

**HOCKEY'S
PATH
FORWARD**
FEBRUARY 12, 2021



RETURN TO HOCKEY



1 INTRODUCTION

Hockey's Path Forward is current as of February 12, 2021.

OVERVIEW

Hockey Alberta has developed a plan to help our Member organizations and Teams structure activity and keep players engaged in the game while adhering to all government guidelines. The plan focuses on providing a hockey experience for players using development programming.

This plan reflects the most recent information published by the Government of Alberta in its '[A Path Forward](#)', and focuses on the safety and wellbeing of all participants.

All timelines within this plan are subject to change based on environmental factors and changes to the Government of '[Alberta's A Path Forward](#)'. Updated versions of this plan will be published and posted to the [Hockey Alberta website](#), as needed.

The information in this document is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and Hockey Alberta recommends that the [Government of Alberta COVID-19 site](#) be accessed for the most up to date information.

2 HOCKEY PROGRAMMING

STEP 1 – HOCKEY'S PATH FORWARD

Step 1 of the Government of Alberta's [A Path Forward](#) allows the opportunity for specific hockey activity to occur. Children and youth will be allowed to participate in limited team sport activities, subject to mandatory restrictions as outlined by the Government of Alberta on the [A Path Forward](#) webpage.

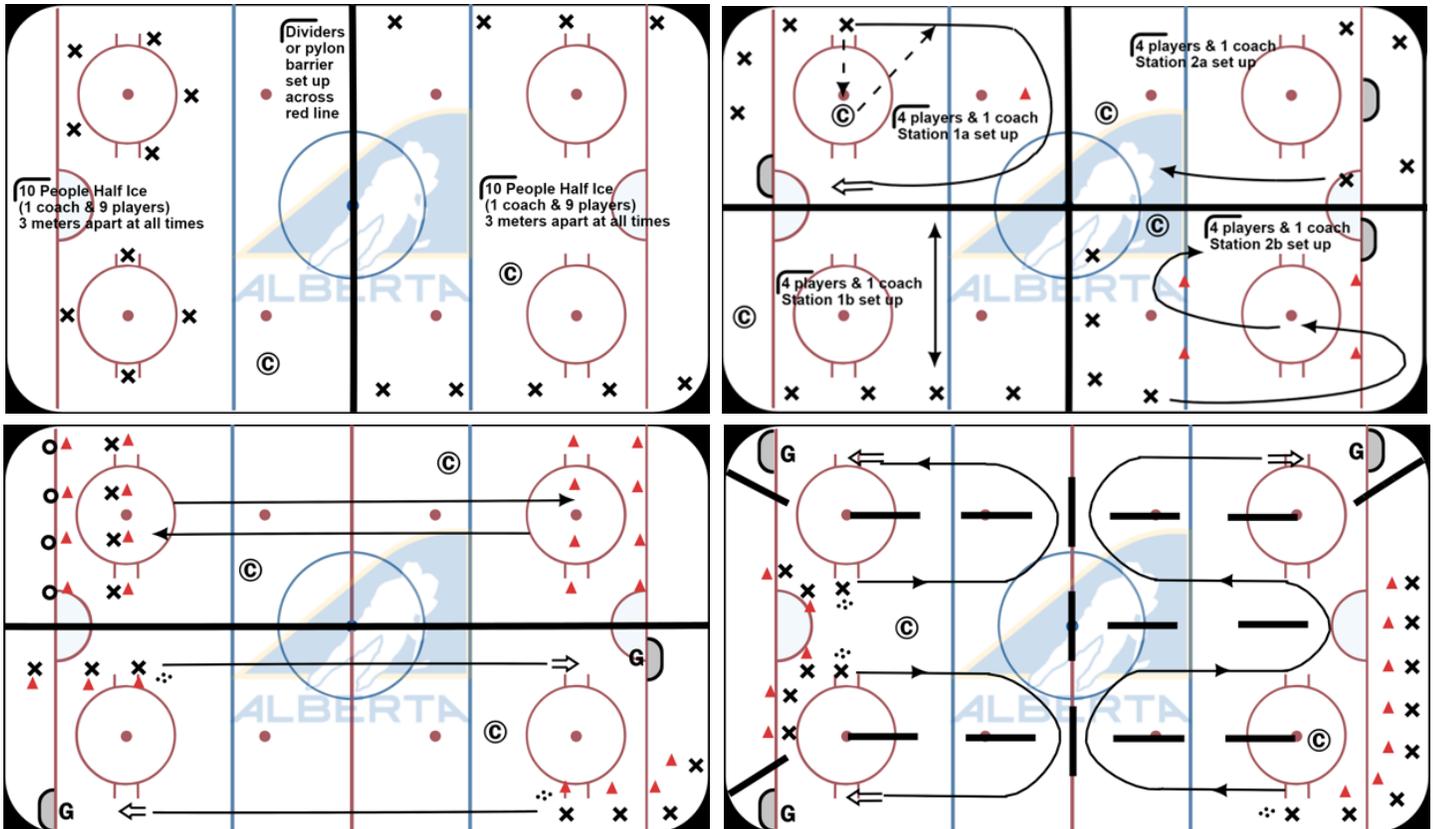
The following rules and guidelines for permitted hockey activities came into effect on February 8.

