



Date: February 11, 2021

To: OMHA Members

From: Geoff Stewart, President & OMHA Board

SUBJECT: Okotoks Minor Hockey Cancellation of 2020-21 Hockey Season

Since our last communication there has been further notification from both the Alberta Government and Hockey Alberta around the path forward for youth sports in the pandemic environment.

On January 29th, the government communicated the following:

- Youth sports will NOT open in stage 1.
- Youth sports opening appears to be in stage 2, (March 1 at earliest)

On February 2nd, Hockey Alberta released a memo stating the following:

- Hockey Alberta League Play will be cancelled for the 2020-21 season.
- 1 on 1 on ice training could start on Monday February 8th.
- MHA could offer development programs in conjunction with arena guidelines

On February 6th, Dr. Hinshaw announced team-based activities would be allowed with the following restrictions:

- 10 Participants on the ice including coaches/trainers etc. for indoor facilities
- 3 meters apart social distance

On February 8th, Hockey Alberta communicated that associations could divide the ice in half and have 10 participants (including coach, trainer, etc.) on each half of the ice.

- Facilities will require one (1) hour cleaning in between all Ice sessions over 1 on 1 bookings.

Based on this new information Okotoks Minor Hockey Association has made the following decision:

Effective February 11th, 2021 the Okotoks Minor Hockey Executive and Board has made the difficult decision to cancel the remainder of the 2020/2021 Hockey Season.

Due to AHS and facility restrictions, it will be nearly impossible for OMHA to run 1300 players per week. Players would skate once every 10 days affording them only 3-4 skates until the end of March when the Town plans on taking the Murray and Piper ice surfaces out.

Okotoks Minor Hockey is working diligently on options of credit or refunds for our members. We are awaiting final confirmation of refunds from Hockey Alberta, Hockey Canada, and our leagues. More information will follow in the next week.

The Executive did not take this decision lightly and for the reasons listed above, believe that this outcome is best given the current circumstances.

Finally, we would like to thank you, our members and volunteers for your patience and understanding as we navigated this unique season. We are disappointed in the outcome of the announcement by the government on January 29th but remain optimistic for the 2021-2022 Hockey Season and will shift our focus to planning and executing the best possible season we can.

Geoff Stewart

OMHA President