



August 21, 2020

Re: Update for 2020-21 Community Evaluations

Dear GHC Families and Players,

As I'm sure you are aware, Hockey Calgary released a "Return to Hockey" document that will guide member associations over the coming months. GHC has also released "Health & Safety Guidelines" to ensure that all members can return to the game safely as we continue to deal with COVID-19. Please know that our volunteers are working tirelessly to steer this season in the best possible direction. There will be new routines to learn and new responsibilities to assume, but a safe, successful evaluation process and hockey season is possible if we work together as a team!

### **SORTING/EVALUATION PHASE**

When our GHC family returns to the ice for the upcoming season, we will be in Hockey Calgary's Sorting/Evaluation Phase. This purpose of this phase is to create like-skilled 'Cohort Groups' via physically-distanced evaluation sessions. *The Community evaluation schedule is now posted on the [GHC website](#).*

Our intention is to ensure that all players are placed on the appropriate team to allow for maximum skill development and maximum enjoyment. We want every player to have the opportunity to contribute to her team both on and off the ice resulting in a positive hockey experience.

For further age-specific Evaluations procedures, please see the table below:

<b>All Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is strongly suggested that all participants get tested for COVID-19 prior to start of hockey activities.</li><li>• It is the expectation that those entering any facility, including all individuals involved in the evaluation process on behalf of GHC, will follow all guidelines and by-laws that have been put in place by the facility and/or local government in relation to COVID-19, including physical distancing, proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, and face coverings. Non-essential attendees may be asked to leave the facility if spacing is needed to ensure the safety of evaluators, volunteers and players. <b>Not respecting facility and governmental protocols and procedures jeopardizes our safety, the safety of others and the entire Hockey Calgary program.</b></li><li>• All participants will sign a <i>COVID-19 Release and Waiver</i> prior to the first ice session or the player will not be permitted on the ice. Details to follow.</li><li>• All players must complete a <i>COVID-19 Screening Tool</i> prior to each ice session or the player will not be permitted on the ice. Details to follow.</li><li>• If a participant is unable to answer "No" to all questions on the <i>COVID-19 Screening Tool</i>, she should stay home and advise the Age Group Coordinator. <b>DO NOT ATTEND A HOCKEY ACITIVITY IF YOU ARE SICK.</b></li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should you be unable to make an evaluation session for any reason, please let your age group coordinator know at your earliest convenience.</li> <li>• FULL EQUIPMENT, including a neck guard, MUST be worn on the ice at all times. Your child may be asked to leave the ice if they are not fully dressed due to safety protocol.</li> <li>• At the discretion of the Coordinators, if any player is violating the fair play pledge and/or putting other players at risk, they will be removed from the session and potentially face further consequences.</li> <li>• Each player is required to bring one (1) black and one (1) white practice jersey to all evaluation sessions.</li> <li>• Players must bring their own clearly labelled water bottle and are not permitted to share any equipment during the sessions. Water bottles should be filled at home as facilities may have turned off / limited use of fountains.</li> <li>• Upon arrival, each player will be issued a unique identification number to display on the player's helmet. Numbers must remain visible and unaltered on your daughter's helmet for the entirety of the evaluation sessions.</li> <li>• Player groupings will be posted on the Girls Hockey Calgary website by <b>Hockey Canada ID</b>. It will be up to the players/parents to check the website to see when their next ice time will be.</li> <li>• Once the evaluation session is over it is expected that all skaters will exit the facility as quickly as possible and not congregate in public areas.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Under-7</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players should arrive as dressed as possible. (Skates and helmet to be put on at the rink.) IMPORTANT: Please follow manufacturers guidelines for car/booster seats should your player still use one.</li> <li>• Entry and exit times will be communicated by your Age Group Coordinator, and generally vary between 15-30 minutes before &amp; after each session.</li> <li>• <b>Subject to arena policy, one (1) parent may attend the evaluation sessions to assist with equipment (skate tying) and then must exit the arena ASAP.</b></li> <li>• U7 Players will have two (2) physically-distanced sorting skates.</li> <li>• Coaches are included in the Cohort, which allows coaches to be in contact with the younger players to better assist with their development.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Under-9</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players should arrive as dressed as possible. (Skates and helmet to be put on at the rink.) IMPORTANT: Please follow manufacturers guidelines for car/booster seats should your player still use one.</li> <li>• Entry and exit times will be communicated by your Age Group Coordinator, and generally vary between 15-30 minutes before &amp; after each session.</li> <li>• <b>Subject to arena policy, one (1) parent may attend the evaluation sessions to assist with equipment (skate tying) and then must exit the arena ASAP.</b></li> <li>• <b>U9 Players will have Two Pre-Evaluation skates and three (3) physically distanced evaluation sessions.</b> All evaluation sessions will consist of skills-based sessions only and will not include game play as in previous years.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Under-11</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players should arrive as dressed as possible. (Skates and helmet to be put on at the rink.) <b>IMPORTANT:</b> Please follow manufacturers guidelines for car/booster seats should your player still use one.</li> <li>• Entry and exit times will be communicated by your Age Group Coordinator, and generally vary between 15-30 minutes before &amp; after each session.</li> <li>• <b>Subject to arena policy, one (1) parent may attend the evaluation sessions to assist with equipment (skate tying) and then must exit the arena ASAP.</b></li> <li>• All U11 Players are provided three (3) optional, free, physically distanced “pre-skates” as per Hockey Calgary’s U11 (Atom) Player Pathway. Players Groupings will be posted on the GHC website by Hockey Canada ID.</li> <li>• U11 Skaters will have five (5) physically-distanced evaluation sessions. All evaluation sessions will consist of skills-based sessions only and will not include game play as in previous years.</li> <li>• U11 Goaltenders will have two (2) goalie-only evaluation sessions and a total of six (6) evaluation sessions.</li> <li>• Hybrid Goalies will have a minimum two (2) evaluation sessions in each position (minimum 4 total as Hybrid Goalie candidate).</li> <li>• Coaches will not be part of the Cohort and must physically distance on and off the ice.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Under-13</b> <b>Under-15</b> <b>Under-18</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players should arrive as dressed as possible. (Skates and helmet to be put on at the rink.)</li> <li>• Parents are asked to drop off their player and not enter the facility, as spacing will be needed to ensure the safety of evaluators and volunteers.</li> <li>• U13-U18 Forward/Defense will have five (5) physically-distanced evaluation sessions. All evaluation sessions will consist of skills-based sessions only and will not include game play as in previous years.</li> <li>• U13-U18 Goaltenders will have two (2) goalie-only evaluation sessions and a total of six (6) evaluation sessions.</li> <li>• As positional play may be challenging to determine through physically-distant drills, Phase 2 Cohorts for U13-U18 may also be determined by taking into consideration, the sorting skates, as well as the players’ team assignments from previous years as per Hockey Calgary recommendations.</li> <li>• Coaches will not be part of the Cohort and must physically distance on and off the ice.</li> </ul>

