



RETURN TO HOCKEY 2020-21

This document is **subject** to change at any time with new direction provided by Sask Health Authority and the Government of Saskatchewan

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Introduction

Moose Jaw Minor Hockey has been working with the Sask Hockey Association, who has been working with the Health Authority, in developing a “Return to Hockey” plan that allows young players to get back on the ice and enjoy the great game of hockey. This plan will attempt to provide answers to many of the questions that are being asked regarding how MJMHA will operate under the Sask Health Authority guidelines and restrictions.

The Moose Jaw Minor Hockey – Return to Hockey Plan is current as of August 27 and is based on the requirements of the Sask Health Authority as of this date. As the situation evolves MJMHA will update accordingly to remain in compliance with requirements.

As you read this document please keep in mind Please keep in mind that this document is reflective of the current environment, this is not a typical hockey season, and it will look different. There are 3 Phases to Moose Jaw Minor Hockey’s plan that will be outlined in the document:

1. Evaluation phase – This will take place in September/October and will be for the purpose of team formation.
2. Development phase – Once teams are formed they will be placed in ‘mini-leagues’ of less than 50 people.
3. Regular season – This is the final phase and will happen when Sask Health guidelines will allow return to ‘traditional’ hockey

Program Objectives

The guidelines in place have forced us to think differently on how we operate. While the program may look different, it is developed on achieving the following objectives:

1. Safety – Create a safe, healthy environment for our players, coaches and volunteers.
2. Fun – Maintain an atmosphere where the kids can enjoy the hockey.
3. Development – Create a competitive environment that allows players to develop and grow. This is essential and can be accomplished in both practice and scrimmage environments.

4. Tiering – Provide an environment where players are grouped in appropriate skill levels
5. Scrimmages– Create an environment where some form of scrimmage play can exist (5v5, 4v4, 3v3) without referees

Requirements – Saskatchewan Gov't, Hockey Canada, Sask Hockey

Within the current Government of Saskatchewan Re-Open Plan there are a number of requirements/restrictions that hockey must follow:

1. Use of “mini-leagues – “50-person maximum per mini-league includes coaches/staff, instructors, participants from multiple teams, officials and volunteers who cannot maintain two metres of distancing from others at all times. Spectators, including parents and others who can ensure physical distancing are not included in the 50-person total”
2. maximum of 30 people allowed on the ice surface at any one time
3. No competition outside mini-leagues are permitted.
4. At this time, there will be no tournaments sanctioned in Saskatchewan until the new year, when that will be reassessed based upon the COVID-19 situation within the province
5. At this time, there will be no out of province travel allowed for exhibition games or tournaments until the New Year, when that will be reassessed based upon the COVID-19 situation within the province.
6. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - At this time the wearing of PPE's is encouraged but not mandatory
7. Complete Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan can be found here
<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-providerresources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novelcoronavirus/re-open-saskatchewan-plan/re-open-saskatchewan>

Protocols and Safety

We cannot stress enough that the safety and well-being of our players, coaches, volunteers and families is of the utmost importance. This section details several Hockey Canada and Sask Health Authority guidelines and resources.

Hockey Canada has built a comprehensive Safety Guidelines document.

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

Parents and players play a key role in the Return to Hockey. Their responsibilities include:

- stay at home if experiencing any symptoms
- become educated on the safety protocols and procedures prior to attending any session, and adhere to them while at the session
- ensure each player has their own water bottle which is sanitized prior to each session
- ensure equipment is dried, cleaned and/or sanitized following each session
- arrange appropriate transportation to and from the session

A detailed outline of responsibilities can be found in the Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines – Roles and Responsibilities (Appendix 6)

Contact Tracing

Moose Jaw Minor Hockey teams will appoint a Safety Captain that will be responsible for tracking all participants during team activities and submitting it to the MJMHA office after each ice time. This information will be kept for one month.

Facilities

Moose Jaw Minor Hockey does not own or manage the arenas. As a user group it is our responsibility to follow the requirements as outlined by the City of Moose Jaw, Mosaic Place, Red Knight Arena, and Barkman Arena.

