectators:**

- **Parents / Spectators** must be properly wearing a face covering when entering / exiting the arenas and continue properly wearing their face covering at all times;
- **Parents / Spectators** should exercise physical distancing while entering and exiting the arenas and while sitting or standing inside the arena;

All teams will be required to have a **Covid-19 Communications Representative** that will be responsible for keeping their teams informed of all applicable protocols and other pertinent information that comes out as the season progresses.

If SHA is made aware of any teams not complying with the face covering Policy, it will work with the local Minor Hockey Association of the team to ensure that all teams adhere. If a team refuses to comply, sanctions may include the removal of ice time / suspensions to team officials.





## Minor Hockey Association

### Checklist to Success

#### Review & Follow



- Saskatchewan Government and Saskatchewan Health Authority Guidelines
- Review Hockey Canada: Safety Guidelines
- Review Saskatchewan Hockey Association: Safety Guidelines
- Review local and provincial facility guidelines

#### Plan



- As per Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines, assign a person from your Association to be the COVID Representative (MHA)
- As per Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines, have each team assign a Team Official to be the COVID Representative (TEAM)
- Speak with your facility regarding; hygiene requirements, physical distancing, dressing rooms, entrance/exit, washrooms, spectators, concessions, etc. (see 'Facilities' section)
- All registered MHA Executive members, Team Officials and On-Ice Officials must complete the 'Planning A Safe Return to Hockey' online course
- Ensure that all members are aware and following Safety Guidelines

## MHA COVID Representative

The assigned Minor Hockey Association (MHA) COVID Representative is responsible for;

- Notify SHA by **October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020** of your MHA's COVID Representative
- MHAs must submit their facility guidelines to their respective league(s) by **November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**
- Communicate all safety measure and facility guidelines with all Team Safety Personal within your MHAs
- Notify SHA of any positive COVID test within your membership.
- The primary liaison with the local municipality for COVID-19 health and safety matters at each facility.
- Stay up to date on any changes to the Provincial Health Guidelines or SHA Safety Guidelines



## Team Safety Person

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Each team will have a designated “Safety Person” that will be the person responsible for ensuring guidelines and protocols are followed. In addition, this person will be responsible for;

- ⦿ Organizing a pre-season meeting with all parent/guardians to go over the following;
  - Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines
  - SHA Safety Guidelines
  - Local facility Guideline(s)
  - SHA Face Cover Policy
- ⦿ Notify your MHA COVID Representative of any positive test within your team.
- ⦿ Ensure record of attendance is kept at the arena. (see ‘Contact Tracing’)
- ⦿ Communicate with your MHA COVID Representative any issues with regards to safety procedures

## Team Hygiene

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### Equipment

- ⦿ Equipment such as water bottles and towels should not be shared.
- ⦿ Players should label water bottles with their names.
- ⦿ Water bottles should be filled at home.
- ⦿ Water bottles should be cleaned thoroughly before and after each event.
- ⦿ Equipment such as jerseys, pant shells, socks, bandanas/skull caps and compression gear should be washed after each event.
- ⦿ Equipment that is shared (pucks, pylons, etc.) must only be handled by the owner of the equipment.

