



HOCKEY CALGARY

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Date: February 10, 2021 #21-05
To: HC Members & Member Associations
From: Kevin Kobelka – Executive Director
CC: HC Board, HC Governors

SUBJECT: Government Changes Announced Sat. Feb. 6

This past weekend we were thrown a further curve ball as the government altered their previous communication, that youth 'community sports' would not be permitted to operate until step 2 of their 'Path Forward' plan. Their most recent announcement 'to include community sports in step 1' is good news for the hockey community as it permits us to operate some form of development programs as early as February 8th.

Children and youth will be allowed to participate in limited team sport activities in Step 1, subject to certain mandatory restrictions as outlined by the Government of Alberta on the [A Path Forward](#) webpage.

We are extremely excited about getting the kids back on the ice. This is something that we had been advocating for, and we believe is important for the mental and physical well-being of our kids. Unfortunately, the decision did fall immediately after Hockey Calgary and Hockey Alberta had cancelled league play for the remainder of the season. We strongly believe that this was the correct decision, as it has given all members a choice to continue or 'opt out' of our program. Member Associations of Hockey Calgary met on the evening of February 8th to discuss our plan forward, which is as follows:

Plan Moving Forward

- The Cancellation of the 'Traditional Hockey Season' will remain in place. This means that there will be no 'Formal League Games' planned for the remainder of 2020-21.
- Refunds as communicated by governing bodies will remain in place.
- Member Associations will communicate refunds to their members in the very near future. From the assessment we have done there is a close alignment on refund amounts across the city. There may be slightly different refund/credit amounts across Associations based on different cost structures and different program offerings.
- Hockey Calgary and its Member Associations will work quickly to provide a 'Development Season' (program from mid Feb – end of March or early April), for those interested.



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Most Associations are targeting a six (6) week program. This will be up to the individual organization to determine, based on access to ice, member interest and the ability of the organization to coordinate. Hockey Calgary will NOT mandate that all Associations operate this program.

- Any 'Development Program' that is operated will be on an '**OPT IN**' basis only, and it is up to the Member Association to determine the costing and participation level.

Next Steps

- Hockey Calgary needs to determine the amount of ice that is needed from the city ice pool to operate the Feb/March programs. We do not expect all facilities to open and decisions on ice allocation will be very important.
- Member Associations will finalize their refund amounts and communicate directly to their members the process and timeline for refunds/credits.
- Member Associations will communicate directly with their members to gauge interest in a developmental program and confirm the program details.
- Hockey Calgary will work to support and/or supplement programs so that all interested participants have the opportunity to get back on the ice.

We understand that timelines and restrictions continue to evolve which can be extremely frustrating to all. Much like all Albertans, we have not been provided any advance warning to the relaxation in restrictions. The dedicated volunteers are working as quickly as they can to build plans and provide some type of playing experience for the remainder of the season. We ask that you be patient and support your Association leaders in this challenging time.

We will drop the puck again!!

Kevin Kobelka
Executive Director