



SQUAMISH MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

2020-21 Return to Play Plan and Policies



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Introduction

The **safety** of all our participants and their families is our top priority and key to the planning and execution this plan. The protocols and procedures described here will help reduce risk and permit our children to play the game they love.

We are working with the District of Squamish and other agencies to ensure that we have effective and sensible protocols in place and are in compliance with all regulatory requirements and public health guidance.

We are viewing the present situation as an opportunity as we navigate these dynamic times ahead.

While we hope things return to normal in the not too distant future, this plan will be our starting point. The plan is scalable, and we have prepared several different programming scenarios should they be required.

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, or someone in your household, 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, you must stay home.
- Wash, or sanitize, your hands before participating.
- Come dressed, bring your own equipment and prefilled water bottle.
- Comply with physical distancing measures at all times.
- Avoid physical contact with others, including shaking hands, high fives, etc.
- Leave the arena as quickly as possible after you finish.

We are doing our best to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19, but while the virus circulates in our communities it is impossible to completely eliminate the risk. We acknowledge that every family will have their own comfort level with COVID-19 and as an organization and community we need to respect each members comfort level and endeavour to make everyone feel safe and welcome back. Each family must make their own decision as to whether it is in their best interest to resume participation at this time. You must take into account your own circumstances and make the decision that is right for you. Should you choose to join us, we require your full cooperation with our Return to Play Plan.

Plan Highlights (Stage One)

Schedule

- The schedule will be subject to change as we progress through the season. The schedule will likely have to be adjusted each time there is a loosening or tightening of regulations.
- We will do our best to limit the changes in the schedule.
- Rep tryouts will begin some time in early October

Arena Protocols

Access to the arena will be controlled:

- Before every scheduled session player's must be signed in to TeamSnap and have filled out the COVID-19 screening questions on TeamSnap before entry to the building. A team official must confirm that anyone entering the building has done so;
- Teams will marshal outside the main lobby, while maintaining proper social distancing. There will be markers on the ground to help ensure social distancing;
- While maintaining social distance the team will enter the main lobby together when directed to do so by the door greeter and wait to be directed to enter the hockey lobby. There will be markers on the ground to help ensure social distancing;
- Players that show up once the team has entered the main lobby will not be able to join the team and participate in that ice session. Players must be at the rink no less than 10 minutes before their scheduled ice session, and no greater than 15 minutes before the session;
- Once teams are in the hockey lobby area each player and coach will have their own chair where they can put on their skates (or take off skate guards). They will return to the same chair once the ice session is over. Chairs will be numbered and a corresponding number will be found on the boards near the benches where players may place their prefilled water bottle;
- Players will arrive dressed but will be able to put on/take off skates at the arena, provided they can properly tie their own skates and can put them on, and later take them off, within 3 minutes. Otherwise players must arrive with skates on and wearing skate guards. Coaches will **NOT** be permitted to help tie skates;
- Brennan Park staff will disinfect the hockey lobby in a 5-7 minute window between one team leaving and the next arriving. A team needs to be out of the building 4 minutes after the end of their ice time. Teams entering will then have 4 minutes to get ready and on the ice. Ice times will not be extended if a team is not out on the ice on time, but will end at the scheduled time. Teams are expected to be off the ice at the appointed time, and not a minute or two after the end time.

Initiation/Novice Hockey (U6-U9) & House or “C” Hockey (U11-U18)

- Up to 2 practices/week;
- All practices will be led by SMHA coaches, with a number of practice plans provided by the DHO which will be designed to maintain social distancing guidelines and keep the kids engaged;
- Some practices may be limited to 45 minutes but will have fewer players and a higher coach-to-player ratio than usual;
- Focus will be on skill development at the start;
- We will move to compete and small scrimmages within a team when we are allowed to do so;
- We will then move to inter-association scrimmages when permitted.

Rep or “A” Hockey (U11-U18)

- A1 and A2 (if applicable) working groups will be formed following tryouts;
- 2-3 practices/week;
- All practices will be led by SMHA coaches, with a number of practice plans provided by the DHO which will be designed to maintain social distancing guidelines and keep the kids engaged;
- Focus will be on skill development at the start;
- We will move to compete and small scrimmages within a team when we are allowed to do so;
- We will then move to inter-association scrimmages when permitted.