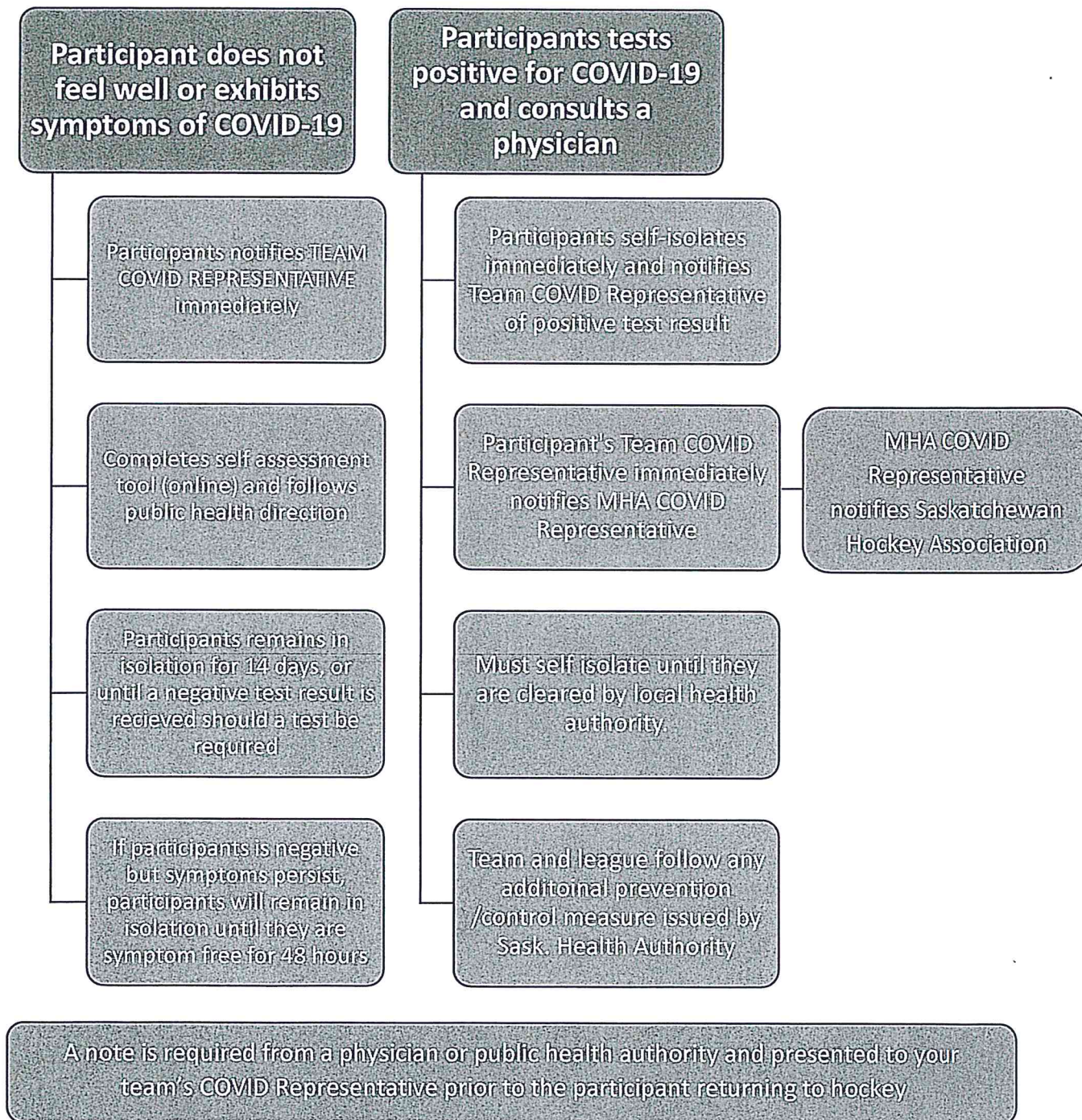
### Dressing Room Protocols

- ⦿ Participants must follow facility guidelines and enforce physical distancing in dressing rooms.
- ⦿ Only team personnel will be allowed in dressing rooms (coaches, medical staff, and players).
  - If a parent is required, only one parent per player will be permitted. No additional family members will be allowed in dressing rooms.
- ⦿ Hand sanitizer approved by Health Canada (DIN or NPN) should be available for players.
- ⦿ Sharing food or drink is not permitted.
- ⦿ Individuals may not share clothing, soap, shampoo, or other personal items such as razors and towels.
- ⦿ Spitting is prohibited.





## Symptoms or Positive COVID Test





## Pre-Activity Screening

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All Players, On-Ice Officials, Off-Ice Officials and Team Officials will be required to complete the Government of Saskatchewan's Self-Assessment Tool (online) prior to each hockey activity. The link to the self-assessment tool is provided [HERE](#).

## Contact Tracing

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All teams will be required to maintain a record of attendees. All players, spectators, staff and volunteers must be accounted for upon arrival and identified with their full name and phone number. See example, Appendix #1 – Contact Tracing (page 25). These records must be kept for a total of **30 days** for contact tracing purposes.





## Officials

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- Officials are **NOT** allowed to affiliate and travel between provinces in their role as officials.
- Officials will not shake hands with coaches or players before or after the game.
- Officials should communicate with off-ice officials through the gate as opposed to using the hole in the box.
- The linesperson who picks up the puck should drop the puck, avoid extra hand offs.
- Officials should position themselves six feet away from the players benches when possible.
- When reporting penalties, do not speak through the hole in the glass – work from a distance or communicate with off-ice officials through an open door from a distance.
- Officials are directed to not pick up any equipment that may be on the ice (broken/dropped stick, neck guards, mouthguards, gloves etc.)
- Officials should have personal hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes or spray and may also take a small bottle with them on the ice or leave a bottle in the penalty box.
- Officials can help reduce the number of time players spend in proximity to each other by quickly blowing the whistle if the puck is not moving with multiple players engaged.
- Officials are encouraged to utilize their whistle to stop play earlier and potentially prevent unnecessary scrums and altercations.
- If an official sees a player spit or spit water onto the ice surface, they shall notify the head coach of the offending player's team at the next available stoppage of play. Coaches will be advised to address such instances with their team and reinforce that it is not acceptable.
  - If a team has been notified two times within a game and a third occurrence occurs, officials may assess the offending player an Unsportsmanlike Conduct minor penalty under Rule 9.2(a). After informing the coach once again, state any further instances by any player will now be assessed as misconduct penalties and reported to the league on the game report or incident report.

