



# NMHA - Return To Play

2020 / 2021 Season

# Intro

The NMHA executive board, along with the Return To Play Committee, has been hard at work during the past 2 months developing a return to play framework that we believe follows all protocols put into place by our governing bodies, governments and health units. While nothing is perfect during these unprecedented times, we feel that getting the players back on the ice, safely, has been our goal since the beginning of this project.

We must adhere to not only our Town facility rules, but the health department of York Region, Government of Ontario, Hockey Canada, OHF and the OMHA (the “Governing Bodies”). All releases may be found at these respective sites. Currently using the OHF’s framework for returning to hockey, we will be entering Stage 3B September 1st. Procedures and protocols will adjust accordingly as time goes on, according to the Governing Bodies.

# To begin...

We ask that all families and players strictly adhere to all the guidelines and protocols that are set out by the NMHA, Town, facilities and our governing bodies. For the safety of all members, there will be a zero tolerance policy in effect for the remainder of the season.

The following items have been discussed and agreed upon by the Return To Play Committee and the NMHA board, which we now bring forward to our members. This will outline how our season will look for the foreseeable future.

***Tier 1 Players** - those who played AAA, AA, A, AE or MD last season*

***Tier 2 Players** - those who played HL last season (includes AP's and Select Players)*

# Season Overview

***There may be some exceptions and modifications due to typical 'holidays' & functions.***

Teams will be rostered to a maximum of 9 players + 1 goalie. Divisions will consist of 4 teams per division in order to maintain total players per division (division bubble or cohort) below the maximum allowable of 50. Teams will be picked & put together between September 2nd and the 15th. We will put forth every effort to ensure all teams are equally balanced according to skill level. Team selections will be notified by your team's coach after selections have completed.

Each ice session (game or practice) will be 50 minutes in length. This may change as the season progresses, but we will follow rules as per our PHU guidelines.

All teams from U10 and above will be playing 4v4, unless one team on the ice has 6 skaters or less, then will revert to a 3v3 game....no exceptions.

# Season continued...

**First half of the season will run until December 20th, then break for Xmas.**

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**Second half of the season will begin up again the week of January 4th, running until the end of March.**

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**Schedules will follow when they are ready and after teams have been set.**

For **U10 and above**, the season will consist of a 24 week schedule, with adjustments made accordingly throughout the season depending on what stage we find ourselves in at that time. Should tryouts be allowed at some point, we will organize within guidelines set out by the governing bodies. We anticipate the official start of season (for U10 and above) is set for September 21st - with games beginning the week of October 5th. The Town has indicated that these timelines work with their schedule.

For **U9 and under**, the season will consist of a 22 week schedule. Start of the U9 and under program will begin approximately October 5th, with games beginning the week of November 1st for U8 & U9 only. *U9 and below will still be following their respective player development pathways.*

\*\*\* U9 and Tier 1 U10 – U15 will have 1 extra session every third week for practice.

Face masks will be mandatory for entry into any facility, kept on while dressing and only being removed once ready to start the ice sessions. Once off the ice, face masks must be worn immediately after and until having left the facility. There will be one parent permitted to enter the facility with the player for ice sessions. Parents will have to exit the building during the players ice sessions as no parent spectators will be permitted at this time. Parents must also wear face masks continually.

Dressing Rooms will be only open for players to put on their skates/helmets/gloves, in designated space provided by the Town. Players are to come to the arena dressed in all their hockey gear, except skates/helmet/gloves. Goalies will be expected to come fully dressed, except for skates/pads/chest protector/glove/blocker/mask. Goalies will be permitted to put these on in the dressing room or provided area. Coaches will not have access to separate dressing rooms at this time. Once skates and equipment are on, players will have to bring their personal belongings out to a designated area around the ice pad where they are playing. Once their ice session is over, they will remove their skates at that point, then exit the ice pad via designated exit point only. Balance of Town rules will be as previously released and are subject change as time progresses.

***\*Please [click here](#) for the Town's release relating to facility use.***

Coach Mentor, convenors, executives, coaches and volunteers will be permitted to watch practices and games. This is actually preferred by the town.

Facility washrooms will be available for limited emergency use only. We ask that you ensure that everyone has completed a washroom pit stop BEFORE coming to the arena, especially the younger age groups. The Town is anticipating having 4 ice pads open and running by September 28th.

**Every player is to bring their own FILLED & LABLLED water bottle. There will be no filling stations available at the facilities. There will also be no sharing of water.....zero exceptions for the year.**

**New for the 2020-21 hockey season**, all Team Officials (Coach, Trainer, Manager) and HCOP On-Ice Officials are required to complete the Hockey University: Planning a Safe Return to Hockey course. There is no charge to access the course and it only takes approximately 15 minutes.

# Coaches & Bench Staff

For both Tier 1 and 2 teams, each team must have a Head Coach, plus a Trainer. Only the Head Coach and Trainer are required to be rostered initially, but additional bench staff may also be rostered. However, only 2 will be permitted on the ice/bench per session.

***For this season, no special player or coach playing requests will be honoured this year. With the exception of siblings only.***

Coaches who need certification - OMHA coming out with info very shortly, hopefully low hurdles to jump for all coaches who need to upgrade their training, have none or are expiring.

VP's and Alternates are working on ensuring there are enough coaches and trainers to stage for every team.