Plan Highlights (Stage Two)

Stage Two re-introduces 4v4 and 5v5 games against neighbouring associations. The plan is preliminary and subject to change. The timeline for implementation will be determined in coordination with regulatory authorities.

Schedule

- The schedule transitions to “normal” with combined ice times and full home game slots.

Arena Protocols

- Gradual re-opening of dressing rooms;
- Revision to arena entry/exit and cleaning protocols.

Initiation/Novice Hockey (U6-U9) & House or “C” Hockey (U11-U18)

- 2 practices/week plus 1x/week home games for most age groups;
- Practices will continue to be led by SMHA coaches with support from the DHO;
- Exhibition games will be introduced and regular game schedule to be determined by league.

Rep or “A” Hockey (U11-U18)

- 2 practices/week plus 1x/week home games.
- Practices will continue to be led by SMHA coaches with support from the DHO;
- Exhibition games will be introduced and regular game schedule to be determined by league.

Communications

Communications Officer

Our return-to-play Communications Officer is Donn Oberg and can be reached at communication.smha@gmail.com

The responsibilities of the Communications Officer are:

- Monitoring all updates from the public health authority, via Sport & Hockey Canada;
- Communication with local facilities (public & private) on guidelines and updates;
- Working with a Division communications officer to ensure teams are following the prevention guidelines set by Hockey Canada;
- Ensuring COVID-19 cases are reported: Health authority, BC Hockey, MHA, league & facility.

Parents

Parents and guardians are expected to read the Return-to-Play plan, including all safety protocols and procedures, in detail and share the contents of it with players. The plan is very likely to change and evolve throughout the season and members are expected to stay informed with any changes to the Return-to-Play plan. Ignorance of any safety protocols or procedures is not an acceptable defence and if they are violated members could face discipline and/or suspension. SMHA can not have the actions of one, or a few, individuals put in jeopardy the entire memberships access to ice because of a failure to adhere to the protocols and procedures laid out in this document and by Brennan Park, the District of Squamish and Minor Hockey regulatory bodies.

When dropping off children at Brennan Park parents should remain in the parking lot (ideally in their vehicles) until their child has entered the building. While parents do not have to remain at Brennan Park while their child is on the ice, they need to be able to return to Brennan Park if called to pick up their child in a timely manner.

Parents should ensure that their contact info is current in Team Snap, particularly cell phone numbers.

Participant Agreement

Each player must sign an online participant agreement (see Appendix A for an example) in order to access the arena. **The link to the agreement will be sent out to all players.**

Each family must also sign a Return to Play waiver (see Appendix B for an example) in order to access the arena. **The link to the agreement will be sent out to all players.**

Participants are subject to removal from activities/facility use should they fail to comply with outlined protocols.

Scalability

This plan is designed to be scalable allowing for the possibility of loosening or tightening of restrictions according to the public health environment.

Regulatory Authorities and Plans

There are several authorities having jurisdiction over the return to activities in our province. These include the Provincial Government, ViaSport, Vancouver Coastal Health, PCAHA, BC Hockey and Hockey Canada. Several of these organizations have plans outlining a progressive return to activities.

Province of British Columbia

British Columbia's **Restart Plan** outlines the resumption of economic and social activity over four phases. We are presently in Phase 3. Some of the permitted activities include:

- Travel throughout BC;
- A return to the classroom for students in K-12 in September;

The B.C. government advises that, generally, people should:

- Limit people within your bubble.
- Continue hand hygiene and space cleaning.
- Self-isolate if you're sick.
- Keep gatherings small (two to six people) outside your bubble.
- Remain two metres away from other people and consider wearing a non-medical face mask or covering when physical distancing isn't possible.
- Don't share hugs or handshakes with people outside your bubble.

