



# START OF SEASON SUMMARY

All registered members in Sherwood Park Minor Hockey for the 2020-2021 season are encouraged to review the **Start of Season Plan** document in its entirety. It includes more detail on the listed items below as well as an FAQ section. A summary of the document is as follows:

Facilitating a safe return to hockey is paramount. SPMHA will follow Hockey Alberta's programming delivery recommendations of:

- Physically-distanced skill development; and
- Utilization of sport "cohorts" as defined by Alberta Health

SPMHA will be deferring traditional evaluations. We will create Development Groups within Divisional Cohorts. These Development Groups will not be the final teams. We will be taking a three-step approach to this process, and it is the belief of the Board that this approach will offer a more comprehensive evaluation resulting in more balanced and accurate teams:

1. Development Group Placement
2. Baseline Evaluations & Development Season Feedback
3. Team Creation

The Edmonton Federation Hockey League (EFHL) has planned the start of gameplay for as early as November 1st. There are several gameplay options in discussion. The breakdown of seasonal structure, as per Hockey Alberta, will be in three phases as well:

1. The Development Season
2. Modified Competition Season
3. Traditional Gameplay

Ice scheduling is being reviewed with the County of Strathcona. Players will be notified of their Development Group placement no later than 5-7 days prior to their first skate. Players may be on the ice as early as:

- U9/U11 - September 8th
- U13/U15 - September 12th
- U18/U21 - September 19th
- Discovery/U7 - September 23rd

Registration fees will be reviewed throughout the season and communication on refunds/credits, if any, will be communicated at the end of the season. This is to allow for a comparison of the hockey program offering this season as compared to prior seasons.

For more information, review the **SPMHA Start of Season Plan** document.