



RETURN TO HOCKEY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY MHAs

Updated: October 9, 2020

1. Can athletes participate in multiple Sport Cohorts?

AHS guidelines indicate that Individuals should limit the number of Cohorts to which they belong.

2. Is it a Member's responsibility to track the number of Cohorts a player is in?

No. AHS does not require organizations to track/enforce the number cohorts participants are in.

3. What if an athlete is moving from one cohort to another?

For an individual to join a new Cohort, s/he should not participate in activity in the new Cohort for 14 days.

4. If a player is returning from AA tryouts to our home association, are they required to not participate for 14 days?

If a player is returning from a cohort tryout, they would have to wait 14 days prior to joining another cohort but not physically distanced skates. In efforts of allowing returning players to continue skating one option could be:

- Weekday skates could be physical distancing skill sessions with all players
- Weekend skate could be cohort sessions or games with only cohort players (those players that have been released from AA would not be able to take part in these weekend cohort activities until the 14-day period has passed)

5. If we don't have enough players to form a team within a division, can we release those players to another association?

Yes. Player movement is still permitted in alignment with Hockey Alberta Regulations.

6. If we only have a limited number of players in a division, can we join with another association to form a Cohort?

Yes. Organizations may need to combine age divisions to establish a large enough participant group for a Cohort. In cases where smaller MHAs are unable to form a Cohort, joining with neighbouring or larger MHAs is an acceptable alternative.

7. If an association does not have a female team in their division, can a player move to an association that hosts female hockey?

Yes. Cohorts for Minor Female players can be created in alignment with existing player movement processes.

8. Can coaches help with multiple teams?

When using a Cohort, it is recommended that instructors, coaches and other team officials be a part of a cohort with only one team and that physical distancing measures be practiced at all times when engaging in activity with any other teams.

A strategy for accomplishing this is to include a coach in the Cohort of a team that s/he is a registered Head Coach with and ensure the coach (or other Team Official) engages in physical distancing measures and proper use of masks when engaged in activity for any other teams s/he is registered with.

9. Can associations create tiered cohorts with surrounding communities?

No, not during the Development Season. Cohorts are to be created first and foremost within your MHA boundaries.



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10. Are parents allowed in the dressing room to help with their child?

Yes. However, facility guidelines and procedures must be followed. If parents are allowed within the dressing room, they must wear masks and practice physical distancing.

11. Are we able to bring outside groups in to work with our Cohort?

Any volunteers, parents or external providers that will be interacting with a Cohort, but not considered part of it, will be required to wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible.

12. Does our MHA's Return to Hockey Plan need to be submitted for approval?

No. Plans do not need to be submitted for approval but a list of Hockey Alberta contacts has been provided to support in the interpretation of Government of Alberta guidelines and Hockey Alberta's Return to Hockey Plan as they relate to the creation of your organization's plan. Hockey Alberta reserves the right to rescind a sanction for any program that does not adhere to Government of Alberta and Hockey Alberta guidelines.

13. Is COVID-19 coverage included as part of the Hockey Canada Insurance?

Yes. Under Hockey Canada's current General Liability policy, there is a specific definition for the term 'bodily injury' and that definition includes **sickness and disease**. Many insurance companies are implementing Communicable Disease/COVID-19 exclusions on policies, but Hockey Canada has successfully negotiated to leave that exclusion off until September 1, 2023 at the earliest.

14. How do associations register players during the Development Season?

At the discretion of the Member, there are two options for registering players and team officials at this stage:

1. Register all participants onto rosters in accordance with the normal procedures. (This is only recommended if your organization has completed the player evaluation/ tryout process and/ or knows the players who should be on each Team).

OR

2. Register all participants onto group lists in HCR. Complete this based on the age division to track individuals who have signed-up to play within your organization

15. Are groups and leagues operating outside of Hockey Alberta held to the same guidelines?

All organizations and individuals within the Province of Alberta are expected to adhere to the Government of Alberta guidelines as outlined in Stage 2 of the province's Relaunch Plan. However, Hockey Alberta has no jurisdiction over non-sanctioned organizations to ensure they are acting within the guidelines. Our goal is to work with our Members to ensure that your programming meets the guidelines and is safe for all participants.

16. What is recommended when it comes to sharing of goaltender equipment?

Several options exist in the effort to provide a safe environment while also allowing multiple players to have the opportunity to experience and develop in the goaltender position. These include:

- A cleaning solution that is effective against the coronavirus but not harmful to the leather equipment should be used on the equipment after each use. A local Alberta option (**e San**) can be found at: <https://cleanfieldinc.ca/store>. Search Surface Sanitizers for **e San**. Enter the code: HOCKEYALBERTA.
- A rotation of multiple sets of equipment so that one sits dormant for a minimum of 3 days between use.
- Disinfect equipment in an Ozone-based machine such as Fresh Gear <https://www.freshgear.com/fresh-gear-service-locations/> or Sani-Sport <https://www.sani-sport.com/en/locations.aspx>. Check links for locations near you.



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17. What is required for providing refunds if someone needs to withdraw for COVID-19 related reasons?

All organizations need to have a refund policy in place that has been clearly communicated to the customers (players, families). This policy should be followed for any potential refunds needing to be processed during the Development Season, Modified Competition Season, and Regular Season.

18. If someone within a Cohort shows symptoms, does the rest of the Cohort need to stop participation?

Provided that the AHS Guidance is followed, there is no need to cancel an activity, or postpone the undertaking of a Cohort, in the event that an individual becomes sick. It is important that all Cohorts keep daily program attendance to share with AHS if tracing is required.

18. If someone within a Cohort tests positive does the Cohort need to stop participation?

If an attendee tests positive, AHS will only request information about the attendee's participation in sport, physical activity or recreation if it is deemed that a potential exposure is likely to have occurred during such activity. When interviewing a person who has tested positive, AHS public health investigators will determine if there are close contacts that should be made aware/notified based on the period of infectivity and the organization's compliance with public health guidance. This might involve a call to the team representatives or players, but only if necessary. It is important that all Cohorts keep daily program attendance to share with AHS if tracing is required.

19. Can two separate cohorts participate in half ice practices at the same time?

Yes, as long as a physical barrier (dividers or hard boards) are used to separate the two cohorts, individuals remain on their half of the ice at all times, the total number of participants on ice does not exceed 50 and processes are in place to ensure no interaction between cohorts while entering or exiting the ice surface.

20. Are teams permitted to take buses to games?

Yes, any passengers on the bus that are not part of a Cohort must maintain 2-metre physical distancing from members of the Cohort, and wear a mask when they are temporarily unable to physically distance.

21. What steps should be taken if one of our members does not follow AHS or Hockey Alberta Guidelines?

Scenarios involving AHS and Return to Hockey guidelines should be treated using your Association's Conduct Policy.

22. What options does a team have if one or both of their goalies are unavailable prior to or during a game?

Guidelines for dealing with situations where one or both goalies are unavailable are outlined in the [Substitute Goalkeeper Guidelines](#) document.