



HOCKEY CALGARY

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Date: November 26, 2020 #20-11
To: HC Members & Member Associations
From: Kevin Kobelka – Executive Director
CC: HC Board, HC Governors, HC League Chairs

SUBJECT: Alberta Government/AHS – Announcement Nov. 24

The Government of Alberta in partnership with Alberta Health Services (AHS) announced a further pause to indoor group activities including team sports. **This extended pause is for 3 weeks and our understanding is that it will run from Friday Nov. 27 – Friday Dec. 18.**

During this time, all Hockey Calgary and Member Association events are temporarily cancelled; this includes all practices, games and any activity associated with your team (cohort) both on and off the ice. Virtual team activities are allowed and encouraged.

In the address to the province, it was stated that their may be ‘**Exemptions**’ that allow some sport programs to continue. Hockey Calgary is actively investigating this option, and if there is an opportunity to apply for this exemption we will do so.

There have been numerous questions flooding into our office with regards to different facets of our program, they include but are not limited to the following:

1. Refunds
2. Potential for extending the season
3. Schedule & Re-start Plan
4. Exemptions

In the FAQ sheet attached you will find answers to these questions and more based on the information that we have at the present time.

We are aware this has been a very difficult time for the athletes and their families, and we thank you for your commitment to our program and your patience as we sort out the details. Hockey Calgary and our Member Associations will continue to do everything we can to get the kids back on the ice as soon as possible.

We will drop the puck again!!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kobelka', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Kevin Kobelka
Executive Director



HOCKEY CALGARY

Updated 11/26/2020

RESTRICTIONS ON HOCKEY

Q. WHEN DO THE RESTRICTIONS ON MINOR HOCKEY END?

- A. Based on information we have at this time, all levels of sport will be restricted for at least three weeks starting November 27, 2020. Our understanding is that restrictions will be in place until at least December 18, 2020, and the government will further review restrictions prior to Dec. 15, 2020.

Q. ARE ALL HOCKEY ACTIVITIES PART OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS?

Yes. This restriction includes all hockey-related activities under the Hockey Calgary umbrella, including Jr. B & Jr. C programs. The restriction includes (but is not limited to) the following activities surrounding your teams:

- (1) No games
- (2) No off-ice sessions (unless virtual)
- (3) No team dryland
- (4) No team building (unless virtual)
- (5) No skill sessions

Q. ARE WE ABLE TO PRACTICE OUTSIDE AS A TEAM?

- A. All levels of sport (whether indoor or outdoor) are currently restricted. Hockey Alberta is currently working with SPAR (Sports, Physical Activity and Recreation) to determine whether or not outdoor activity could still be permitted by applying the outdoor social gathering limit of 10 people to the activity and still prohibiting the use of locker rooms.

Q. CAN WE DO INDIVIDUAL TRAINING?

- A. The current Government restrictions will only permit one-on-one training. No team/group activities are permitted to operate. Our understanding is that facilities can rent ice for one-on-one training only, all inquiries surrounding this must be directed to your facility of choice.

Q. CAN WE SPLIT THE ICE FOR INDIVIDUAL TRAINING? EX. TWO INDEPENDENT ONE-ON-ONE LESSONS HAPPENING ON SEPARATE HALVES?

- A. No, one-on-one training sessions must be given the entire ice sheet. No one else is permitted on the ice.

Q. CAN MY FAMILY BOOK THE ICE FOR A SESSION?

Yes. Should a family (household) wish to book ice on their own, they are permitted to do so. However, only family members who reside in the same household are permitted to be in the facility for the ice time. For more information, you must contact the facility directly.

Q. IS HOCKEY CALGARY APPLYING FOR AN EXEMPTION TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS DURING THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS?

- A. Hockey Calgary is actively exploring this option and will do everything we can to provide our players the opportunity to play if government restrictions permit. Currently, it is our understanding that exemptions will only be considered for activities that have aggressive testing protocols and operate in a 'bubble' format similar to the NHL or the World Juniors. We will continue to research this option and communicate as we receive new information.



HOCKEY CALGARY

Q. IS HOCKEY CALGARY LOBBYING THE GOVERNMENT FOR MINOR HOCKEY ACTIVITIES TO CONTINUE DURING THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS?