ViaSport

ViaSport is a non-profit organization that is the Provincial Government's lead delivery agency for sport programs. ViaSport has published return-to-sport guidelines, including hockey-specific guidelines. These guidelines are based on the following chart:

	Strictest Controls Prior to May 19, 2020	Transition Measures Approx. May 19th to Sept	Progressively Loosen Future date TBC	New Normal Future date TBC
Restrictions in Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain Physical Distance (2m) No non-essential travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain Physical Distance (2m) No non-essential travel No group gatherings over 50 people 	Refer to PHO and local health authorities	Refer to PHO and local health authorities
Enhanced Protocols	Increased hand hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased hand hygiene Symptom Screening in place 	Increased hand hygiene	Increased hand hygiene
Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor or within home Facilities and playgrounds closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor is safest Indoor facilities slowly re-opening 	Outdoor/Indoor	Outdoor/Indoor
Participants	Individual activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Groups No or limited spectators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups sizes may increase Limited spectators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large groups allowed No restrictions on spectators
Non-contact Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low risk outdoor activities can occur (biking, running, etc). Virtual activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundamental movement skills Modified training activities, drills 	Expansion of training activities	No restrictions on activity type
Contact Activities	Should not occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should not occur Contact sports should look for non-contact alternatives to training 	Introduction to pair or small group contact skills	No restrictions on activity type
Competition*	Should not occur	In club play or modified games may slowly be introduced	Interclub or regional game play may be considered	Provincial competitions and larger scale events may return
Equipment	No shared equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal shared equipment Disinfect any shared equipment before, during and after use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some shared equipment Enhanced cleaning protocols in place 	Shared equipment

We are presently in the second phase, "Transition Measures."

Hockey Canada

Hockey Canada governs the sport of hockey in Canada. They have outlined four general “Return to Hockey” Stages:

Return to Hockey Stages

Stage	Framework	Player Contact	# of Participants	Structure	Travel
RETURN TO Ice	Strict on-ice physical distancing with a variety of on-ice setups Skill development only Off-ice training & activity No competition Limited/no use of bench	None	Limited/defined consistent skills groups	Private instruction Hockey schools Teams/LHAs	None community-based only
RETURN TO Practice	May be some on-ice physical distancing Skill development/ drills progress to competitive Off-ice training & activity No competition May be limited use of bench	Limited gradually increased	May be limited/ defined consistent skills groups or teams	Teams/LHAs Cohort groups	None community-based only
RETURN TO Play	May be some or no on-ice physical distancing Regular practice Off-ice training & activity Competition may be modified Limited or normal use of bench	May be limited or allowed (Body-checking may be permitted in applicable category)	May be limited/ defined	Teams/LHAs Leagues May be modified game play or cohort groups	Limited community-based
RETURN TO Regular Competition	No on-ice physical distancing Regular practice Off-ice training & activity Standard competition May be normal use of bench	Allowed (Body-checking permitted in applicable category)	Regular team sizes	Teams/LHAs Leagues Regular game play	Travel Increased Tournaments Championships

SMHA Plan Implementation

Baseline

Our plan's baseline for September/October is Hockey Canada's "**Return to Practice**" stage which bridges ViaSport's "**Transition Measures**" and "**Progressively Loosen**" stages, and fits **Phase 3** of the Provincial Recovery Plan.

