



September 2, 2020

Barrie AAA Zone Hockey Return to Play - Update #2

We are continuing to work on a return to play plan and there are some changes to the last update of August 11, given the ever-changing landscape and clarifications we continue to receive.

Throughout this process, we will continue to ensure all return to play puts the safety of our participants first and foremost.

We will officially start the Barrie AAA Zone on October 1, 2020 with 8 teams from Minor Atom (U10) to Midget (U18).

As we cannot have a Novice division at the current time, there will be no Barrie AAA Zone program for this age group, players in U9 will have to register with their Home Centres or explore other opportunities suitable for their child.

Only players who were rostered with the Barrie AAA Zone last season will be eligible to register, with the exception that players who have moved into our Zone or are returning from another Centre and played at a AAA level last season, will be able to join us. Players who were listed as APs last season are not eligible to register with our program in accordance with OHF rules.

At the current time we have a number of players involved in some “summer” hockey programs. This involvement is outside the Barrie AAA Zone system and not part of our program. As of September 30, 2020, as per OHF regulations, players will not be allowed to be rostered within our Association and also play within these non-sanctioned events.

As per the **OHF Return to Play Framework (July 29, 2020)** here are some of the highlights. The complete document is on our website as a link.

- **Stage 3b - Return to Practice and Play - - September 1 onward**
- **Safety Protocols** - Associations are required to follow the protocols identified in the Hockey Canada Safety Guidelines. In addition, **ALL** participants, including players, coaches, instructors, must complete a health screening prior to each participation in an on-ice activity. The health screening may be completed verbally.
- In addition, a Tracking Sheet must be completed for each on-ice session to facilitate Contact Tracing in the event of a COVID-19 exposure.

Rostering - Teams will be rostered to a maximum of 9 players + 1 goalie.
Five (5) Team Officials can be rostered to each team, however, ONLY one Coach and one Trainer can be on the bench during 3v3 & 4v4 games in order to maintain physical distancing on bench.

Representative Hockey -During Stage 3, there will no Traditional Representative Hockey Leagues and no Team Tryouts.

AAA Zones - Joint Programming – AAA Zone partners with Feeder MHA (same PHU) partner to provide programming or Two (or more) AAA Zones (same PHU) partner to play against each other and create their cohort/bubble

Game Play - Following a minimum two-week development phase for any new programs, modified 3 on 3 or 4 on 4 game play with No Physical Contact hockey may begin.
All Game Play is within local Public Health Unit.
All Game Play must be conducted in conjunction with the local PHU and facility rules for the purpose of sanitation and physical distancing.

AAA - Players can stay where they were rostered in 2019-20 or return to their home association. There will be no OHF AAA Waivers available in Stage 3.

New Players - MHAs need to have a plan for a player who has moved in or player who did not participate last year and put them in appropriate level

In accordance with the above information, we will plan to partner with the North Central Predators for the purpose of playing 3 on 3 or 4 on 4 games.

We plan to start in October with each Team having 2 – one hour practices, a Monday night Development session and a one hour scrimmage game per week. We are currently limited to one hour time slots, particularly at the multi-use facilities (Holly, Allandale, East Bayfield) by the City to accommodate their requirements for people to enter and exit the facilities. Schedules may vary slightly subject to City restrictions and ice availability. We are currently planning to use ice in both Barrie and Innisfil.

Also, to begin with, spectators will not be allowed in the rink except to assist younger players with skate tie up and drop off then exit the rink until their session is completed. We expect this to change as the City gets more direction from the Health Unit (PHU) in the future.

There will be detailed rules from the City regarding use of the facilities, a waiver that will be required for each entry and detailed attendance for tracing. The City currently restricts the number of skaters to 12 per session, we are expecting that to increase to a maximum of 25 for our Oct. 1 start up.

Additional Hockey Canada safety guidelines are also available on our website **Safety Guidelines June 4, 2020** which includes under Appendix A roles and responsibilities for Coaches, Players and Parents for your review.

