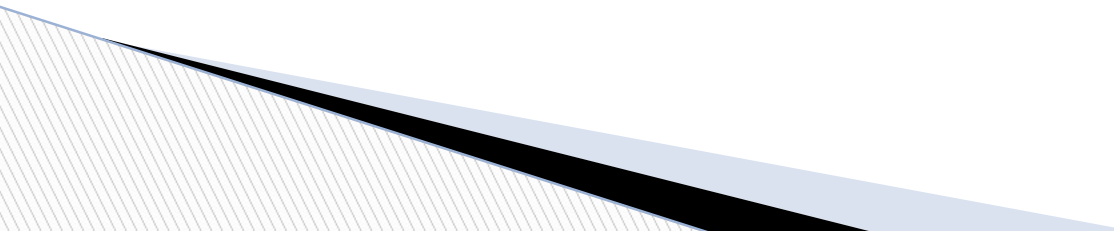




Season Program

Thursday, August 27

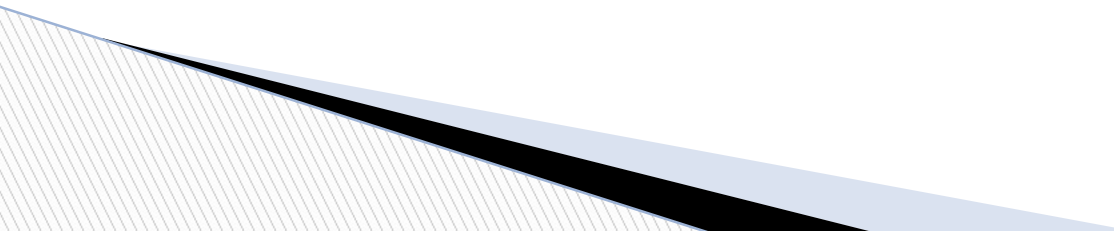
Welcome to the TBirds Virtual Town Hall!

- This meeting is being recorded and will be posted on our website
 - We will provide a 20 minute period for answering questions that are submitted via the chat function at the conclusion of the initial presentation. Feel free to submit questions during the session. We will provide an FAQ sheet following the town hall and will post it in the news item with the recording of the meeting.
 - We will start the meeting at 7:30 pm
- 



Ready! Set! Go!!!

3 Things to Remember from Tonight

- We have found a safe pathway to the ice – safety of our TBirds will be the most important focus
 - Things will be a bit different, but players are on the ice which is the biggest win of the season
 - We will follow guidelines from viaSport and our hockey governing bodies – and we need all of you to as well
- 

viaSport Guidelines



March to
May 19, 2020

Strictest Controls

PHASE 1

- Individual or physical distance Off-ice or Outdoor training
- Low Risk or Virtual Activities
- No contact or competition
- No shared equipment

PHASE 2

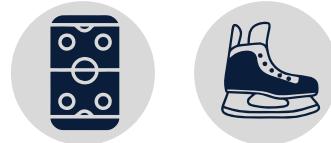
- 2 m Physical Distance
- No non-essential Travel
- No Group > 50 people (small groups)
- Indoor facilities slowly open
- Non-contact training
- Modified play
- No or limited spectators



August 24
for cohorts

Transition Measures

Approximately
May 19 – ongoing
for non-cohort



PHASE 3

- PHO to outline physical Distancing
- Participants should maintain physical distance while not on field of play
- Group size increase based on sport type (ie level of contact)
- Cohort model introduced for sports that cannot maintain 2m physical distancing
- Regional competition in cohorts
- Limited travel

PHASE 4

- PHO to outline restrictions
- Large groups allowed
- No restrictions on spectators
- No restrictions on activity type
- Provincial or Inter-Branch Competition may return
- No restrictions

New Normal

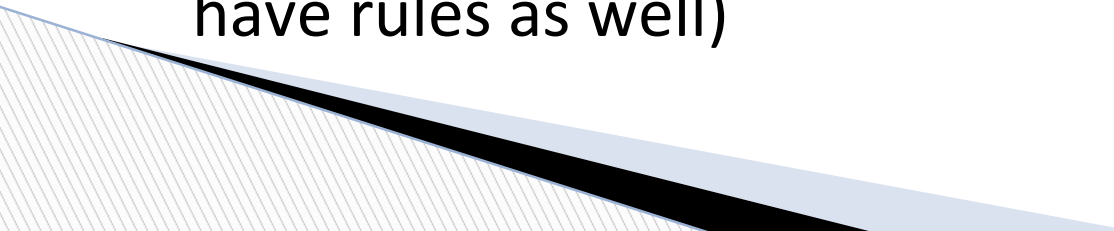
Future date TBD
(Vaccine or Treatment)