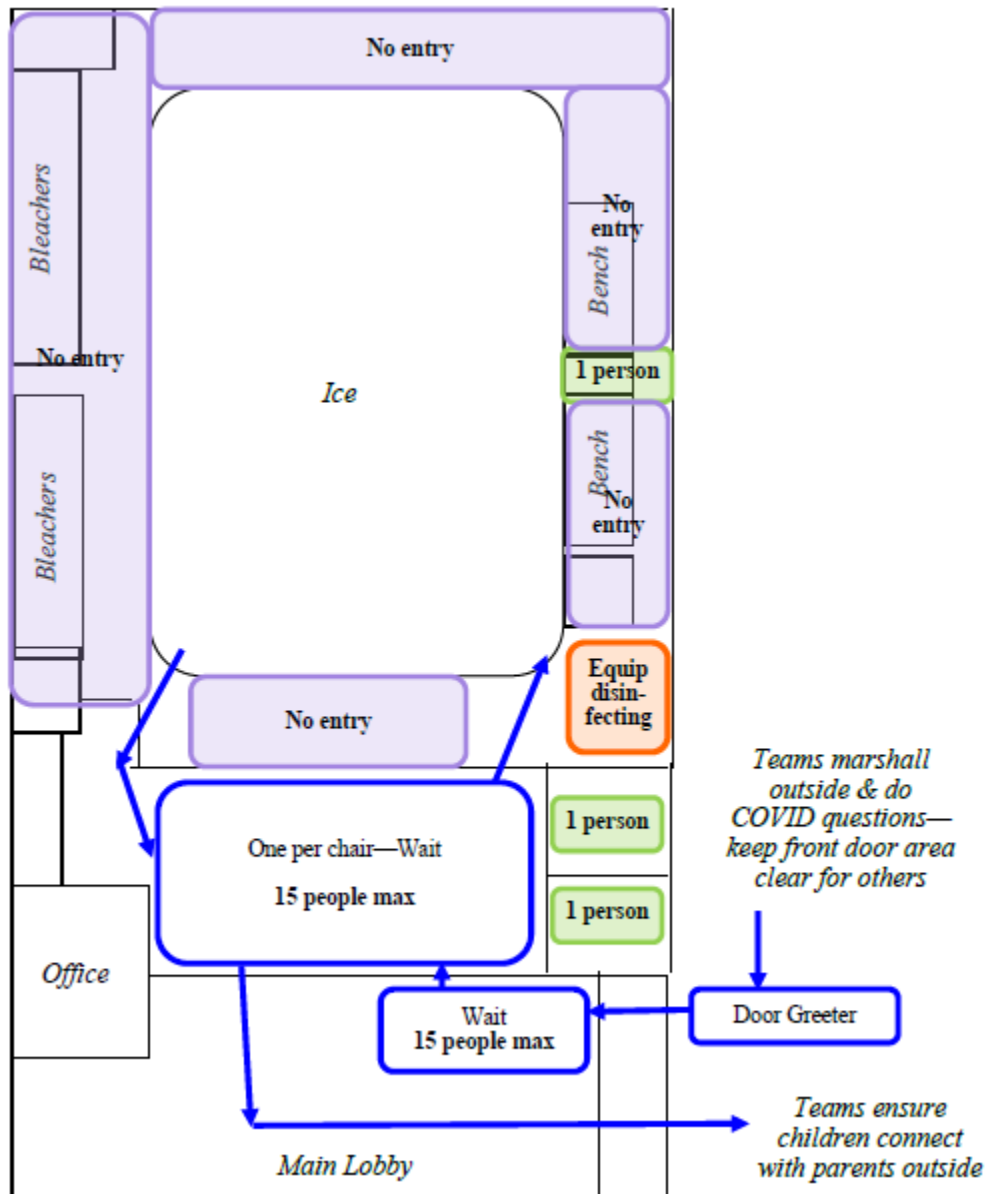
Stage One to Stage Two

The season will begin under ViaSport's "**Transition Measures**" protocols with appropriate skills instruction (we call this **Stage One**) and then will transition to ViaSport's "Progressively Loosen" phases leading to scheduled game play (conditions permitting).

Arena Plan

Ingress and Egress (Stage One)

Squamish Arena Ingress and Egress Routes



Ingress Procedures

- Players must arrive **fully dressed** for hockey and shall enter the building from the Lobby doors;
- Players will marshal outside the main lobby and may only enter the arena **5-10 minutes** prior to their ice time when directed to do so;
- Physical distancing must always be maintained;
- Access to the ice is only permitted once the Zamboni door is closed and players are called to the ice by a coach;
- Once permitted on the ice, players shall bring their prefilled water bottles to the boards by the player benches and place their bottle in a designated spot on the boards.

Egress Procedures

- On completion of their allocated ice time, players will return to their designated chair to untie skates or put on skate guards and must exit the arena via the designated outside doors as a group as directed by the coach.
- All participants must exit the arena **within 4 minutes** of the conclusion of their ice time.
- Physical distancing must always be maintained.

Notes

- Dressing rooms are closed during Stage One of the Return to Play plan.