NOTE: See 'Game Protocols' (page 20) for additional information.

## Off-Ice Officials

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- Timekeepers must wear a face covering in the penalty box area.
- Timekeepers must wear a face covering while entering/exiting the facility.
- Officials should communicate with off-ice officials through the gate as opposed to using the hole in the box.
- Timekeepers should remind players in the penalty boxes to physically distance as much as possible.
- Off-ice officials should not enter the officials dressing room.



## Facilities

### Spectator Capacity

- The following guidelines apply to attendance at hockey arenas/rinks in Saskatchewan:
  - For **Minor (U18 “AA” and below)** hockey games, attendance will be under the following conditions:
    - Maximum capacity is 150 provided there is enough room to maintain two metres of physical distancing between extended household groups – side to side and front to back.
    - Members of extended households must sit together, with a minimum of two metres between extended household groups.
    - All facilities must determine a way to establish fixed/static seating, even where there is no individual seating or seat numbers available. For example, seating/standing areas could be taped or cordoned off.
    - Spectator visiting, moving around and congregating is **strongly discouraged**.
    - Spectators should not be within two metres of players as they enter/exit the ice surface or dressing rooms.
    - All players, coaches, team officials and spectators are **strongly encouraged** to use the Government of Canada’s proximity tracking app.
    - Approval is granted by local public health.

### Spectator Capacity (Junior, Senior and U18 “AAA”)

- For **Junior, Senior and U18 “AAA”** hockey games, attendance will be under the following conditions:
  - Assigned seating must be available.
  - If assigned seating is not available, a maximum of 150 spectators are permitted.
  - Spectators are allowed to attend at up to 50 per cent capacity provided there is enough room to maintain two metres of physical distancing between extended household groups – side to side and front to back.
  - Members of extended households must sit together, with a minimum of two metres between extended household groups.
  - All facilities/organizations must determine a way to establish fixed/static seating, even where there is no individual seating or seat numbers available. For example, seating/standing areas could be taped or cordoned off.
  - Spectator visiting, moving around and congregating is **strongly discouraged**.
  - Spectators should not be within two metres of players as they enter/exit the ice surface or dressing rooms.
  - All players, coaches, team officials and spectators are **strongly encouraged** to use the Government of Canada’s proximity tracking app.
  - Approval is granted by local public health.





## Practice

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- Players should stagger entering the ice surface from the dressing room.
- Players and coaches should observe physical distancing recommendations while on the ice.
- Coaches should minimize chalk talk sessions or time at the board where athletes are required to congregate.
- Coaches should be aware of physical distancing and should speak to athletes from at least two metres away.
- Utilize station-based skill development practice plans and have players/coaches spread out to maintain physical distancing.
- Avoid drills that require players to stand in line or groups for a long period of time.
- If using the full-ice, utilize flow drills that allow for maximum spacing of athletes on the ice.
- Avoid the use of contact or battle drills that do not allow for physical distancing. Hockey Canada has put together COVID - 19 safe drills and practice plans, which will be available on the Hockey Canada Network App for members to access. Download the app [hockeycanadanetwork.com/](https://hockeycanadanetwork.com/).
- When leaving the ice, coaches should excuse players one-by-one in an orderly fashion to ensure athletes are given appropriate time to exit the ice surface without congregating. Adequate time should be planned within the practice to ensure this can be done.
- Spectators should remain in the stands until all individuals have left the ice to avoid crowds around the gates.



