



Date: December 18, 2020

To: Hockey Manitoba Minor Hockey Associations

From: Peter Woods, Executive Director Hockey Manitoba

Subject: **REGISTRATION CONCERNS**

Due to the current interruption of the 2020 – 2021 season Hockey Manitoba has received several inquiries regarding the status of an estimated start-up date when members can expect to safely return to play.

Hockey Manitoba understands that this is not a typical year and the uncertainty surrounding the standing of the hockey season only adds further ambiguity to actually being able to accurately predict when we can anticipate a return date. As a result of the uncertainty and the reduced length of the current season several members have inquired whether they can expect a refund of their registration fees in the event the season does not restart.

Right now, there continues to be a number of moving parts, therefore Hockey Manitoba is not able to fully confirm the status of refund consideration or the amount that could be rebated back to members without greater clarity from Public Health as to the reopening position of facilities and the ability to safely return to play. Hockey Manitoba remains extremely optimistic that the season will restart in the new year and it would be premature to correctly verify any registration refund status to our members at this time.

The Hockey Manitoba Board and senior staff continue to review all options in assisting members that will be fair, balanced, and without overly compromising our program, while we wait for some direction from the Provincial Government/Public Health.

It is essential to note that Hockey Manitoba distributed registration invoices to each of the minor hockey associations (MHA) earlier this fall. The amount payable to Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada is based on the MHA's final registration figures from the 2019 – 2020 season and was to be made in two payments. The first payment was due on November 15th. The second half of the payment was due on December 15th. If your MHA still has an outstanding balance you are being instructed to remit. It is important to understand that one of the MHA's primary registration responsibilities and functions is to serve as an agent or conduit

in the collection of the Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada membership fees. The funds should not be considered as true ownership by the respective MHA but rather merely serve as a flow through on behalf of Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada. The MHA certainly has the authority to determine all refunds outside of the fees payable to Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada or respective region, however they do not have the jurisdiction to withhold payments due to Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada or the applicable region for

any of the fees that they've collected as an intermediary and are limited to local MHA membership refund fees only.

In isolation, the total amount that has been invoiced may seem by your perspective to be significant, therefore I will provide a more detailed summary breakdown of the figures to give you the appropriate context. The Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada fees collected per individual member would range from \$48.65 for U9 to \$50.65 for U11 and up.

Included in the overall registration fee is the Hockey Manitoba membership portion, which is consistent for all members at \$28.60 with the exception of U9 and under who pay a membership fee of \$26.60. Incorporated in the \$26.60/\$28.60 is a \$3.00 members assessment fee payable to Hockey Canada resulting in a net fee to Hockey Manitoba of either \$23.60 or \$25.80 per member. The balance of the remaining fee is a flow thorough payable to Hockey Canada and covers the various levels of insurance that consists of Liability and Director & Officer/Fees; Medical/Dental and Accidental Death & Dismemberment. Hockey Manitoba is required to submitted full payment of the Hockey Canada fees for insurance and membership so there is little flexibility or relief from the Hockey Canada portion of the \$48.65 for U9 and under or the \$50.65 for U11 and up.

It is important to note that the \$23.60 or \$25.80 per member portion of the Hockey Manitoba fees that are collected covers a large portion of our fixed, operational, and administrative costs such as staffing, postage, rent, telephone, storage, network computer, office insurance, additional audit fees, regional development fees, grassroots grants, coach clinic certification costs, programming, credit card transaction fees, scholarships, courier printing, etc. and any review of processing refunds must take into account the impact of any revenue reduction has on our program.

As you can see the actual amount of the overall membership registration that is forwarded on to Hockey Manitoba represents only a small portion of the individual cost to members to participate in hockey and in actuality less than the total cost for the on-ice officials for one game. In addition, it is also worth mentioning that Hockey Manitoba has a notable history of responsibly managing member registration costs and is proud that we have not had a membership fee increase since the start of the 2015 – 2016 season.

Registration fees are not limited to games only but apply to all sanctioned on and off ice activities. In order to be fair to all members especially those that have already submitted their fees to allow some members deferments is a challenge, but Hockey Manitoba is willing to work with all MHA's to identify the appropriate payment pathway solution. However, members that are in default of payment cannot be considered members in good standing and would not be eligible to participate in any future sanctioned programing

until payment was resolved. This would include but not limited to games, practices, tournaments and Hockey Manitoba programming. In addition, such members would not have access to certified officials or any insurance coverage for participants, as well as the benefit of protection of Directors and Officers Liability insurance for all paid and volunteer Board members.

Hockey Manitoba certainly understands you have the best interest of your members in mind, as do we and our organization is willing to work with all members to ensure that they are treated fairly. That being said it is difficult to consider an impartial and viable refund pathway solution when isolated members may not have submitted or choose to withhold payment of fees that they have collected on behalf of our organization. Hockey Manitoba continues to review this situation and cannot give an absolute decision until full registration and collection is completed.

To avoid any impact on your organizational status with Hockey Manitoba those MHA's that still have an outstanding balance are reminded to remit their full payment that is now overdue.

I hope that provides you some clarity to some of the common questions or concerns that some of you may have and if Hockey Manitoba can be of any further assistance you are welcome to reach out to me at 204.799.4510 cell.

Thank you.

