



INFORMATION BULLETIN 19-13

June 30, 2020

Hockey Alberta's Return to Hockey Plan

Hockey Alberta has completed a Return to Hockey Plan that incorporates the current requirements outlined in Stage 2 of the Government of Alberta's Relaunch Plan, health and safety guidelines from Hockey Canada, and programming, registration and sanctioning for Hockey Alberta.

The plan provides the framework and minimum standards for Hockey Alberta's Members to undertake hockey activities. It also allows players, coaches, officials, parents and other stakeholders to understand the current guidelines for operating sanctioned hockey for the 2020-21 season.

The Return to Hockey Plan is enclosed with this Bulletin. The Plan and its appendices, along with other announcements and documents pertaining to COVID-19 and hockey in Alberta can be reviewed on the Hockey Alberta website:

[Hockeyalberta.ca/members/return-hockey/](https://hockeyalberta.ca/members/return-hockey/)

The plan was compiled by a Return to Hockey committee that included senior leaders at Hockey Alberta and representatives from eight Minor Hockey Associations across the province, along with input from other members and leagues who participated in a town hall meeting in mid-June.

The health and safety of all participants in the sport is of paramount importance in all activities outlined in the Return to Hockey Plan. The threats and challenges posed by COVID-19 require specific steps to be taken to allow hockey back on the ice, and this plan addresses those requirements.

The Return to Hockey Plan – including the timelines included within it – is subject to change, as new guidelines and requirements are put in place by the Government of Alberta.

For any questions or concerns, please contact:

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or

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ALBERTA

JUNE 30, 2020



RETURN TO HOCKEY



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1 INTRODUCTION

Hockey Alberta has worked with Hockey Canada and other provincial branches, Government of Alberta, Provincial Sport Organizations, and our Members, staff and volunteers to develop Alberta's Return to Hockey Plan. The purpose of the Return to Hockey plan is to provide options for a restart to hockey in Alberta, to outline required safety protocols and requirements, and to assist our Members with tasks they need to be undertaking for hockey to re-start.

The Return to Hockey Plan is current as of June 30, 2020. It meets the current health and safety requirements of the Government of Alberta and aligns with Hockey Canada's Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines in focusing on the safety and wellbeing of all participants. Updated versions of the Plan will be published and posted to the [Hockey Alberta website](#) based on changes to the Government of Alberta's Relaunch Plan.

All timelines within this plan are subject to change based on Hockey Alberta's evaluation of environmental factors and Government of Alberta restrictions.

The information in this document is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and Hockey Alberta recommends that the [Government of Alberta COVID-19 site](#) be accessed for the most up to date information.

WHO TO CONTACT?

Hockey Alberta will be undertaking member engagement strategies to help support member organizations as they prepare for the implementation of each Return to Hockey component.

Specific questions can be directed to appropriate Hockey Alberta senior management based on topic:

- General – Drew Dixon (ddixon@hockeyalberta.ca)
- Member Messaging – Brad Lyon (blyon@hockeyalberta.ca)
- On-Ice Session Planning – Justin Fesyk (jfesyk@hockeyalberta.ca)
- Safety Guidelines and Facilities – Mike Klass (mklass@hockeyalberta.ca)
- Sanctioning and Registration – Kevin Macrae (kmacrae@hockeyalberta.ca)



2 PROTOCOLS AND SAFETY IN THE GAME

Hockey Canada, Hockey Alberta and its 13 Member Branches have built a comprehensive Safety Guidelines document, along with an FAQ document, to provide direction and support as organizations (administrators, coaches, managers, safety staff, trainers), parents and players prepare to return to hockey. The information included in these documents should be reviewed regularly, as it provides a solid framework to follow for any organization (and its members) as Return to Hockey planning is undertaken.

[See Appendix 1 – Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines.](#)

[See Appendix 2 – Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines FAQ.](#)

The Safety Guidelines provide guidance on a safe and positive return to hockey experience for our participants and stakeholders. Sections include:

- Insurance Coverage.
- Hygiene Requirements and Checklist.
- Recommended Return to Hockey Procedures.
- What to do if there is a positive COVID-19 test.
- Junior Hockey guidelines.
- Guidelines for Officials.

