



St. Matthew Hockey and Sports Club

Welcome Back Hockey Families,

I know that this season is going to be one to remember! While things will look and feel a little different this year, we bet you are as excited as we are to get back on the ice.

Hockey Edmonton has outlined the structure for the 2020-2021 season as follows:

1. The Development Season: September
2. Modified Competition Season: October - TBD
3. Regular Season: TBD (The Regular Season could start as early as November 1st. There are several gameplay options in discussion.)

The St. Matthew Hockey Operations Team has put together our club's Return to Play plan, which has been attached to this email. This covers the season's structure, arena protocols and answers to FAQ. Please take time to read and familiarize yourself with the guidelines before your first skate. Our plan has been developed in consultation with KC, Hockey Edmonton and Hockey Alberta guidelines. We also encourage everyone to review the [Hockey Edmonton Return to Play Plan](#).

The Development Season: Evaluations

In a typical season, we would begin with Evaluations. Evaluations take place to ensure each child can be placed on a team with other players of similar ability. Our goal is always to have our players enjoy their season and improve their skills. We want them to come to the rink each day with a smile on their face and leave with a smile. Evaluations are fundamentally important but will look a little differently this September.

U9, U11 and U13 players will have 6 ice sessions. The first 2 skates are open skates and are not evaluated. They are strictly for the kids to find their hockey legs again. The next skate will be a timed skill session. The final 3 skates are technical skates, where coaches will put players through drills and exercises. These skates will all adhere to physical distancing requirements. Unfortunately, scrimmages are not permitted by AHS at this time and therefore will not be a part of the Development Season Evaluations. The goal of these skates is to create like skill groups, not teams.

U7 players will have 2 open skates.

For the Developmental Season evaluations, we will be using Directors and Coaches to assist with placement of players.

If you have not yet received an email from your Category Director with your open skate times, please reach out to ensure that they have the correct email address for you. Ice times have also been listed on our website for your convenience.

The Development Season: Skill Groups

Upon the conclusion of the Development Season Evaluation skates, the players will be placed into Skill Groups. Skill Groups will consist of approximately 9-15 players and will start practicing at the end of September.



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The Modified Competition Season: Cohorts

3-4 Skill Groups will be grouped into a larger Cohort based on similar skill levels. The Cohort allows Skill Groups to still play games against each other, albeit in a modified setting. A Cohort has a maximum of 50 players and coaches. A Cohort could include Skill Groups from St. Matthew and other clubs.

Once Hockey Edmonton announces the start of the regular season, the Skill Groups and Cohorts will be dissolved. Teams for the Regular Season will be created upon formal evaluations.

Fees

We are currently accepting payments for hockey registrations and require all payments to be made by September 15th. In order to complete a payment via credit card, you must log in to your [Team Snap account online](#) (not the app). On the dashboard, there is a green "Pay Now" button which will allow you to complete the transaction.

For those members that wish to pay with cheques, cash or bingo chits, you are welcome to join us at our in-person registration night: September 9th from 6 – 8 p.m. in the KC Arena Meeting Room. (13160 140 Ave NW)

Volunteer Commitments

Bingos are an important source of revenue for our Hockey Club. We ask all members to work bingos to fulfill their volunteer commitment.

U7 Discovery and Junior Timbit players, 1 bingo is required.

U7 Senior Timbits, 2 bingos are required.

U9 (Novice), U11 (Atom) and U13 (Peewee) families, 4 bingos are required.

(For families with more than one child in the U9-U13 levels, the first child needs 4 bingos and 2 for each additional child). You can book your [bingos online](#) or you can contact our [Bingo Coordinator Kathleen](#) for assistance. A reminder that you will be charged an additional \$200 on your registration fees if you do not show up for your bingo (\$400 if you are scheduled for a double). We wish that the penalty fee was not needed, but unfortunately, experience has shown us that it is. Our club can be fined and lose our bingo licence if we do not have the required number of volunteers in attendance. Thank you for understanding.

Thank you everyone and I look forward to seeing you all at the rink. Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Andrew Westervelt

President

St. Matthew Hockey and Sports Club