



November 18, 2020

Barrie AAA Zone Hockey Return to Play - Update #5

The “Bubble”

As the number of Covid cases are increasing within our area and in particular to the south of us it is imperative we do everything we can to help stop the spread, so the players can remain on the ice.

The OHF/OMHA and Health Unit rules are very clear on this. We are ONLY allowed to go on the ice with others from within our Health Unit. The OHF/OMHA further clarifies that we must only play with players on our Rosters and limit the size of our Bubble to a maximum of 50 people. We are allowed to play other divisions within the Barrie AAA Zone teams (one age group up or down) and can also play games with NCP who are within our Health Unit and partnered with us. But you can't do both. The combination of 2 teams totals in general terms, is about 40 people and a third team in the bubble would clearly exceed the 50 maximums. To change, for example from playing another team within our Association to play NCP requires a 14-day break of only practicing together as a team before adding a new group to the bubble.

As well, all play is limited to 4 on 4 competition, 5 on 5 play is not allowed.

Over the past weekend a group of parents elected to rent some ice and invite players from the Toronto area to have a scrimmage. There were approximately 10 Barrie AAA Zone players involved in this non sanctioned event. This was totally irresponsible of those involved and I might go as far as saying reckless on their part. The Teams that had players involved have been advised and are closely monitoring those players. The risk to the Barrie AAA Zone program of this type of event is very high and could result in our program being shut down.

Any future events of this nature will result in immediate suspension and quarantine of those involved and will not be tolerated.

Our objective is to work within the rules and protect our players to the extent we can, to provide a safe environment to continue our program. Any roll back beyond the current Yellow code we are under would seriously restrict and perhaps even suspend our on-ice program.

Christmas Break

We are currently looking at a break in our hockey operations from December 23 to January 4.

In light of the above bubble concept outlined above, I would recommend that both parents and players use this time to take a break from hockey. Should you choose to go on-ice with players outside our area or not within your "bubble" then you may seriously want to consider the risk to our current players. You will be required to take a 14-day break or provide us with a negative Covid test before returning to the Barrie AAA Zone program to avoid any risk of virus spread.

Future Plans

At this point our current program, is tentatively planned to start up on January 4 and run until late March. It will probably be much the same as we have done over the past couple of months. I had certainly hoped we would have seen some positive improvements in the number of cases but to date that certainly has not happened. Our goal right now is to continue to keep the players on the ice and do everything we can to avoid any further restrictions. In the event conditions improve, we remain ready to expand our program as conditions warrant.

Thank you to everyone for your understanding and cooperation as we all work together to safely keep our hockey program going.

Hugh Campbell
Chairman, Barrie AAA Zone Hockey