Hockey Alberta's Members and sanctioned partners are to ensure they do the following:

- follow the Government of Alberta's COVID-19 Public Health guidelines.
- comply with Hockey Alberta's Return to Hockey information.
- comply with all requirements in agreements with arenas/ recreational facilities.
- communicate with their members the safety protocols and Return to Hockey approach that have been approved in Alberta, and for the organization.

Members and sanctioned partners must track all participants and interactions, maintaining records in a secure location for 30 days from completion of activity. This is to be done as part of a daily check-in procedure for participants. Information should be recorded using Hockey Alberta's Contact Tracing document (Appendix 3). Any participant who answers YES to any of the questions may no longer participate in the camp/ program until a minimum 14-day quarantine period has elapsed. Pro-rated registration fees are to be refunded.

[See Appendix 3 – Hockey Alberta Contact Tracing Template](#)

[See Appendix 4 – COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)

Members and sanctioned partners are to report any COVID-19 cases as required by Alberta Health Services, Member, hockey association, league and facility. Hockey Alberta must be notified once Alberta Health has been notified.

[See Appendix 5 – Reporting a Positive COVID-19 Case](#)



Parents and players also play key roles 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 session, and adhere to them while at the session.
- ensure each player has his/her own water bottle which is sanitized prior to each session, and his/her own hand sanitizer for use while on the ice.
- ensure equipment is dried, cleaned and/or sanitized following each session.
- arrange appropriate transportation to and from the session.
- refrain from cheering and yelling as it presents a high risk of spreading droplets.
- do not spit, blow nose freely or release any bodily fluid anywhere in any facility due to an extremely high risk of virus transfer.

A detailed outline of responsibilities of Administrators, Coaches and Managers, Safety Person and Trainer, Players and Parents can be found in the Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines – Roles and Responsibilities (Appendix 6).

[See Appendix 6 – Roles and Responsibilities.](#)



3 COMMUNICATIONS

It is crucial for Hockey Alberta and our Members to communicate with our respective audiences on the details of the Return to Hockey Plan and the programming planned by each organization. Returning and potential new participants want to know what programming is available from their local MHA or team, and that it is aligned with planning by Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada. It is also important to ensure that the entire hockey community understands that the safety of all participants is paramount to Hockey Alberta and our Members.

Hockey Alberta is committed to providing regular updates to our Members. Our Return to Hockey Plan and its appendices, Bulletins and Memoranda pertaining to COVID-19, and other related materials will be housed on the [Hockey Alberta website](#) on a special Return to Hockey page.

We encourage our Members to engage in regular and open communication with your members as a key part of returning safely to the rink. Members should have a designated page on their website for information related to your program plans. That page should include a link to the Hockey Alberta Return to Hockey page.

It is recommended that each organization identify a communications person who is responsible to update and circulate all relevant information to everyone within their jurisdiction.

Responsibilities can include:

- Monitoring all relevant updates from the Government of Alberta and Alberta Health.
- Monitoring all relevant updates from Hockey Alberta.
- Communicating with your local facilities on guidelines and updates.
- Ensuring teams are following the prevention guidelines set by the Member/hockey association/league.
- Meeting with their Members on a regular basis to assist in facilitating updates.



4 FACILITIES AND SPECTATORS

Hockey Alberta Members and arena facilities must work together to ensure everyone complies with public health guidelines, and that facility users are prepared for the processes and procedures in place at the facilities they use. All Hockey Alberta Members are reminded to engage in positive and open communication with their facilities in planning a safe return to the rink.

Facilities will adopt the standards required by the Government of Alberta, and update and adapt to changes as required. Those standards may differ between facilities or municipalities, so the onus is on the Member to reach out as part of the facility rental agreement process for clarification of the following:

- Guidelines and requirements specific to physical distancing?
- Restrictions on the number of people allowed in public areas?
- Entry and/or re-entry rules? Will masks be required?
- Areas not accessible in the facility – main lobby, dressing rooms, spectator area, etc?
- Dressing rooms available? If not, what options are available for players and parents?
- Common areas available to put on skates with marked physical-distanced seating?
- Cleaning and disinfection processes implemented by facility owners?
 - How often are common touchpoints serviced?
 - Are there requirements of user groups to sanitize arena facilities or equipment as part of the rental agreement?

