

Smithers Minor Hockey Association  
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SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

### SMHA RETURN TO PLAY PLAN – 2020/2021 SEASON

Dear player and parent:

While we hope things will return to normal in the not too distant future, the fluid state of Covid-19 and this Return to Sport Plan will be the new normal until we are advised otherwise by public health authority and changes can occur. The following information has been put together by viaSport, BC Recreation, BC Hockey, Hockey Canada and SMHA

If you choose to participate, you must follow these rules:

- If you don't feel well or are displaying symptoms of Covid-19, you must stay home
- If you have traveled outside of Canada, you are not permitted at the facility until you have self-isolated for a minimum of 14 days
- If you live in a household with someone who has Covid-19 or is showing symptoms of Covid-19, please stay home
- Wash your hands before participating
- Bring your own equipment, water bottle and hand sanitizer
- Comply with physical distancing measures at all times
- Avoid physical contact with others, including shaking hands, high fives or spitting while in the facility
- Leave the facility as quickly as possible after you finish the ice session
- You must notify your coach, division manager, SMHA vice president immediately if you have any symptoms before, during or after an ice session [mattbrouintjes@gmail.com](mailto:mattbrouintjes@gmail.com) or 250-643-0902
- Players will need to complete the Covid-19 screening assessment prior to arriving at the rink. This will be completed through the **TeamSnap** app.

#### Facility entry

- Players are to come dressed in full gear and filled personal water bottle 10 minutes prior to ice time
  - Social distance while waiting to enter facility
  - Sit in designated seats, spaced apart as per provincial recommendation
  - Seats to be used to tie skates, fasten helmet
  - Street shoes to be left at the designated seat as you take the ice
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### **Ice entry**

- Main gate to ice open, benches not to be used
- Player to place water bottle on top rail at bench, markers provided On ice procedure
- Coaches on the ice
- Players properly spaced apart
- Drills designed for skill development and no physical contact
- Gloves and equipment left on at all times. No handling of pucks, coaches to pick up pucks at end of skate

### **Exit procedure**

- End of skate players will stay distanced and single file out of main gate back to designated seat to remove helmet and skates
- Players will have a maximum of 10 minutes to depart the arena

### **Safety protocol**

- Spectators will be limited to 1 per child, to be social distanced in the designated area
- Players need to complete the Covid-19 assessment prior to arriving at the facility
- Read and sign participant agreement

### **Communications Officer/task group**

SMHA has Identified Matt Bruintjes as our communications officer. Matt will be the point of contact to address questions or concerns regarding our Return to Play Plan.

Contact: [mattbruintjes@gmail.com](mailto:mattbruintjes@gmail.com) or 250-643-0902

SMHA Covid-19 task group consists of:

- Brendan Hutchinson- Head Coach and Technical Director
- Stacey Remillard- Safety and Risk Manager
- Shirley White- BC Gaming Coordinator
- Kristen Pederson- Ice Coordinator

### **Reporting and Compliance:**

SMHA is committed to ensuring that these safety procedures and guidelines are adhered to. The below aspects will be evaluated in consultation with our governing bodies and Health Authority to determine when we can proceed through our plan. Programming will be delivered within guidelines for the following restrictions:

- Physical distancing
- Increased hygiene measures
- Symptom screening
- No or limited spectators
- Fundamental movement and skill
- Modified training activities, drills and play introduced
- No contact between participants during activities
- Minimal shared equipment and procedure for disinfecting

### **On-ice structure**

- Maximum of 25 people can be on the field of play (ice surface) at a time
- Ice times are currently fluid, every effort will be made for consistency and maximum usage
- Sessions will be geared toward skills while respecting social distancing practices
- Sessions may have modified 3 on 3 games, no contact
- One coach will be designated to pick up pucks and the other on ice equipment

### **Town of Smithers Facilities**

To avoid congestion within the New Arena, players will enter via the exterior doors on the right and they will move to the far side of the arena to put on skates and enter the ice from the doors by the public skating equipment room. To exit they will go through the players benches and exit through the side door. Spectators will enter through the left hand side foyer doors and exit out the side doors as well.