PCAHA Return to Play Plan

- Safety first
 - Risk and Safety committee
 - Risk Manager meeting – Sept 2
 - TBirds Training meeting – Save the Date Sept 3
 - Each MHA is required to work with facilities to determine final safety plan
 - Every facility will be different – parents will need to be aware of the requirements

PCAHA Return to Play Plan

- Expect a more active role with Risk Managers/HCSOs
 - Continue already implemented elements:
 - No sharing water bottles or equipment
 - No handshakes
 - Stay at home when sick
 - Maintain physical distancing as much as possible
 - Wear masks as recommended by PHO (venues may have rules as well)
- 

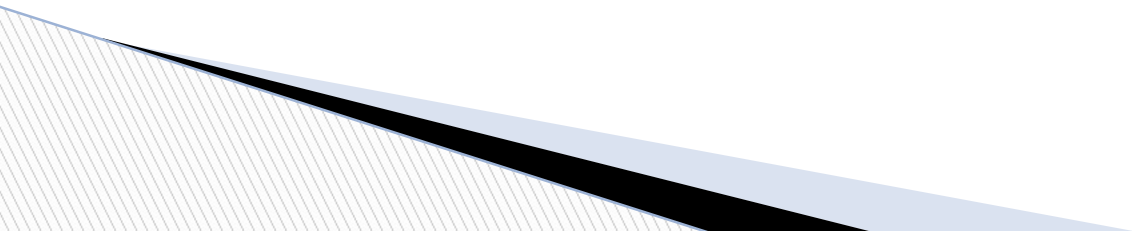
PCAHA Return to Play Plan

- Series of “timelines for decisions” throughout the season to ensure a continual pulse check occurs
- Will strictly adhere to the viaSport guidelines
 - for insurance compliance
 - to allow for consistency between MHAs / level playing field
 - because it will keep us all in check and ensuring we are keeping the sport environment as safe as possible

PCAHA Return to Play Plan

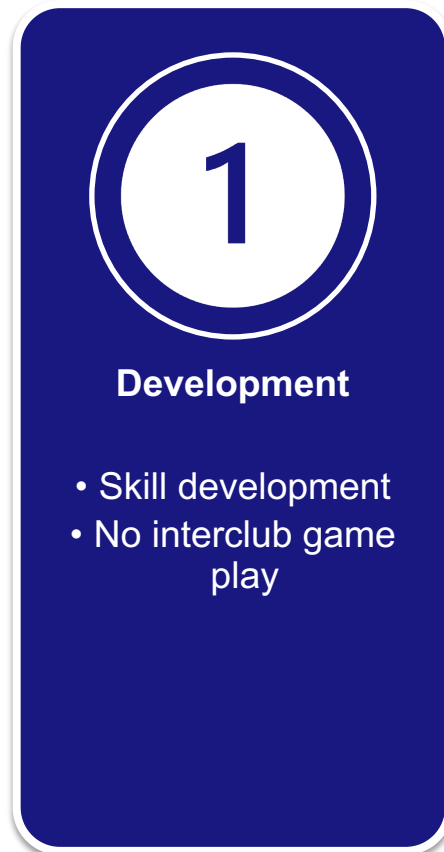


TBirds Season Plan

- Information is based on what we know now and we will be ready to adapt as new information is provided
 - TBirds will adhere to all guidelines/regulations from viaSport and hockey governing bodies and our venues
 - If there is a pause/stoppage, we will adjust as needed
- 

