

Dear Parents and Players:

As you may already be aware from the news articles recently published, the City has recently confirmed they will be re-opening the arenas to fulfill the usual demand of minor sports groups. However, they have not yet provided our detailed ice allocation, which makes it impossible to finalize our scheduling yet. We only have our ice for August 29th to Sept. 3rd, so far.

So – for your planning purposes – here are the dates for Competitive tryouts for this season:

U11 A Tryouts – August 29th – Sept 3

U13 A Tryouts – August 29th – Sept 3

U15 A Tryouts – August 29th – Sept 3

U18 A Tryouts – August 29th – Sept 3

All other ice times will begin sometime after September 8th.

This delay in ice allocation has delayed our ability to schedule and publish both the Rep Tryout formats and policies and the C evaluation schedule – especially in light of the reduced numbers per ice time that we know we will need to maintain for at least the tryout period. We will send complete TRYOUT schedules hopefully by August 25th.

Recreational schedules will be sent once we have the September ice contracts from the City of Nanaimo.

We are very hopeful at this point that we will be able to provide a fun and competitive program this season, with as close to a usual tryout and evaluation process as possible. Some things will be definitely be different due to Covid-19 safety precautions – but we also think that in some ways those different things will result in a better experience for the kids.

- We are presently in Phase 2 in the ViaSport Return-To-Sport Activity Chart, which means there is no approval for any contact or game like on-ice inter-action. Until further notice, our players will participate in Skills-based on ice instruction.
- All players who have registered for REP tryouts will be placed in PODS (we will do our best to balance the group based on skill from previous year play). Please note that only 16-24 skaters are allowed on the ice (including coaches) which could result in more groups and/or ice times that are traditionally facilitated.
- Tier 1 players from out of town will be included and released back to their home associations as we complete the first round of tryouts.
- Players may be released to recreational practice PODS, if they are evaluated to do so

Agencies are working together. The development of Return-To-Play plans is ongoing and is being undertaken by all organizations – we feel very confident that the collaborative approach strengthens our collective ability to develop programming that aligns with Provincial Health Authorities, continues the sport development priorities of our governing agencies while balancing the needs of other ice sport organizations and the expectations of our respective young athletes and membership.

It is an going and changing environment. We will continue to do our best to provide relevant information in a timely manner but being mindful not to expand upon rumors. As information is made available to us, we will do our best to update all and provide some vision for the future.

For the upcoming season, we are working on our schedule that will include skills sessions, practices, REP evaluations, Recreation evaluations, then in future months game play.

- Unfortunately, we have not received our complete ice schedule from the City of Nanaimo, therefore, are presently not in a position to confirm a schedule that includes timelines for the whole season.
- Please note that once Phase 3 (*Progressively Loosen*) in the viaSport Return-To-Sport Activity Chart is activated and it is only then we can gradually introduce body contact and other phased-in game like programming that will enable us to complete our respective player REP and Recreation Division evaluations
- Presently, while in Phase 2 in the ViaSport Return-To-Sport Activity Chart, our players will participate in Skills-based on ice instruction.

Our minor hockey programming will follow Hockey Canada's Return-To-Play Stages and the Canadian Player Pathways.

Note: *At present we are in the Return to Ice Stage re: Hockey Canada*

At present we are in the Transition Measures Phase 2 re: ViaSport

The following links are summary descriptions for both Hockey Canada's Return-To-Hockey Stages and ViaSport's Return-To-Sport Activity Chart and are provided for your reference:

- Hockey Canada's Return-To-Play Stages will be aligned with the Province of BC's ViaSport Return-To-Sport Activities Chart

[Hockey Canada Return-To-Hockey Stages](#)

[viaSport Return-To-Sport Chart](#)