

# ARENA RETURN TO PLAY

MRC

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# MULTI-RECREATION CENTRE ARENA RETURN TO PLAY

All restrictions and guidelines will adhere to the Government of Alberta and Alberta Health Services recommendations. They will supersede any company, association or individual policies or restrictions.

We look forward to welcoming our various user groups back in a safe manner. The following restrictions are in place to ensure safety of our users and our staff. Please note, at any moment the following guidelines may change and any and all items outlined below may be increased or decreased in restriction.

Important definitions:

## Cohort

A COVID-19 cohort, also referred to as a bubble, circle, or safe squad, is a small group whose members – always the *same* people - do not always keep 2 metres apart. Sports teams can play in region-only cohorts of up to 50 players and coaching staff (mini leagues). Sports cohort numbers do not include parents or spectators. The Government of Alberta recommends that individuals only belong to one sport cohort. For example, if an individual plays hockey, they would not also play in a volleyball mini league.

## Mini-League

Mini leagues are a way to cohort individuals who participate in a sport or physical activity in close proximity of others.

In Stage 2, 50-person mini-leagues can be formed for sports or physical activity that involve participant interaction at a distance of less than 2 metres. The 50-person maximum includes coaches/staff, instructors, participants from multiple teams, officials, and volunteers. Each mini-league can be comprised of multiple teams, but still only a total of 50 individuals.

## Spectators

In Stage 2, with 2 metres of distance maintained between members of different households (with the exception of cohort families), the following capacity restrictions apply, a maximum of 100 spectators are permitted for indoor events/settings.

## Facility Changes Impacting Users

- Designated arrival and departure times for each booking
- Established entry and exit pathways and doors
- Sanitization stations upon entry to both the facility and arenas
- Potential for masks required in arenas for spectators.
- No yelling, spitting, singing, cheering, blowing nose or dancing permitted
- No socializing in lobby area

- Socially/physically distance at all times unless user group is identified as a cohort
- When making user group bookings, they must identify if they are booking as a cohort or as a physically distanced group
- Masks encouraged in areas where social distancing is unable to be maintained
- Children and youth (spectators) must be with a responsible adult seated in the arena and at no time can there be free playing in the facility (this includes mini sticks, running around in the arena, standing at the glass or playing in the stands)
- All spectators must be seated and cannot stand at arena glass
- No children permitted in the lobby area at any time without a supervising adult (this includes to go to and from the washroom)
- Fieldhouse use is not permitted unless booked appropriately for specific use. Children/youth will not be allowed in the fieldhouse unless with a supervising adult doing a specific pre-booked activity.
- Participants must arrive no more than 15 minutes prior to their booking time and must exit the facility no more than 15 minutes after their booking time has concluded
- Water bottles must be labelled
- Designated Covid Safety Coordinator to be identified by each Association and that person will be responsible for ensuring their organization compliance with all restrictions and will be the central point of contact between the Town of Slave Lake and their Association on all issues relating to this document and Covid.

### Facility Changes Impacting Operating

- Increased cleaning and sanitization standards
- Increased protocols in monitoring compliance with AHS and Government of Alberta restrictions
- No drop-in activities permitted
- Private bookings permitted
- Large signage indicating all expectations of behaviours will be placed upon the entry of the building as well as in each arena.
- We will communicate in our newsletters, digital signs and social media in regards to restrictions and protocols
- We will work with user groups to assist them through this process where it makes sense

### Pre-Entry

- Each Association is responsible for contact tracing for their users. Each Association will need to develop a system to ensure that the information on who is in the facility at each specific time slot associated with the group. Common ways to do this include attendance sheets for athletes and sign in sheets for spectators. These must be maintained for two weeks as per AHS guidelines.

- Each Association is responsible for ensuring they are monitoring the health screening of those entering the facility with their association. Common ways to do this is a verbal health screen as members arrive, pre-filled out health screening questionnaires or an online app. Generally the respective Association will have outlined their expectations.
- Users are encouraged to arrive as dressed as possible. This may include fully dressed, including skates with skate guards on.
- Change rooms will be available for those who have identified as cohorts when booking. Masks in change rooms is encouraged. Showers will remain closed.
- Users must not arrive more than 15 minutes prior to their scheduled ice time. Arrival any earlier will require the user to wait outside (users will also be required to exit the facility within 15 minutes after their ice time is concluded).
- Hockey Canada and the MRC are encouraging athletes to not bring hockey bags inside the facility.

### Within the Facility

1. Enter facility and sanitize.
2. Respect social and physical distancing in lobby and entry/exit.
3. User groups that have identified as cohorts will proceed directly to the change room(s) they have been assigned.
  - a. For the first week users will wait in change rooms until an MRC staff member has reviewed the safety procedures with the group.
  - b. Masks are encouraged in change rooms if social distancing is unable to be maintained.
4. Physically distanced users will immediately proceed to the designated arena.
5. Potential protocol will be in place for spectators to mask prior to entering arena.
6. Spectators to immediately proceed to the spectator area (stands).
7. If skates require to be put on, proceed to the skate tying area. Adults/volunteers tying skates are required to sanitize prior to assisting with skate tying and will be required to sanitize between tying different athletes skates.

