



# ST. ALBERT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION \*\*UPDATED\*\* RETURN TO HOCKEY PLAN

September 15, 2020

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## PROTOCOLS AND SAFETY

With guidance provided by Hockey Canada, Hockey Alberta, Alberta Health Services and the City of St. Albert, we have established a member declaration, outlining all member responsibilities while engaging in hockey during COVID-19. We are asking our members to review and agree to all terms outlined in the [2020 SAMHA Member Declaration](#). Please take a moment to complete this and familiarize yourself with all City of St. Albert facility guidelines included in [Appendix I](#) of this document.

It is very important that all our members remain up to date on the latest COVID-19 protocols communicated through Alberta Health Services. Please check the [SAMHA COVID-19 Webpage](#) regularly for all updates on health and facility guidelines pertaining to hockey.

## SAMHA'S RETURN TO HOCKEY PROGRAM UPDATES

Since the original SAMHA Return to Hockey document distributed on July 24, 2020, we have modified our cohort model to align with recent Hockey Alberta and Hockey Edmonton Return to Hockey plans. The key changes have been outlined in the table below.

	Previous Model	New Model (For additional detail, refer to "Team Formation" section of this document)
<b>Evaluations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cohorts are formed based on skill skate, last years' evaluation score, and prior tier played.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluation Cohorts ** are formed based on skill skate. Last years' evaluation score and prior tier played will be considered.</li> <li>- There <i>can</i> be multiple Evaluation Cohorts per tier depending on draft pool size (Teams per Tier).</li> </ul>
<b>* Coach Selection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coaches are selected after cohort formation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coaches are selected after the Skill Skate. Coaches &amp; Assistants manage their respective Tier Evaluation Cohorts.</li> </ul>
<b>Player Selection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Liked-skilled players are all placed into one cohort by the Division Director, HOCVP and Evaluation Director.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Players will be drafted by coaches from the Evaluation Cohorts to build teams (see next section for detail). Undrafted players will be made available to the next tier's draft for selection.</li> </ul>
<b>Coach Formation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One Head Coach/Cohort Leader. All other coaches would be considered on-ice helpers.</li> <li>- The Cohort Leader would divide the cohort into three or four equal groups of 10-12 players = 36-42 players total.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Each tier will consist of the number of Head Coaches and assistants required for team formation per tier.</li> <li>- Standard teams will be drafted.</li> </ul>
<b>On-ice Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All practices run with the entire cohort based on practice plans from the development provider.</li> <li>- Prescheduled mini league 3vs3 or 4vs4 play within cohort.</li> <li>- 3-4 ice slots per week with 1 or 2 games between two groups from the cohort.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- During Evaluations, ice times will be instructed by outside development or practice plans provided by the Development and Evaluation Directors.</li> <li>- 1-2 ice slots per week (reduction in ice due to smaller cohort sizes and teams within the cohort)</li> </ul>

		<p>receiving their own practice ice versus sharing with the entire cohort).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluation Cohort inter-squad games.</li> </ul>
<b>Timelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A set schedule will be supplied until mid-December. Plans to modify the schedule if AHS restrictions loosen before December.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An Evaluation Cohort schedule will be supplied until the second week of October.</li> <li>- After drafting teams, physical distanced practices will be scheduled for two weeks from mid-October to November 1st.</li> <li>- A new game/practice schedule will come out for late October.</li> </ul>
<b>Pod Play</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No plans for modifying format until December.</li> <li>- No plans to interlock with EFHL. All players remain and play in St. Albert.</li> <li>- If AHS does not allow changes to the cohort size, movement to and from different cohorts will be accommodated during the two week Christmas break.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In week 2 of October, coaches will draft teams from the Evaluation Cohorts (approx. 1.5 X Players Required). All players not selected will move down to the lower tier.</li> <li>- New teams will be established, and a new schedule will be created for all teams.</li> <li>- Coaches will run two weeks of social distanced practices.</li> <li>- Until AHS &amp; Government Restrictions lift, teams will play in a "Showcase Model" format. Teams form cohort and play multiple games. Cohort size limited to AHS &amp; Government Restrictions. Physical distanced practices will follow for 14 days after each "Showcase".</li> <li>- The "Showcase Model" <i>can</i> include games outside the association.</li> </ul>
<b>Regular Season</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AHS and Government Restrictions lift and The EFHL creates schedule.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AHS and Government Restrictions lift and The EFHL creates schedule.</li> </ul>

\* As per Hockey Alberta guidance, head coaches may only have one team but can be a part of another team as a physically distanced Assistant Coach. Assistant coaches can be a part of one cohort and physically distance in other cohorts.