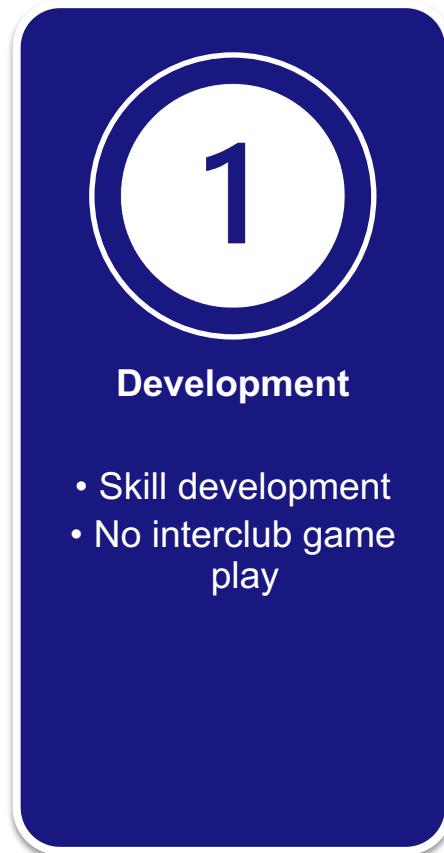
Level 1 - Development

- Start of the season for all divisions
 - physically distanced skills practices to start until we can finalize internal training cohorts and get permission from facilities for internal game play
- Best case timeline by division:
 - U6 – October to March
 - U7 – October to December
 - Level 2/3 decision = Dec 4
 - U8 / U9 – September/October
 - Level 2/3 decision = Oct 26
 - U11 – U18 – September to Thanksgiving
 - Level 2/3 decision = Sept 30



Level 1 - Development

- Balancing Process
 - will occur in late Sept/early Oct
 - internal game play when permitted by venues (may be modified)
- Tryouts
 - process will be determined based on what venues will permit as of Sept 15
 - rep commitment form will be required before being assigned to a tryout group
 - TBirds hockey = priority
 - minimum of three evaluation sessions



Level 2 / 3 Decision

2

Competition with Restrictions

- Game play allowed
 - May restrict by geography, or modified game play

3

Competition

- Game play allowed across PCAHA with normal 5 vs 5 rules

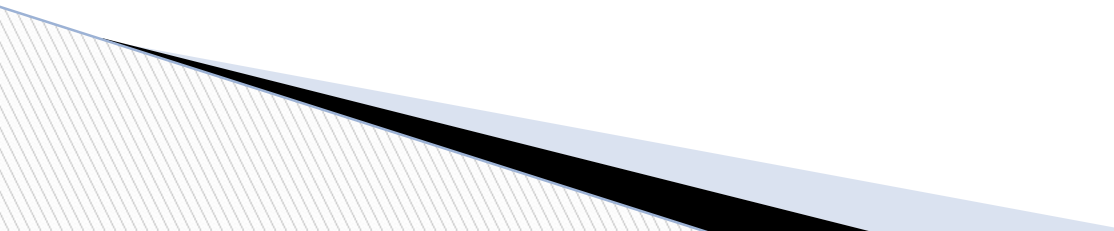
- PCAHA will determine when league competition will begin based on current conditions
- Any competition will be conducted within a cohort structure

Level 4 - Playoffs

- For U11 – U18 divisions only
- May occur if league play has been accomplished in a manner to lead to a playoff setting
- Timeline for Decision = January 15



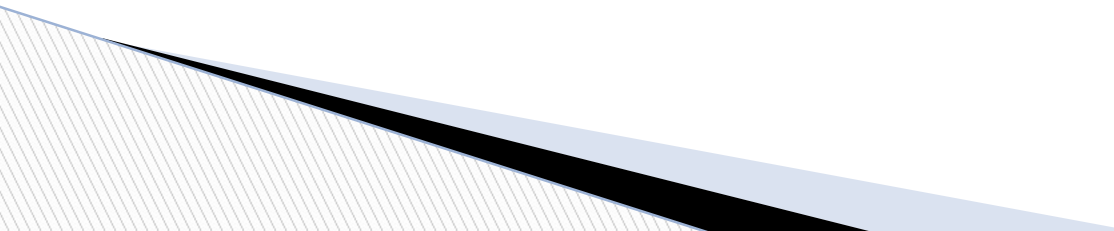
What is a “cohort” in sport terms

- Purpose: Establishing cohorts will limit the number of people that each individual will come into contact with, reducing the risk of transmission and ensuring quicker contact tracing by health authorities if an outbreak occurs.
 - A cohort is a group of participants who primarily interact with each other within the sport environment over an extended period of time (e.g. series of events)
- 