Facility Capacity

- Up to **15 players/coaches** (or combination thereof) on the ice;
- Up to **1 HSCP** in the timekeeper's box
- **NO spectators**

Signage

- Signage will be posted at the entry points of the arena, including occupancy limits and effective hygiene practices.
- Signage posted indicating who is restricted from participating, including visitors and workers with symptoms.

Sample Signage

Coronavirus COVID-19
BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health

Hand Hygiene

SOAP OR ALCOHOL-BASED HAND RUB: Which is best?

Either will clean your hands: use soap and water if hands are visibly soiled.

Remove hand and wrist jewellery

HOW TO HAND WASH

1. Wet hands with warm (not hot or cold) running water.
2. Apply liquid or foam soap.
3. Lather soap covering all surfaces of hands for 20-30 seconds.
4. Rinse thoroughly under running water.
5. Pat hands dry thoroughly with paper towel.
6. Use paper towel to turn off the tap.

HOW TO USE HAND RUB

1. Ensure hands are visibly clean (if soiled, follow hand washing steps).
2. Apply about a loonie-sized amount to your hands.
3. Rub all surfaces of your hand and wrist until completely dry (15-30 seconds).

COVID19_HY_001

BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Health BC Centre for Disease Control

If you have fever, a new cough, or are having difficulty breathing, call 8-1-1.

Coronavirus COVID-19
BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health

REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

PHYSICAL DISTANCING IN PROGRESS

Maintain a distance of at least 2 arms lengths from others.

BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Health BC Centre for Disease Control

If you have fever, a new cough, or are having difficulty breathing, call 8-1-1.

Volunteer and Coach Protocols

Safety Volunteers

Outside & Inside Arena Lobby Areas

- 1) The **Manager or HCSP** volunteers are responsible for:
 - a) Checking players have signed in via Team Snap and filled out the COVID-19 screening questions as they arrive outside the main lobby:
 - i) Noting attendance while verifying rosters and release forms;
 - b) Ensuring social distancing outside the main lobby and within the main lobby;

Hockey Canada Safety Person (to be located in the timekeeper's box)

- 2) The **Hockey Canada Safety Person** is responsible for:
 - a) Ensuring that all Hockey Canada safety protocols are met including illness and injury documentation and reporting responsibilities as necessary;
 - b) Having access to the medical kit and supplying masks and gloves as needed;
 - c) Taking action should someone exhibit symptoms of illness including sending the person home immediately with his/her parent/guardian, or taking them to the **Emergency Isolation Room** until a parent/guardian can pick them up,

Coaches

- Wear gloves when handling Association equipment and disinfect equipment in the designated area after use;
- Bring pucks and cones that are supplied by SMHA to each ice session;
- Control player entry and exit from the ice, and in and out of the Hockey Lobby;
- Notify and reinforce the message that players and coaches need to observe physical-distancing recommendations while on the ice;
- Require anyone exhibiting signs or symptoms of illness to leave immediately and report to the Hockey Canada Safety Person.
- Remind players and parents to follow physical-distancing guidelines at all times.

Participant Protocols

Principles

Personal Hygiene:	Stay Home if You Are Sick:	Environmental Hygiene:	Safe Social Interactions:	Physical Modifications:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent handwashing • Cough into your sleeve • Wear a non-medical mask • No handshaking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine daily screening • Anyone with any symptoms must stay away from others • Returning travellers must self-isolate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More frequent cleaning • Enhance surface sanitation in high touch areas • Touch-less technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with small numbers of people • Maintain distance between you and people • Size of room: the bigger the better • Outdoor over indoor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spacing within rooms or in transit • Room design • Plexiglass barriers • Movement of people within spaces

Hygiene

- Minimize going in and out of doors, including washrooms or other rooms. Only one person in a washroom at a time
- Facility doors are considered high-risk touchpoints. Avoid contact with the door handles. Use the elbow to open if possible. Doors should be kept open when possible.
- Absolutely no sharing of drinks or food.
- Team warm-ups and practices should adapt to proper spacing; reduce the number of one-area stations, including the players coming together in one group for instruction.
- Emphasize to all participants that spitting and blowing the nose without tissue is absolutely forbidden.
- Each player needs to have a marked water bottle, which is washed after each practice or game. Participants need to bring their own bottle to each session and it must be filled up beforehand as fountains will not be operational.

