



Frequently Asked Questions

Is hockey being played this year?

Yes, Hockey Alberta & Hockey Edmonton have worked closely with Alberta Health Services (AHS) to create a plan that meets all Provincial regulations and guidelines.

Is it going to be safe for my child to play hockey?

Yes, every decision is being made with the safety of players, coaches, and parents at the forefront. Collectively, the Province and the City have implemented a combination of physical distancing, mask, small cohorts, and increased sanitation requirements to minimize the risk for all participants.

What will Development Season Evaluations look like?

U9 – U13 players will have 2 open skates, one timed skill skate and 3 technical skate sessions. U7 will have 2 open skates.

Skill Groups will be created upon the conclusion of 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

Are there scrimmages for evaluations?

No. Prior to being placed in a Skill Group, scrimmages are not possible in accordance with AHS guidelines.

Why are the development season evaluation skates just based on timed skill skate sessions and technical skates?

This is in order to adhere to the Physically Distanced guidelines in order to evaluate players and place them in Skill Groups. More skills-based sessions mean a larger sample size for the evaluators. If a player has an abnormally poor or good skate, it will impact their overall rankings less, creating a more accurate score of the players' average ability.

When will the Skill Groups be created?

Players will be notified of their Skill Group placement as soon as possible following evaluations. In some cases, first Skill Group practices may occur within a day's notice.



Why do we have to have Skill Groups? Why can't we just do regular teams now?

There is not enough room on the players benches or in dressing rooms to accommodate full teams and allow them to Physically Distance safely as per Alberta Health Services. Note: even while using Skill Groups, physical distancing must be maintained in all aspects of hockey activity except while participants are on the ice e.g. dressing rooms, benches, and in public areas.

Will there be different protocols around the dressing room and benches?

Yes. Players are to arrive with their required equipment on, as dressing room space will be limited to accommodate physical distancing. Shower facilities are not available. Masks must be worn in the facility until the helmet is on.

Why is Physical Distancing mandatory on the players bench and in dressing rooms if they are within their Skill Group/Cohort?

This is an Alberta Health guideline and a Hockey Alberta mandate. Technically, there should be no activities with any close contact. However, if the activity must have close contact, such as hockey, then the contact should only take place when it is necessary. All other efforts to physically distance must be taken including on players benches and dressing rooms.

Can parents watch games & practices?

Yes. However, spectators will not have access to the facility until the scheduled booking time and should exit the facility as soon as the booking time slot has ended. Spectators will not be allowed in the participant areas. Physical distancing should be maintained, and masks are mandatory for spectators. Each arena will post the maximum number of spectators allowed and members must abide by that.

What about the Tournaments, Minor Hockey Week, Playoffs, etc.?

At this time these events cannot happen as they do not comply with Stage 2 of AHS guidelines during the Hockey Edmonton Development Season. However, Hockey Edmonton has a plan in place should AHS guidelines change in a way that allows these events to occur.

Can coaches help with multiple teams?

Yes. However, coaches are only to be part of one Cohort. If a Coach wants to help with multiple teams, s/he can be part of one team Cohort but must wear a mask and practice physical distancing when interacting with any other Skill Groups.



How will SMHSC handle contact tracing and screening?

Hockey Alberta has set guidelines to follow to ensure all interactions are tracked and that symptomatic players do not participate in any activities. Players are required to complete a daily COVID check-in. We will be looking into automating this process.

What happens if a player answers YES to any of the symptom screening questions?

Any player who answers YES to any of the questions may no longer participate in the program until a minimum 14-day quarantine period has elapsed or they have provided a negative Covid-19 test and all symptoms have been resolved.

What happens if a player/coach tests positive for COVID-19?

The individual must immediately remove themselves from the session and go home as safely as possible. Hockey Edmonton Discipline needs to be notified immediately following any participant being removed from any session Hockey Edmonton Discipline will contact Hockey Alberta to facilitate the required AHS protocols under the contact tracking guidelines.

Is COVID 19 coverage included as part of the Hockey Canada Insurance?

Yes. Under Hockey Canada's current General Liability policy, there is a specific definition for the term "bodily injury" and that definition includes sickness and disease. Many insurance companies are implementing Communicable Disease/COVID-19 exclusions on policies, but Hockey Canada has successfully negotiated to leave that exclusion off until September 1, 2023 at the earliest.

Can my child be a part of multiple cohorts? (e.g.) Can they belong to a soccer cohort as well as a hockey cohort?

SMHSC asks its members to follow the recommendation of Alberta Health, which suggests that athletes should not belong to multiple sports cohorts; they should select one sports cohort for the duration of Stage 2.

Please remember that this situation is very fluid and constantly changing. SMHSC is committed to returning our players to the ice this fall in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations of the governing authorities in a safe manner. As more details become available, questions posed, or guidelines are amended we will continue to update our members.