



**Amherstburg Minor Hockey Association
'RETURN TO PLAY' PLAN AND PROTOCOLS**

Submitted to: Colleen Hawthorne, OMHA Regional Director

Date Submitted: September 20th, 2020

In accordance with Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA), The Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF), Hockey Canada, and the Windsor-Essex County Public Health Unit, Amherstburg Minor Hockey has compiled the following 'Return to Play Plan and Protocols' to ensure that the safety of the players, coaches, spectators, officials, and staff is maintained at all times.

This Return to Play Plan is intended to follow all directives, publications, bulletins, and procedures as issued by OMHA, OHF, and Hockey Canada. AMHA continues to work with its partners to return to hockey programming with the necessary safeties and measures in place to deal with COVID-19.

OMHA and AMHA will be implementing a careful, stage-by-stage approach to reintroducing hockey activities within our regions and association. The safety of all participants and members will continue to be the priority, while balancing the needs of individuals within the game. This staged approach does not have a specific time-frame, however, it will continue to incorporate the guidelines of the public health authorities, the provincial government, and Hockey Canada. Furthermore, the staged approach will continue to follow the guidance of the OHF and OMHA. It is understood that, at any point during the progression, we may need to pause or return to a previous stage in order to protect and support our participants and the public.

Multiple meetings have been held with staff and management from the Libro Centre and board members of the AMHA to discuss this "Return to Play" plan.

This "Return to Play" plan will be made available on the AMHA webpage (<https://amherstburghockey.com/>), as well as electronically distributed to all registered members by way of electronic mail. Meetings will be held with parents and the membership prior to our season commencing to address questions and concerns.

LIBRO CENTER – FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

AMHA participants and spectators are to enter the facility through the designated arena entrance, as shown on the aerial photo below. Participants and spectators are to arrive at the facility a maximum of 15 minutes prior to scheduled ice-time, and come fully dressed, except for skates, helmet, and gloves. Dressing rooms will be provided to allow for a maximum of 10 player to utilize to tie their own skates and are to be accessed walking along the 'Rink A' walkway when entering the facility. Showers will not be available at any time. Any players requiring assistance with skate tying will utilize the designated area to have their skates tied by their parent/guardian. A maximum of one (1) parent/guardian per child will be allowed in the facility, with face-coverings (masks) always required. Mezzanine viewing areas are closed.



After exiting, the ice, the participants are to remove their helmets, gloves, and skates ONLY in the dressing rooms, and leave. Participants and parents/guardians are to vacate the Libro

Centre within 15 minutes of leaving the ice surface and are to exit through the main dressing room. Participants and parents/guardians will not be allowed to loiter in or around facility or parking lot. Changing of clothing is not allowed in the dressing rooms.

At all times, the policies and procedures outlined in the Town of Amherstburg's "Stage 3 Health and Safety Protocols for Re-Opening Libro Centre" document shall be followed. Only approved entrances and exits are to be used, with one-way traffic to be maintained as directed by the Town of Amherstburg, and their employees.

All participants must conduct a COVID-19 self-assessment prior to arrival at the facility.

[\(https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/\)](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/)

Please note that, AMHA is working to utilize an application to allow the COVID screening questionnaire to be completed by the members on mobile device or PC, prior to entering to the facility the day of the event. This application ("app") will allow us to track each participants and person entering/accessing the facility in real-time. All participants and parents/guardians will each be required to complete a screening form/questionnaire. All participants, visitors, volunteers, staff, and spectators will be logged, and kept on file for contact tracing purposes. Assigned COVID screeners will be present at the Main Entrance to the Libro Centre and will ensure screening is successfully completed. Any participants or parents/guardians who did not or are not able to use the screening "app" will be able to utilize paper copies of all documents. The COVID screener at the Rink Entrance will ensure that screening has been completed by each individual (either "app" or paper copy) prior to entering the facility and will ensure that appropriate face coverings are being worn and protocols are being followed.