A. Hockey Calgary is actively looking at ways to communicate the benefits of youth sport, specifically hockey, and the robust protocols we have had in place since the onset. However, we do not expect restrictions to be lifted prior to December 18, 2020.

Q. ARE WE PERMITTED TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE GOVERNMENT DEFINED 'PURPLE' RESTRICTED AREAS TO PARTICIPATE IN HOCKEY ACTIVITIES?

A. No. All Hockey Calgary, association, and team hockey activities are strictly prohibited. Based on clarification Hockey Alberta via SPAR (Sports, Physical Activity and Recreation), teams are not permitted to travel to a community that is not currently within a 'purple region' to host a practice or game.

Q. WHO SHOULD WE CONTACT IF WE IDENTIFY OPERATORS OR INDIVIDUALS ACTING OUTSIDE THE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER?

A. Violations of Public Health Orders are subject to fines up to \$1,000 and complaints can be submitted to the Public Health Inspectors by [Clicking Here](#).

HOCKEY CALGARY LEAGUES

Q. HAS HOCKEY CALGARY RELEASED A SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 20-21 SEASON

A. Prior to the government announcement Hockey Calgary released the 'Competition Season' schedule as communicated that was to begin with our first cycle effective Dec. 1. We will now be cancelling all games up to and including Dec. 18, 2020. This schedule includes all games until March 7 and can be found on the Hockey Calgary website. This schedule is final unless further restrictions are put in place.

Q. WHEN HOCKEY CALGARY LEAGUES RETURN AFTER THE PAUSE, WILL THE SCHEDULE OF GAMES BE PUSHED TO THE NEW START DATE?

A. There are still a lot of details that need to be clarified and worked out upon return to hockey activities. It is too early to determine what the structure of hockey will look like when we return. However, when it is permitted to return to Hockey Calgary League Play (sanctioned games), we will pick up the schedule at that date. All cancelled/missed games will not be rescheduled.

Q. WILL HOCKEY CALGARY'S SEASON BE EXTENDED DUE TO THE PAUSE?

A. Hockey Calgary and its member associations are in the early stages of analysis on whether an extension to the season is possible and if so, identifying what needs to be done. There are a lot of stakeholders that would need to be involved in any discussions including Hockey Canada, Hockey Alberta, Facilities, and other sports organizations, to name a few.

OTHER

Q. WILL HOCKEY CALGARY BE PROVIDING REFUNDS DUE TO LOSS OF PLAYING TIME?

A. Hockey fees are not paid directly to Hockey Calgary, they are paid to our Member Associations, therefore any potential refunds will come directly from those Associations. As we have communicated from the onset, we are in very unprecedented times and concrete refund policies in the event of a pause or missed program time are being reviewed. Hockey Calgary and our Member Associations will work together to be fair to all members. At this point and time, we can say the following:



HOCKEY CALGARY

- (1) Hockey Calgary & our Member Associations are reviewing the policies
- (2) These are uncertain times, and we are still unsure about potential time lost and the option of extending the season
- (3) In the event of significant program reduction each Association will make every effort to provide fair and appropriate refunds based on their individual programs' expenditures.
- (4) Potential refunds will be reviewed in the new year, once there is better understanding of how much of the season is played.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we manage this process.

Q. WHAT ARE SOME WAYS WE CAN ENGAGE WITH OUR PLAYERS AND TEAMS DURING THE PAUSE?

- A. Hockey Calgary encourages teams to participate in virtual team activities using Zoom or another online meeting application. Specifically, Hockey Calgary will be launching a Virtual Team Bingo to help assist teams with ideas and ways to engage with each other. There are prizes for teams that participate!

Q. IS THERE DATA THAT INDICATES WIDESPREAD COVID TRANSMISSION IN MINOR HOCKEY?

- A. Hockey Calgary and its member associations have worked hard to set up guidelines and protocols to keep our members safe and our programs running during the pandemic. To date, we have been forced to temporarily pause several cohorts across the city. Most of these pauses were due to close contact issues and were done out of abundance of caution. Due to our quick action, we have seen minimal transmission within a hockey environment.