



# TRANSITION COHORT FOR DISCOVERY, U6 & U7

Recognizing that the participants in the Discovery, U6 and U7 divisions may require additional attention as the season begins, SPMHA has considered a player-focused approach to the start of the season. It is noted that the roster sizes for these divisions leave ample room for the addition of cohorted participants given the current Alberta Health guidelines. Note that SPMHA will continue to operate within these guidelines at all times. Also, it is noted that traditional Intro to Hockey game play is not scheduled until December of each season. Based on this, SPMHA has made the decision to extend the invitation to *Equipment Contacts* within the cohorts.

## WHAT IS AN EQUIPMENT CONTACT?

An Equipment Contact is a designated parent/guardian that can assist a player in the Discovery, U6 or U7 divisions with entrance to the facility and dressing room, assistance of equipment and exit from the facility. The Equipment Contact will be considered a part of the cohort and will be subject to additional responsibilities and timelines.

## EQUIPMENT CONTACT RESPONSIBILITIES

An Equipment Contact will be treated as any other participant in the cohort and accepts the following responsibilities:

- Adhere to all facility guidelines including: wearing a mask at all times, sanitizing upon entrance/exit, and physically distancing at all times where appropriate
- Check-In with Designate. The Equipment Contact must be added to the Team Snap roster. An Equipment Contact must have availability marked in the Team Snap application for purposes of contact tracing, and must also complete a Health Check prior to entering the facility.
- Introduce your player to the coaching group to establish a connection so as to prepare for the game play phase
- Once equipment assistance is complete, the Equipment Contact should vacate the facility and then be treated as a spectator, therefore included in the spectator capacity

## TIMELINE - GAME PLAY PHASE

Equipment Contacts will be considered a part of the cohort up to, and including, November 15th, 2020. After this date, the Equipment Contacts are to be removed from the cohort and the Team Snap roster, and are considered spectators. This will allow for a two-week isolation period of the remaining participants before they are put into a game play cohort with another team.

## CAUTIONS - DRESSING ROOMS & FACILITY ACCESS

There is an inherent risk that is accepted by all participants for registration in a youth sports association during a pandemic. On top of this, not all facilities are created equal. Therefore, it is important to note that the Equipment Contact accepts the responsibility of arrival and exit times at the facility for himself/herself and their respective player, as well as use of the dressing rooms.

## PARTICIPANT FACILITY ACCESS

All participants and spectators are expected to adhere to the Strathcona County Arena Re-Entry Guidelines. Please review the updated document on our [COVID-19 Response webpage](#). Participants will not be permitted entrance to the arena earlier than 30 minutes. Upon arrival, the designate will confirm that all participants have completed the pre-screening process before entering. Participants are then to proceed immediately to their dressing room area but are not required to use the dressing room. Where applicable, facilities will provide additional seating options in the dressing room area for skate-tying. All participants should make an effort to physically distance themselves while in the facility, including the dressing room area. Participants should proceed to the ice at the scheduled ice start time.

## KNOW YOUR FACILITY

Some scheduled sessions will have facilities with minimal dressing room space (Ardrossan West). Others will be shared with another group using bigger ice (Arena/Shell/SOC). This means potentially having access to only one dressing room. During shared skates, separate cohorts are not to mix, and are encouraged to use isolated entrance/exit points where applicable, as well as to follow the traffic flow signage offered by facilities. Know your facility in advance, and plan your session preparation to avoid dressing room congestion and congregation.

## USE OF DRESSING ROOMS

The use of dressing rooms is at the discretion of the participants. The comfort level of our members accessing dressing rooms will vary. Should you feel uncomfortable having your child, in a dressing room, we encourage you to show up closer to your start time, and to show up ready to play. This includes skates tied and helmets on, if possible. We recognize that players in the Discovery, U6 & U7 divisions may not be able to dress at home and travel to the facility pending their seating arrangement in a vehicle. While inconvenient, we still encourage participants to dress in their vehicle in the parking lot when able. We are working with the County to offer additional space for equipment requirements (i.e. skate tying). We have been advised that dressing room capacities apply to physically-distanced sessions. Scheduled cohort sessions are not physically-distanced sessions. We've been advised that members of a cohort can share a room above and beyond capacity limits. A reminder that in order to minimize traffic and the number of people in and around the dressing rooms, **only cohorted participants are allowed in the dressing room areas**, including hallway areas outside the dressing rooms. No

siblings or additional family members. Coaches will be available to tie skates and assist players if needed if an Equipment Contact is not able to.