

Mitchell Minor Hockey – Request to Install Ice at West Perth (Mitchell) Arena

Mayor and members of the West Perth Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss our proposal to have the West Perth Ice reinstalled. I am presenting this on behalf of the Mitchell Minor Hockey Executive Board.

Preamble:

Mitchell Minor Hockey (MMH) represents 281 registrants aged 5 to 18. As an organization we work hard to ensure there is opportunities for the youth in our community to have a place to play hockey. MMH offers a range of programming including early development, house league and travel teams. The executive is made up of a group of elected volunteers who provide time and energy for the community to have the opportunity to play hockey.

The executive worked very hard to provide hockey for its registrants in 2020-21. COVID-19 provided a significant change to how the sport looked and created many regulations and policies to follow. The executive proactively added the role of COVID-19 Communications Officer to help keep Mitchell Minor Hockey informed and current during the pandemic. Our return to play process featured many protocols and policies to keep participants, coaches / volunteers and facility staff safe while the youth were able to return to hockey. Following guidelines set by Huron-Perth Public Health, Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA), Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF), Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA), Western Ontario Athletic Association (WOAA) and West Perth (Mitchell) Arena we were able to successfully offer hockey from October 3, 2021 and Dec 23, 2021.

When the provincial lockdown was announced, Mitchell Minor Hockey was informed the ice was going to be removed. Mitchell Minor Hockey was not a part of this decision. Throughout the lockdown, MMH provided updates through our website (Dec. 21, 2020, Jan.15, 2021 and Jan. 27, 2021) indicating we were awaiting information on lockdown ending then Executive would address how the remainder of the season would look. Prior to lockdown opening, MMH requested that West Perth reinstall the ice immediately after reopening so MMH could continue to offer on ice activities to our members. Mitchell Minor Hockey views the months of February and March as "normal" months in the hockey season. After discussion, we were advised to take the request to West Perth Council. Mitchell Minor Hockey has all approvals to return to play from OMHA, WOAA, OWHA which would permit us to resume hockey in our home arenas listed as West Perth (Mitchell Arena) and North Perth (Monkton) Arena. Both of these arenas are listed as home arenas for our association as we utilize both to cover our ice time needs. Our insurance and registration indicate our home arenas are both located in Mitchell and Monkton. On February 12, 2021, Perth County opened in the Orange –Restrict zone with intermediate measures. This zone is the same classification Huron-Perth was in prior to lockdown where we were successfully and

safely operating. Following OHF Return to Hockey Framework Orange – Restrict (Stage 3D) instruction and competition can take place with up to 50 players in a cohort, providing also local Public Health Unit (PHU) is followed. Our executive uses current information communicated by our COVID-19 Communications Officer as to regulations set by the Huron-Perth Public Health Unit.

(<https://www.ohf.on.ca/risk-management/return-to-hockey-covid-19-response>).

Within the Government of Ontario’s COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open are five colour coded levels of public health measures. Each Public Health Unit falls within one of the following levels, which will have implications on OHF programming:

PREVENT STAGE 3D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruction training for registered players within Association 3v3 / 4v4 / 5v5 competition (compliant within Ontario Regulation 364/20. Specifically cohorts of 50 or less) Adjacent PHU competition permitted Max participants (players & coaches) on-ice in accordance with Ontario Law or PHU if more restrictive.
PROTECT STAGE 3D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruction training for registered players within Association 3v3 / 4v4 / 5v5 competition (compliant within Ontario Regulation 364/20. Specifically cohorts of 50 or less) Adjacent PHU competition permitted Max participants (players & coaches) on-ice in accordance with Ontario Law or PHU if more restrictive.
RESTRICT STAGE 3D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruction training for registered players within Association 3v3 / 4v4 / 5v5 competition (compliant within Ontario Regulation 364/20. Specifically cohorts of 50 or less) Adjacent PHU competition permitted Max participants (players & coaches) on-ice in accordance with Ontario Law or PHU if more restrictive.
CONTROL MOD. STAGE 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruction training for registered players within Association Strict on-ice physical distance required Maximum 10 players on-ice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum 2 On-Ice Personnel - One of which must be a certified trainer All on-ice personnel must be compliant with the OHF Return to Hockey Framework: On-Ice Personnel policy Teams may not leave their PHU
LOCKDOWN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No programming delivered Teams may not leave their PHU



The OMHA will be working with the Ontario Hockey Federation and Hockey Canada as well as following provincial health guidelines for a safe return to hockey.