## Game Protocols

- It is the responsibility of everyone to reduce the amount of time spent in proximity to others.
  - Once the whistle is blown to stop play, players are expected to immediately leave the area and physically distance on the ice where possible.
- Hockey Canada encourages coaches to promote that participants refrain from spitting at any time during any on-ice activities. This would also include spitting water on the ice or in the bench area.
- It is recommended that all players and the official remain distanced at the top, bottom or to the side of the face-off circle until the official blows the whistle and then move to their appropriate positions for the puck drop.
- All participants (including coaches/staff and officials) should avoid handshakes, fist bumps, hugs or any physical contact, including goal celebrations.
- Players will not shake hands following a game. Teams may line up on respective blue lines and raise their sticks.
- Benches, including penalty boxes, should be sanitized between each use by facility staff.
- Hand sanitizer approved by Health Canada (DIN or NPN) should be available on the bench provided by each team.
- All participants are asked to maintain social distancing practices while on the bench or in the penalty box as much as possible.
- It is recommended that the same person open/close the gates and wear gloves.
- If the facility has gates between the time-keeper box and penalty boxes, they should remain closed at all times during the game.
- Timekeepers should remind players in the penalty boxes to physically distance as much as possible.
- Officials are encouraged to utilize their whistle to stop play earlier and potentially prevent unnecessary scrums and altercations.
  - Once the whistle is blown to stop play, players are expected to immediately leave the area and physically distance on the ice where possible.
  - Officials are encouraged to assess appropriate penalties to players causing scrums or altercations rather than verbal warnings if those players have not appropriately abided by the whistle and direction from the officials to leave the area.
- Hockey Canada encourages coaches to promote that participants refrain from spitting at any time during any on-ice activities. This would also include spitting water on the ice or in the bench area.





## Travel

The following restrictions will be placed on travel for SHA sanctioned activities;

- Teams will **NOT** be permitted to travel outside the province.
- Teams will **NOT** be permitted to travel outside the country.
- No out of province team will be allowed to play within Saskatchewan.

## Transportation (Bus)

It is recommended a bus **NOT** be used. If it must, ensure the following guidelines are in place:

- Ensure physical distancing so players are not sitting next to each other.
- The bus should be professionally cleaned and disinfected prior to each trip. It is recommended to discuss with the bus company what their cleaning procedures are.
- Discuss with the bus company the importance of following all public health authority guidelines.
- Players and staff should wash their hands prior to boarding the bus.
- Players and staff should clean and disinfect their seat and surface area with provided disinfectant wipes after each stop and prior to each departure.
- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes should be available as players board and disembark.
- Players and staff should wash their hands as they disembark.
- Have proper waste disposals on the bus to discard used disinfectant wipes.
- If physical distancing is not possible on the bus, it is recommended all passengers wear a cloth mask.
- Teams should request increased air circulation on the bus.

## Hotel

If staying at a hotel, consider the following recommendations:

- Ask hotel to remove glasses in rooms and replace with plastic wrapped cups or bring some.
- Bring plates and cutlery.
- Eliminate team buffets. Individual meals should be considered.
- Remember physical-distancing requirements prior to considering any type of meal.
- If eating at a restaurant, follow applicable public health authority guidelines.
- One family per room.

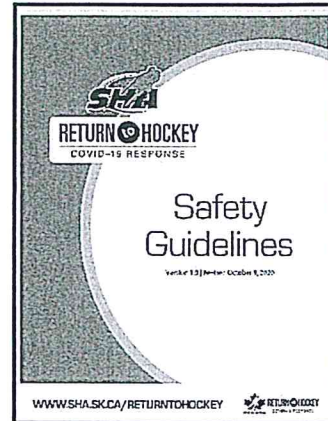


## Communication Strategy

### Safety Guidelines Document

The Saskatchewan Hockey Association's Safety Guidelines document for 'Return to Hockey' will be a fluid document as restrictions are lifted or imposed by the Provincial Government and/or Saskatchewan Hockey Association. The document will be the primary source for all updates to the guidelines as new information becomes available. The most recent document will be identified with "Version #.#" with the revised date listed.

This document will be sent out via email to all Minor Hockey Associations (MHA) and Leagues, posted on social media and housed on the SHA website in multiple places including but not limited to; SHA's 'Return to Hockey' page.

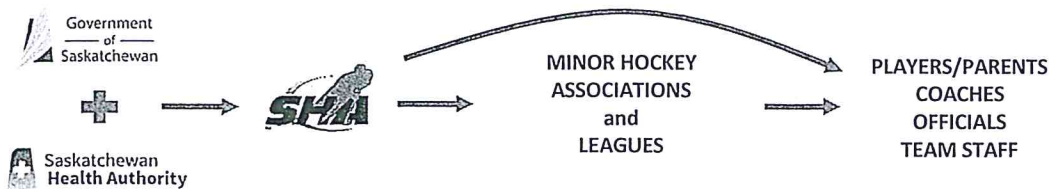


To ensure an effective communication strategy, the Saskatchewan Hockey Association has identified key channels which we feel will properly communicate the most up-to-date guidelines to our membership.

