



ALLIANCE HOCKEY

Frequently Asked Questions – April 2020

- **Questions - Communication with Parents, Players, Team Officials**

1. What are we allowed to communicate with next year's coaches?

A – You should provide all team officials with updates as you receive them. Team officials should not offer players positions on Select, MD, “Seeded” or “AAA” teams for the 2020-21 season until tryouts commence.

2. Are teams allowed to have players sign letter of intents prior to try-outs?

A – No. Teams cannot be selected until tryouts.

3. Although teams will not have a roster, can team officials book tournament participation for next season?

A – There is nothing preventing team officials from committing to tournaments. Consideration should be given to the fact that the rules around tournament participation may change depending on when the season structure for 2020-21 is finalized. For example, there may still be restrictions on travel within Canada and the United States when hockey resumes, some families may not want to travel, etc.

4. Once arenas are open; will teams be allowed to go on the ice or book their training camps?

A – Teams will not be allowed to go on the ice until tryouts are held.

5. What can we do for players who were receiving insurance support for injuries sustained before the shut-down who had this cut off? Will it be reimbursed if the families found treatment during shutdown? Will it be resumed when we start up?

A – Injury/Accident insurance remains in place for injuries that occurred prior to March 13. If a participant sustained an injury prior to this date, they should follow the usual protocol and submit the necessary forms to the ALLIANCE Hockey Office. Injury/Accident insurance will be in place when Hockey Canada, Ontario Hockey Federation and ALLIANCE Hockey determine hockey can resume.

- **Questions - Funding/Contracts**

1. Does ALLIANCE Hockey have emergency funds available to help parents to subsidize registration fees?

A – Some Member Associations have assistance for players and families in need.

Note: ALLIANCE Hockey will not be increasing the participant assessment, team fees and play-down fees for the 2020-21 season. Further fee reviews will take place prior to the Semi-Annual Meeting in January of 2021. Similarly, referee fee increases have been tabled until the 2021-22 season.

2. Will there be any Participant refunds?

A - It is the discretion of individual Member Associations as to whether they issue any type of refund(s). Refunds from the ALLIANCE Hockey Championships which include House League, House League Select, MD, Minor Atom AAA, Minor Atom AA / A, IP Festival, and Minor Novice MD have been issued.

3. Considering the financial strain placed on families by loss of income and deferred payments, has the ALLIANCE Hockey considered ways to make competitive hockey more affordable for the 2020-21 season?

A – The Ontario Hockey Federation has formed a working group comprised of various members from across the OHF. This group will be looking at best practices that could be implemented for the immediate near future to assist in lowering the expense to parents and families. ALLIANCE Hockey is reviewing with its members the



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concerns expressed by Hockey Canada and the OHF regarding the cost of the game which is more prevalent now than ever.

4. Will ALLIANCE Hockey be able to accept funds by e-transfer or to another address than the Office, i.e. P.O. Box that is open and mail less likely to get lost?

A – Mail may still be forwarded to the ALLIANCE Hockey Office as mail is being collected and weekly cheques are being issued by ALLIANCE Staff. E-transfers are also accepted for those Associations who are not able to issue cheques at this time. For any other questions regarding accounts payable, please contact Tracy Pauli, tpauli@alliancehockey.com.

- **Questions - Tryouts**

1. Is there an estimate date for tryouts for non U10/U11 teams?

A – There is no projected date for any tryouts currently. We will continue to update everyone as things develop. ALLIANCE Hockey is working with a Committee at the OHF to co-ordinate tryouts and seasonal structure.

2. When determined, can tryouts begin on a Saturday?

A – This will be taken into consideration.

3. Given minimal fall ice availability, will there be adjustments made to the tryouts?

A – This has not yet been determined but will be a consideration when the roll out of the 2020-21 season is established. Currently, ALLIANCE Hockey is looking at 7-day tryouts for AAA, Seeded, and MD Hockey. ALLIANCE Hockey will work with its Member Associations to possibly condense tryouts or look at another format of promoting players to teams instead of releasing players to teams.

