



**SOUTH MUSKOKA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
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August 27, 2020

Earlier this month the Ontario Hockey Federation released their Return to Hockey Stage 3 plans which provided further details to seasonal structure and game play for the upcoming season.

[https://www.ohf.on.ca/media/tukpds4s/ohf-return-to-hockey\\_0731.pdf](https://www.ohf.on.ca/media/tukpds4s/ohf-return-to-hockey_0731.pdf) OHF Return to Hockey document.

### Key Highlights of Stage 3

- No tryouts – team formation will be based on where players played last season
- No affiliation or integration with other leagues – Players can only play for 1 team, no Select or AP'ing.
- No travel hockey – programming is based on player residency except for the provisions to import players at AAA and in the LOR (some travel is possible with adjacent Public health units in later stages)
- Modified Programming (not traditional 5-on-5)
- No contact hockey
- First 2 weeks is skill development

By far the most asked question and the most difficult to answer has been "What will the season look like?" We know there are a lot of rumours out there and recognize that in the absence of information, these rumours continue to flourish. We cannot emphasize enough that these plans could change drastically over the next few weeks depending on direction from the OMHA, our local PHU, the Towns and the Provincial Government. Based on the parameters within Stage 3 of the OHF Return to Play plan as well as the current safety requirements required by the Provincial Government and our local PHU; below is what is currently being considered and explored.

How quickly we can progress through the phases of Stage 3 is dependent more on the regional health units (PHUs) and direction from the Provincial Government than anything else.

Below is a portion of the chart explaining in short form what to expect in the upcoming stages.

The SMMHA continues to be committed to ensuring our membership is as informed as possible through these unprecedented times and will continue to keep you updated as things progress!

### Summary of Progressions within Stage 3

- We are currently in Stage 3a until August 31st
- As of September 1st we will move in to Stage 3b
- Stage 3b allows for:
  - Registration to open September 1st
  - All imports in the LOR can either register with the same club they played for last season or return to their home center.
  - Max of 30 people on the ice, including instructors and referees.

- Programming is skill development based, no game play at this stage.
- Stage 3c allows for:
- Max of 40 people on the ice, including instructors and referees
- Nothing changes regarding imports and those rules
- League Max is still 50
- Game Play is Modified 3-on-3 or 4-on-4 with no physical contact
- Stage 3d allows for:
- Max of 40 people on the ice including instructors and referees
- No changes to the rules for imports
- League max is still 50
- 5-on-5 play can be introduced with no physical contact
- Game Play may be allowed with adjacent Public Health Units
- Stage 3e allows for:
- Exact same as Stage 3d but with travel expanded to the Local Health Integration Network

Below Stage 4 would be the “regular style/play” of hockey. Providing there is no setbacks in regards to COVID-19.

The SMMHA is looking forward to getting the kids back on the ice in a SAFE Environment.

**Currently, SMMHA board decisions:**

- **closed registration and has a wait list due to capacity constraints and ice availability.**
- **We will be proceeding with modified 3 on 3 game play with rosters of 9 players and 1 goalie (10 total) from Cubs to U18 as per the OMHA.**
- **A committee has been formed to ensure we balance ice availability, registrations and ensure teams are formed based on where a player played last season as per direction from the OMHA.**
- **Registration fees will be announced in the coming weeks.**
- **Details regarding player arena access will be addressed under a separate cover. Please note spectators will not have access to the arenas. \*exception for Cubs families. 1 parent/guardian per player only.**
- **We are in need of over 35 coaches/trainers to have a season. If you are interested please email Player Development Director - abesseau32@gmail.com.**

We continue to work tirelessly and I can't thank the efforts of the SMMHA board enough for their efforts to ensure we remain committed to a season this year. Updates will be provided as information is available. Please stay tuned and thank you for your continued patience.

Have a safe last week of summer!

Go Bears Go!

Stephanie Oates  
President  
South Muskoka Minor Hockey Association