

ALMAGUIN MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
COVID 19 – RETURN TO HOCKEY PLAN
Phase 2 Stage 3b
September 18, 2020



Overview

The Almaguin Minor Hockey Association is a member of the OMHA and must obtain OMHA approval of our Return to Hockey Plan prior to commencing the 2020/21 season.

This Plan has been developed in conjunction with community arenas; Sundridge, Strong, & Joly Arena, Armour Ryerson Burks Fall Memorial Arena, South River Machar Community Center, the ice providers to our Hockey Association.

The goal of the Plan is to meet the requirements of the OHF Return to Hockey Framework, as it relates to the Phase 2 Stage 3b that allows Minor Hockey Associations to conduct, with the approval of the OMHA, instructional training for players and modified non-contact game play. A cornerstone of this Plan is to provide the safest environment possible for Players and Team Staff.

Advancement through Stages 3b to 3e will be at the approval and direction of the OMHA. Additionally, this Plan is for the period commencing October 1st and ending December 31st. The initial 2-week period will consist of player conditioning and skill development followed by modified game play during the next 10 weeks. At any time during this period plan could change due to any learnings and direction from the OHF, OMHA and Public Health Unit.

At this point a return to regular hockey, including participation in the MPS League and travel tournaments, will not occur until a COVID 19 vaccine is available and the Province advances to Stage 4.

Eligibility to Participate

Per the OHF/OMHA Framework, AMHA has closed registration for the 2020/21 season. Players new to the region with an approved residency transfer are allowed to play. Players have the right to return to their Home Centre for the 2020/21 season if they do not want to return to the Ice Devils. Participation in Stage 3 is strictly voluntary and will not impact a player's ability to return at a later date.

A Try Out process for the 2020/21 has not been approved by the OHF at this time.

Team Staff participating in the Return to Hockey - Stage 3, is limited to Staff registered with the AMHA during the 2019/20 season. Exceptions to this will require OMHA approval.

Participation at any Session (practice/fitness/meetings etc.) is limited maximum of 30 participants on the ice. Such participation must strictly follow the social distancing guidelines established by the Government, Public Health Unit, OHF Framework, and Municipalities. It is understood that this is an evolving situation and Guidelines, and Requirements may change on short notice.

COVID 19 Reporting

A record of all Participants, including name, phone number, date/time of the Session, must be maintained by the Team Manager. Upon request, this information must be provided to the Municipality and/or the North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit, in the event there is a need to Contact Trace a COVID 19 positive case. The prescribed Health Unit Reporting Form will be provided.

COVID 19 Screening

All Participants are to be pre-screened for COVID 19 symptoms or exposure per the prescribed OHF Screening Form prior to participation at each Team Session. A record of the pre-screening is to be maintained by the Manager.

Participants who are not feeling well, exhibiting symptoms of COVID 19 or have been exposed to COVID 19 must not participate in any Session. In such instances, the Participant/Parent must communicate this information to the Team Manager.

Facility Management

AMHA will abide by all rules and regulations put in place by the facility/municipality for use of their facilities. These regulations may change at any time.

Participants must not cough or sneeze without properly covering their face. Also, spitting on the floor or ice is not allowed.

Participants must physically distance upon entry by maintaining a distance of at least 2 metres from other Participants and immediately proceed to the designated area for putting on skates, helmets and gloves. Chairs for the Participants will be socially distanced.

Participants are to wear face coverings in the Facility except when physically participating in the Session.

Upon completion of the Session, Participants are to proceed immediately to the designated area to remove skates, helmets and gloves and leave the Facility without loitering or interaction with the incoming Participants. Social distancing of at least 2 metres is required upon leaving the Facility.

There will be 2 designated areas for skates, helmets, gloves, one for the incoming Participants and one for the outgoing Participants.

Change Rooms will not be available and only the Washroom in the main lobby will be open. If using the Washroom, access is limited to 1 Participant at a time and hand washing is required.

The chairs in the designated area will be disinfected after each Session.

Session Management

The following is required by all Participants during the Team Session.

The bench area is closed during player development & conditioning sessions, except for a Participant requiring medical attention. The Team Trainer must practice medical guidelines when attending to a Participant, including wearing a face covering. During modified game play the bench area will be limited to a maximum 6 Players, 1 Coach and 1 Trainer who must practice social distancing.

Participants are always to Socially Distance on and off the ice, where possible.

Drills, activities, exercises, etc. are to be limited to those that can be done with Social Distancing.

There is to be no prolonged or deliberate drill, activities, exercises, etc. that require physical contact among players (ie, battle drills, body contact drills, exercises using a partner, etc.). Incidental contact in the course of other drills is too be minimized by the players (concept of non-contact hockey).

No sharing of Water Bottles or other types of Equipment that is physically touched by Participants. Participants are to bring a full Water Bottle from home.

Modified Game Play

The Association will provide a non-contact game like experience commencing November 1st. Wherever possible AMHA will partner with other associations within the North Bay Parry Sound Health unit to create divisions at each age level of 5 teams. Each Team will be comprised of 6-9 players plus a goalie. Games will be 4v4 or 3v3 and will comply with all the requirements of the OHF Return to Play. There will be no more than 50 Participants per Division.

Participant Registration

Official registration for our program Closed as of September 5th, parents were notified of the return to play plan and asked to communicate interest level. All players will have fees for the season paid in full prior to the first skate. Any additional costs to the whole association throughout the season will be covered by the association. Any expenses generated by the team will be paid by team funds.

Communication

The Association will post all updates on the website once approved by OMHA

The details of the Return to Hockey Plan are to be communicated to all Participants and Parents by the Head Coach.

A Return to Hockey Acknowledgement Form must be signed by all Participants and Parents prior to participation in the Association Return to Hockey. This process will be administered by the Executive outside the Facility. A copy of the Form will be posted on the website to encourage completion prior to arrival at the first Session.

The Head Coach of each Team is responsible for the adherence to this Plan at all times. Non-compliance by any Participant or Parent may result in a suspension from further participation.

The Return to Hockey Plan may be suspended at any time based on direction from governing bodies or the Association Executive due to concerns over transmission exposure to COVID 19.

Any suggestions concern or questions regarding the implementation of the Plan must be directed to a member of the AMHA Executive.

Other

The Association President will be responsible for the overall management of the Return to Play Plan, with specific focus on communication with the Participants, Parents, AMHA, and OMHA.

The Association Vice President, Hockey Operations, will be responsible for monitoring updates from the OHF, OMHA, local Municipalities and the Public Health Unit. In addition, the Vice President will oversee the implementation of this Plan as it relates to the Head Coaches.

The Association Secretary will be responsible for the development and implementation of all record keeping and reporting requirements. This will involve direct oversight of the Team Managers.

Submitted September 18, 2020

Don McNichol

President, Hockey Almaguin Minor Hockey Association