The Hockey Canada Safety Program recommends the following protocol for the use of water bottles:

- Good team hygiene includes ensuring all players and staff have their own water bottles to prevent the transmission of viruses and bacteria.
- Bottles should be labelled and washed after each practice or game.
- It is prohibited for officials to drink from the goaltender's water bottle. If officials require water, they should have their own water bottle at the penalty bench.
- There should not be sharing of water bottles in the penalty box, as well as no sharing of towels.

Cleaning Protocols

General

- Cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces and high traffic areas will occur after each ice time by trained Brennan Park staff.
- Cleaning of the Hockey Lobby and the chairs the participants sit on will be cleaned and disinfected between each ice time.
- Hand sanitizer stands will be placed at entrances, in washrooms and other high traffic areas.
- Ensure garbage bins are available for responsibly disposing of hygienic materials such as tissues and any PPE that is used in the course of activities.

Emergency Response

First Aid

- The Association Risk Manager and Equipment Manager will ensure that each team Safety Kit contains masks and gloves in addition to the usual first aid supplies prior to the beginning of the season.
- Team Safety Persons are responsible to ensure that an adequate supply of masks and gloves is maintained in the Safety Kit.
- In the event that first aid is required to be administered during an activity, all persons attending to the injured individual must first put on a mask and gloves.
- Gloves should be worn when handling equipment and when treating a player.
- Hands must be washed, and gloves changed between each player contact.
- Masks should be worn when treating players and when physical distancing cannot be practiced.
- If illness is suspected and the player cannot be picked up/removed from the facility immediately, the player must be taken to a place where they can be isolated from other participants.

Outbreak Plan

Early detection of symptoms will facilitate the immediate implementation of effective control measures. In addition, the early detection and immediate implementation of enhanced cleaning measures are two of the most important factors in limiting the size and length of an outbreak. An “outbreak” is two or more a “case” is a single case of COVID-19.

- The Association Risk Manager and/or President has the authority to modify, restrict, postpone or cancel activities if a case or outbreak is reported.
- If Brennan Park staff or a participant reports they are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 and have been at the workplace/activity place, enhanced cleaning measures will be implemented to reduce risk of transmission and the District of Squamish will be notified right away by the Communications Officer.
- Affected individuals are required to:
 1. Self-isolate;
 2. Monitor their symptoms daily, and not to return to activity for at least 14 days following the onset of fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and painful swallowing, stuffy or runny nose, loss of sense of smell or taste, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, itchy red swelling eyes, rash on body, discolouration of fingers or toes, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, dizziness or confusion;
 3. Use the BC COVID-19 self-assessment tool at www.bc.thrive.health/Covid19/en to help determine if further assessment or testing for COVID-19 is needed;
 4. Contact 811 if further health advice is required and 911 if it is an emergency.
- In the event of a suspected case or outbreak of influenza-like-illness, it will be immediately reported to the Medical Health Officer of Vancouver Coastal Health and the District of Squamish.

Illness Policy

In this policy, “Member” includes a player, coach, volunteer, or parent/spectator.

1. Reporting

- Inform an individual in a position of authority (coach, Safety Person, team manager) immediately if, you feel any symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and painful swallowing, stuffy or runny nose, loss of sense of smell or taste, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, itchy red swelling eyes, rash on body, discolouration of fingers or toes, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, dizziness or confusion.

2. Assessment

- Members must answer the self-assessment questions on TeamSnap before entering the facility to attest that they are not feeling any of the COVID 19 symptoms.
- Safety personnel/coaches will visually monitor members to assess any early warning signs as to the status of their health and to touch base on how they are regarding their personal safety throughout the workday/practice/activity.
- If members are unsure, they should use the self-assessment tool at www.bc.thrive.health/Covid19/en or through the COVID-19 BC Support App self-assessment tool.

3. If a Member is feeling sick with COVID-19 symptoms

- They should remain at home and contact Health Link BC at 811.
- If they feel sick and/or are showing symptoms while at work, they should be sent home
- Immediately have them contact 811 or a doctor for further guidance.
- No Member may participate in SMHA activities if they are symptomatic.
- The arena space will be closed off, cleaned, and disinfected immediately and any other surfaces that could have potentially been infected/touched.