4. In our current state, would it be possible to register all those who have committed to teams and obtain approval as of the current start of tryout date? *Rationale: Register and approve as many participants sooner rather than later, may help with ordering jerseys, socks, etc. Waiting until September or later just moves everything forward into October or November.*

A – Players cannot be offered a position on a Select, MD, “Seeded” or “AAA” team until tryouts commence.

5. Do you anticipate that all tryouts will be like the Atom Pathway or the second last week of August to U12 and above?

A – The dates and format of tryouts have not been determined. The earliest possible return based on in recent discussions is after Labour Day. The rationale is to provide some semblance of a summer to hockey families given the disruption COVID-19 pandemic.

6. Is it possible for teams to prepare a team list to be submitted to the ALLIANCE and forgo the tryout process altogether?

A – Players cannot be offered a position on a team until tryouts. The registration process and timing will be established as part of the plan for the 2020-21 season.



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7. Is there a rough idea as to when tryouts MIGHT be happening?

A – At this time, Hockey Canada has suspended all Operations until September 1st. The earliest possible return based on recent discussions is after Labour Day. ALLIANCE Hockey will communicate with Member Associations on future timelines.

- **Questions - Registration**

1. Are teams allowed to register for tournaments for next year?

A – Yes, however consideration should be given to the fact that the rules around tournament participation may change depending on when the season structure for 2020-21 is finalized. For example, there may still be restrictions on travel within Canada and the United States when hockey resumes, some families may not want to travel, etc.

2. Is there a way to speed up the roster approval process? (With a shorter window for approval this coming season, what will be done to have approvals done quickly?)

A – There will be additional staff added to assist with this process. We are also considering options around the time between the submission of rosters and participation in tournaments. More details on this will be released once the season roll out process is finalized.

3. How will Rowan's Law Sign Offs work?

A – Rowan's Law signoff's for players will be collected two ways; via on-line registration or via paper for those individuals and Associations who do not have on-line registration. For Associations who offer on-line registration, the Rowan's Law sign off may be completed during the registration process– this is new this season and will populate the HCR.

How would team officials complete the HCR Rowan waiver?

A – Associations may collect the signoffs for team officials using a paper submission or through the HCR. Please contact Sue Hishon, shishon@alliancehockey.com with any questions.

4. What is the protection status of players given that we have not had Spring tryouts?

A – The OHF has extended the protection status of players from the 2019-20 season until tryouts for the 2020-21 season.

5. There may be an influx of players staying in House leagues and Select hockey only because of the lower cost involved; will the House leagues be able to handle this influx of new players?

A – It is incumbent upon the Associations to find ways to make the game affordable for all participants.

6. Will Hockey Canada or the ALLIANCE Hockey consider allowing Intent to Play Forms to be completed now for U12 to U18, yet still delaying actual HCR registrations until we're closer to the tryouts?

A – Intent to play forms cannot be signed until tryouts. Players remain protected by the Hockey Canada Residency Rules and cannot be offered a position until tryouts commence.

7. Can players outside of ALLIANCE Hockey begin residential transfer applications now?

A – Players who have changed residences should begin the transfer process as soon as the change of address has occurred.





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- Questions - Season

1. When is the earliest Hockey can start?

A – This has not yet been determined. Hockey Canada, the OHF and ALLIANCE Hockey will rely on Public Health authorities and the Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments to determine when it is safe to return to hockey activities.

2. Regarding the tryouts, once all is settled and tryouts are set, will the regular season start as usual in mid-September?

A – There will be a planned season-long implementation strategy that will include the necessary phases and transitions from tryouts to the regular season. ALLIANCE Hockey is working on this in conjunction with the OHF. We may have to move our Face Off and All-Star Events depending upon when we do begin. If we do start tryouts right after Labour Day, ALLIANCE Hockey will keep existing Face Off and All-Star Events dates but if the start date is later, those dates will have to change.

