

## Vulcan Minor Hockey Association Return to Hockey

September 16, 2020

As we look forward to another year of hockey, we are finding ourselves faced with many new obstacles and uncertainties that have arisen from the COVID-19 situation. We all have to navigate through a 'new world' and the world of hockey is no different. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we sort through the rules and expectations of Hockey Alberta, the CAHL, the Government, AHS and the Town of Vulcan arena regulations. We will continue to provide you with updates as they become available and will do our best to answer any questions you may have. Our goal is to make this season as safe and fun as possible for all of our athletes, so we ask you in advance to bear with us as we navigate this new challenge.

I would like to start out by passing along as much information as possible, as I'm sure you all have a lot of questions and concerns. First and foremost, there WILL be hockey this year. What exactly it will look like is still unknown to a large extent. The ice is currently being put in and practices will begin on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The beginning of the season will largely be focused on skill development, as league games are currently not permitted. Under the current regulations in stage 2, teams are allowed to play exhibition games through a cohort of up to 50 people. We will work with the coaches to make this stage as successful and fun as possible. For a complete understanding of what that cohort entails, as well as other incredibly important information, please visit the government document at this link: <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-relaunch-sports-physical-activity-and-recreation.pdf>

as well as read through the Hockey Alberta Return to Hockey plan: [https://www.hockeyalberta.ca/uploads/source/Return\\_To\\_Hockey/RETURN\\_TO\\_HOCKEY - September 3 update.pdf](https://www.hockeyalberta.ca/uploads/source/Return_To_Hockey/RETURN_TO_HOCKEY_-_September_3_update.pdf).

Also included at the bottom of this email is a copy of the Town of Vulcan arena rules and a flow chart for our permitted movement through the arena. These rules are very important to know and understand as they explain exactly how our arena will function this year. It must also be emphasized at this point that if we, as a user group, fail to comply with and follow these rules, our user privileges may be taken away. In other words, we follow the rules, or there will be no hockey for anyone!!! As such, we urge you to review these documents and go over the rules with your athletes. It is our responsibility to make sure that every VMHA member who walks through the doors understands and follows these rules for the good of our entire association. Due to the seriousness of the potential consequences of not adhering to the town's rules, VMHA will issue penalties for anyone that fails to comply, such as suspensions, etc. Our hope is that everyone will remember that it is about the kids and playing the game we all love.

We understand that these documents are very long, but they outline all of the rules and expectations we have to follow in order to play hockey this year. So please take the time to read through these in full, as they will answer many of the questions you may have about the upcoming season.

Additional information:

- The bleachers have been conditionally opened to spectators for practices and games, on a one-month trial basis. We had to get special permission from the town to make this possible and have been told that if people are out of their seats and not following the safety guidelines, they will be closed immediately. As such, everyone needs to remain in their seats, including children, for the duration of the players' time on the ice.
- Children are permitted in the rink, as long as they are not running around and spectator capacity has not been reached. If your child is not capable of sitting still beside you for the entire practice/game, please do not bring them into the rink.
- Our dressing rooms will be open for athletes to use 15 minutes prior to their ice time and must be vacated within 15 minutes of your ice time ending. Hockey Alberta has stated that if an athlete is a part of their team cohort, they are not required to wear a mask while in the dressing room or game play area (bench or ice). The Town of Vulcan recommends arriving at the rink at least partially ready whenever possible. So based on this, we will leave it up to you, as parents, to determine how you would like to go about getting your athlete dressed, within those parameters. We have spoken with the town and they will allow one guardian to enter with each athlete to assist them with getting changed and tying skates, etc., as long as that guardian is wearing a mask and respects the other rules. When you are done getting your athlete ready, you would be expected to leave the arena via the designated flow rules and reenter the arena at the beginning of your athlete's ice time, if you want to watch.
- As stated in the Town rules, each ice session will be required to provide an "arena host." To facilitate this, parents will be required to perform this duty on a cyclical basis for every player registered in VMHA. We understand that this is not ideal, but it is a responsibility each of us will have to take on in order to have the privilege of using the arena this season.
- Each day, prior to arriving at the arena, every person MUST complete the COVID-19 self-assessment. If you or your athlete has any of the symptoms, please stay home and do not enter the facility.
- Each team MUST track all participants at every ice time, maintaining records for 30 days from the completion of each activity.