The City of Moose Jaw's Return to Ice Policy can be read in its entirety by following this link [Ice Arena Re-opening Plan](#)

Mosaic Place Return to ice Policy can be read in its entirety by following this link

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Not respecting the facility protocols and procedures jeopardizes the entire Moose Jaw Minor Hockey program.

Moose Jaw Minor Hockey Phases

The primary concern for Moose Jaw Minor Hockey is that any programs offered focus health and safety of all participants. The intent is not to re-create the regular season, but to offer development, scrimmages and fun before proceeding to the regular season.

Phase One – Evaluation/Team formation

- Beginning of September to October – U11/U13/U15/U18 AA & A Tier teams
- Beginning of October U9/ U11/U13/U15/U18 evaluations for balance of players
- Included will be skill sessions and limited scrimmages
- Beginning October 17 - U7

Phase Two – Development

- Will begin After the evaluation/team formation phase
- Teams will be “paired” with another team(s) to form a mini-league of no more than 50 participants
- Programs include:
 - On-ice practice ○ Off-ice training ○ scrimmageswithin their mini-league (3v3, 4v4, 5v5)

Phase Three – Regular Season

- Timing – TBD

Evaluation/Team Formations

The evaluation process will look slightly different than in past years for some divisions. Remember that hockey is limited by the current guidelines imposed by the Sask Health Authority. These guidelines could change throughout the process.

Guidelines:

1. AA/A Tryouts – Held at Barkman Arena as per MJMJA Tier Guidelines
2. Timbit U7 – Teams will be formed by the MJMHA Division Director

3. U9 - There will be 2 skill sessions and 1 scrimmage
 - Teams will be formed from the evaluation scores
4. U11 – There will be 2 skill sessions and 1 scrimmage
 - There will be a goalie session incorporated into each skill session
 - Guidelines with respect to roster sizes and team formation will remain in effect.
5. U13 to U18 – There will be 1 skill session and 2 scrimmages
 - There will be a goalie session incorporated into each skill session
 - Guidelines with respect to roster sizes and team formation will remain in effect.

Development Season

Players will be able to practice and compete in 'mini-league' within their division.

NOTES:

- **As per Sask Health Authority and Sask Hockey, tournaments will not be allowed during this phase**
- **Mini League competition will be scrimmages only, no referees, no game sheets allowed**

U7 Timbits

- No major changes to format of U7
- Teams will be formed with 10 players
- 'Mini-leagues' will be formed of 2-3 teams
- 2 teams will be on the ice at a time
- Cross ice scrimmage only – when allowed

U9

- No major changes to format of U9
- Teams will be formed with 12 players
- 'Mini-leagues' will be formed of 2-3 teams
- 2 teams will be on the ice at a time
- Half ice scrimmages after Dec 1 until and until January 1
- After January 1st full ice scrimmages
- No officials for games

U11-U18

- Teams will be formed using current guidelines
- Teams will be “paired” with another team to form a mini-league of no more than 50 participants
- U11 scrimmages after Nov 15 until restrictions lifted
- No officials for games

Regular Season

Moose Jaw Minor Hockey will follow the lead of the Government of Saskatchewan, Sask Health Authority and Saskatchewan Hockey to determine when it is appropriate to transition from the Development Season to a return to normal Regular Season. We are optimistic that we will be able to transition to a traditional Regular Season. However, we will only do so when it is safe and when the approval is given.

FAQ

Q: What is a Mini League?

A: Mini-league is a group of 50-person maximum which includes coaches/staff, instructors, participants from multiple teams, officials and volunteers who cannot maintain two metres of distancing from others at all times. Spectators, including parents and others who can ensure physical distancing are not included in the 50 person total

Q: What if my child starts and wishes to no continue?

A: MJMHA has a refund policy that allows for a percentage of the fees to be returned based on the date of quitting

Q: If the Regular Season does not start until January 2021, will the season be extended past March 31st.?

A: Unable to answer that question at this time, it is completely dependent on the facilities ability to accommodate.

Q: What if we have to stop because another wave of COVID-19 shuts things down?

A: We will pro-rate refunds on the basis of the amount of season we were able to complete