Any person not wishing to be screened will not be granted access into the facility. Any person not wearing a mask or face-covering (in accordance with By-law 2020-046 of the Town of Amherstburg) will not be granted access into the facility. Any persons showing symptoms will not be granted access into the facility. Participants utilizing the ice surface will be required to wear face coverings until they are ready to go onto the ice surface with their helmets on.

Members that provide essential services through their employers OR are required to cross the border due to employment are exempt from answering questions related to "travelling outside the country" or "being exposed to patients with COVID or are symptomatic". These individuals are asked to clearly note: "EXEMPT FROM QUESTION DUE TO ESSENTIAL EMPLOYMENT" the first time this questionnaire is completed. If required, proof of essential employment may be requested by AMHA.

When entering the facility, everyone must use alcohol-based hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol content). Sanitizer will be made available at the entrances, and within the dressing rooms. Participants are encouraged to carry and use their own hand sanitizer.

At all times within the facility, the maximum number of spectators shall not exceed the maximum number as set by the "Stage 3 Health and Safety Protocols for Re-Opening Libro

Centre". Therefore, at this time, the number of spectators per team shall not exceed 10 parents/guardians, regardless of the age of the spectator.

Team officials are required to maintain a "Participant Tracking Sheet" for all on ice activities. This sheet will outline the date/time of the event, will list and track any/all participants, coaching staff, on ice-helpers, etc., and will have contact information (cell # or other) for all individuals listed.

At all times within the facility, social distancing of a minimum of 2 metres must be maintained. AMHA staff and facility staff will continuously be enforcing this policy .

If a participant requires first aid, this shall be administered using appropriate personal protective equipment, including a mask and gloves.

COVID PROCEDURE IF PARTICIPANT IS SICK OR SYMPTOMATIC

- As per the OHF and Hockey Canada guidelines and protocol, if a participant (player, coach, volunteer, etc.) tests positive for COVID and/or exhibits any symptoms of COVID, that participant will be removed from any/all hockey activities or contact with other participants
- A delegate as selected by the Association (AMHA) will advise the Windsor-Essex County Public Health Unit of the potential case and symptoms, and will follow all protocols including, but not limited to, informing all relevant personnel from the "Participant Tracking Sheet". Public Health guidelines and directives will be strictly followed.
- The participant may not return to any hockey related activities until they have a physician's note indicating they are safe to return, and procedures have been confirmed with the Windsor-Essex Country Public Health Unit

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR PARTICIPANTS

- Hand shaking, fist bumping, or celebratory contact of any kind among participants is discouraged, even on the ice.
- Spectators are encouraged to maintain social distancing in accordance with the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit recommendations.
- A link to the “Stage 3 Health and Safety Protocols for Re-Opening Libro Centre” will be posted on the AMHA website, along with links to the mobile application (“app”) for COVID Screening and Self-Assessment
- All spectators and players must wear a face covering when not on the ice surface. At all times, the face covering must be worn properly, covering the nose, mouth and chin, and in accordance with Windsor-Essex County Health Unit guidelines. In accordance with Public Health guidelines and Facility requirements, all players are to exit the ice and return to their dressings room where they are to immediately remove their helmets and put on their masks/face-coverings.
- Dressing Rooms may only be utilized for putting on skates, and washroom facilities. Participants may only use their teams allotted dressing rooms. Showers may not be used. If the number of participants exceeds the number allowed within the dressing rooms, those participants exceeding the allowed number shall utilize chairs and benches in allotted areas to put on their skates. Participants are to stay in their allotted dressing rooms until their scheduled ice time.
- At all times within the facility, social distancing of a minimum of 2 metres must be maintained. COVID officials and facility staff will be monitoring this.
- No food or drink is permitted.
- Common team water bottles are forbidden, and each player requiring a water bottle will bring their own with their name clearly marked.

Failure to comply with the facility requirements, or the requirements of the AMHA Return to Hockey Plan may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Discipline Policy of AMHA, up to and including losing the opportunity to participate in AMHA activities and events, both present and future.

RETURN TO PLAY PLAN

Recently the Ontario Hockey Federation and OMHA have released their "Return to Hockey" Stage 3 plans which provide further detail to seasonal structure and game play for the upcoming season.

