



STONEY CREEK MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 99061 RPO Heritage Green Stoney Creek ON L8J 2P7 Web: www.scmha.ca

SCMHA is pleased to announce its programming for the coming season. Hockey here and everywhere in Ontario will see changes to our sport and a departure from “Traditional Hockey” programming. Under the auspice and regulations of Hockey Canada, OHF, OMHA, Public Health Unit (PHU) and the City of Hamilton the details of our programming are highlighted below. The programming will be subject to change to respond to changes of Public Health and the City of Hamilton if the COVID-19 pandemic environment changes. The OHF Return to Play has a specific program that member associations are required to follow to protect the health and welfare of players and communities. All programming is subject and pending approval by the OMHA.

The SCMHA board thanks you for your participation in our SURVEY as it was crucial to our seasonal planning.

If the year 2020 has shown us anything, it's that no one has definitive answers, things that once made sense can quickly change. What was once normal has become the past. But, we will always find a way to persevere, adapt and rise to the challenges as they are presented. This is no different of a circumstance.

“The beautiful journey of today can only begin when we learn to let go of yesterday.”

SCMHA has formulated a return to hockey plan that includes as much fun, safety, affordability, development, competition and flexibility as possible. It will be our entire objective this coming season. We want and need to provide a safe environment that gives everyone involved with SCMHA a place to feel free of burden and worry of our current circumstances. A place where you can just have fun even if it is only for a short time. We all know that things will return to regular programming at some point and when it does, we will be ready. Hockey needs us and we need hockey. Below are some of the highlights and details of our plan:

- Registration opened on September 1st and runs until September 15th
- We understand that many are facing challenging times and the future is uncertain so you can sign up your son/daughter right now with zero up-front costs. SCMHA will be providing a monthly membership rate to participate in the 2020/2021 season.
- Your son/daughter will be participating within a competitively matched group of 20-50 players. All practice and play will be conducted within cohorts of no more than 50 players, and there will be no crossover between the cohorts.
- Our return to play plan adheres to all Provincial, City of Hamilton, OMHA and OHF safety mandates.
- registration is open now and you can secure a spot for your child with no payment due until Oct 1.

What this season will look like – There has been a lot of attempts to linguistically make things appear normal or appealing for the benefit of increasing registrations with various other Associations. Let me be very clear. We will not approach things in this manner. We believe in our position of transparency and providing programming that will be in the approved framework of all governing bodies of hockey and public health. Our approach this coming year will be one of giving the kids a chance to touch the ice, have fun and do so in a safe environment.

There will be no REP/LL/HL PROGRAMMING in the traditional sense of the word until such time we are provided the green light to do so by the OMHA, OHF, PHU and City of Hamilton.

Our program will be best described as a “BRIDGE” until we can return to regular programming.

This will be done by following the acceptable and approved practices passed down by the OHF and OMHA.

We will begin programming approximately Oct 1, 2020 for most divisions. The (initiation)U7/ (minor novice) U8 programs will start approximately Oct 17, 2020, the details and dates of this are still being worked out and are pending available City ice schedules.

- 4v4 gameplay (OHF rules)
- Rosters of 9 players + goalie
- 1 game 1 practice per week
- 1 development session bi weekly (outsourced & TBD)
- Max of 5 team per cohort/bubble
- Cohorts/bubbles of 50 kids
- Max 25 individuals on the ice surface inclusive of coach and trainers
- 1 coach 1 trainer per roster
- Monthly payment (TBD)
- Insurance coverage inclusive of communicable diseases specifically COVID-19

The first part of our plan is a mandatory 2-week development period for all players. This will run starting October 1st. The inter association gameplay will begin on October 17th (the week after Thanksgiving) and will carry on for 10 weeks and re-evaluated at that time for changes or necessary continuance. SCMHA registration is open and will close Thursday, September 15th at 11:59PM. That being said, do not wait to register. Space is very limited this season and when we are full, we are full. Traditionally we would use the waitlist to determine if we can add additional teams or divisions, but this season is already a massive organizational challenge and ice is at a premium. There will be no additional teams added this season to accommodate the waitlisted players, nor is it an option to make teams bigger – that simply cannot be done this year. Players on the waitlist will only be offered a spot if one becomes available as a result of another registered player withdrawing.

The development session will get under way as soon as possible. Registration is open to players who played on any SCMHA roster last season in Stoney Creek or any player/family who are Stoney Creek residents. Registration is currently open and closes Sunday, September 15th at 11:59PM. If you don't register by the deadline, then you are not eligible to be a part of the Rep program or a return to traditional Stoney Creek Warriors Rep programming if/when we enter Stage 4. Simply put, if you played Rep in Stoney Creek last year, your only option during Stage 3 is to play hockey in Stoney Creek. If you are a Stoney Creek resident, played Rep outside of Stoney

Creek last year and are not returning to your club from last year, your only option during Stage 3 is to play hockey in Stoney Creek. Please register by September 15th so that we may establish cohorts/bubbles for development and scrimmages.

Let's be really clear – this is a challenging situation with a lot of uncertainty – aka, the new normal. We have a plan that safely, affordably gets kids back on the ice having fun, developing and competing with their friends. We hope you will be a part of it.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to either myself stevejohnson@scmha.ca or Eva Ivetac eveivetac@scmha.ca and we will get you answers and ensure everyone gets the same information. Please do not reach out to our coaches, Board, Executive or Staff at this point as the situation is changing in real time and we want to ensure people are getting clear, consistent answers. All official Club positions and information will come from myself or Eva only.

“Every day is a journey, and the journey itself is home!”

SCMHA is home to hockey in Stoney Creek, we are all Warriors.

Steve Johnson

President

SCMHA

All team/player programming and development

- Rep hockey ('representing' Stoney Creek) will be converted to inter association play for the modified Stage 3 period of the Return to Play
- No traditional rep travel hockey or tournament play is allowed
- Development training cohorts of 50 or less players will be formed by the 2020-2021 rep coaches, Executives, and our hockey development advisors creating competitive cohorts/bubbles for each division
- Last season's rep level as well as evaluation by announced rep coaches, VPs and development advisors will all be considerations for placement
- Within each cohort individual teams consisting of a maximum of 9 skaters + 1 goalie will be established to allow for internal (and external once allowed) scrimmages and games
- Leagues will be created with a maximum of 50 players
- Cohort instruction will be led by announced Rep coaches and the SCMHA development team
- Modified 4-on-4 format;
- Non-contact at all levels
- 1 practice and 1 scrimmage per week being planned – TBD
- 1 biweekly development session by chosen development providers.
- In some age groups players from last season's rep levels may be merged to facilitate internal game play leagues.