FEES AND REFUNDS

We have decided that for the 2020/2021 season, fees will remain the same. This decision was made based on the fact that costs such as ice times and insurance are largely unchanged. However, we recognize that as this is an evolving situation, we need to remain flexible and want to do everything we can to make hockey affordable for all of our members. With this in mind, we have decided to make fees due in two installments, on November 15<sup>th</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup>. This way, it alleviates the upfront financial burden many families may be facing as well as allows us to not have to process refunds if hockey ends up being postponed or cancelled early in the season. Please note that for your first payment, it will be 50% of your fees as well as the \$100 cash calendar cost per child (to a max of 2 children). Invoices will be sent out accordingly.

#### BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

In an effort to improve communication within our association, we have decided that going forward, one board member will be assigned to every team. From hereon in, any parent that has an issue or concern can direct their communication directly to their designated board member rather putting that weight on a team manager. We believe this will create a more positive environment for all members in our association as well as reduce gaps in communication. For the upcoming season, here is a list of the board members, along with their phone numbers, assigned to each team:

U7 (Initiation) – Kyle Wickstrom (403) 485-0206

U9 (Novice) – Kale McMorris (403) 485-8422

U11 (Atom) – Jay Hubick (403) 542-2296

U13 (Peewee) – Mitch Honess (403) 485-8463

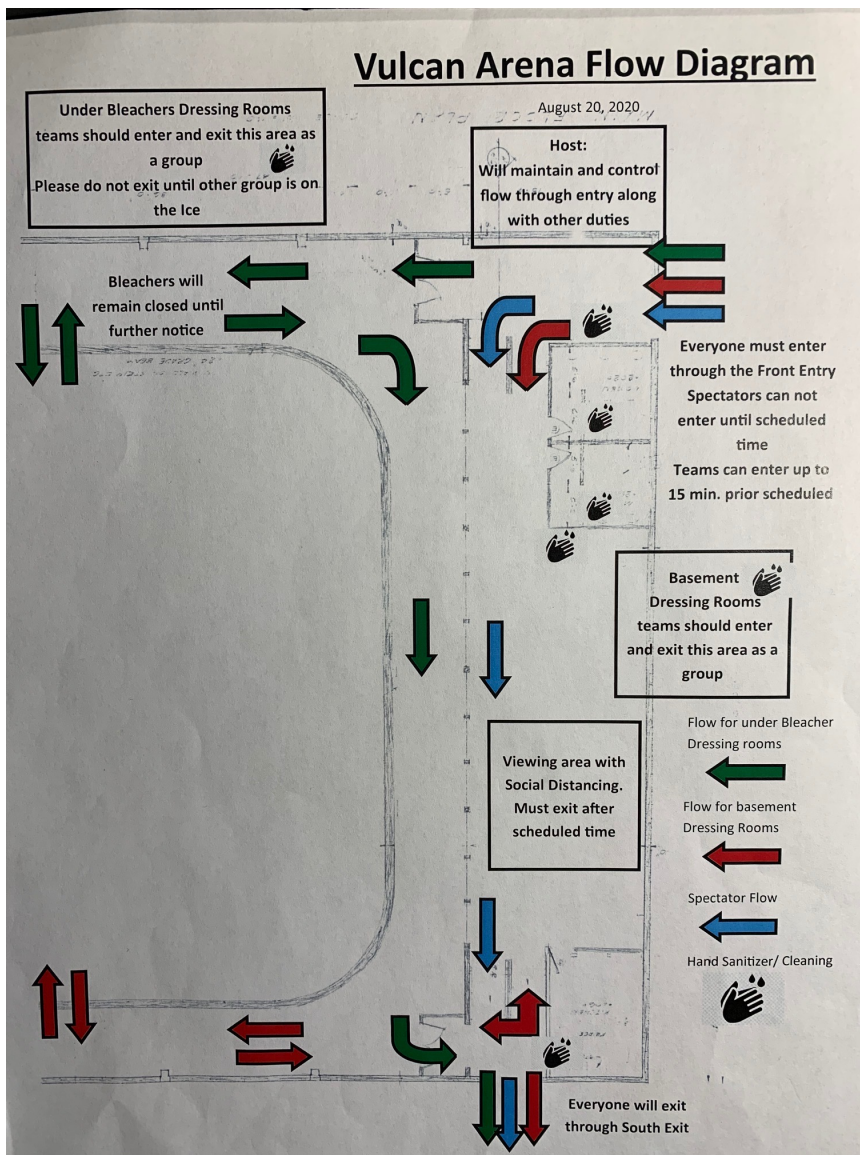
U15 (Bantam) – Shari Markert (403) 485-3526

U18 (Midget) – Alicia Earl (403) 580-9998

Thank you very much for your patience, as I know I have inundated you with information. I hope this helps to answer many of your questions. Please feel free to reach out if there is anything further you need clarification on.