Key Highlights of Stage 3 programming:

- No tryouts of any kind. Tier and Team formation will be based on the level of competition the players played last season.
- No travel hockey or "Rep" hockey. Programming is based on player residency except for the provisions allowed under the "Non-Resident Player" rules.
- Modified Programming (not traditional 5-on-5).
- No contact hockey.

Guidelines:

OMHA has introduced an entirely new set of guidelines aimed at player safety, while allowing hockey to return in some form. We are working closely with OMHA, other local associations, and the Town of Amherstburg to try to provide the best programming possible, while meeting the additional safety requirements imposed.

- Member Approved Programming in Geographic Area that is in Ontario Government Stage 3 Individual and Group Training
- Maximum of 30 on the ice depending on what stage we are currently in at the time including instructors.
- Physical distancing is required for the purpose of individual and group training and if a facility has further restrictions all programming must comply.

We want to emphasize that any programming offered is subject to various approvals, and subject to change. The process is evolving, and we at Amherstburg Minor Hockey are doing our best to stay current with the demands from OHF and OMHA, while providing the best programming possible. As such, programming for specific Tiers and/or Divisions may be revised from the tentative model shown below to accommodate future changes, additional safety precautions, various stages of approval, and enrollment numbers.

REGISTRATION

TO OPEN WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26th, 2020 @ 8:00AM

1. All players looking to participate in the 2020 Fall Season and the programming outlined below are to be registered by Friday, September 11th, 2020 to ensure a position on a team. Any player not registered by September 11th, 2020 will be placed on a waiting list and will not be guaranteed a spot in the 2020 Fall Season.
2. **ANY PLAYERS PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED IN THE AMHA SYSTEM (BETWEEN APRIL 2020 TO NOW), WILL NEED TO RE-REGISTER AT THIS TIME.** We apologize for the inconvenience, however, due to the limitations of the Hockey Canada online system, this is the only option to ensure that proper registration and payments are established.
3. When registering, players will be asked their level of play from last season. In accordance with OMHA guidelines, the level of play from last season will determine where the players will be placed for this "Fall Season". "Travel" players will be placed in "Tier 1", and "Houseleague" players placed in "Tier 2". AMHA will do our best to make the Tiers and teams competitive, however, players may be moved to different Tiers, at the discretion of AMHA, based on number of registrants and level of competition. **NOTE:** If you do not register in the appropriate Tier based on last year's level of play, you will be placed on the waiting list for the appropriate Tier. **Please ensure to select the appropriate Tier of hockey played last year (Tier 1 – Travel, Tier 2 – Houseleague) when completing your registration.**
4. The first 20 players that register for Tier 1 and the first 40 registrants in Tier 2, in each division, will be guaranteed a place on a team/roster. Any player registered after these limits, will be placed on a waiting list, pending an appropriate number of registrants to make additional teams viable.
5. Programming is tentatively based on an approximate number of registrants per division and could change depending on *actual* number of registrants.
6. Teams are to be made up of a maximum of 10 players (9 skaters and 1 goalie), with modified gameplay as described below.
7. Pricing below does **NOT** include jerseys, as **jerseys will not be provided** for either Tier. Parents are expected to provide their children with 2 jerseys (1 white, 1 dark/non-white) for all age groups, and each Tier.
8. OMHA is allowing "Non-Resident Players" (NRP) to return to the center where they were enrolled last season, if they so choose. However, the Associations can reject NRPs at their

discretion for this "Fall Season". Players are encouraged to contact the Association where they played last year to confirm if they are accepting "NRP" players for this "Fall Season".

9. Midget/Juvenile registration is on hold pending OMHA revised programming. We expect further direction from OMHA in the coming weeks for these divisions.

