

Good morning OMHA Members,

It is with great sadness that we announce that minor hockey in Okotoks will continue to be put-on pause following the recent announcement from the Alberta Government. This is very disappointing as we have all done our best to follow protocols set out by AHS. We want to thank the entire membership for all the efforts made to this point.

While tremendous amount of work has gone into the planning and the re-start of hockey this season, the ongoing coronavirus (COVID_19) pandemic has created a position where there is no further option. Alberta Health Services along with the Alberta Government have put the current season on hold until December 18th, 2020.

After review this is what we know until further information is received from Hockey Alberta and Alberta Health Services:

Exemptions - we do not fall into this category as it is set for Pro, World Tournaments and those leagues that can operate within a bubble. The AJHL has currently lost their exemption for now.

One on One - Sports can only go ahead with one-on-one instruction. One instructor and one player on indoor ice.

Outdoor Maximums - Groups of ten can gather outdoors. Do not try to gather a whole team on an ODR.

Three week order - starting Nov 27 and then hopefully back on the ice for Dec 19th. Games that weekend may be pushed forward to allow for practices, but it is unclear at this time.

Extended Season – The OMHA & OAAA will be investigating possibilities of extending the season.

Refunds – We have started to look into this and they will be assessed as we understand the length of time this pause will take place. We will have a better understanding near the end of the season. Obviously, no one planned for a shortened season and we will work diligently with Hockey Alberta and all the leagues to extend the current season if possible.

As we continue to wait until players can step back on the ice again. We again thank everyone for their understanding and cooperation in this delicate matter and join all of our members and partner organizations in wishing everyone all the best as we continue to navigate through this pandemic.

The OMHA & OOAA will release further relevant information as it becomes available.

Geoff Stewart