4. If a Member tests positive for COVID-19

- The Member will not be permitted to participate in SMHA activities in person until they have been cleared by Public Health and are symptom free.
- Household members of the infected Member will also be removed from SMHA activities for at least 10 days to ensure the infection does not spread further.

5. If a Member has been tested and is waiting for the results of a COVID-19 Test

- The Member will not be permitted to participate in SMHA activities in person until they have completed the required isolation and been cleared by Public Health.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada advises that any person who has even mild symptoms to stay home and call 811 or go online to complete the BC Covid Symptom

Checker www.bc.thrive.health/Covid19/en and go for a swab. A referral is not needed to get tested.

- Other Members who may have been exposed will be informed and removed from in-person SMHA activities for at least 10 days or until the diagnosis of COVID-19 is ruled out by health authorities.

6. If a Member has come in to contact with someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19

- Members must advise the association if they reasonably believe they have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Once the contact is confirmed, the Member will be removed from in-person SMHA activities for at least 10 days or as otherwise directed by public health authorities. Household members of the person will also be removed from all activities for at least 10 days.

7. Self-Isolate if:

- Any Member who has travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days is not permitted to enter any part of the arena and must self-isolate.
- Any Member with any symptoms of COVID-19 is not permitted to enter any part of the arena and must self-isolate.
- Any Member from a household with someone showing symptoms of COVID-19 is not permitted to enter any part of the arena and must self-isolate.
- Any Member who is in self-isolating as a result of contact with an infected person or in families who are self-isolating, is not permitted to enter any part of the arena.

Refund Policy for 2020/21 Season

Prior to September 15 – Full Refund less \$25 admin fee

September 16 – October 31 - 75% Refund less \$25 admin fee (unless due to injury)

November 1 – November 30 – 50% Refund less \$25 admin fee (unless due to injury)

December 1 – No Refund (unless due to injury)

No Refund at any time for suspension or discipline

Value Proposition

Due to the current status of Covid-19 we will be required to modify our on-ice development module and adapt to the guidelines within BC. We must plan for physical distancing within the facility, including on-ice practices. At the moment, we are permitted to offer individual player development and instruction. Compete drills, small games, 3 on 3, and 4 on 4 drills for example are not permitted. As we successfully move forward through the stages and receive approval, then we will introduce compete drills and small games including inter-squad scrimmages.

In the beginning there will be fewer players on the ice at one time, although the coach to player ratio will be higher, which will benefit each player. All practices will be individual skill development until permitted otherwise. Coaches will focus on skating, stickhandling, shooting and passing. Jeff Eaton, our DHO, will provide coaches at all levels a structured format to work within while in the current stage. In addition, coaches will take part in a Return to Play seminar conducted by the DHO and staff to ensure everyone has a full understanding of their roles and responsibilities during these unique times.

During practices, players have much more puck touches as compared to games, so even though we love playing games, there is commensurate or better value from a skills development perspective being delivered.

At the younger age groups, due to the need to have smaller groups, practice times may be shortened. For example, they may last 45 minutes instead of an hour. The value proposition remains similar; however, since there will be half, or even a third, as many kids on the ice (~13 instead of ~20-40) and players will spend less time waiting between drills and will receive more personalized instruction. The effective skills development opportunity actually increases rather than decreases even though the practice times are shorter.

Our aim is to provide the best possible programming and value in minor hockey. Jeff Eaton, our Director of Hockey, is preparing a structured format that will maximize the usage of ice time and provide a progressive and engaging hockey experience for our players no matter how long COVID-19 restrictions remain in place.

We are also working with neighbouring associations to share best practices and develop early opportunities for our players to engage in competitive scenarios within the regulatory framework that is in place.

