

# ALLIANCE HOCKEY RETURN TO PLAY STATUS & RECOMMENDATIONS

AS OF AUGUST 28, 2020



ALLIANCE Hockey is committed to complying with the OHF Return to Play Framework, which includes providing the safest return to hockey in conjunction with Ontario's Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture and Public Health requirements.

The OHF Return to Play Framework was finalized in June with the intention of returning players to the ice following the abrupt end to the 2019-2020 season. ALLIANCE Hockey views the Framework as flexible and evolving as feedback that provides further opportunity for the customer/player experience is received from our Membership.

During the month of September, the OHF and ALLIANCE Hockey will operate at Stage 3b with the hope that advancement to a further stage(s) will follow in October, which could include 5 on 5 competition.

- Currently, we assume that the OHF will operate under Stage 3b of the Return to Hockey Framework as of September 1. Stage updates can only be provided after decisions to do so are reviewed at OHF Board of Directors meetings, which currently occur bi-weekly.
- We continue to aggressively pursue an advancement of the Return to Hockey stage(s), to match current conditions in our communities and Ontario Government directives.
- We continue to aggressively fulfill requests and questions from our membership, which include:
  - The validation of Zones in that they should be able to create or fill rosters from their underlying Associations
  - Clarification of U9 programming
  - Clarification of U18 programming

## Return to Play is structured on the following priorities:

- ✓ Safely return participants to the ice
- ✓ Safely provide training for players with similarly skilled players
- ✓ Safely provide competition for similarly skilled players via modified games
- ✓ Safely progress through Stages 3d and 3e to then be able to provide 5 on 5 competition
- ✓ Provide opportunity for participants to register when they are ready to return to hockey

## REGISTRATION & DEVELOPMENT

### The Positives:

- Registration seems to be steady across ALLIANCE Hockey
- Communication between MHA's and Municipalities is frequent
- More facilities/ice are opening

### The Challenges:

- The 2020-2021 Season may not see a return to hockey as we traditionally recognize
- Some Municipalities are selective with which facilities are opening; with some not intending to open
- Rules and guidelines from the Government and Public Health Units are changing and evolving as they learn more about the virus
- Currently:
  - no tryouts
  - no League play (variety of competition)
  - no tournaments
  - no season-end Championships



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## We need to:

- Provide participants with a great development opportunity to play with similar-skilled players
- Find ways to enable Zones to roster a full complement of players (recommend 18 players)
- Work with MHA's and Member Partners to facilitate registration and assist Zones

## CENTRES & CENTRE-ZONES:

1. September: Register players who participated in the 2019-2020 season, new residential players and previously non-sanctioned players.
2. September: Tier (AAA, AA/A and MD) participants into Tiers 1, 2 and 3 through evaluations, which will provide them with maximum development opportunities through training and modified games.
3. September: Organize registered participants into Cohorts of 18 for internal participation.
4. October TBD: Possible advancement to Stage 3d allowing 5 on 5 participation in Cohorts between adjacent PHU's, maintaining social distancing in dressing rooms and on the benches. The option to play 3 on 3 or 4 on 4 also rests with the Association.

## CENTRES/CENTRE-ZONES RETURN TO HOCKEY - 2020-21 Season Charted, September 1 Start

\*based on ALLIANCE Hockey recommendations\*

| September  | September - October  | November   | December  | January - April  |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Evaluations (2 weeks)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Players register for the 2020-2021 season</i></li> <li>• <i>2019-2020 registered players, 2019-2020 non-sanctioned players &amp; new residential move players are eligible to register for the 2020-2021 season</i></li> <li>• <i>Coaches evaluate participants into Tiers with players of similar skill sets</i></li> <li>• <i>Arrange "cohorts" of 18 (8 skaters + 1 goaltender x 2)</i></li> <li>• <i>First two weeks of participation = skills and drills, followed by modified games</i></li> <li>• <i>Work with OHF re: U9 and U18 programming</i></li> </ul> | <b>Post-Evaluation Training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cohort Training &amp; skill development begin</i></li> <li>• <i>Cohort practices</i></li> <li>• <i>Begin 3on3 or 4on4 modified games (internal to MHA)</i></li> </ul> <b>October 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Associations that provided September 1<sup>st</sup> registration may begin play with other MHA cohorts (maximum of 50 participants)</i></li> <li>• <i>Potential advancement of OHF Stage 3d and 5on5 participation in Cohorts between adjacent PHU's, social distancing still required in dressing rooms</i></li> </ul> | <b>Return to Modified Games</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cohort training, skill development, practices &amp; modified games</i></li> <li>• <i>Play with other MHA cohorts (maximum of 50 participants unless Ministry/PHU changes this)</i></li> <li>• <i>Advancements of Stages 3d through 3e would permit 5on5 hockey in Cohorts, social distancing required</i></li> </ul> | <b>Expansion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>5on5 play (maximum of 50 participants unless Ministry/PHU changes this)</i></li> </ul> | <b>Continued Expansion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>OHF to review league and participant maximums based on amendments provided by the Ministry/PHU's</i></li> </ul> |

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## ZONES:

1. September: Register players who participated in the 2019-2020 season.
2. September: Provide training with skill drills and modified games, provide information to ALLIANCE Hockey re: # of returning players.
3. September: ALLIANCE to continue discussions regarding U9 programming with the OHF.
4. September: ALLIANCE will continue discussions regarding U18 programming with OHF.
5. October 1: Resolutions expected for filling rosters, as well as for U9 and U18 programming.
6. October TBD: Possible advancement to Stage 3d allowing 5 on 5 participation in Cohorts between adjacent PHU's, maintaining social distancing in dressing rooms and on the benches. The option to play 3 on 3 or 4 on 4 also rests with the Association.

## ZONES RETURN TO HOCKEY - 2020-21 Season Charted, September 1 Start

\*based on ALLIANCE Hockey recommendations\*

| September  | September - October   | November   | December   | January - April   |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Evaluations (2 weeks)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zones register 2019-2020 registered players for the 2020-2021 season</li> <li>• Skills and drills</li> <li>• Arrange "cohorts" of 18 (8 skaters + 1 goaltender x 2) on best efforts</li> <li>• ALLIANCE continues to work with OHF to resolve issue to fill rosters</li> <li>• ALLIANCE continues to work with OHF re: U9 and U18 programming</li> </ul> | <b>Post-Evaluation Training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohort Training &amp; skill development begin</li> <li>• Cohort practices</li> <li>• Begin 3on3 or 4on4 modified games (internal to MHA)</li> </ul> <b>October 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Associations that provided September 1<sup>st</sup> registration may begin play with other MHA cohorts (maximum of 50 participants)</li> <li>• Potential advancement to Stage 3d and 5on5 participation in Cohorts between adjacent PHU's, social distancing still required in dressing rooms</li> </ul> | <b>Return to Modified Games</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohort training, skill development, practices &amp; modified games</li> <li>• Play with other MHA cohorts (maximum of 50 participants)</li> <li>• Advancements of Stages 3d through 3e would permit 5on5 hockey in Cohorts, social distancing required</li> </ul> | <b>Expansion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4on4 games continue unless Ministry/PHU guidelines change to permit 5on5</li> <li>• Wider league participation to provide greater variety of competition may occur based upon which OHF RTH stage we are in</li> </ul> | <b>Continued Expansion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OHF to review league maximums based on amendments provided by the Ministry/PHU's</li> </ul> |