\*\* Female Evaluation cohorts are going to be created, and then placed with appropriate skills teams after team formation.

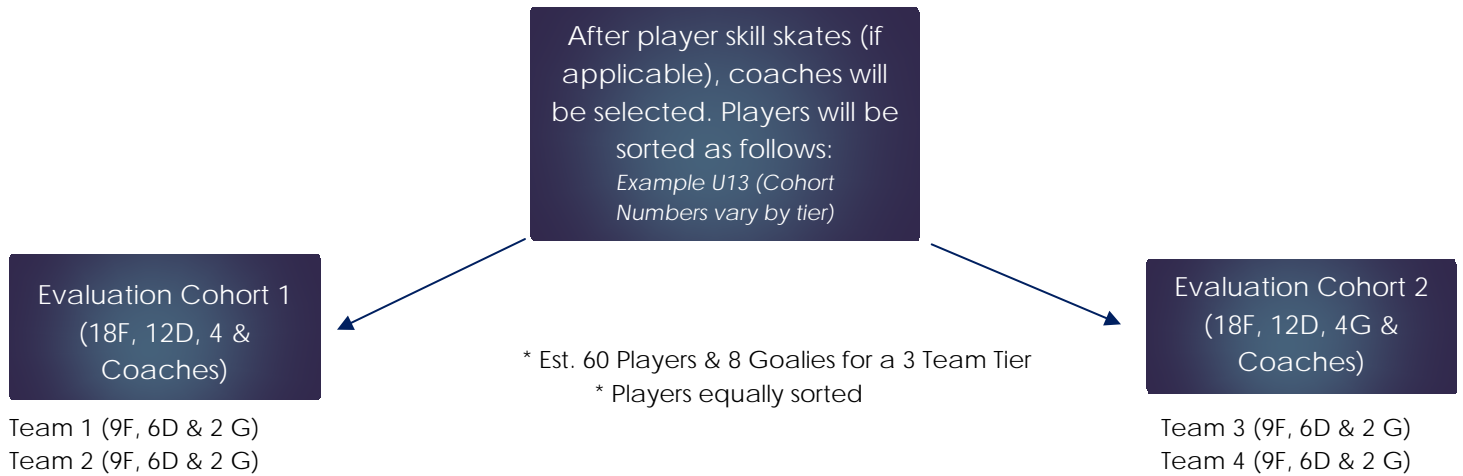
This is how we get there:

- For U11, U13 this means with other female league teams, for the lowest level team, from other associations.
- For U11 the top team will be placed in a coed cohort after team formation.
- For U13 the top two teams will be placed in a coed cohort after team formation.
- For U15 and U18 will be placed with A/B level female teams from other associations.

# TEAM FORMATION

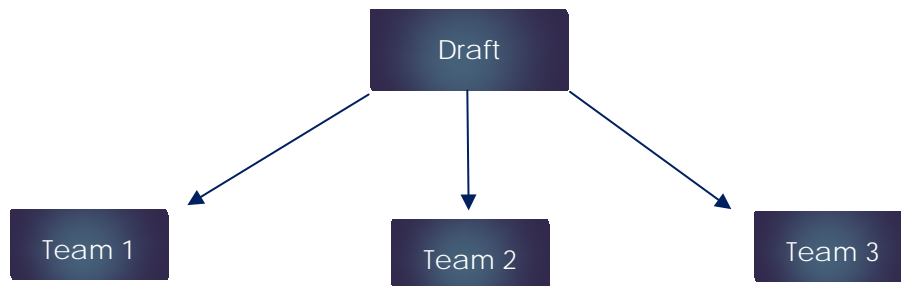
## Evaluation/Draft Pool Week 1

At week one, Coaches will split into assigned cohorts (representation from each coaching staff will be placed in both cohorts), the teams will practice on their own with provided practice plans or with Development Provider as well as play games vs other team in cohort. Ex. 1v2 or 3v4



## Draft

In this example, Coaches will draft **ONLY** 3 teams from the players of the draft pool. Players that are not selected will fall and be eligible at the next tier's draft. This will follow the same guidelines of our draft policies. Those that fall will be must picks to the next tier. All tiers will draft. The number of teams per tier vary by Hockey Alberta and EFHL restrictions.



