

Suspension or Cancellation Due to COVID

Based on recommendations made by HPPH & HC, Stratford Rotary Hockey reserves the right to order temporary suspensions of specific players, teams or divisions to isolate under public health guidelines. In a severe outbreak, Stratford Rotary Hockey may order specific or all divisions cancelled for the season.

In the case of either a temporary suspension or a cancellation, players will be reimbursed for time missed on a pro-rated basis based on number of ice times scheduled prior to suspension or cancellation.

Penalty Point System

The traditional penalty point system will not be used with this modified season of 4-on-4 Hockey. Any player found to have excessive or severe penalties will be subject to a review by the Convenor with the Discipline Committee. If deemed necessary, the Committee may issue warnings and / or suspensions as the Committee sees fit to maintain a fun and safe environment for all players.

NOTE: There will be no refunds due to suspension or expulsion from the Rotary Hockey program.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COACHES

It is the responsibility of the coach to notify his players of the team they are on, game and practice times. Please ensure that this information is given to parents ASAP.

All game schedules are posted on our website.

The coach will supply the convener with a list of his players sweater numbers before the start of the first game. Players must keep the same sweater number all year.

**** NEW **** - Due to COVID protocols, players will be responsible for their own jersey for the year. A fee will be charged to the player for any jersey that is not returned at the end of the year.

All Rotary Hockey goal equipment will be signed for by the coach and is ultimately his/her responsibility. All goal equipment and team sweaters are for use in scheduled Rotary Hockey games only.

A coach is responsible for all players on the team. He/she should be at the rink 15 minutes before game time. Games are on a tight schedule and the coach should ensure players are ready five minutes before game time.

A coach will ensure the dressing room is clean and neat after each use. The dressing room must be vacated within 15 minutes after the game or practice. A coach will ensure that no players are left by themselves after a game/practice.

A coach and his/her assistants will ensure players enter and exit the ice surface in an orderly manner. Players are not allowed on the ice surface during flooding operations. Players and coaches must wait until the arena attendant has completed his/her resurfacing and closed the door.

Coaches must ensure that all players receive equal ice time as set out in Section 7 of the Bylaws. A complete line change (4 players) will be made automatically as indicated by the buzzer. If the team is short players and requires double shifts, the Coach must have all players take a turn before repeating a double shift.

The use of drugs and/or alcohol by players or coaches will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Abusive language or conduct towards officials or league officials (referees, timekeepers, conveners or Rotary Hockey executive) will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Coaches who offend this rule will be ejected from the game and/or practice. They will leave the players bench and the immediate ice area. Further measures will be decided by the executive committee before his/her next game in accordance with our Harassment, Bullying, Misconduct, and Abuse Policy.



"To develop and encourage sportsmanship and good fellowship among all participants for the betterment of their physical, mental and social well-being" AND "to promote equal ice time and equal opportunity to play, regardless of ability."

stratfordrotaryhockey.com

Modified Season due to COVID 19

The Stratford Rotary Hockey Season for 2020-2021 will be modified based on current recommendations and measures put in place by Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) and Hockey Canada (HC) to help control the spread of COVID 19. This will see the Rotary Hockey season split into 2 sessions. The Initial Session will run from November 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. The Second Session will run from January 2, 2021 to March 20, 2021.

Hockey Canada and the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) have released a Return to Hockey Framework which the Stratford Rotary Hockey League (SRHL) has used as a guide to model our 2020-2021 season. The entire document can be found on our website.

Team Roster Numbers

Further to the current recommendations and measures put in place by HPPH & HC, teams will be limited to 9 players (8 skaters and 1 goalie) for the Initial Session. Based on recommendations made by HPPH & HC, the Second Session may or may not see team rosters increased in size and more players added to the player pool. This will be totally dependent on further guidance and rules set forth by HPPH & HC.

COACH MANUAL 2020-2021

Divisions & Team Selection

Where we would normally have 8-10 teams in a combined division across two age groups, based on recommendations made by HPPH & HC, the initial session will have divisions made up of 4 teams each – separated into two divisions (ie: U8 East and U8 West). The second session may or may not see more teams added to each division or divisions decompressed as in the past. Based on registration numbers and skill level, players may be placed in a division higher or lower than their age group. Recommendations to move a player up or down a division will be made at the sole discretion of the Rotary Hockey Team Selection Committee. Player/Parent request for specific teammates or coaches cannot be granted especially with the team size restrictions in place.

Modified Game Play

For the 2020-21 season only, game play will be modified to a 4 on 4 format. Games will be played using the Continuous Play format (ie Shock/Hurricane Hockey) as recommended by HC and the OHF.

Handshakes at the end of games will not be allowed during this modified season.



Rules for 4 on 4

Game Play:

- 2 x 24 min periods or 1 x 48 min run time
- No overtime / no shootouts for tied games
- No faceoffs
- No Physical Contact
 - Players must remain one stick length apart
 - Accidental/incidental contact may occur
 - No body checking
- When a scrum or gathering occurs the puck will be given to the defending team and the attacking team must retreat. A whistle will be blown to separate the players and another whistle to signal the resumption of play once the official is satisfied the attacking team has retreated and the defending team has gained puck possession.
- A player that loses a glove must immediately retrieve the glove or leave the ice.