General

- All participants must be 18 years old or younger, except coaches/ instructors.
- Practices are allowed for indoor and outdoor training.
 - Games are not allowed.
- Physical distancing must be maintained at all times between all groups and all participants (players, coaches/ instructors) in each group at all times:
 - 3-metres physical distance for indoor activities
 - 2-metres physical distance for outdoor activities
- Access to change rooms must be limited, including accelerated arrival and departure, emergencies (for example, first aid) and washroom use. Please consult your facility for dressing room access, entrance and exit plans.
- Gathering for any length of time has been identified by AHS as a significant risk factor for spreading COVID. Players must arrive fully dressed shortly before their scheduled ice time and depart immediately after the ice time. Gathering in the parking lot and lobby are not permitted.

Indoor Practices

- A maximum of 10 total participants, including all coaches and players are permitted per session.
- As per [Public Health Order 02-2021](#) (Part 8 – Group physical activity, Item 54), one group of a maximum of 10 participants must remain at least 3 metres apart from any other group that is participating at the same place at the same time.
- An indoor ice surface can be split (use physical dividers wherever possible), allowing for two groups of 10 to be active on the ice at the same time. See [Children's Sport and Performance Activities](#) tab. Consult your facility to confirm if they are implementing this guidance or employing further restrictions.
- Suggested options for planning practices where the ice surface is split are provided below.



Outdoor Practices

- Coaches must wear standard equipment (helmet, skates, gloves).
- Players must wear standard full equipment.
- Hockey Canada insurance applies for all registered coaches and players.

Coaches

- At least 1 registered coach/ instructor must be on ice with each group at all times. All coaches/ instructors must have a current Respect In Sport – Activity Leader training.
- Coaches may enter physical distancing space for brief interactions with players (for example, to correct form or technique)
- Coaches are encouraged to use equipment to ensure physical distancing is maintained (dividers, pylons, nets, bingo dabber, ice paint etc.)
- The coach's role is to focus on:
 - Safety and protocols
 - Drill design for individual skill development
 - Feedback and error correction
- Hockey Canada Skill Development Resources: [HC Network App](#) and [HC Drill Hub](#)



STEP 2 – HOCKEY’S PATH FORWARD

Step 2 of the Government of Alberta’s [A Path Forward](#) states that “further easing of indoor fitness and children’s sport and performance” could occur. Upon reaching this step, Hockey’s Path Forward will be updated to reflect what is allowed by the Government of Alberta and Alberta Health Services.

3 REGISTRATION & SANCTIONING

SANCTIONING

To obtain sanctioning from Hockey Alberta, all programs MUST abide by the guidelines provided herein (which are based on the Government of Alberta protocols). If the guidelines are not followed, Hockey Alberta reserves the right to remove or suspend sanctioning.

Members (including MHAs, Club Teams, Rec/ Pond Hockey programs, Para Hockey programs, Accredited Schools, etc.) can schedule and operate sanctioned events without having to complete any additional application processes.

- Members can operate skills sessions, practice and training activities in accordance with Hockey Canada sanctioning guidelines and, when doing so, they will have coverage.
- No Game Play is permitted.
- No Travel Permits will be provided.
- Hockey Alberta reserves the right to rescind a sanction for any program that does not adhere to these guidelines.

If ice sessions are booked by individual coaches on behalf of the member organization, it is the responsibility of the organization to ensure:

- All Hockey Alberta and Government of Alberta guidelines are adhered to.
- All on ice instructors are registered within your member organization or have approval to deliver programming for membership.
- A full participant listing has been provided to Hockey Alberta Regional Administration Coordinator.

REGISTRATION

Member organizations will not use the HCR to register participants. Members can use their own online registration system.

If a player’s registered organization has concluded its year and is not offering programming, the player can register for and participate in any program offered by another member organization within 100 km of his/her permanent residence.

It is the responsibility of the member organization offering programming to verify all players were properly registered for the 2020-21 season. To do so, provide a list including the participant’s full name, date of birth, physical address and email address to your respective Regional Administration Coordinator.

A full listing of all participants (players and coaches/ instructors) must also be provided to your respective Regional Administration Coordinator prior to the players participating on-ice. This listing can be any format but must contain each participant’s full name, date of birth, physical address, and identify any participants that were not previously registered with any member organization for the 20-21 season.

[Hockey Alberta Regional Administration Coordinator Contacts](#)



For participants registered during the earlier phases of the 2020-21 season (regardless of where they were registered), there will be no additional fees (registration or insurance) charged by Hockey Alberta to participate in activity/ development programs.

Member organizations are required to collect Hockey Alberta registration and insurance fees for any participants that were not previously registered in the 2020-21 season.

