



To: RHC Members

Date: September 18, 2021

SUBJECT: RHC Restriction Exemption Plan

Hockey Calgary Return-To-Play Update

Please [click here](#) for the current Hockey Calgary plan 2021.

AB Government announced a Restriction Exemption Plan on September 15, 2021.

The AB Government announced a Restriction Exemption Plan effective September 20, 2021, which we have included the details below from the Government of Alberta website:

Businesses that choose to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program must continue to follow indoor mandatory masking requirements, but may operate without capacity or operating restrictions provided they require people aged 12 and over to provide evidence of one of the following:

- proof of vaccination
 - partial vaccination (1 dose) accepted September 20 to October 25 if received more than 2 weeks ago
 - full vaccination (2 doses) required after October 25
- proof of a **privately-paid negative PCR or rapid test** within 72 hours of service (tests from AHS or Alberta Precision Laboratories are not acceptable)
- documentation of a medical exemption

The City of Calgary has chosen to adopt the Restriction Exemption Program at its facilities, which has implications on the users of these facilities, including arenas. ***As a user group of City of Calgary arenas (“City Arenas”), we are now required to follow the Restriction Exemption Program as well.***

What does it mean for RHC for September 20 – October 25, 2021

Based on the requirements of the City Arenas, we must implement the following protocols to be compliant with their Restriction Exemption Program. **Please note that RHC is required to comply with the Restriction Exemption Program because the City Arenas require us to comply in order to use the facilities. If RHC does not comply, then we may not be able to offer our program.**

Players under the age of 12:

- Screen for Symptoms
- Maintain 2 meters when not engaged in physical activity
- Wear a mask while not engaged in physical activity

Any player or volunteer aged 12+ must provide proof of vaccination or letter of exemption to their coaches of their respective teams.

- partial vaccination (1 dose) accepted September 20 to October 25 if received more than 2 weeks ago
- full vaccination (2 doses) required after October 25

Any coach must provide RHC with proof of vaccination or letter of exemption to their division coordinator.

- partial vaccination (1 dose) accepted September 20 to October 25 if received more than 2 weeks ago
- full vaccination (2 doses) required after October 25

Spectators

The City of Calgary is requiring user groups to assume the responsibility of complying with the Exemption Restriction Program, which includes verifying spectators' vaccine status or medical exemption. At this time, Hockey Calgary are working with the City Arenas on how to manage and operate this system, so RHC plans to work with Hockey Calgary to develop a consistent operating model across all facilities within the Calgary. Therefore, RHC will be developing its formal policy in the next couple of weeks. Fortunately for RHC, our program begins after many other community association programs, so we have the luxury of time in this regard.

On this note, we will remind members that, at a minimum, **spectators will be required to comply with the vaccine rules or have a medical exemption, so plan accordingly.** If you are cannot comply with the Exemption Restriction Program, then you will not be permitted to enter a City Arena, no exceptions.

Transition plan for 11-year old players

At this time, we do not know if and what the requirements will be regarding our 11-year old players that turn 12 during this season. Once we receive these details regarding this transition, we will communicate it to the affected members (i.e. U13 division).

Masking

As a reminder, the City of Calgary has mandated this use of masks in all indoor public facilities, which does impact our program and City Arenas. As such, all players, coaches, referees, volunteers and spectators are required, at all time, to wear a mask when in a City Arena, unless on the ice participating in physical play or coaching. For greater certainty, coaches and volunteers are required, at all times, to wear a mask, including on the bench or in time keeping/penalty booths.

Withdrawals

We understand that not everyone will agree with the Exemption Restriction Program and subsequent decision by the City Arenas. This has been a challenging time for many of us, including many recreational facilities. As such and consistent with our philosophy within RHC, we plan to partner with our membership during this challenging time.

Given the recent change of circumstances, we will offer withdrawal refunds, less a \$100 administrative free. We will be accepting withdrawals prior to **Monday, September 20, 2021 at 4:30 pm.** We recognize that this decision may be difficult for you and your family, but we need to quickly determine your participation within our program as we are currently finalizing all our teams and leagues and need to make many decisions, including arena requirements, within the next 5 days.

Anyone withdrawing after the dates listed above will be subject to the [RHC Refund Policy](#) that may be found on the website under Registration.

Should you wish to withdrawal, all requests must be made in writing via email to Cathy Hosowich at rechockeyregistrar@hockeycalgary.com.

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