Upon completion of the booking time:

8. Physical distanced skaters to replace skate guard (or change into footwear at designated space) and immediately exit the facility with their spectators.
9. Cohort identified skaters can proceed to their assigned change rooms. All users, including those assigned change rooms, have 15 minutes to exit the change room and be out of the facility.
10. While exiting the facility, social distancing must be maintained.
11. Loitering to socialize within the facility will not be permitted (even if within the 15 minute exit time allotted).

### Goalies – Socially Distanced User Group

Goalies will be asked to dress as much as possible prior to arriving. Given the unique nature of their pads, designated goalie areas (may be a change room) will be created for goalies to change into their pads. These are specific for goalies and no other athletes will be permitted in this area at any time. One volunteer (coach/parent) may be allowed to assist the goalie if required.

## Goalies – Cohort User Group

Goalies will be able to join their team and change in their identified change rooms.

## Athletes

Athletes will adhere to the following restrictions:

- No yelling, spitting, dancing, singing, blowing nose or cheering
- Water bottles will be labelled and there will be no sharing of water bottles
- Physical distancing user groups will maintained physical distancing at all times off ice (including on benches), with the exception of entering and exiting the ice
- Cohort user groups will not be required to maintain physical distancing on benches
- If more spacing is required off benches there will be specific floor markers for athletes to stand

## Cohorts

Cohort restrictions will be maintained:

- Sports teams will play in a region-only cohort of up to 50 players and coaching staff (mini leagues)
  - This means that if a hockey team has 14 players and 2 coaches they can play in a mini league (or bubble) against two other specific teams for the entire season (or unless the cohort restrictions change).

## Spectators

Spectators will adhere to the following restrictions:

- Potential protocol for masks to be worn in the arenas at all times
- No yelling, spitting, dancing, singing, blowing nose or cheering
- Will socially distance when possible
- Will socially distance when outside the arena in the main areas at all times
- Will enter the facility and proceed directly to the stands (unless helping an athlete)
- Maximum 100 spectators will be permitted within each arena
- In Arena 2, along the length of the arena masks will be required as physical distancing is unable to achieved in this area.

## Visiting User Groups/Teams

- Visiting groups will follow all protocols and restrictions of our facility
- We can work to supply them with a visiting team guide
- Visiting teams will be expected to identify as physical distancing or cohort a minimum of 48 hours in advance of their arrival.
  - If the teams identify as cohort they will be assigned change room(s)
- Visiting teams identifying as physically distancing will have designated areas to tie skates and enter arenas, where appropriate and will be expected to arrive fully dressed.

## Safety Guidelines

The MRC has designated change room 10 as an isolation room in the event an individual identifies any symptoms while in the facility. The change room will remain locked but will be available to be unlocked by the front desk or any operations staff member.

Each association will develop their own rapid response plan or utilize the Rapid Response Plan indicated below. Each Association will advise the MRC of their rapid response plan. Each Association is required keep masks, sanitizer, gloves and relevant first aid equipment on hand for their volunteers and their athletes in the event of a symptomatic situation.

## Designated Covid Safety Coordinator

A Designated Covid Safety Coordinator to be identified by each Association and that person will be responsible for ensuring their organization compliance with all restrictions and will be the central point of contact between the Town of Slave Lake and their Association on all issues relating to this document and Covid.

This person will be responsible for implementing protocols and procedures within their own Association to ensure communication, education and compliance at all levels.

For larger Associations we would encourage each team or level to have a designated Covid Safety Coordinator that reports to a Central Covid Safety Coordinator.

## Compliance

Given the high risk manner of Covid and the potential for AHS and the Alberta Government to shut the entire facility down in the event our users are not following protocols, we are implementing a compliance matrix. Associations, groups or users claiming ignorance of expectations will not be a permitted excuse to avoid an offense consequence.

In the event that user groups (including spectators) are not following the restrictions outlined in this document:

First Offense	Verbal and written warning	
Second Offense	Next practice or ice time will be lost. If specific to a team, it will be that team's next ice time. For example: if the offence occurs during the Atom B team ice time, it will be the Atom B's next practice that will be cancelled.	User group will not be charged for that ice time

	Games will not be cancelled.	
Third Offence	The user group or team (if specific to an individual team) will lose their ice times until they provide a written plan outlining how they plan to follow restrictions moving forward.	User group will not be charged for loss of ice times.
Fourth Offence	The user group will not be permitted to use the facility for the remainder of the season.	User group will not be charged for loss of ice times.
Visiting Teams/Groups	<p>Visiting teams/groups will be expected to follow the restrictions and protocols of our facility.</p> <p>In the event a visiting group/team is in breach we will send a letter notifying them of the offense and advising them of our protocols and rules.</p> <p>In the event of a second breach by the same group, they will not be permitted back within the facility.</p>	

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**NAME OF ASSOCIATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT PERSON:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

- £ Identify a Covid Safety Coordinator for your Association
- £ Develop a plan to communicate the above items to your membership
- £ Develop a Rapid Response Plan (can be the one attached)
- £ Identify a plan to contact trace
- £ Identify a plan to health screen spectators and participants



The above items will need to be completed and submitted prior to the Association being permitted on the ice.

Please complete all items and submit together as one plan to [tasha.albert@slavelake.ca](mailto:tasha.albert@slavelake.ca).

Please sign you have read the Return to Play for MRC Arenas and agree that your Association \_\_\_\_\_ will adhere to these restrictions and protocols.  
(Association Name)

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_