



Date: February 9, 2021

To: AMHA Members

From: Christie Cameron, President

SUBJECT: Airdrie 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 the afternoon of 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)

Stage 2 details:

- Stage 2 will be realized only if hospitalizations fall below 450.
- There must be at least three weeks between stages.
- There were no clear protocols outlined for how youth sports would open in stage 2, but can assume, it would NOT be in a game format, and there would be some number limitations at this time.

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

- Hockey Alberta League Play will be cancelled for the 2020-21 season.
- Minor Hockey Associations would be free to offer developmental programs, if their arenas remained open, restrictions are lifted, and they are interested in doing so.

On the morning of February 6th, Dr. Deena 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 members on each half of the ice.

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

Effective February 8th, 2021 the Airdrie Minor Executive has made the difficult decision to cancel the remainder of the 2020/2021 Hockey Season.

AMHA has always hoped that we would return to play, however the current restrictions and timelines do not make that feasible. Airdrie Minor Hockey will analyze the feasibility of offering some spring programming to our members, should public health restrictions be lifted. These programs would not be part of the existing program and will be only for those who wish to register.

Please note, applicable insurance is still in place for AMHA players and teams until the end of June. Should teams wish to schedule and book their own ice, they are welcome to do so, provided they are following all applicable provincial health and facility guidelines. I would encourage teams to have meetings, to discuss options as well as any remaining team funds (please be mindful of AGLC restrictions on use of proceeds for any raffle/50/50 etc funds).

Airdrie Minor Hockey will be working to provide fair refunds to our members over the coming days. We are waiting for final confirmation of refund amounts from Hockey Alberta, Hockey Canada, and leagues, that we can pass on to the families. More information will follow in the next week.

The AMHA Executive did not take this decision lightly and 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.