The allowance of spectators is at the discretion of each facility and should they be allowed the following guidelines are in place:

- Spectators (excluding parents and guardians where necessary for player support) should be kept out of participant spaces (for example, fields of play, courts, ice surfaces).
- Physical distancing (minimum 2 metres) is required unless spectators are from the same household.
- Up to a maximum of 100 spectators are allowed.
- It is strongly recommended that all spectators wear masks, especially in an indoor setting.
- Cheering and yelling are strongly discouraged as they present a high risk of spreading droplets.



5 COACHES, TEAM OFFICIALS AND ON-ICE OFFICIALS CERTIFICATION/ TRAINING

The structure of certification and training clinics and seminars for Coaches, Team Officials and On-Ice Officials is unknown. Hockey Canada is investigating the feasibility and options for online certification programs.

Depending on guidelines and protocols in place with the Government of Alberta as the summer progresses, decisions will be confirmed on how these sessions will be offered and this information will be communicated to our Members and the provincial hockey community. This information will be updated on the [Return to Hockey page](#) on the Hockey Alberta website, as well as Coach and Officials sections at hockeyalberta.ca.



RETURN TO HOCKEY PROGRAMMING





6 RETURN TO HOCKEY PROGRAMMING

Stage 2 of the Government of Alberta's Relaunch Plan has authorized recreational facilities, including arenas, to open and host activity using safety and risk management measures. This provides the opportunity for hockey participation to resume. Travel restrictions for participants are included to reduce risk of people from different communities interacting and increasing risk of exposure to infection.

Hockey Alberta's Return to Hockey Plan is comprised of two activity components that will help organizations prepare for the final component – the return to regularly scheduled 5-on-5 hockey within a league structure. The Plan's components are:

- I. Off-Season Skill Development
- II. Development Season
- III. Regular Season

Whether one, two or all three components are used depends on the health and safety requirements in Alberta as well as the needs of your local community.

The components outlined in this section provide the framework for Hockey Alberta Members and sanctioned partners (inclusive of all abilities, levels and streams of hockey) to plan their return to hockey activities. Launch dates for any component may differ as these will vary depending on the levels of hockey (Senior, Junior, Elite, Minor, etc.).

Minor Hockey Associations are not required to submit their plans to Hockey Alberta for approval, but all activity must adhere to Government of Alberta regulations, and operate within Hockey Canada's guidelines to continue to be eligible to operate programming. Hockey Alberta will issue sanctions for camps/ programs being offered during the Off-Season Skill Development component.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Physical Distancing remains an integral part of the Government of Alberta's Relaunch Plan. Practicing physical distancing in an activity helps to reduce the risk of transmission as well as allows participants more flexibility to participate in other activities.
- Stage 2 of the Government of Alberta's Relaunch Plan also identifies types of Cohorts and the guidelines for those.

See Government of Alberta Website: (<https://www.alberta.ca/prevent-the-spread.aspx>).

See Appendix 7 – Guidance on Cohorts

- Cohorting has been identified as an option for Sports teams. If an athlete is participating in a camp or program not using physical distancing, that group is considered a Cohort. A Cohort is a closed, small group of no more than 50 individuals who participate in the same sport or activity and remain together for the duration of Stage 2 of the Government of Alberta's relaunch. If Cohorting is being used, this should be clearly communicated to participants/ parents prior to Cohort formation.
 - Sports teams can play in region-only cohorts (mini-leagues) of up to 50 players and coaches.
 - Cohorts include those individuals (participants, officials, coaches and trainers) who cannot maintain a 2-metre distance from others at all times.
 - Sports cohort numbers do not include parents or spectators.
 - Instructors, Coaches and/or Team Officials can be part of one Cohort and remain with that group throughout the duration of this program, or they may maintain physical distancing from all other participants. If physical distancing is maintained, this not considered cohorting. Individuals can only be part of one sport Cohort.
 - Interacting with the same people and the same cohorts will be safer than constantly changing the people you interact with.