We plan to accept all players rostered on a Barrie AAA Zone team last season, into the program this year with some minor exceptions detailed below. Given our roster numbers from last year most teams will have 15-18 players.

We will be restricting team sizes to a maximum of 20 players (2 rosters per team of 9 players + 1 goalie) and up to 4 coaching staff on ice plus a trainer. Should we have more than 20 players register per division such as Midget (which is a 2-year cohort) or if a number of new players in a division have moved or returned to our Zone, players may be provided an opportunity to go to NCP at a AAA level rather than return to their Home Centre if we cannot accommodate them in our program. If a division has more than 20 players registered it will be up to the Coach to determine who is rostered and we will work with the families on an individual basis to try and provide a suitable alternative for those we are unable to accommodate.

Please remember this is not a tryout or the team, but rather a process to get the kids back on the ice within the many restrictions we have. A normal style tryout may take place later in the season but for now no one is guaranteed a spot on a team going forward.

We are required to submit a detailed Return to Ice Plan to the City, the Health Unit and the OMHA for approval prior to starting up, this is currently being prepared based on information provided to us from HC, OHF, OMHA, City of Barrie etc.

A large part of getting back on the ice and how quickly we may or may not get to the next stages will depend on how the back to school process goes. How and when we get beyond this initial stage is unknown for now.

In that context, we will have a 2-part registration that will initially cover from October 1 to December 23, 2020, where we will operate as described above. As we progress and things change, we will determine the program from January 1, 2021 to the end of the season. Our objective is to just cover costs for this year and keep the registration cost as low as possible. We are currently planning a hockey break from Dec. 23 to Jan. 1.

Through this first period from October 1 to December 23, 2020, there will be no tournaments or play against other Centres other than NCP. The requirement for a Team Budget should be of a minimal amount for refs and timekeeper, practice jerseys and socks and other minor expenses.

For the Barrie AAA Zone program from October 1 to December 23, 2020, with each Team in general, having 2 – one-hour practices, a Monday night Development session and a one-hour scrimmage game per week **for the 12-week period the cost of Registration will be of \$1350 per player**. This will be paid in 3 installments of \$450 per month for October, November and

December. Details for registration and payment are currently being finalized and will be posted on our website in the next few days.

For the period from January 1, 2021 to the end of the season, this cost will be determined later when we have more details on what type of program we can provide. Again, our objective is to just cover costs and keep the registration cost as low as possible.

We will be holding our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING for the BARRIE AAA ZONE HOCKEY Inc.** via a ZOOM Conference call on Thurs. Sept. 24. All parents with a player registered with us last year are eligible to attend and details are available on our website.

As part of putting this plan together a number of documents were used as reference from the OHF, OMHA and City of Barrie. They are all attached with this update and on our website. I would urge everyone to review these in more detail to help educate you on the various restrictions and expectations we will be faced with moving forward.

As we proceed, things will change and we will react accordingly, trying to keep all the objectives outlined above in mind. There is no guarantee that this will all work out without some hiccups, but we intend to do our best to provide our players and parents with as comprehensive a program as we can this year. I realize we are somewhat late in getting information out to you, but it has been a difficult and complicated process to get all the answers required from a number of sources and your continued cooperation and understanding is appreciated.

As more details are available, we will do our best to keep you updated.

Hugh Campbell
Chairman, Barrie AAA Zone Hockey

Resources (see Website – Return to Hockey):

https://barrieaaazone.ca/Pages/3967/Return_to_Hockey_Resources/

1. OHF Return to Play Checklist
2. Hockey Canada Return to Hockey Safety Guidelines
3. OHF Return to Hockey Framework;
4. OMHA Return to Hockey Framework – Addendum
5. City of Barrie Ice Use Protocol
6. OHF Health Screening Questionnaire
7. OHF Session Participation Tracking