PROPOSED PROGRAMMING

- 11 Week Season beginning Sept 28th and ending Dec 20th, 2020
 - **Tier 1 (Rep/Travel):** Three (3) 50 min ice slots per week. 33 ice-times in total.
 - **Tier 2 (Houseleague):** Two (2) 50 min ice slots per week. 22 ice-times in total
- First 2 weeks of the season are to be Development Sessions only. (September 28th through October 11th, 2020)
- Remaining 9 weeks will include modified gameplay for one ice time per week (4 on 4 being proposed for U10-U15 (Atom-Bantam))
- Competition will be Tiered based on 2019-20 rosters (Rep/Travel or Local League) in accordance with OMHA directives. A potential cohort with a neighbouring center (Lasalle and/or Belle River) to allow more competitive play is currently being reviewed.
- U6-U9 (PreSchool-Novice Major) will follow a plan similar to pre-COVID programming, with cross-ice play, as mandated by OMHA.
- Any/all plans are currently being reviewed by OMHA and require OMHA approval prior to implementation.

FEES AND PAYMENT STRUCTURE

1. At the time of registration, there will be payment options, which include payment in full, money order, or payment installments. The payment installments will require an initial payment, with subsequent payments being scheduled for September 15th, 2020, and October 13th, 2020.
2. All registrants will be charged the lesser (Tier 2) value upon registration. Players playing in Tier 1 will be required to pay the remaining value, once teams and rosters have been established.
3. Any players who have previously paid, and still have the \$100 credit towards their account will be contacted by AMHA, to review the options for incorporating this credit.

Division	U6 (Preschool)	U7 (Initiation)	U8 (Novice Minor)	U9 (Novice Major)	U10/U11 (Atom Minor & Major)	U12/U13 (Peewee Minor & Major)	U14/U15 (Bantam Minor & Major)
Birth Year	2015 - 2017	2014	2013	2012	2010 - 2011	2008 - 2009	2006 - 2007
Tier 1 Fees*	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$425
Tier 2 Fees*	\$315	\$315	\$315	\$315	\$315	\$315	\$315

IMPORTANT NOTES REGARDING REGISTRATION AND FEES

1. Fees are approximate, and programming requires approvals from OMHA & Public Health Unit prior to implementation.
2. Tier 1 programming is dependent upon approved co-horting with LaSalle Minor Hockey (LMHA) and/or Belle River District Minor Hockey (BRDMHA).
3. The above approximate fees only cover the 2020 Fall Season, ending December 20th, 2020. Any programming offered after this date is being reviewed by OMHA, and further information is expected at a later date
4. Programming offered may be revised to match enrollment, to maximize usage of ice-time, and/or due to required approvals.
5. Due to the uncertainty and numerous approvals required, Amherstburg Minor Hockey Associated (AMHA) reserves the right to limit enrollment to 20 players in Tier 1, and 40 players in Tier 2, per division. However, AMHA will do their best to accommodate all registrants.

RULES AND GAMEPLAY

OMHA RETURN TO HOCKEY - RULES FOR 4 on 4 PLAY – U10 AND UP

(Derived by OMHA)

*All games shall be 4 on 4, with full ice utilized, maintaining at all times physical distancing on benches. Alternate benches (such as penalty boxes) can be used, if required, to ensure physical distancing.

- Game time structure based on a 50-minute ice rental
 - 5 min warm up
 - 2 x 22 min period run time
 - 1 min intermission between 1st and 2nd period
 - Teams do not switch ends each period
- No overtime / no shootout for tied games
- No faceoffs
 - Period 1 – visiting team has first possession
 - Period 2 – home team has first possession
- No Physical Contact
 - Players must remain one stick length apart
 - Accidental/incidental contact may occur
 - No body checking
 - When a scrum or gathering occurs the puck will be given to the defending team and the attacking team must retreat. A whistle will be blown to separate the players and another whistle to signal the resumption of play once the official is satisfied the attacking team has retreated and the defending team has gained puck possession.
 - A player that loses a glove must immediately retrieve the glove or leave the ice.
 - All Game Play must be conducted in conjunction with the local PHU and facility rules for the purpose of sanitation and physical distancing.

Line Changes

- Teams will change on the fly.

Goals

- Goals result in a change of possession. The team that scores the goal must allow the other team to advance the puck past center ice before applying pressure. If the puck has not advanced past center ice within 10 seconds of the whistle the official will signal the team that scored to proceed with the attack.

