



INFORMATION BULLETIN 20-14

February 8, 2021

Two groups of 10 allowed on indoor ice surfaces in Step 1

Hockey Alberta is pleased to provide the following update to Information Bulletin 20-13, which was issued on February 6. That Bulletin informed Hockey Alberta Members that limited team sport activities could resume in Step 1 of the Government of Alberta's [A Path Forward](#). As a result, starting today (February 8), practices are allowed for indoor and outdoor training with a maximum of 10 participants (including coaches and trainers).

Since then, Hockey Alberta has followed up with the Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation (SPAR) Branch to determine if the new measures allow for an indoor ice surface to be divided in half – allowing for two groups of 10 to be on the ice at the same time.

The answer is YES, an indoor arena ice surface can be divided in half, and two groups of 10 can participate in on-ice activities at the same time. Please note that game play remains prohibited, and each group and all participants in each group must maintain at least three metres physical distancing from each other at all times. Wherever possible, physical barriers should be used to divide the ice surface.

Guidelines regarding outdoor team activities remain the same as announced on Saturday – maximum of 10 participants, including at least one certified coach, with two metres physical distancing required.

PLEASE NOTE: It is imperative that during Step 1 any organization or team hosting activities must be diligent in adhering to all public health requirements – including physical distancing and maximum participant limit requirements – outlined in the [Public Health Order](#).

A list of requirements, an FAQ, and suggestions on how to set up a split ice surface to accommodate two groups is included with this Bulletin to help with planning and discussions that Members may be undertaking. Hockey Alberta is also working on updating a full Hockey's Path Forward plan to support overall administration and implementation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Drew Dixon,
Senior Manager, Member Development
ddixon@hockeyalberta.ca
403-342-6777



Step 1 – Hockey’s Path Forward

Step 1 of the Government of Alberta’s [A Path Forward](#) allows the opportunity for specific hockey activity to occur. Children and youth are allowed to participate in limited team sport activities, subject to certain mandatory restrictions as outlined by the Government of Alberta on the [A Path Forward](#) webpage.

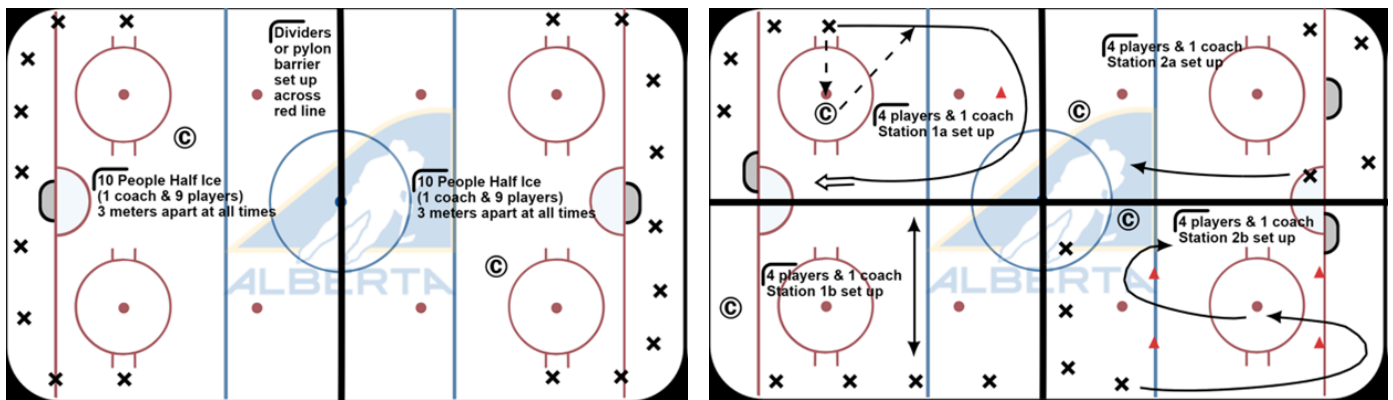
The following rules and guidelines are in place for permitted hockey activities in Step 1.

- Practices are allowed for indoor and outdoor training.
 - Games are not allowed.
- All players must be 18 years old or younger.
- Maximum of 10 total participants, including all coaches and players. An indoor ice surface may be split in half to allow for two groups of 10 on the same ice surface. Please see Question 1 below for additional information.
- At least 1 registered coach for the 2020-21 season must be on ice at all times and have at minimum RIS – Activity Leader training.
- Physical distancing must be maintained between players at all times:
 - 3-metres physical distance for indoor activities
 - 2-metres physical distance for outdoor activities
- Coaches should use equipment to ensure physical distancing is maintained. (dividers, pylons, nets, bingo dabber, ice paint etc.)
- Coaches may enter physical distancing space for brief interactions with players (for example, to correct form or technique)
- Players must wear a face covering at all times, except during the training activity.
- Coaches must wear a face covering at all times.
- Access to change rooms must be limited, including accelerated arrival and departure, emergencies (for example, first aid) and washroom use.
- For outdoor practices:
 - Coaches must wear standard equipment (helmet, skates, gloves).
 - Players must wear standard full equipment.
 - Hockey Canada insurance applies for all registered coaches and players.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Can we split the ice surface in half to have two groups of 10 on one ice surface?

Yes, as long as all participants maintain three metres physical distancing from each other at all times, and the groups on each half of the ice surface maintain three metres physical distancing at all times. Please refer to the diagrams for two examples of how sessions could be held with the ice surface divided in half.





Step 1 – Hockey’s Path Forward

2. Can players and coaches from different teams participate on the same ice session?

Yes. An ice session can include players and coaches from different teams and divisions.

3. Can coaches lead multiple ice sessions in a row?

Yes. However, there can be no overlap between players (ie players can't warm up while the other players are finishing a practice).

4. If our community arena no longer has ice, are we able to access other facilities?

Yes, given availability, member organizations are free to access facilities outside their community. This happens in many areas within the province and that remains an option.

5. If our organization is no longer offering programming, can our players join programming being offered by another organization?

Yes. If no hockey program is being offered by a player’s host organization, players can register for and participate in any program offered by a member organization within 100 km of their permanent residence.

6. How does our organization ensure ice sessions are sanctioned by Hockey Alberta?

Members (including MHAs, Club Teams, Rec/ Pond Hockey programs, Para Hockey programs, Accredited Schools, etc.) can schedule and operate sanctioned events without having to complete any additional application processes.

7. What responsibility does an organization have with regards to contact tracing?

Prior to attending an activity each day, the organizer should distribute the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) to all participants. If a participant can answer YES to any of the questions, they are not to attend.

During each activity, the organization must designate an individual to record the names of all participants to assist AHS should an individual test positive for COVID-19 and contact tracing is necessary (listings for each event/activity must be kept to ensure a record of who was present).

8. Are parents allowed in the facility to observe the ice sessions?

Spectators may be allowed in the facility, subject to physical distancing measures (based on current Government of Alberta and local municipal restrictions) and any specific directions provided by facility management. The allowance of spectators is at the discretion of each facility and should spectators be allowed, they should be kept out of all participant spaces (ice surface, dressing rooms, benches) and must maintain 2 metres of distance between members of different households.