**Decision on rogue or unsanctioned leagues** - *We have been instructed to advise our members/players that they have to choose by Sept 30th that they either play with our NMHA association (OMHA Sanctioned) **OR** they play in a different independent league....but not both. The NMHA will be following guidelines as outlined by the Governing Bodies for the entire season. For the time being, there will be no participation permitted in any tournaments. \*Please [click here](#) for the OHF regarding this topic. Also note that if you are not registered with the NMHA now, should try-outs be permitted part way through the season, you will not be permitted to try-out for one of our rep teams at that time.*

**All pre-registered players, including AAA players must advise the NMHA office by no later than 5pm on September 1st if they intend to cancel their registrations.** If you do not cancel your registration, invoices will be generated and forwarded to your e-mail address that was used in your registration. It is critical to follow this timeline so that we can assign places to any players on the waiting list. We are also currently working on payment options and for those who need an installment plan. Further information to be finalized soon, if available. All those participating in our program will be invoiced after September 1st.

**IMPORTANT! Please Read**

# General Info

For this season, we will be using ePact software for electronic collection of the mandatory medical forms for all players. This was piloted with the Rep program last season with great success. In addition, we will be implementing a Covid-19 questionnaire through the ePact software and app. This MUST be completed by all players/parents within 2 hours of attending the ice session or event. There will be no exceptions granted to those who have not completed their questionnaire and waiver.

Team Trainers will be responsible for ensuring ePact Covid forms have been completed, in both tiers. \*We request that all parents and players be extremely responsible going forward this season. If you have a sniffle, cold, cough, etc.....please stay away from the team and advise the coach. Respect will be needed for everyone else's health and safety, more so this season.

Thank you to all our members and your patience during the past few months. We fully understand that there have been many different opinions out there and assumptions. In the end, we are all looking forward to getting our members and players back on the ice, as we are permitted.

# Tier 1

## Fee Structure

### 2020 / 2021 Season

- ❑ U10/U11 (Atom) Tier 1 - \$760.00
- ❑ U12/U13 (Peewee) Tier 1 - \$760.00
- ❑ U14/U15 (Bantam) Tier 1 - \$780.00
- ❑ U16/U18 (Midget) Tier 1 - \$630.00

*\*A multiple player family discount will be honoured for families with 3 or more players as in previous seasons*

*\*\*The out-of-town fee will be waived for this season only*



# Tier 2

## Fee Structure

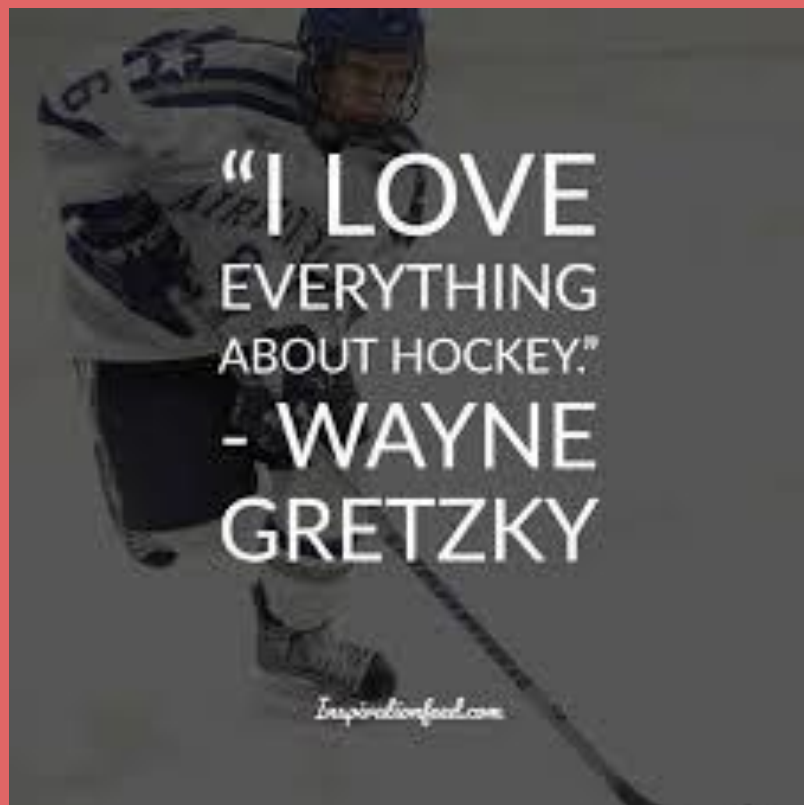
### 2020 / 2021 Season

- ❑ U7 (Initiation) Tier 2 - \$375.00
- ❑ U8 (Minor Novice) Tier 2 - \$545.00
- ❑ U9 (Novice) Tier 2 - \$610.00
- ❑ U10/U11 (Atom) Tier 2 - \$610.00
- ❑ U12/U13 (Peewee) Tier 2 - \$610.00
- ❑ U14/U15 (Bantam) Tier 2 - \$630.00
- ❑ U16/U18/U21 (Mid/Juv) Tier 2 - \$630.00

*\*A multiple player family discount will be honoured for families with 3 or more players as in previous seasons*

*\*\*The out-of-town fee will be waived for this season only*





The main focus of  
this upcoming  
modified season  
will be FUN &  
ENJOYMENT, for  
ALL our players!

# Thanks!

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