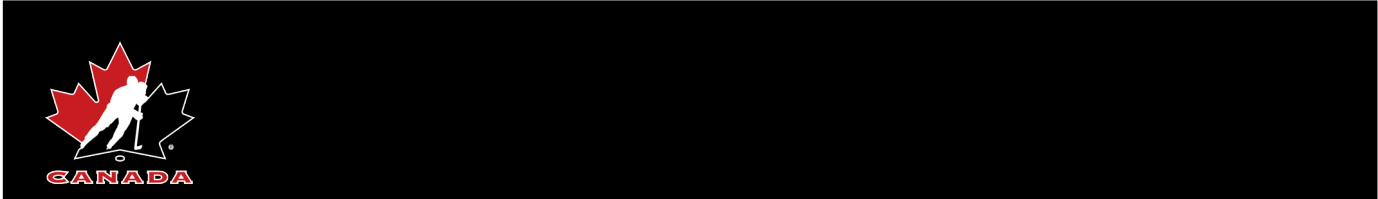


- Government of Alberta has indicated that: Cohorts are only to play within the same geographical region (for example, within a county, town or quadrant of a city). Activities should be restricted to local regional opportunities. Participants should not seek sport, physical activity and recreation opportunities in other regions, or out of province. Cross-jurisdictional, or inter-regional, play should not occur at this stage.
- An individual is only to be part of one Sport Cohort at any time. If an individual wishes to move to a new Sport Cohort, s/he is to complete a 14-day non-participation period prior to joining the new Cohort.
- NOTE: Even while using cohorting, physical distancing must be maintained in all aspects of hockey activity except while participants are on the ice (for example, dressing rooms, benches, and in public areas).
 - Options could include indicating physical distancing by using tape to mark areas on player benches or in dressing rooms.
 - When using Cohorting, it is recommended to try and utilize physical distancing on the ice whenever possible.

Spectators may be allowed in the facility, subject to physical distancing measures (refer to the current Government of Alberta and local municipal restrictions) and any specific directions provided by facility management.

To obtain sanctioning from Hockey Alberta, all programs MUST abide by the guidelines provided herein (which are based on the Government of Alberta and Hockey Canada's Safety and Protocols). Hockey Alberta reserves the right to remove or suspend sanctioning for any event.

If a Member is in need of assistance or clarification when putting together their organization's plans for return to hockey activities, please contact Drew Dixon, Senior Manager Member Development, (ddixon@hockeyalberta.ca), or submit to membership@hockeyalberta.ca.



RETURN TO HOCKEY COMPONENTS

The province remains in a restricted state, and the primary concern for Hockey Alberta is that any programs offered as part of its Return to Play plan focus on the health and safety of all participants. The intent is not to re-create the regular season structure, but to offer local/ regional training and development opportunities before proceeding to the regular season. Safety, not competition, is paramount.

COMPONENT	START DATE	PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	TRAVEL RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIVITY
Off-Season Skill Development	June 1- August 31	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the local community area; OR For a program with Physical Distancing in place, participants that reside within a 200 km radius of the host community; OR For a program using Cohorting, participants that reside within a 100 km radius of the host community. 	<p>Non-essential travel should be limited as much as possible.</p> <p>Players should access programs in their immediate area where possible.</p> <p>Travel outside the Alberta Health Region where the participant resides is not recommended.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-ice sessions Skills camps Development programs Hockey schools <p>Programs may be delivered using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical distancing; or Cohorting.
Development Season	TBD (no earlier than August 1)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the local community area; OR Participants from the established registration area (for example, MHA boundary, AA recruitment area, AAA draw zone). 	<p>Non-essential travel should be limited as much as possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills Sessions On-Ice Practices Off-Ice Training 'Regional' Game Play (3v3, 4v4 or 5v5) <p>Players can be grouped by age and/or skill level.</p> <p>Programs may be delivered using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Distancing; or Cohorting <p>Programming can assist associations to determine skill levels of players.</p>
Regular Season	TBD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the local community area; OR Participants from the established registration area (for example, MHA boundary, AA recruitment area, AAA draw zone). 	<p>Potential restrictions on travel could still be in place.</p> <p>Scheduling play within regions / conferences would be considered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills Sessions On-Ice Practices Off-Ice Training League Play <p>This is the finalization of a tryout, evaluations and then entry into the regular season.</p>