3. Will ALLIANCE Hockey put together a mock schedule depending on worst case scenarios? i.e. November start date

A – We are currently working on a number of possibilities. This also involves liaising with the staff at the OHF and other Member Partners. ALLIANCE Hockey staff will work with a small group of Member Associations to create a schedule based on when we can return. ALLIANCE Hockey Ice Schedulers are very proficient at scheduling and will pull together schedules in a week to 10 days time starting with AAA.

4. If ALLIANCE Hockey starts later than September, is there a possibility to move the end of the season to the end of April?

A – There are several possibilities that will be considered, including extending the season end date, if necessary. This would also require that we look at fall tryouts again in 2021-22.

5. What happens if the season is cancelled again because of a second wave of the virus? i.e. Will we allow players in their final year to be eligible to play the following season? Will teams that are formed now just stay together and continue for whenever the competitive sports start again?

A – We will deal with scenarios such as these when it is appropriate.

6. Are there any thoughts about cancelling the whole 2020-21 season?

A – ALLIANCE Hockey is considering and planning for all possibilities. Member Associations should be doing the same which includes budgeting for a reduction in registration of anywhere to 30% and a possibility of no season at all.

7. Is there talk or discussion of a drop-dead date when hockey cannot resume?

A – No “drop-dead” date has been established. We are planning several contingencies, many of which will involve structuring programming in new and different ways. The actual structure will rely heavily on when Public Health and Government officials indicate it is safe to resume hockey activities.

8. If the season does start can we offer a shorter season i.e. 24-28 games?

A – ALLIANCE Hockey is planning for several contingencies, including the possibility of a shorter season.





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9. Will the 2020 OHF Championship Hosts be carried over into the 2021 season?

A – The OHF has offered the first right to host the 2021 Championships to those organizations that were awarded the events for 2020.

10. If social distancing is lifted, what will be the position of ALLIANCE Hockey and its Member Associations?

A – Any team skates with a designated coach will not be considered until tryouts and any players that are not considered residential compliant will be subject to potential tampering rules. ALLIANCE Hockey Member Associations and Administration need to work together to make sure that this does not happen.

- **Questions - Equipment**

1. What happens to equipment, jerseys and socks, etc. that we previously ordered in the summer?

A – Associations should be planning for alternative arrangements, which may include not ordering equipment that they have traditionally ordered. It should be anticipated that next season will be very different than past seasons, which may require us to operate and look at things differently than we have in the past. We should also be aware that many families may be cash-poor for some time.

- **Questions – Hosting Tournaments**

1. What is the process for rescheduling tournaments?

A – This is an ongoing process and will be part of the season roll out plan once it is finalized.

- **Questions - Development**

1. Will the same coaching criteria be mandatory in regard to the D1 and Coach Clinics?

A – This is currently under review. Plans for alternate methods of course completion are being established in conjunction with the OHF.

2. What is happening with the referee courses?

A – These are currently under review. Plans for alternate methods of course completion are being established.

- **Questions - Rules**

1. If the numbers of players signing up for "Seeded" and "AAA" in 2020-21 drops drastically, would ALLIANCE Hockey consider reducing the 15-player minimum (Rule 6.1 a) to allow Teams to form?

A – Currently this is a Member Association Rule and will remain that way. ALLIANCE Hockey will work with Member Associations to find ways to accommodate players participating in the game given the circumstances. i.e. We may have to look at being flexible with player movement to fill rosters from one Association to another.

- **Questions - Annual General Meeting**

1. Is there a contingency plan for the ALLIANCE Hockey AGM?

A – The ALLIANCE Hockey Board of Directors and Staff are looking at several possible contingencies for the AGM i.e. Postponement, a Virtual Meeting, etc. ALLIANCE Hockey will update the Membership once a decision has been made.