Icing

- Icing the puck results in a change of possession. The team that iced the puck must allow the other team to advance the puck past center ice before applying pressure. If the puck

has not advanced past center ice within 10 seconds of the whistle the official will signal the attacking team to proceed with the attack.

Offsides

- Offsides will result in a change of possession. The team that was called for offside must exit their attacking zone (all players simultaneously in neutral zone) before re-entering their attacking zone and applying pressure.

Goaltender Freezes the Puck

- When the goaltender freezes the puck, the attacking team must exit their attacking zone (all players simultaneously in neutral zone) before re-entering their attacking zone and applying pressure.

Penalties

- Penalty shots will be awarded for penalties as per:
 - 2 min penalties = 1 penalty shot
 - 4+ min penalties = 2 penalty shots
 - All major penalties will result in 2 penalty shots and an ejection from the game
 - Intentional body contact or body checking = 2 penalty shots and may result in removal from the game at the discretion of the referee
 - Intentionally entering the goaltender's crease = 1 penalty shot
 - Co-incidental penalties will result in NO penalty shot being awarded
- The penalty shot must be taken by the individual the infraction was committed against, unless they are unable to do so because of injury
- The time clock will continue to run during a penalty shot. If the buzzer sounds while the penalty shot is in process, the shot will be allowed to be completed
- If a delayed penalty is called near the end of the game and the clock runs out, and where the result of the penalty shot(s) could change the outcome of the game, the penalty shot(s) will be taken. If the outcome of the penalty shot(s) would have no impact on the outcome of the game, the penalty shot(s) will not be taken.

Penalty Shot Procedure

When a penalty is called, the clock will not stop (all divisions)

- Penalty shot must be taken by the player infringed upon (if applicable) and all players on the ice must re-main there until the shot is taken
- The player taking the penalty shot will line up at center ice
- All other players from both teams will line up by the far blue line
- All players will start from a standing position
- Referee will blow the whistle to start play
- All players may begin skating on the whistle; players on the non-penalized team may "chase" the player taking the shot and can prevent it if able to do so.
- Penalties can still be called on penalty shots.

- Should the player miss the penalty shot, play will continue.
- If a goal is scored, the team that scores the goal must allow the other team to advance the puck past center ice before applying pressure. If the puck has not proceeded past the hashmarks within 10 seconds of the whistle the official will signal the attacking team to proceed with the attack.

Roster

- Maximum of 9 players plus 1 goaltender (per team)
- Both teams must start the game with a minimum of 5 players plus 1 goaltender

OMHA RETURN TO HOCKEY - RULES FOR 3 on 3, 4 on 4 PLAY – U9 AND BELOW (Derived by OMHA)

Game Play

- Game time structure based on a 50-minute ice rental
- 5 min warm up
- 2 x 21 min period run time
- 1 min intermission between 1st and 2nd period
- No overtime / no shootout for tied games
- No faceoffs
- Period 1 – visiting team has first possession
- Period 2 – home team has first possession
- No Physical Contact
- Players must remain one stick length apart
- Accidental/incidental contact may occur
- No body checking
- When a scrum or gathering occurs the puck will be given to the defending team and the attacking team must retreat. A whistle will be blown to separate the players and another whistle to signal the resumption of play once the official is satisfied the attacking team has retreated and the defending team has gained puck possession.
- A player that loses a glove must immediately retrieve the glove or leave the ice.

Line Changes

- 1.5 min shifts (timekeeper will sound the horn to notify shift change).

Goals

- Goals result in a change of possession. The attacking team must retreat and allow the team that was scored against the opportunity to play the puck. If this does not occur, the official may blow their whistle and signal the opposing team to provide more space.

Goaltender Freezes the Puck

- When the goaltender freezes the puck, the attacking team must retreat and allow the team that froze the puck the opportunity to play the puck. If this does not occur, the official may blow their whistle and signal the opposing team to provide more space.

Icing

- There is no icing in cross-ice hockey.

Offside

- There are no offsides in cross-ice hockey.