Appendix A:

Example Participant Agreement

All Participants of the Squamish Minor Hockey Association agree to abide by the following points when entering the arena and/or participating in SMHA activities:

- I agree to symptom screening checks and will let SMHA know if I have experienced any of the COVID-19 symptoms in the last 14 days.
- I agree to stay home if feeling sick and remain home for at least 14 days if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or until cleared to return by Public Health.
- I agree to sanitize my hands upon entering and exiting the facility, with soap or sanitizer.
- I agree to sanitize the equipment I use throughout my practice with approved cleaning products (shared and personal equipment).
- I agree to continue to follow social distancing protocols of staying at least 2m away from others.
- I agree to not share any equipment during practice times.
- I agree to abide by all SMHA COVID-19 Policies and Guidelines.
- I understand that if I do not abide by the aforementioned policies/guidelines that I may be asked to leave the association for up to 14 days to help protect myself and others around me.
- I acknowledge that abuse of the policies and/or guidelines may result in a suspension.
- I acknowledge that there are risks associated with entering the arena and/or participating in SMHA activities, and that the measures taken by SMHA and participants, including those set out in the Return-to-Play Plan, will not entirely eliminate those risks.

Appendix B:

Example COVID-19 Return to Play Waiver

1. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF INHERENT RISK I understand that participation in the sport of hockey, (hereinafter the “Sports Activity”) is voluntary, and involves inherent risk during participation, including the risk of possible accidents, physical injury, or exposure to the COVID-19 virus or other infections or infectious diseases as a result of attending training, club events or competitive events. I freely accept and fully assume all such risks, dangers and hazards, including but not limited to personal injury, disease transmission, death, property damage or loss, resulting from my participation. I have carefully considered the risks involved, and I have full confidence that reasonable precautions will be taken to ensure the safety and well-being of myself (or my son/daughter/ward).

2. WAIVER I do for myself (or my child), and our respective heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, hereby waive, release, and forever discharge Hockey Canada, BC Hockey, PCAHA and/or Squamish Minor Hockey Association, their officers, partners, agents, employees, servants, representatives, volunteers, coaches, officials, successors and assigns (the “Representatives”) of and from any actions, causes of action, complaints, demands and claims or any recourse whatsoever (“Claims”) that I have or may have in the future in any way connected with my (or my child’s) participation in the Sports Activity contemplated herein, whether in law or in equity, in respect of personal injury, illness or disease transmission, loss of life, or property damage of any kind or nature, and I do hereby discharge the Representatives from any such liability. This includes negligence, breach of contract or breach of any statutory or other duty of care.

3. INDEMNIFICATION I further agree to fully indemnify and defend Hockey Canada, BC Hockey, PCAHA and/or Squamish Minor Hockey Association and any of their Representatives from and against any and all Claims brought against Hockey Canada, BC Hockey, PCAHA and/or Squamish Minor Hockey Association and any of their Representatives, including all related costs and expenses, and against any loss, costs, damages, or expenses which Hockey Canada, BC Hockey, PCAHA and/or Squamish Minor Hockey Association and any of their Representatives may sustain, suffer, incur, or be liable for resulting from, arising from, or in any way related to my (or my son/daughter/ward’s) participation in the Sports Activity. I also agree and undertake not to make any claim or take any proceedings against the Representatives set out above, or any other person or corporation which might claim contribution or indemnity under the provisions of any statute or otherwise from the Representatives set out above.

4. SEVERABILITY The provisions of this Assumption of Risk and Waiver shall be deemed severable and if any provision or portion thereof is held invalid, illegal or unenforceable for any reason, the remainder shall not thereby be invalidated, but shall remain in full force and effect.

Acknowledgement: I am aware of the nature and effect of this Assumption of Risk and Waiver and I fully understand all of the terms and conditions above. I understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing this Assumption of Risk and Waiver and I am signing it freely and voluntarily without inducement.

SMHA Return to Play Plan and Policies

Parent/Guardian: I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the participant named below and that I am entitled to his or her custody and control. I understand the aforesaid inherent risks that could arise from these activities, I grant permission for my son/daughter/ward to participate in the Sports Activity and other activities incidental thereto and I execute this Assumption of Risk and Waiver on behalf of myself and my son/daughter/ward.

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____ / _____

Parent/Guardian Signature(s): _____ / _____

Date (D/M/Y): ____ / ____ / ____

Parent/Guardian must also sign if participant is under the age of 19