*Source: OHF Return to Hockey Framework

Mitchell Minor Hockey has not cancelled their season or provided refunds to membership.

Currently the only restriction to Mitchell Minor Hockey returning to play in Mitchell or Monkton is ice available at these facilities.

Feedback from West Perth:

In discussions with West Perth Mayor Walter McKenzie and Darcey Cook, Recreation and Facilities Manager commencing on February 11, 2021 and continuing until February 14th Mitchell Minor Hockey was told the following potential concerns were:

Cost of Reinstalling Ice \$5000.00 (estimate)

Cost of Hydro February \$20000.00 (estimate)

Cost of Hydro March \$30000.00 (estimate)

Concern of a third wave of COVID-19

Mitchell Minor Hockey was advised that expenses of Hydro and Labour for February and March had been in Municipal budget to cover the facilities ability to provide ice in those months. The cost of reinstalling ice of \$5000.00 is not a budgeted expense. Mitchell Minor Hockey Executive reached out to our COVID-19 Communications Officer who advised our plan to Return to Play was within the requirements of the Huron-Perth Health Unit regulations. Mitchell Minor Hockey received information from Mayor McKenzie on February 13, 2021 with instructions how to proceed with getting proposal to West Perth Council.

Proposal :

Mitchell Minor Hockey is requesting West Perth reinstall the ice to the Mitchell Arena. If the decision is made to reinstall, Mitchell Minor Hockey has all approvals in place and can resume on ice activities. With 281 youth participants, MMH is seeking 30 hours of prime ice, for 6 weeks. The season has been shortened with both a late start in October and the lockdown of Dec 26, 2020 to Feb 12, 2021. MMH believes the remainder of February and March are considered to be part of a normal hockey season, as historically MMH would expect and purchase ice from West Perth for those months. For 2020-21, Mitchell based their registration on ice being available from West Perth Arena from the start of October 2020 until the end of March 2021. With a late start to the 2020-21 season beginning in October instead of September, we are asking that West Perth reinstall ice for 6 weeks.

As discussed, Mitchell Minor Hockey understands the cost of reinstalling ice was not planned or budgeted. Based on information provided, the other costs associated are already budgeted for by the

Municipality of West Perth. MMH is proposing to cover the \$5000.00 to reinstall the ice if we are the only user group to use it. If other users obtain ice then a portion of the cost should be recovered to MMH. This calculates to \$17.79 per registrant or approximately under \$2.00 / player / ice session assuming a minimum of 9 ice times. It is the belief of MMH that this cost should not be the reason ice is not reinstalled. Historically we agree to an ice contract that covers ice installation in September (Labour Day) until the end of March. In good faith, we signed an Ice Pad Rental Contract with Municipality of West Perth for the 2020-21 season, with the understanding that the ice would be not available until the beginning of October. Permitting both Provincial and Huron Perth Health Unit regulations allowed on ice activities, we did not expect that ice would not to be available in February and March. February and March are at a time of year that has always given the community and our paying membership an opportunity to be involved on the ice. The request is to resume our existing Ice Pad Rental Contract and extend to cover 6 weeks in lieu of missed time. We have heard from a few other potential users but did not actively seek details of their ice requirements.

Conclusion:

Mitchell Minor Hockey is asking that West Perth reinstalls ice to the West Perth Mitchell Arena. This would allow MMH to resume offering our programming to our registered youth. The COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult for many members of the community including our youth. By resuming Minor Hockey we can provide our 281 youth with the opportunity to be active, share friendships and get back a game they enjoy. With ice reinstalled there is opportunity for council to serve many more in the community with a variety of potential ice uses. The cost of reinstalling ice has been listed as a concern from West Perth, our proposal addresses this in hopes to remove this roadblock. As stated Mitchell Minor Hockey hopes to be able to resume offering our youth a return to hockey. The ice being reinstalled in a listed home arena (West Perth Mitchell Arena) is needed in order for us to continue offering hockey as presented in our 2020-21 registration.

On behalf of the Mitchell Minor Hockey Executive, we appreciate the opportunity to present and discuss our proposal.

Mitchell Minor Hockey Executive