Penalties

- Penalties will be handled in the same manner as modified ice programming per the Hockey Canada Player Pathways. Intentional body contact or body checking may result in removal from the game at the discretion of the referee.

Roster

- 9 players plus 1 goaltender (per team)
- Both teams must start the game with a minimum of 5 players plus 1 goaltender

APPENDIX 'A' – OHF HEALTH SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE



ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

Health Screening Questionnaire

This questionnaire must be completed by each individual prior to participation in each on-ice or off-ice activity. This questionnaire may be completed verbally.

Are you currently experiencing any of these issues? Call 911 if you are.

- Severe difficulty breathing (struggling for each breath, can only speak in single words)
- Severe chest pain (constant tightness or crushing sensation)
- Feeling confused or unsure of where you are
- Losing consciousness

If you are in any of the following at risk groups, we ask that you speak with your physician prior to participating.

- Getting treatment that compromises (weakens) your immune system (for example, chemotherapy, medication for transplants, corticosteroids, TNF inhibitors)
- Having a condition that compromises (weakens) your immune system (for example, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, immunodeficiency disorder)
- Having a chronic (long-lasting) health condition (for example, diabetes, emphysema, asthma, heart condition, COPD)
- Regularly going to a hospital or health care setting for a treatment (for example, dialysis, surgery, cancer treatment)

The answer to all questions must be “No” in order to participate in any and all activity.

1. Are you currently experiencing any of these symptoms?

Do you have a fever? (Feeling hot to the touch, a temperature of 37.8C or higher)

Yes No

Chills

Yes No

Cough that's new or worsening (*continuous, more than usual*)

Yes No

Barking cough, making a whistling noise when breathing (croup)

Yes No

Shortness of breath (out of breath, unable to breathe deeply)

Yes No

ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

Health Screening Questionnaire

Sore throat

Yes No

Difficulty swallowing

Yes No

Runny nose, sneezing or nasal congestion (*not related to seasonal allergies or other known causes or conditions*)

Yes No

Lost sense of taste or smell

Yes No

Pink eye (conjunctivitis)

Yes No

Headache that's unusual or long lasting

Yes No

Digestive issues (nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain)

Yes No

Muscle aches

Yes No

Extreme tiredness that is unusual (fatigue, lack of energy)

Yes No

Falling down often

Yes No

For young children and infants: sluggishness or lack of appetite

Yes No



ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

Health Screening Questionnaire

For the remaining questions, close physical contact means:

Being less than 2 metres away in the same room, workspace, or area for over 15 minutes

Living in the same home

1. In the last 14 days, have you been in close physical contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19?

Yes No

2. In the last 14 days, have you been in close physical contact with a person who either:

Is currently sick with a new cough, fever, or difficulty breathing; OR

Returned from outside of Canada in the last 2 weeks? *(This does not include essential workers who cross the Canada-US border regularly.)*

Yes No

3. Have you travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days? *(This does not include essential workers who cross the Canada-US border regularly.)*

Yes No

If an individual has answered "Yes" to any of these questions, they are not permitted to participate in any on-ice or off-ice activities.

Please note: This Health Screening questionnaire has been developed based on the Ontario Ministry of Health Self-Assessment Tool (September 14, 2020).

APPENDIX 'B' – OHF CONTACT TRACING



ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

Session Participation Tracking

All participants/coaches/instructors are expected to complete Health Screening prior to each participation in on-ice activity. The Health Screening may be completed verbally.

By indicating YES in the chart below, you confirm that this Health Screening was passed.

The expectation is that a tracking sheet must exist for each on-ice session to facilitate contact tracing in the event of a COVID-19 exposure.

Session Location	Ice Pad	Date	Time

	Name of each individual included in this session Please list all coaches, instructors and participants	Contact Phone Number	Health Screening Pass (Yes or No)
01			
02			
03			
04			
05			
06			
07			
08			
09			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			

ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

Session Participation Tracking

	Name of each individual included in this session Please list all coaches, instructors and participants	Contact Phone Number	Health Screening Pass (Yes or No)
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			