## EVALUATORS

GHC has hired a third-party service to conduct a large portion of our evaluations. The company supplies evaluators with strong hockey backgrounds through playing and coaching at post-secondary, junior and various professional levels along with years of other involvement in the sport. We will also be using GHC coach evaluators. GHC Coaches will not be allowed to evaluate their own daughter’s age group. This will be strictly enforced and monitored.



## **PLAYER MOVEMENT: UP & DOWN, SESSION TO SESSION**

Players will move up or down if they are OUTLIERS in their group. Players ranked at the top of their group will be moved up a group. Players ranked at the bottom of their group will be moved down a group. If a player moves up, she will be competing at a higher level and will have the opportunity to stay in this group. If a player moves down, she will have the opportunity to show off her skills in a lower level and possibly be moved back up. The number of players moving up and down will vary, as it will be based on the number of outliers. This decision is solely dependent on numerical scores.

## **DEVELOPMENT SEASON PHASE**

Following the evaluation/sorting component, players will be grouped into Cohorts. Cohorts will consist of approximately 36-48 players, depending on the age category and registration breakdown. Once in formal Hockey Calgary Cohorts, players are permitted to engage in drill where they will come into close contact with other players.

Within each Cohort, GHC will create 3 or 4 evenly balanced Mini Teams of 9-12 players (with goalies) to facilitate game play. During the Hockey Calgary “Development Season” throughout Phase 2, the Evaluations Committee may re-balance accordingly to confirm skill compatibility within the Cohorts. Teams will be notified ahead of time. Players will not be permitted to play against teams or players outside of their cohort until government restrictions are lifted. This phase will begin when cohorts are formed in late September/early October.

## **REGULAR SEASON/COMPETITION SEASON PHASE**

This is the final phase of Hockey Calgary’s plan, and includes two possible options: If all restrictions are lifted, Hockey Calgary will return its “traditional” program. If the restrictions are not removed, then following the winter holiday break (14-day isolation) Hockey Calgary will look at revising the cohorts and developing some inter-association play.

We sincerely appreciate the patience and support of our members. Should you have any further questions, myself or an evaluations coordinator will be available at the rink to discuss.

Thank you,

**Ted Oloriz**

VP Operations

Girls Hockey Calgary Association (GHC)



## References

- Girls Hockey Calgary Association (GHC) Return to Play Webpage:  
<http://www.girlshockeycalgary.com/return-to-play>
- Girls Hockey Calgary Association (GHC) Health & Safety Guidelines:  
[https://www.girlshockeycalgary.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/1722/2020/08/GHC-Health-and-Safety-Guidelines\\_31-July-2020.pdf](https://www.girlshockeycalgary.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/1722/2020/08/GHC-Health-and-Safety-Guidelines_31-July-2020.pdf)
- Hockey Calgary Return to Hockey:  
[https://www.hockeycalgary.ca/assets/file/Operations/covid/Return\\_to\\_Play\\_-\\_Community\\_July.pdf](https://www.hockeycalgary.ca/assets/file/Operations/covid/Return_to_Play_-_Community_July.pdf)
- Hockey Alberta Return to Hockey:  
[https://www.hockeyalberta.ca/uploads/source/Return\\_To\\_Hockey/RETURNTOHOCKEYJUNE30.pdf](https://www.hockeyalberta.ca/uploads/source/Return_To_Hockey/RETURNTOHOCKEYJUNE30.pdf)
- Government of Alberta Website:  
<https://www.alberta.ca/prevent-the-spread.aspx>