



## Return to Play

Facilitating a safe return to hockey is paramount. St. Matthew Hockey and Sports Club (SMHSC) will follow Hockey Alberta and Hockey Edmonton's programming delivery recommendations of:

- Physically distanced skill development
- Use of sport cohorts as defined by Alberta Health

Hockey Edmonton, as per Hockey Alberta, has outlined the seasonal structure, 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.

SMHSC has outlined the following process to begin the Development Season:

- *Development Season Evaluations*  
SMHSC will be deferring traditional evaluations, as there will be no scrimmages permitted at this time. U9 – U13 players will have 2 open skates, one timed skill skate and 3 technical skate sessions. U7 will have 2 open skates.
- *Creation of Skill Groups*  
Skill Groups will be created after the evaluations. By the end of September, each Skill Group will have an opportunity to practice together. Skill Groups will consist of approximately 9-15 players

SMHSC has outlined the following process to begin the Modified Competition Season:

- *Creation of Cohorts*  
3-4 Skill Groups will be combined to create a Cohort. The Cohorts will have a maximum of 50 players/coaches. Cohorts can include Skill Groups from St. Matthew and other clubs.

The majority of the ice time in September has been allocated for Development Season Evaluations. Directors have notified families of their first skates and times have been posted on our website.

Open Skates begin:

- U7 Discovery and Junior Timbits – Sept. 12
- U7 Senior Timbits – Sept. 12
- U9 (Novice) – Sept. 10 & 11
- U11 (Atom) – Sept. 10 & 11
- U13 (Pewee) – Sept. 9



Registration fees are due by September 15<sup>th</sup>. In the event that hockey is not allowed to continue, we will be in communication with our membership regarding credits/refunds if applicable. We will work with KC and Hockey Edmonton to ensure that the process is fair for all involved.

For more information, review [Hockey Edmonton's Return to Hockey Plan](#).

## Arena Protocols

**It is important that all Members of St. Matthew Hockey and Sports club adhere to the rules at each given arena.**

### Arrival

- Masks are mandatory for all patrons entering any facility. While we understand that every member has their own level of comfort regarding mask use, our club has taken the stance that players and family members will not be allowed into arenas without masks on. This is to ensure that we are in compliance with the City of Edmonton bylaw and the guidelines of KC Hockey and Hockey Edmonton. If you currently have a medical exception from a doctor, please contact us directly.
- Use the provided hand sanitizer immediately upon entering the facility
- All players/coaches must have the required [AHS health questionnaire](#) filled for each skate. (Copies will be made available if you do not have a printer.) A temperature check will be done at the facility entrance. If a "yes" answer is recorded or if a fever is recorded, the player will be directed to return home. The player will be able to participate in the program again after a minimum 14-day quarantine period has elapsed and all symptoms have resolved, or a negative Covid-19 test has been provided.
- Players are to come fully dressed but can put on skates and helmets in the dressing room. Please do not arrive more than 15 minutes prior to the ice time. Goalies are the exception and will be have access to the dressing room to get ready 30 minutes prior to the ice time.

### Dressing Room

- Dressing rooms will be available to tie skates only (except for Goalies). Only one parent/guardian is allowed in and absolutely no siblings are allowed. Once skates are tied, the parent/guardian must leave the change room and exit the building.
- Players are not permitted to remove their mask until they are putting on their helmet.



### Spectator

- Spectators are currently allowed in the arenas to watch the skates. Each arena has a posted maximum number of spectators. The recommendation is to only have one spectator per family (e.g.) only one parent/guardian and no children.
- Masks must be worn, and physical distancing is in effect.
- Spectators are only allowed to enter the arena at the start of the scheduled skate time.

### Exit

- Spectators are to follow the exit paths indicated as soon as the skate has concluded.
- Players are to leave immediately after removing their skates/helmets (within 15 minutes). Please remember, the mask must be put back on as soon as the helmet is off. While parents of skaters may enter the dressing rooms to assist their children, we strongly encourage our players to learn how to manage this feat on their own. Coaches will also be on hand to assist.