#### **New Arena Ice Surface**

- On ice limit of 25 as per Hockey Canada Guidelines
- Dedicated entry gate and separate exit gate onto ice surface
- Limit to spectators, 1 parent per child. 6' between parents
- 2 Dedicated entrance/exit doors- one in the foyer, one from the outside
- Hand sanitizing stations available by each door
- High Touch surfaces will be sanitized several times a day (tables, door handles etc.)
- 1 dressing room available for goalies to prepare

To avoid congestion within the Civic Centre, players will enter via the exterior doors on the front of the building and exit through the doors on the side of the building.



#### Civic Centre Surface

- On ice limit of 25 as per Hockey Canada Guidelines
- Dedicated entry gate and separate exit gate onto ice surface
- Limit to spectators, 1 parent per child. 6' between parents
- 6 Dedicated entrance/exit doors- One on the front of the building, one on the back of the building and four on the sides of the building.
- Hand sanitizing stations available by each door
- High Touch surfaces will be sanitized several times a day (tables, door handles etc.)
- 1 dressing room available for goalies to prepare

### **Return to sport – Phase 3**

- Via sport has moved return to sport from phase 2 to phase 3 at the beginning of September. SMHA will practice the protocols of phase 2 as we begin the 2020/2021 season to ensure the safety of all involved. As we get comfortable with the return to hockey this fall we will move towards all of what phase 3 allows for.
- Please be patient with this process of returning to hockey. These processes and how they apply to our facilities and organization are a learning curve for everyone involved. Know that the volunteers that are involved in SMHA are working to make sure that we can offer the most we can under these circumstances.
- Communication is very important this year as things will be fluid as we get rolling. Please ensure you are monitoring your team snap and email.
- More info to come on what the season make up will be as far as games, leagues, tournaments etc...
- Let's make the most of this and have a great year of hockey!

	Strictest Controls Phase 1	Transition Measures Phase 2	Progressively Loosen Phase 3	New Normal (Future date TBC)
<b>Restrictions in Place</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain Physical Distance (2m)</li> <li>No non-essential travel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain Physical Distance (2m)</li> <li>No non-essential travel</li> <li>No group gatherings over 50 people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to PHO and local health authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to PHO and local health authorities</li> </ul>
<b>Enhanced Protocols</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased hand hygiene</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased hand hygiene</li> <li>Symptom Screening in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased personal hygiene, cleaning protocols and symptom screening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased hand hygiene</li> </ul>
<b>Facility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor or within home</li> <li>Facilities and playgrounds closed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor is safest</li> <li>Indoor facilities slowly re-opening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants should maintain physical distance while not on field of play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor/Indoor</li> </ul>
<b>Participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small Groups</li> <li>No or limited spectators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groups sizes increase based on sport type (i.e. level of contact).</li> <li>Participants and spectators must adhere to 50 people max per event public health guidance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large groups allowed</li> <li>No restrictions on spectators</li> </ul>
<b>Non-contact Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low risk outdoor activities can occur (biking, running, etc.).</li> <li>Virtual activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fundamental movement skills</li> <li>Modified training activities, drills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where feasible, limit contact (i.e. coming within two metres) in training and sport activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No restrictions on activity type</li> </ul>
<b>Contact Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should not occur</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should not occur</li> <li>Contact sports should look for non-contact alternatives to training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cohort model introduced for sports that cannot maintain 2m physical distancing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No restrictions on activity type</li> </ul>
<b>Competition*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should not occur</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In club play or modified games may slowly be introduced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competition slowly introduced.</li> <li>Regional competition for sports in cohorts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provincial competitions and larger scale events may return</li> </ul>
<b>Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No shared equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimal shared equipment</li> <li>Disinfect any shared equipment before, during and after use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced cleaning protocols in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared equipment</li> </ul>
<b>Travel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlimited</li> </ul>

<b>Group C</b> Sports with frequent or sustained contact	basketball, cheerleading, field hockey, football, goalball, hockey, lacrosse, netball, ringette, sledge hockey, soccer, ultimate, water polo, rugby, squash, wheelchair rugby, wheelchair basketball	<p>Contact – Physical contact within the same team training environment may be introduced. For the game or competition environment rules should be modified to minimize physical contact.</p> <p>All activities that involve any form of close proximity or physical contact should take place only within the cohort environment.</p> <p>Cohort Size – Cohorts may contain up to 50 people or four teams (whichever is deemed most appropriate by the Provincial Sport Organization)</p> <p>Competition - Competitive activities (e.g. game play) may occur within designated cohorts.</p>
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