Our focus is to reach all membership, which includes; Players, Parents / Guardians, Coaches, Officials and Team Staff with this multi-facet approach.

### Email Communication

The email communication strategy will be our most direct line to the membership. Through our internal contact list of approximately 200 Minor Hockey Associations and 30 Leagues, this contact list will be important to ensure the MHA and League's Presidents are aware of any changes to the guidelines as they come about. Additionally, the Saskatchewan Hockey Association has access to the Hockey Canada Registry, a database where all participants of SHA are listed with current contact information. The registry includes all teams, players, coaches, team staff and officials that participate as members.



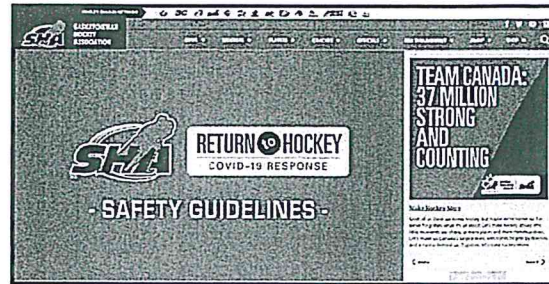




## Return to Hockey Webpage

The Saskatchewan Hockey Association's 'Return to Hockey' webpage was launched on of August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This digital space will be the hub for any news bulletins/updates and to view/download the most recent Safety Guidelines from our website.

The homepage will display a permanent link to the 'Return to Hockey' page to ensure it won't be missed by any site visitor. Note, all Minor Hockey Associations have been made aware of the webpage and have been encouraged to post this on their own websites to inform membership.



## Social Media Awareness

Utilizing the Saskatchewan Hockey Association's social media channels ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)) will be a key resource in relaying information and updates to membership and their extended parent groups. All content sent-out will include the SHA Return to Hockey graphic and suggested messaging for the Minor Hockey Associations and Leagues to post on their channels.

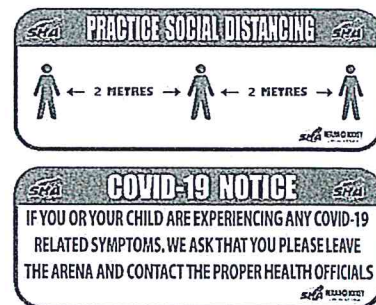
We have already begun circulating digital assets to our Minor Hockey Associations and Leagues to allow these groups the opportunity to post organically if they wish OR they can simply re-share/re-post from any of our channels. Additional awareness campaigns such as highlighting key components of the Safety Guidelines and encouraging members to download the COVID Alert Proximity Tracking App can be seen throughout the season.



## ARENA SIGNAGE

In accordance with any key messaging that is required for display at facilities, the Saskatchewan Hockey Association will create print-ready templates for Minor Hockey Associations and Leagues to source locally for display in their arena(s).

*Artwork provided as example (final artwork pending approval from Saskatchewan Government)*



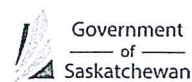


## Additional Resources



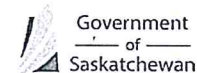
### Government of Saskatchewan – Re-Open Saskatchewan:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/re-open-saskatchewan-plan>



### Government of Saskatchewan – COVID-19:

[https://www.saskatchewan.ca/covid-19#utm\\_campaign=q2\\_2015&utm\\_medium=short&utm\\_source=%2F covid-19](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/covid-19#utm_campaign=q2_2015&utm_medium=short&utm_source=%2F covid-19)



### Government of Saskatchewan – Self-Assessment Tool:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-self-assessment>



### Hockey Canada – Safety Guidelines:

[https://cdn.hockeycanada.ca/hockey-canada/Exclusive/return-to-hockey/downloads/HC\\_RTH\\_Safety-GUIDELINES\\_EN.pdf](https://cdn.hockeycanada.ca/hockey-canada/Exclusive/return-to-hockey/downloads/HC_RTH_Safety-GUIDELINES_EN.pdf)



### Hockey Canada – Officiating Guidelines:

[https://cdn.hockeycanada.ca/hockey-canada/Exclusive/return-to-hockey/downloads/HC\\_RTH\\_Officiating\\_Guide\\_EN.pdf](https://cdn.hockeycanada.ca/hockey-canada/Exclusive/return-to-hockey/downloads/HC_RTH_Officiating_Guide_EN.pdf)



### Hockey Canada – Seasonal Structure:

[https://sha.sk.ca/public/images/NEWS/HC\\_RTH\\_SeasonalStructure\\_ENG.pdf](https://sha.sk.ca/public/images/NEWS/HC_RTH_SeasonalStructure_ENG.pdf)