



Vancouver Island Amateur Hockey Association

2301-E McCullough Road Nanaimo BC V9S 4M9

info@viaha.org www.viaha.org

Ph: 250-751-8811 Fax: 250-751-8812

MEMORANDUM

February 11, 2021

TO: VIAHA Membership
FROM: Jim Humphrey, VIAHA President
COPY: VIAHA Officers and Staff
SUBJECT: End of Season

In a normal non-pandemic world we typically end our season play on the weekend before the beginning of Spring Break. During the break some Island League teams represent the District at BC Hockey Championships while a great number of other teams attend tournaments or schedule exhibition games.

This has not been a normal season and the VIAHA Officers and staff reached out to our MHAs to see if there was any inclination to extend the season and, if this was the case, whether sufficient ice would be available to do so. Of course this is all dependent on whether there would be any loosening of PHO restrictions to allow for competition. In the short term it does not appear that we will be permitted to go beyond Phase 2. The daily infection numbers are still in the mid-400s and the recent pronouncements from Dr. Henry have been that this is not a level where we can consider dropping any of the restrictions. We may or may not get to the so called Phase 2.5 before Spring Break. Even that will be short lived if numbers move up again at that time.

Many arenas will be removing ice during or shortly after Spring Break so we will not have sufficient game slots to put together a reasonable schedule. Some of the MHAs are also reporting that it is becoming more difficult to keep players engaged with non-contact drills as the prospect of returning to games becomes more remote. Therefore they have decided to end the season at the beginning of Spring Break.

VIAHA will end its season on March 12, 2021. With their MHAs consent teams may choose to continue operations as long as they comply with the viaSport restrictions. If we are permitted to return to game play the teams may schedule games, following whatever cohort system is implemented, but will still be required to obtain game numbers from their VIAHA commissioner and games will have to be loaded onto Hi Sport so electronic game sheets may be used. Players and coaches are reminded that suspensions will be subject to the normal carryovers into next season.

VIAHA staff will be available to help facilitate games if required and will monitor the games to ensure viaSport guidelines are respected.

This has been a challenging season for us all and the Officers and I thank you for your dedication.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Humphrey, VIAHA President