- **Intro to Hockey, Rec/Pond, Sledge: \$25.09 per participant**
- **U11-U18: \$26.09 per participant**

4 PROTOCOLS AND SAFETY

EXPECTATIONS

Hockey Alberta's Members and sanctioned organizations are to ensure they:

- follow the Government of Alberta's COVID-19 Public Health guidelines.
- comply with Hockey Alberta's "Hockey's Path Forward" information.
- comply with all requirements in agreements with arenas/ recreational facilities.
- communicate directly to their members the safety protocols and guidelines that have been approved in Alberta, and for the organization.

For players, their responsibilities include:

- stay at home if experiencing any symptoms.
- learn the safety protocols and procedures and adhere to them while at the session.
- have a personal, clearly-labelled water bottle which is sanitized prior to each session.
- have personal hand sanitizer for use while on the ice.
- ensure equipment is dried, cleaned and/or sanitized following each session.
- arrange appropriate transportation to and from the session.
- do not spit, blow nose freely or release any bodily fluid anywhere in any facility.

MASKS

All programs and activities are expected to follow the guidelines put in place by the Government of Alberta, the municipality and facility with respect to the wearing of masks in public areas. The wearing of masks is mandatory when inside all public buildings.

For Players, face coverings are required while in the facility, including in the dressing room and may only be removed immediately prior to placing their helmet on and leaving the dressing room to go to the ice. Alberta Health Services does not recommend that players wear masks during high intensity activity, however Players may choose to do so if that is the family's individual preference.

Coaches must wear a face covering at all times while in the facility (including in the dressing room, on the bench and while on the ice during practices).

Other personal protective equipment may be appropriate depending on the task as well (e.g. First Aid).

RECORD KEEPING, PUBLIC HEALTH CONTACT TRACING AND PRIVACY

Prior to attending an activity each day, the organizer should distribute the **Alberta Health Daily Checklist** to all participants. If a participant answers YES to any of the questions, they are not to attend.

During each activity, the organization must designate an individual to record the names of all participants to assist AHS should an individual test positive for COVID-19 and contact tracing is necessary (listings for each event/activity must be kept to ensure a record of which individuals were present).



PLANNING FOR RAPID RESPONSE TO SICK ATTENDEES

If an attendee becomes sick while participating, the following requirements apply:

- While preparing to immediately leave the facility or event, symptomatic individuals should perform proper hand hygiene, put on a non-medical face mask, and maintain at least 2 metres distance from all others.
- The individual should arrange, with assistance from team officials or the facility as necessary, for immediate transportation to their home/residence to begin isolation. Public transportation like buses, taxis or ride sharing should be avoided.
- Once a sick individual has left the facility or event, facility staff should clean and disinfect all surfaces and areas with which the individual may have come into contact.

Provided this guidance is being followed, there is no need to cancel an activity, unless advised by AHS contact tracers. Ensure you record the names of all participants. This information may be necessary to assist public health officials if the sick individual later tests positive for COVID-19.

REPORTING A POSITIVE COVID CASE

An individual participant is under no obligation to inform sport organizations or other participants, coaches, instructors, officials or volunteers of the reason for missing a practice or game, if they are pursuing COVID-19 testing, or the results of a COVID-19 test. Organizations and team officials should be respectful of the privacy and sensitivity of every participant's personal health information, and comply with relevant requirements set out in Alberta's *Health Information Act*.

5 FACILITIES

Hockey Alberta Members and arena facilities must work together to ensure everyone complies with public health guidelines, and that facility users are prepared for the processes and procedures in place at the facilities they use. All Hockey Alberta Members are reminded to engage in positive and open communication with their facilities in planning a safe return to the rink. Facilities will adopt the standards required by the Government of Alberta, and update and adapt to changes as required. Those standards may differ between facilities or municipalities. The onus is on the Member to reach out as part of the facility rental agreement process for clarification on use of common areas, entry and exit procedures, dressing room usage and timeframes, etc.

DRESSING ROOMS

Access to change rooms must be limited, including accelerated arrival and departure, emergencies (for example, first aid) and washroom use. Member organizations should consult with their facility operator prior to any booked sessions to understand the required protocols in place and share that information with all participants. It is recommended that Players arrive at the arena in a partially dressed state to reduce time in the dressing room. While in the dressing room each participant must be separated by 2 metres.

When the ice has been split and two groups are participating at the same time, staggered start times are recommended to spread arrival times, dressing room and hallway usage and departure times out.

PARENTS/ CHAPERONES

It is recommended that Players be dropped off at the arena for their ice session and picked back up afterwards with parents not remaining at the facility during activity.

One parent/caregiver/chaperone, per participant, can enter the facility with their child for the purposes of assisting U7, U9 and U11 players with equipment needs, medical assistance and/ or assuring the participant's comfort and safety. Parents/caregivers/chaperones must remain 3 metres away from all participants during the activity, cannot be involved in the activity and do not count in the calculation of 10.

SPECTATORS

Spectators are not permitted during training and practice times.