Line Changes

- Teams will change on timed intervals (1-2 mins - Convenor will determine this time based on the play for that divisions age/abilities)
- The buzzer will sound at each interval.
- If a player is required to stay on the ice and play a double shift – they must tag one of their team's bench doors.

Goals

- Goals result in a change of possession. The team that scores the goal must allow the other team to advance the puck past center ice before applying pressure. If the puck has not advanced past center ice within 10 seconds of the whistle the official will signal the team that scored to proceed with the attack.
- Example:
 - Team A scores goal
 - Team A must allow Team B to advance the puck past center ice before applying pressure.

Icing

- Icing the puck results in a change of possession. The team that iced the puck must allow the other team to advance the puck past

center ice before applying pressure. If the puck has not advanced past center ice within 10 seconds of the whistle the official will signal the attacking team to proceed with the attack.

- Example:
 - Team A ices the puck
 - Team B retrieves puck
 - Team A cannot apply pressure until Team B has advanced the puck past center ice.

Offsides

- Offsides will result in a change of possession. The team that was called for offside must exit their attacking zone (all players simultaneously in neutral zone) before re-entering their attacking zone and applying pressure.
- Example:
 - Team A is called for offside and all players must exit their attacking zone
 - Once all Team A players are simultaneously in the neutral zone they may re-enter their attacking zone

Goaltender Freezes the Puck

- When the goaltender freezes the puck, the attacking team must exit their attacking zone (all players simultaneously in neutral zone) before re-entering their attacking zone and applying pressure.
- Example:
 - Team B goaltender freezes puck
 - Team A must exit their attacking zone
 - Once all Team A players are simultaneously in the neutral zone they may re-enter their attacking zone

Penalties

- Penalty shots will be awarded for penalties as per:
 - 2 min penalties = 1 penalty shot
 - 4+ min penalties = 2 penalty shots
 - All major penalties will result in 2 penalty shots and an ejection from the game
 - Intentional body contact or body checking = 2 penalty shots and may result in removal from the game at the discretion of the referee

- Intentionally entering the goaltenders crease = 1 penalty shot
- Co-incidental penalties will result in NO penalty shot being awarded

- The penalty shot must be taken by the individual the infraction was committed against unless they are unable to do so because of injury
- The time clock will continue to run during a penalty shot. If the buzzer sounds while the penalty shot is in process, the shot will be allowed to be completed and then the player change will occur.
- If a delayed penalty is called near the end of the game and the clock runs out, and where the result of the penalty shot(s) could change the outcome of the game, the penalty shot(s) will be taken. If the outcome of the penalty shot(s) would have no impact on the outcome of the game, the penalty shot(s) will not be taken.

Penalty Shot Procedure

- When a penalty is called, the clock will not stop
- Penalty shot must be taken by the player infringed upon (if applicable) and all players on the ice must remain there until the shot is taken
- The player taking the penalty shot will line up at center ice
- All other players from both teams will line up by the far blue line
- All players will start from a standing position
- Referee will blow the whistle to start play
- All players may begin skating on the whistle; players on the non-penalized team may "chase" the player taking the shot and can prevent it if able to do so.
- Penalties can still be called on penalty shots.
- Should the player miss the penalty shot, play will continue.
- If a goal is scored, the team that scores the goal must allow the other team to advance the puck past center ice before applying pressure. If the puck has not proceeded past the hashmarks within 10 seconds of the whistle the official will signal the attacking team to proceed with the attack.

Bench Staff - Coaches, Trainers, & On/Off Ice Helpers

For the Initial Session, each team will be limited 3 bench staff during games. This must include a Certified Coach and a Trainer. Bench Staff are required to wear a mask on the bench during game play. During practices, all participants are required to wear a helmet, gloves and skates. This includes all coaches, trainers and/or on ice helpers. All Bench Staff and Volunteers are required to complete the courses / check / certifications as prescribed by Hockey Canada and the OHF. These details are available on our website.

Arenas

The City of Stratford has policies and procedure in place for entering all arena. The entire document, can be found on our website.

Most notable points relating to Stratford Rotary Hockey:

- Participants are strongly encouraged to arrive fully dressed except for skates, helmet and gloves.
- All participants are to arrive with no more than 1 parent or guardian to assist the player. No siblings or other persons are permitted in the building and more specifically in the dressing rooms.
- Coaches & players are to arrive no more than 15 minutes before their ice time.
- All participants are to vacate the dressing room no later than 15 minutes after the game or practice
- Enter through the lobby; vacate the facility through the side exits (do not reenter the lobby to exit the facility)
- a waiver must be signed by all persons entering the facility (or parents/guardians or persons under 18). If you have not done so already, please go to our website and complete the Waiver or you will not be permitted to enter the City Facilities.

Withdrawal

For the 2020-21 season only, Stratford Rotary Hockey will be permitting withdrawals on a "no questions asked" policy. Refunds will be given out on a pro-rated basis based on number of ice times scheduled prior to the withdrawal.