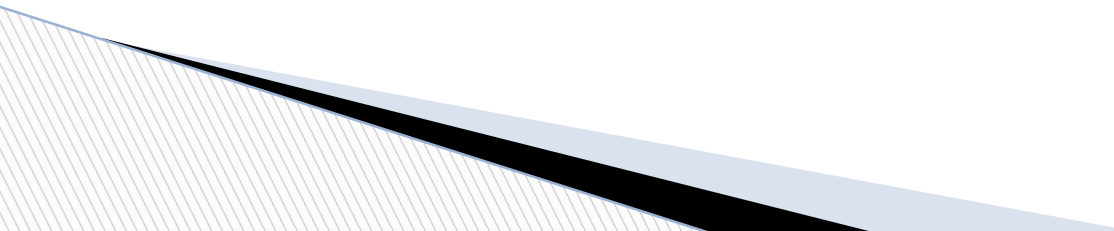
Cohorts

- Cohorts should be used for activities in which it is not possible to maintain two metres physical distancing at all times. When in a cohort, while individuals do not need to maintain physical distancing during sport specific activities, minimized physical contact is still advised.
- At least two metres distancing should be maintained between all participants when outside of the field of play (e.g. dressing rooms, hallways, team benches, staging areas, etc.)

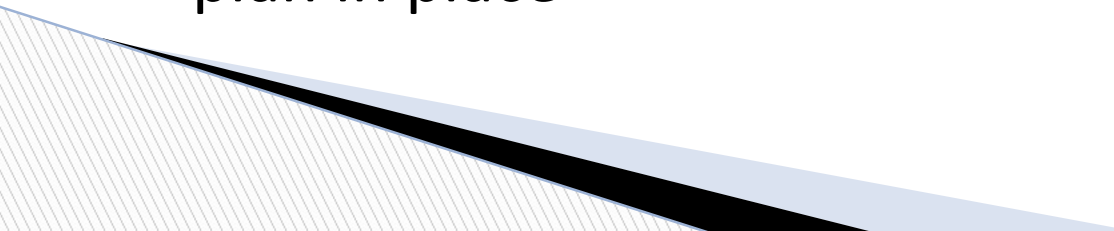
Cohorts

- Each cohort can be comprised of multiple teams in order to form a mini-league. With the use of cohorts, game play can resume between teams within the cohort.
 - Cohorts should remain together for an extended period of time. If looking to change cohorts, implement a two-week break between activities.
- 

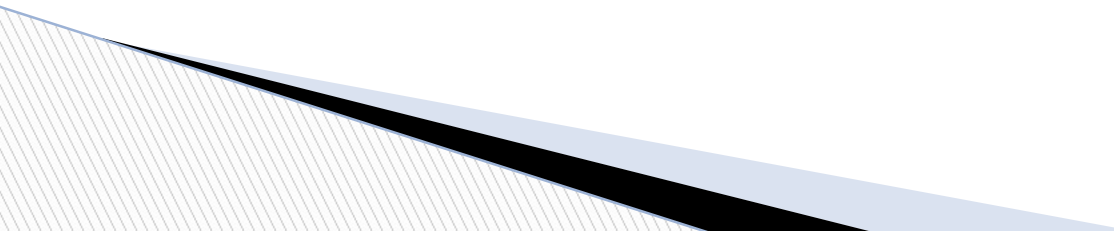
Cohorts

- Individuals should limit the number of sport cohorts to which they belong in order to reduce the number of people they are interacting with.
 - TBirds will provide competition cohorts (teams eligible to play in PCAHA league) and internal training cohort opportunities for additional user pay skill development programs for families to determine if they wish to join
 - When numbers at venues permit, two teams will be able to practice at the same time but may be required to remain on their half with an extended buffer at centre
- 

Competition

- Competitive activities may be expanded outside club play to include regional play if deemed appropriate by the provincial sport organization
 - Provincial sport organizations can define regional play based on applicable regions within their sport
 - Inter-provincial competitions should not occur at this time
 - All competitions are required to have a detailed safety plan in place
- 

Next Steps

- 7-day period for player withdrawal
 - Initial groups created and posted
 - Identify coaches, Group manager and Group HCSP
 - Finalize safety plan
- 



Questions

Questions

- Why are you increasing the fee now and not when you first announced them in the spring?
 - *We typically create the budget for the next season in February and March. This year, Covid-19 created an uncertain situation on the 2020-21 hockey season and we knew from the survey responses submitted that many of our families were impacted financially in March/April. The Board opted to keep all fees the same as last season initially even though we typically do raise fees a little each season due to inflation on costs such as ice rentals. As the season became clearer in August, and registration numbers were better understood, a small adjustment was required in order to cover the additional cost of extra ice at private facilities and a smaller number of players overall.*