NOTE: The building of programming in the Off-Season Skill Development and Development Season is the responsibility of the Member organization. Hockey Alberta is available to answer questions or provide clarification as required.



OFF-SEASON SKILL DEVELOPMENT

OVERVIEW

Off-Season Skill Development programs are to focus on physical activity, training and skill development for the participants. These programs are available to be operated for all ages, levels and systems of hockey. Programs can be off- or on-ice, based on current provincial government regulations and restrictions. The building of programming is the responsibility of the Member organization. Hockey Alberta is available to answer questions or provide clarification as required.

[See Appendix 8 – Alberta Government Sports Relaunch – Stage 2](#)

[See Appendix 9 – Hockey Canada Sanctioning Guidelines](#)

Types of Programs Permitted:

- Off-Ice Training: any training activity organized by a Hockey Alberta Member or sanctioned partner that takes place off-ice and meets the required sanctioning criteria. These programs can focus on individual skill development and overall athleticism, or may be used for team building, training and/or evaluation processes.
- Skills Camps: on-ice sessions that take place over a period of one to three days.
- Development Programs: on-ice sessions within a defined schedule taking place over the course of weeks and/or months.
- Hockey Schools: on and off-ice sessions that take place over a period of three or more days and engage players in various types of skill development.
- Identification Camps for Junior and AAA hockey programs (with regional restrictions).

Programs can be operated in one of two ways:

i. With Physical Distancing

- Aligning with current physical distancing measures, all participants remain a minimum of two metres apart during participation.
- On-ice programs should utilize either a lane setup formation or a station-based setup formation. Both formations allow for physical distancing of two metres to be maintained.

[See Appendix 10 – Lane Formation Diagram](#)

[See Appendix 11 – Station-Based Formation Diagram](#)

- Each ice session must be planned and communicated in advance to on-ice participants and parents.
- On-ice markings can help with physical distancing while performing skills or waiting in line.
- Try to limit the amount of wait time in lines and if wait time is required ensure these markings are clearly communicated and identified to participants.
- The advantages of physical distancing are:
 - It is safer from a risk perspective for COVID-19 transmission.
 - Athletes may participate in more than one activity.

Options for structuring play using Physical Distancing:

- Well-spaced circuits develop a variety of skills while keeping players moving.
- Relay races add competition to ice sessions. Routes and rules ensure proper physical distancing.
- Skill competitions add competition and provide benchmarking to show tangible development training improvements.



- Consider using goaltenders, but ensure players are not deking or playing out rebounds. One shot and done from at least two metres out from the goaltender.
- If goaltenders are not used, consider using shooter tutors or in-net targets for drills that finish with a shot on net.
- Goalie-specific sessions can be delivered as physical distancing can easily be achieved.
- On-ice equipment (nets, divider boards) and training aids (pylons, shooter tutors etc) are to be placed and moved by coaches. Training aids are to be sanitized at the completion of the session by a coach.

ii. With Cohorting

- Cohorts help mitigate the risk of widespread transmission by limiting the number of athletes that come within close contact of each other.
- An advantage of participating in a Cohort is it can more closely resemble regular practices and game play.
- Cohort participants can be grouped together to participate in small area games, scrimmages etc.