On behalf of the VMHA Board,

Shari Markert  
Secretary



\*This flow chart has not been updated to account for the bleachers being opened.  
We will pass on the updated chart when we receive it.

**Following Guidelines:** Control on play. Participants guidelines is a guideline to arrive with the required equipment on, as safety of dress room users will be protected. Failure to abide by these distancing rules has on teams may be devastating if it leads to a community outbreak. It is not a guarantee that the loss of a privilege of using the Town of Vulcan arena will be a loss of a privilege. It will not be a loss of a privilege if the guidelines are followed by the offending group(s).

**Dressing Rooms limited:** Dressing room space will be extremely limited in order to provide greater **Welcome track:** A distance of 10 feet will be maintained between groups. Facilities are not available to them to minimize Town of Vulcan arena guidelines. The new guidelines and facility procedures going on in the dressing rooms. communication is very important to go through the reopening and relaunch phases of the Arena.

The health and safety of everyone is our priority. If you have any questions, please let us know.

**Additional support required:** User Groups with younger children requiring assistance with skate tying should consider how to manage this within physical distancing guidelines. Skate tying prior to arrival and the use of skate guards is strongly recommended. We will be asking from each user group to provide a host at the entrance of the facility to screen and give direction to those entering the facility. **\*Please note that the Town of Vulcan will not be fully open for the Alberta Health Services Phase 2 reopening. Our top priority is the health and safety of our customers, users and employees. Please review the additional Town of Vulcan Arena Guidelines below.** The town's response can be found on the Town of Vulcan website.

maintainance staff with needed time to disinfect change rooms etc. No children or adult will be allowed to roam freely in the facility and will be directed to the approved spectator area by host for the duration of the user time slot. **Physical Distancing:** Maintain 2-meter physical distancing between people, except those who reside in the same household or who belong to an existing cohort.

**Limited Spectators:** Spectators will not have access to the facility until the scheduled booking time and should exit out the specified door of the facility as soon as the booking time slot has ended. Spectators of Vulcan's Community Services Manager. User groups will contact the Town Community Services Manager immediately in the event that a person from your group has tested positive for COVID-19 or have been in contact with anyone testing positive with COVID-19. Each team will take attendance for each session booked on the ice. The contact for each player/skater/coach or team assistant needs to be ready. The bleacher area will not be accessible at this time. **Host Duties:** Each user group must provide contact information for each coach or team staff to the Town of Vulcan's Community Services Manager. User groups will contact the Town Community Services Manager immediately in the event that a person from your group has tested positive for COVID-19 or have been in contact with anyone testing positive with COVID-19. Each team will take attendance for each session booked on the ice. The contact for each player/skater/coach or team assistant needs to be ready. The bleacher area will not be accessible at this time.

**All Arena Users:** Sport and recreation organizations are responsible for keeping track of all participants for each activity for the purpose of contact tracing in the event of an outbreak. Please refer to the groups must limit the number of contacts between different participants. This is done by playing within sport cohorts of up to 50 people including participants, officials, coaches, and trainers. Only 50 people will be allowed on the ice at one time. **Recreation not grade 2 for more information, go to <https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx>**

**Direct players to assigned dressing rooms**  
**Players/Skaters:** Should be prepared to come dressed in as much hockey/skate equipment as possible to reduce the time at the facility before and after on-ice sessions. Players/skaters must not spit, blow their nose freely or release any bodily fluid anywhere in the facility due to an extremely high risk of virus transfer.  
**Direct viewing patrons to exit through side door**  
**Cleaning and Sanitizing:** Additional cleaning and sanitizing measures will be in place to ensure a safe and healthy environment for everyone. Arena staff will be disinfecting all areas of the arena and common game and not all users have gear to be changed (building all door handles, bannister and seating area)

**Specific Sport Guidelines:** Many sport governing bodies have developed, or in the process of developing **Arrival Times:** Players and coaches can enter the facility through the front main doors 15-20 minutes before their booking and must exit the facility 15 minutes after the end of their booking with Albert Health Services and Government directives regarding physical distancing and avoiding the **Entrance/Exit to the facility:** The Group start expected will follow the sport governing body guidelines with respect to times and exiting the facility. The group's responsibility with AHS guidelines is that all users including spectators will be out the south door only along highway 534.

