



Merritt Centennials Junior 'A' Hockey Club

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June 15, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council,

As of June 4, 2020, Hockey Canada lifted their national ban on team sanctioned events which was the first step towards the resumption of play in communities across the country. The next step will be working with regional and provincial health authorities on how that takes shape. The BCHL has drafted a document "The BCHL COVID-19 Minimum Protocols To Allow For A 2020-21 Season" that we will attach to discuss how to best approach the resumption of hockey at the Nicola Valley Memorial Arena. This document will also be presented to every MLA that has a BCHL franchise in their riding.

Due to COVID-19, the Centennials would be prepared to meet at any time at the Mayor and Council's convenience to discuss the document further.

We would like to thank you in advance for your consideration, as we move toward a solution as soon as possible.

Yours Truly,

**Neil Menard**

**Governor**

**Merritt Centennials, BCHL**

**CC: Kevin Rabbitt, President, Merritt Centennials**  
**Skye McKeen, Manager, Parks & Recreation**

**BCHL COVID-19 MINIMUM PROTOCOLS TO ALLOW FOR A 2020-21 SEASON:**  
(Assumption is that we have all 18 teams playing a full season)



**Chief Medical Officer:**

1. The BCHL will use the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of BC Hockey as a contact with regard to any COVID-19 diagnoses or remedies.

**Arenas:**

1. *League arenas will operate under the Viasport guidelines, with the following phased approach to gathering size should there not be a second wave of COVID-19:*
  - a. Beginning July 1, up to 50 people will be allowed in the arenas for team-hosted summer camps (see camp protocols on separate document)
  - b. Up to 25% of arena capacity will be allowed in the exhibition season (Sept. 1 – 30, 2020)
  - c. Up to 50% arena capacity starting October 1, 2020 when the regular season commences, should the arena and team staff be capable of operating under the guidelines
  - d. Up to 75% of arena capacity will be allowed starting November 1, 2020, should the arena and team staff be capable of operating under the guidelines
  - e. Full arena capacity will be allowed starting January 1, 2021, should the arena and team staff be capable of operating under the guidelines
  - f. Teams will recommend face masks for all of our fans, scouts and media personnel when they purchase tickets

**Coaches and Players:**

1. *BCHL teams will operate under the guidelines as set out by Viasport for Participants and Sport Programming in the Return to Sport document, including the Sport Activity Chart, Illness Policy, Participant Agreement and Member Communications.*
2. In addition, these protocols will be in place before any players participate in practices or games:
  - a. No players will be allowed across the US-Canada border, should federal authorities declare that they are non-essential.
  - b. Trainers must be given ample time to clean jerseys and equipment before the next game/practice and provide players with sanitary materials to wipe down any items that they have used or touched.
  - c. Team personnel will take the temperature of every player before he enters a building for practices or games and keep a log of those tests
  - d. Teams will commit to testing players for COVID-19 once a month
3. All Teams will take measures to prevent the spread of the virus outside of the arena as well:
  - a. Teams will work with billet families to prevent exposure through social distancing policies that will be observed as part of their agreement.
  - b. Players will be given face masks or gaiters to wear in any public environment.
  - c. There will be no community or sponsor appearances or visits to the elderly.
  - d. Players will be encouraged to practice social distancing on and off the ice as much as possible.
  - e. Team staff and Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of BC Hockey and/or team doctor will educate players about behaviour away from the rink to understand government protocols on safe social distancing and hygiene.
  - f. When teams travel, buses will be set up with hygiene stations as players enter and leave.
  - g. Players unable to social distance will wear face masks or gaiters.







4. Illness reporting protocol is as follows:
  - a. Any player or staff member that reports symptoms will be referred to a team doctor or the CMO of BC Hockey.
  - b. The doctors will then work with government authorities to test the player and or staff member and determine the protocols for return to play.
  - c. Until it is determined by the CMO or a team doctor that they are 100% healthy, they cannot play, practice or interact with their team-mates or members of the community, other than their billet family.
  - d. Should a case of COVID-19 occur, the team will contact the health authorities to set up further testing. If positive, any team (players and staff) will follow health restrictions.
5. Termination of protocols
  - a. These protocols will not be lifted till the provincial and municipal health authorities give us the all clear.
  - b. Any further restrictions placed on our teams by provincial health authorities will be observed.

#### Fans:

1. *Social distancing as per the Viasport guidelines will be observed by all teams/arenas based on agreements between municipalities and BCHL franchises*
2. Entry to arenas will be monitored by team or arena staff to maintain social distancing through barriers, alternate entrances and clear instructions as per the guidelines provided by Viasport.
3. Concessions, when they are under team control, will follow municipal government regulations for transactions and social distancing.
4. In-arena interactive (fan-involved) promotions will be restricted by teams until health authorities allow them.

#### Officials:

1. *Officials will observe all regulations set by Hockey Canada and Viasport for social distancing and hygiene.*
2. The League will encourage harsh penalties for scrums, fighting, face-washing, post-whistle contact. Players are to disengage as soon as the whistle blows.
3. At the BCHL period timeouts, there will be hygienic wipes available at the scorer's table for the use of officials.
4. Officials will also have the ability to call a timeout if they see something that is of concern to them with regard to player safety and COVID-19 protocols.

#### Owners and Governors:

1. *Owners will hold their team personnel accountable to the Viasport guidelines in the Return to Sport document, including the Sport Activity Chart, Illness Policy, Participant Agreement and Member Communications.*
2. Owners will make sure that the standard player agreement (LOI) has a clause for COVID-19 rules and regulations that the player and/or his parents must sign before they can join the team.
3. Team owners must enforce league COVID-19 protocols or face penalties from fines to termination.