Registration Protocols:

- Sanctioning:
 - Members (including MHAs, Club Teams, Sledge Hockey, Accredited Schools, etc.) wishing to operate a sanctioned Off-Season Skill Development program must apply via Hockey Alberta's online Special Event Sanction system in the Centre Ice Portal.
 - Members can operate activity in accordance with Hockey Canada guidelines and, when doing so, they know they have insurance coverage.
 - Organizations applying for an Alternate Season sanction will complete the application process as per Hockey Alberta's Alternate Season policy and procedures, as well as submit an online Sanction request for a specific Off-Season Skill Development program.
 - Once a sanction is approved, the Member/ sanctioned program must submit a participant listing to Hockey Alberta showing all players, instructors and officials that will be involved. Information required on the form includes:
 1. Name of Member and Event hosted, Date of Event, Location of Event, Participant Names, Addresses, Contact Details, Dates of Birth.
 2. The list is to be submitted via the link contained in the email that contains the Sanction number.
- Registration:
 - Members (including MHAs, Club Teams, Sledge Hockey, Accredited Schools, etc.) who offer Off-Season Development programs (June, July and August) can do so for their 2019-20 membership with no additional registration/ insurance costs.
 - Organizations applying for an Alternate Season sanction will be required to pay registration and insurance fees as per Hockey Alberta's Alternate Season policy and procedures.
 - As a result of Hockey Canada's insurance coverage, waivers are not required for any participants.
- Participant Eligibility Criteria:
 - Participants from the local community area.
OR
 - For a program with Physical Distancing in place, participants that reside within a 200 km radius of the host community.
OR
 - For a program using Cohorting, participants that reside within a 100 km radius of the host community.
 - Travel outside the [Alberta Health Region](#) where the participant resides is not recommended.



II DEVELOPMENT SEASON

OVERVIEW

No earlier than August 1, Hockey Alberta Members (including MHAs, Club Teams, Sledge Hockey, Accredited Schools, etc.) will be able to operate Development programming for the 2020-21 season (start dates may be altered depending on health and safety restrictions). The building of programming is the responsibility of the Member organization. Hockey Alberta is available to answer questions or provide clarification as required.

Programs can be operated in one of two ways:

i. With Physical Distancing

- Aligning with current physical distancing measures, all participants remain a minimum of two metres apart during participation.
- For more details and options on Physical Distancing options, refer to Off-Season Skill Development.

ii. With Cohorting

- Forming Cohorts is at the discretion of each organization. Many factors including number of registered players, age division, skills range and geography will come into play.
- To enhance the experience of all participants, it is recommended that MHAs and/or Teams use evaluation and/or sorting methods to identify like-skilled players for each Cohort.
- In some cases, only one program will be needed to establish viable competition for a Cohort. In other cases, Leagues, MHAs and/or Teams will need to work together using Hockey Alberta's Participant Eligibility Criteria to identify participants in a Cohort.
- Each Cohort can be comprised of multiple teams, to a maximum of 50 people. Game play between teams must be limited to teams within the same Cohort. Teams in different Cohorts cannot play each other.
- Options for structuring game play using Cohorts include:
 - 3 on 3 Programs (for example, 5 teams with 9-10 players per team)
 - 4 on 4 Programs (for example, 4 teams with 12 players per team)
 - 5 on 5 Programs (for example, 3 teams with 15 players per team)

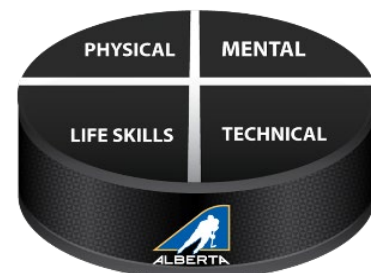
Depending on the game play chosen, on-ice officials can be used in this component but are not required. If officials are used, given the challenges of physical distancing on the ice, those officials must be included as part of the identified Cohort.

[See Appendix 12 – Hockey Canada Guidelines for Officials](#)

Activities should be divided to focus on the four components that play an important part in helping a player have a successful season.

- **Physical:** Warm Up/Cool Down, Performance (Hydration, Nutrition, Sleep)
- **Mental:** Team Identity, Goal Setting
- **Life Skills:** Team Building, Citizenship
- **Technical/ Tactical/ Team Skills:** On-Ice, Off-Ice Development

While operating programs, work can be done in all four areas. Resources can be found by visiting the [Coach Resources](https://hockeyalberta.ca/coaches/coaching-resources/) webpage (hockeyalberta.ca/coaches/coaching-resources/).





