



Hello Selects!

As the province has moved into Stage 3 of its framework to reopen, your SSMHA Executive has been working on a plan to return to play. We have taken into account all of our governing bodies, including Public Health Ontario, the Eastern Ontario Health Unit, the Township of South Stormont Long Sault Arena, and Hockey Eastern Ontario to ensure everyone is kept safe and healthy now that we can hit the ice.

At this point, we are planning for a Return to Play that looks quite different from our regular seasons, but we are doing everything we can to get our Selects back on the ice while keeping our players, parents, coaches and spectators safe. SSMHA, supported by HEO protocols, will provide small on-ice sessions for all of our registered players. Each group will be lead by a certified coach and trainer. All sessions must follow provincial and local public health, facility and SSMHA guidelines.

For now, our plan is from the start of the season (exact date still to be determined) until December 31st. As time goes on and the province and HEO move into new phases, we will update SSMHA's plan for the second half of the season; January to March. Whatever that plan is, we intend to have our players on the ice for the full season and we will communicate this to you appropriately

We understand the need to have an idea of what the season will look like before committing to it, so we are asking that those interested in registering for the 2020-2021 season submit pre-registration before August 16th. **Please note that those who pre-register will have priority should we have to limit registration, so be sure to respond by August 16th at midnight.** There is no financial commitment to pre-register. This is an important step in the process in order for the SSMHA Executive to determine what numbers of players we will have at each age group, the cost for the first half of the season, scheduling of ice times, etc.

Once we have an idea of numbers, we will open online registration. The online registration for SSMHA will be open from August 18th-August 26th at midnight. Once again, if you do not pre-register it is possible that you may not be eligible for a spot once registration opens. We do realize that some players may choose to sit out once the return to play details and costs have been finalized, so, registered players will have the chance to withdraw their registration without penalty prior to any on-ice activity.

This year more than ever, our groups will be determined by the number of registrations. Since bubbles are 50 or less, those who register first will have priority when we are forming the on-ice groups. Groups will be divided in U18 (formerly Midget), U15 (formerly Bantam), U13 (formerly Peewee), U11 (formerly Atom), U9 (formerly Novice), U7 (formerly IP), but we are unsure if anything will be tiered within these divisions. This will be determined by numbers of registrants.

While we do not have all of the details as of yet, here is an overview of what we know the Return to Play will look like:

- Anyone not registered by August 31st, 2020 will be unable to play for the upcoming season.
- Instead of teams, players and coaches will be organized in bubbles. The bubble will be no larger than 50 people total.
- Once a player or coach is assigned to a bubble, they CANNOT play with any other bubbles, under any circumstances.
- Phase 1 – Start of the season - December 31st, 2020
 - 1- 2 sessions of ice times a week
 - Focus on skill development / intra-bubble scrimmages

All SSMHA players, parents and guardians will be expected to adhere to all of the rules set forth by the Township of South Stormont which are in accordance with Eastern Ontario Health Unit. Please see the Township document for full details.

As an SSMHA player, your child will also be expected to adhere to the following:

- There is no body contact at any level
- Players and coaches must only play within their assigned bubbles
- Only sanctioned or assigned SSMHA ice times are covered under Hockey Canada insurance
- The SSMHA may change these guidelines in order to comply with provincial and local public health guidelines. Any such changes will be communicated appropriately
- Any player or group who does not adhere to the guidelines set forth by the arena will not be invited back to the rink for the remainder of the 2020-2021 season.

Please note that SSMHA cannot control what other activities our players take part in, nor can we control where people travel. We do require people to self monitor, and if you are having any symptoms, that you follow guidelines as set by Public Health Ontario and the Eastern Ontario Health Unit .

Let's get the kids back on the ice!

SSMHA executive