Remaining Players become must picks in next tier

## Pod-play

- Once teams are formed, a 2-week period of social distanced practices will occur.
- Cohorts of AHS recommended size will be made for gameplay.
- With 2 weeks of practice before joining another cohort for gameplay.

## Regular Season

- TBD

## CRITICAL DATES

### CRITICAL DATES – NOVICE U9, ATOM U11, PEEWEE U13

- September 10 - September 17: evaluation cohort formation, coach selection
- September 18 - November 1: evaluation cohort play, skill development, player selection into teams
- November 2 - November 15: social distanced practices with team used to break the existing cohort groups in preparation for game play as directed by Hockey Alberta and Alberta Health Services

### CRITICAL DATES – BANTAM U15, MIDGET U18

- September 26 - October 9: evaluation cohort formation, coach selection
- October 10 - November 8: evaluation cohort play, skill development, player selection into teams
- November 9 - November 22: social distanced practices with team used to break the existing cohort groups in preparation for game play as directed by Hockey Alberta and Alberta Health Services

## IMPORTANT LINKS

[Hockey Alberta Return to Hockey Plan](#)

[Alberta Health Services Covid-19 Info for Albertans](#)

[Hockey Canada Return to Hockey Information & Updates](#)

[Government of AB Guidance for Sport Phase 2](#)

[Canadian Government Covid-19 Updates](#)

[Covid-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Additional questions regarding SAMHA's Return to Hockey Plan:**

**General:**

Don Chanski, Vice President of Hockey Operations (HOCVP)  
[hocvp@samha.ca](mailto:hocvp@samha.ca)  
587-987-3922

**Evaluations:**

Roger Monette, Evaluation Director  
[evaluationdirector@samha.ca](mailto:evaluationdirector@samha.ca)  
780-242-5513

**Division Specific:**

For full listing of all Division Directors, [click here](#).

**Updates from SAMHA/Raiders:**



Website



SAMHA  
Raiders



SAMHA



SAMHA  
Raiders



Website

COVID-19 INFORMATION

**OPEN**

September 2020

# ARENA GUIDELINES

**Servus Place - Go Auto, Troy Murray, Mark Messier  
Jarome Iginla  
Kinex**

**Welcome back!**

The City of St. Albert is now accepting bookings for its arenas. To ensure the safety of our patrons and staff, the City is following all Government of Alberta guidelines. This means that with our reopening, a number of safety modifications and procedures will be in place.

Please ensure all coaches, participants and spectators are aware of and follow the guidelines as there are some significant changes to ensure everyone's safety. Failure to follow guidelines could result in a loss of bookings.

**Arena opening dates are:**

Troy Murray	July 20
Mark Messier	July 20
Go Auto	July 23
Jarome Iginla	August 10
Kinex	August 10

**Safety Guidelines:**

- Face coverings are required at all indoor public spaces within St. Albert. While face coverings are not required when patrons are on the ice, they must be worn in public and common areas, including change rooms, timekeepers box and the mezzanine.
- Facilities will promote physical distancing by indicating one-way traffic flow to avoid individuals from inadvertently interacting. Common areas must not be used to congregate.
- Practice sneeze/cough control and respiratory etiquette. Participants should refrain from spitting and clearing their nasal passages during activities.
- Access Servus Place arenas through the south doors. Saturday bookings need to use the west doors due to the Farmers' Market. When entering the facility go directly to the booked surface.
- Arrive at the facility no earlier than 30 minutes prior to your booked time. Go directly to the booked surface.
- Leave the facility no later than 15 minutes after your booked time.
- No more than 50 people in total can be on the ice or in the player boxes at the same time. This includes referees and coaches.
- Change rooms will be available; however, participants are encouraged to come dressed for their activity.
- Change rooms will be restricted to participants and coaches.
- Practice physical distancing in change rooms; capacities will be posted for each room.
- Showers will remain closed at this time.
- Please use garbage receptacles provided and clean up after your group.
- Officials rooms will remain closed at this time.
- Participants must stay in the room until the ice is ready; do not wait in the walkway.
- Dryland training will not be permitted prior to arena bookings.
- Unless directed by facility staff, spectators are not allowed to enter participant spaces (e.g., dressing rooms, ice surface, walkway around ice). All spectators must wear face coverings and practice physical distancing. To ensure 2 metre distancing is maintained, the regular number of seats available will be reduced and spectator capacities will be listed for each facility.
- The user group is responsible to ensure that sanctioned activities (training, practice, games) are permitted through their association and/or sport governing body.
- Please report any injury or accident immediately to the facility staff, including when emergency services have been contacted.