Tryouts, Evaluations, Sorting Players:

Completing the player evaluation and/or tryout process using your Cohorts would provide an opportunity to prepare MHAs/ Teams to complete player selection and rostering when needed.

[See Appendix 13 – Player Selection Resource Guide](#)

Registration Protocols:

- Sanctioning:
 - Members (including MHAs, Club Teams, Sledge Hockey, Accredited Schools, etc.) can schedule and operate sanctioned events without having to complete any additional application processes.
 - Members can operate activity in accordance with Hockey Canada guidelines and, when doing so, they know they have coverage.
 - No Travel Permits or Tournament Sanctions will be approved during the Development Season.
 - Hockey Alberta reserves the right to rescind a sanction for any program that does not adhere to these guidelines.

- Registration:
 - At the discretion of the Member, there are two options for registering players and team officials at this stage:
 1. Register all participants onto rosters in accordance with the normal procedures. (This is only recommended if your organization has completed the player evaluation/ tryout process and/ or knows the players who should be on each Team).
 - OR
 2. Register all participants onto group lists in HCR. Complete this based on the age division to track individuals who have signed-up to play within your organization.
 - Requests for team rosters and age division group lists are submitted in accordance with normal procedures.
 - Members will follow existing regulations and policies (ie: boundaries) regarding player eligibility and complete the registration process for players eligible for their own programs.
 - Affiliation will not be permitted to be filed nor used during the Development Season.

- Eligible Participants
 - Participants from the local community area.
 - Participants from the established registration area (for example, MHA boundary, AA recruitment area, AAA draw zone).



REGULAR SEASON

When restrictions on the numbers of people in a gathering, physical distancing and travel are lifted, regularly scheduled 5-on-5 hockey operated by Leagues will be eligible to return. Hockey Alberta will work with Members and Leagues to return to play in a safe and productive manner. Communication is integral to ensure everyone knows what precautions are in place and what alterations to the traditional regular season structure still exist.

Based on Hockey Alberta's seasonal model, the regular season starts in September, October or November (depending on the level of hockey). Depending on when restrictions are lifted, the start of the regular season could be within normal timelines or could be delayed until later in the 2020-21 season.

Types of Programs permitted:

- On-Ice Practices
- Off-Ice Training
- Exhibition Games
- League Games – Scheduling within League play will consider travel restrictions to reduce time commitments and cost.
- Tournaments – Timelines for tournament dates will be confirmed by Hockey Alberta based on Government of Alberta protocols.

Registration Protocols:

Sanctioning:

- Members (including MHAs, Club Teams, Sledge Hockey, Accredited Schools, etc.) can schedule and operate sanctioned events without having to complete any additional application processes.
- Members can operate activity in accordance with Hockey Canada guidelines and, when doing so, they know they have coverage.
- Out of Province travel may be restricted depending on Federal and Provincial government recommendations and restrictions.
 - Timelines for when requests for tournament sanctions will be considered will be confirmed by Hockey Alberta based on Government of Alberta protocols.

Registration:

- Team Order and Registration deadlines may be amended based on start-up dates.
- Deadlines for Team Official/ Coach education requirements may be amended based on start-up dates.
- Register all participants onto rosters in accordance with the normal procedures. (This is only recommended if your organization has been able to complete the player evaluation/ tryout process and/ or know which players should be on each Team).
- With a later start to the season, Minor Hockey Affiliation deadlines will move to January 15, to align with all other levels of hockey.
- All carryover suspensions from the previous season will be applied to players and team officials for this stage and must be served in full prior to participating.

Full details pertaining to the Regular Season component of the Return to Hockey Plan will be circulated once start dates are able to be identified based on updates to the Government of Alberta's Relaunch Plan.

APPENDICES

(Appendices can be accessed on the Hockey Alberta website:

[RETURN TO HOCKEY PLAN >](#)