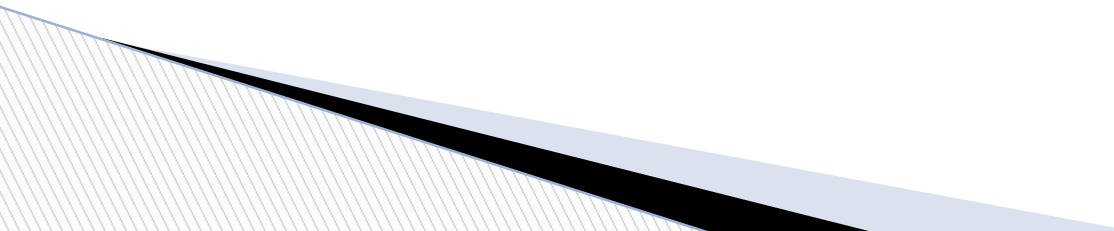
Questions

- Will there be additional programs offered this year?
 - *Yes. We are working with viaSport and BC Hockey to determine if these will be required to be offered under a physically distanced practice or if an internal cohort structure is permitted as a choice for families to make. We will offer programs such as the HP program offered by Derek, Thunderbird Goalie school, recreational skills sessions and additional training for the U6-U9 ages in the manner permitted. If we are permitted to create internal cohorts, all sessions will be offered as a multi-session package to decrease the number of potential contacts and we will create the 14 day schedule break in between new sessions.*

Questions

- Are parents allowed in the venues?
 - *UBC: not at this time **except** if a player needs assistance to assist participants that require their skates tied but then will be required to leave immediately.*
 - *Vancouver Park Board Arenas: not at this time **except** if a player needs assistance to assist participants that require their skates tied but then will be required to leave immediately.*
 - *Richmond Oval: not at this time.*
 - *Richmond Ice Centre: TBD*

At this point, coaches and, in some venues, HCSPs are the only ones permitted.



Questions

- How many skill groups/teams will be formed for U8?
 - *The number of groups/teams for all divisions will be completely dependent upon the number of participants permitted in the venue. For the first part of the season we are permitted a maximum capacity of 20 (players and coaches) on the ice and we are working with our venue partners to identify the stepping stones to increase that number towards full roster game play if that is the option chosen by PCAHA.*

Questions

- How are skill groups/teams going to be formed?
 - To start the season, all divisions will be placed into training groups based on last season where they will be assessed.
 - *U6-U9: based on the skill group last season. After the first couple of skates, groups will be reshuffled into internal training cohorts to create skill groups.*
 - *Recreational: players will be placed into loose “balanced” groups based on the season ending ratings (same process as last season). Balancing process will officially begin in late Sept/early October based on PCAHA decision.*
 - *Rep: all players registered for tryouts will start in tiered skill groups based on where they played last season. They will be assessed within these groups and placed into tryout cohorts for the official tryout process.*

Questions

- Will someone be responsible for contact tracing at each ice time?
 - *Yes. We will be using TeamSnap's new Health Check program for all players and coaches. We will need a Group Manager and HCSP for each group to be identified who will be responsible for verifying all players have completed this prior to entering any of our venues.*
 - *We have asked for confirmation on if we need to collect parent information for those dropping off or only for those who enter the building but a process will be in place for any that are required.*
 - *We are required to provide a list of names and contacts if an outbreak occurs.*

Questions

- Will you be asking all players to label their water bottles?
 - *Yes! As you prepare for the season, please be sure to:*
 - *Clearly label the water bottle with your player's name*
 - *Ensure your player has a mask with them at all times. Some venues will require a mask to be worn until the helmet is put on – especially for those allowing access to dressing rooms or as our numbers increase to a game level making physical distancing not as easy to maintain*
 - *Include a small bottle of hand sanitizer and a package of tissue in their hockey bag for use as needed*
 - *Each player will need a good set of skate guards (be sure to label these). Please do not use the roller skate type as both the Oval and UBC have stairs.*

Questions

- How will two deep supervision be managed?
 - *Team staff, including coaches, will need to be diligent. For most of our venues, open spaces will be replacing dressing rooms and players will need to be entering the building mostly dressed with very little time inside the building both before and after.*

Questions

- Can we arrive early to warm-up?
 - *At this point, all venues will have a limited time to enter prior to the ice time (ie 15 minutes) so it will be up to the player to find the best way to warm up as needed outside the building. If done in a group, physical distancing and two deep supervision is still required.*
- Is spitting permitted?
 - *NO! This will be a habit that must be broken. No exceptions.*

Open to Questions

Thank you!

Recording of this town hall will be posted as a news item on the
Thunderbirds website— www.vancouvertbirds.ca