



## Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

*"Practice and play like a champion today!"*

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2  
403.710-2213

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Date: August 17th, 2020

Re: No spectators in the Facilities

To our valued membership:

You are receiving this letter today as a notice of what the Town has set as restrictions for recreational facilities when it comes to spectators. It is true that at this time, no spectators are allowed in the facilities for the month of August and as September rolls around, they will re-evaluate the restrictions to see if they can be modified or changed.

The restrictions come on the heels of decisions made back in March when the facilities were first shut down. With all that went on, the Town decided to negate tax increases for 2020 and they were able to do so by removing money from the budget - staff salaries. With the anticipated start of facilities being September / October.

The AHS has some pretty stringent cleaning requirements that facilities need to follow to comply. They need staff to do so and it is currently not in their budget to do so. It is not to say that it won't be put back in, it just isn't there now. It is a topic of discussion at today's council meeting. Every hour or every ice session, the entire facility needs to be cleaned as parents leave the building and a new set of spectators come in.

The town is working with us OMHA and OOAA as we start our hockey programs to see if we could allow a select number of volunteers in the room to tie skates. Unfortunately, those volunteers won't be allowed to watch.

You may ask yourself why other rinks are allowing people. There are a couple of reasons:

- a) That particular facility has allocated money and staff to cleaning it on a regular basis as per AHS recommendations. Although you may not see it, it is being done accordingly which allows them to have parents come in. That being said, if guidelines and safety measures are not followed, those privileges could be taken away just as fast.
- b) Unlikely scenario - the facility is not paying attention to the guidelines set forth and risk a penalty if discovered.

From a safety concern, I understand that you will have questions, but trust us when we say that your child's safety is first and foremost when it comes to Okotoks Minor Hockey. Having female volunteers to female coaches on the ice when girls are skating will be a priority for us as well. We will work continuously with the town to ensure the safety of your child and that of our coaches. We will make sure that it is a win-win scenario for all.



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Trust that we, as OMHA and OOAA, feverishly working with the Town to make sure that kids can get on the ice safely and that we are doing all that we can to get you guys, the parents, back in the rink and be as safe as possible to not further spread this virus.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

OMHA Executive