For further information or to book your ice time,  
please contact [facilitybookings@stalbert.ca](mailto:facilitybookings@stalbert.ca).





# APPENDIX II – HOCKEY ALBERTA TIMELINES

		Return to Hockey Timelines															
		WEEK	Aug. 17-23	Aug. 24-30	Aug. 31-Sept. 6	Sept. 7-13	Sept. 14-20	Sept. 21-27	Sept. 28-Oct. 4	Oct. 5-11	Oct. 12-18	Oct. 19-25	Oct. 26-Nov. 1	Nov. 2-8	Nov. 9-15	Nov. 16-22	Nov. 23-29
Senior								Physically Distanced Sorting / Cohort Group Camps				Exhibition Series		Pod Play			
Major Junior															Team Camps		Regular Season
Junior A, B, C	Physically Distanced Sorting / Cohort Group Camps				25 Players Selected		Team Training		Exhibition Series			Pod Play					
U18 AAA	Prep Skates / Physically Distanced Sorting			Cohort Group		22 Players Selected		Team Training		Exhibition Series			Pod Play				
U16 AAA	Prep Skates / Physically Distanced Sorting			Cohort Group		19 Players Selected		Team Training		Exhibition Series			Pod Play				
U18 AA			Prep Skates / Physically Distanced Sorting			Cohort Group		19 Players Selected		Team Training		Exhibition Series		Pod Play			
U16 AA			Prep Skates / Physically Distanced Sorting			Cohort Group		19 Players Selected		Team Training		Exhibition Series		Pod Play			
U15 AAA	Prep Skates / Physically Distanced Sorting			Cohort Group		19 Players Selected		Team Training		Exhibition Series			Pod Play				
U15 AA			Prep Skates / Physically Distanced Sorting			Cohort Group		19 Players Selected		Team Training		Exhibition Series		Pod Play			
U13 AA			Prep Skates / Physically Distanced Sorting			Cohort Group		19 Players Selected		Team Training		Exhibition Series		Pod Play			
U18 AAA F	Prep Skates / Physically Distanced Sorting			Cohort Group		20 Players Selected		Team Training		Exhibition Series			Pod Play				
U18 AA F			Prep Skates / Physically Distanced Sorting			Cohort Group		19 Players Selected		Team Training		Exhibition Series		Pod Play			
U15 AA F			Prep Skates / Physically Distanced Sorting			Cohort Group		19 Players Selected		Team Training		Exhibition Series		Pod Play			
Tiered Hockey (U18, U15, U13, U11)			Prep Skates / Physically Distanced Sorting			Cohort Group					Pod Play						
Intro to Hockey (U9 & U7)			Prep Skates / Physically Distanced Sorting			Cohort Group					Pod Play						

To allow players the opportunity to access hockey at the highest level at which they are capable of playing, Hockey Alberta has established a guidelines of timelines (see the attached RTH Timelines chart) for an altered layout, evaluation and player sorting structure. Following this structure will allow MHAs/ Teams to work towards team selection in preparation for a start to the Modified and/or Regular Seasons. Timelines within this chart may be required to change due to Alberta Health Services recommendations and guidelines.

- Prep Skates can be initiated prior to the timeframe shown in the chart.
- Identifying and initiating a Cohort can be done prior to the timeframe shown in the chart.
- By the end of the 'Player Selection Week' shown in the chart, all Teams must have rosters cut down to the identified number.
- If an individual wishes to move to a new Cohort, she must not participate in Cohort activities for 14 days prior to joining the new Cohort.

hockeyalberta.ca

