



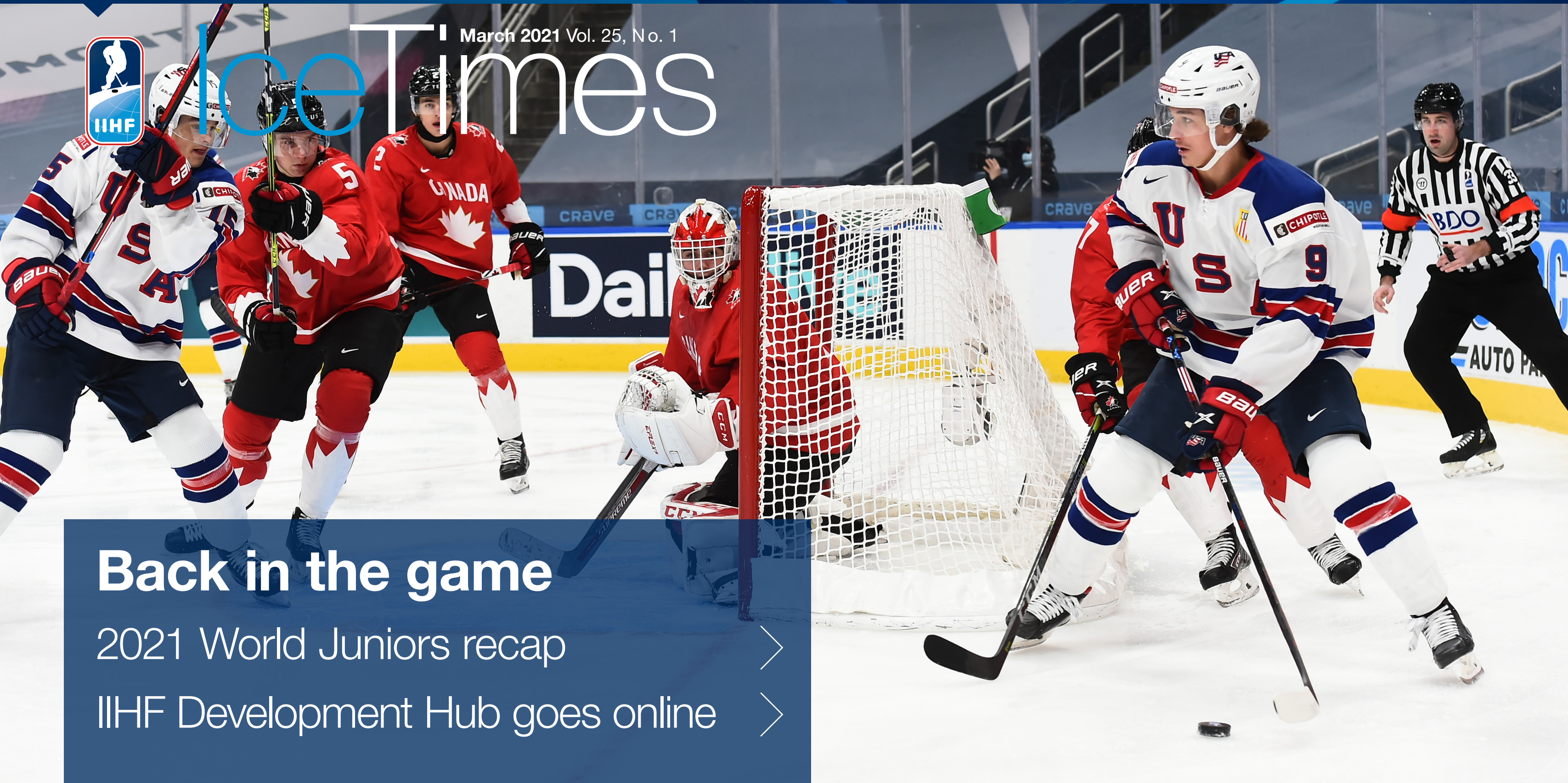
IceTimes

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Back in the game

2021 World Juniors recap

IIHF Development Hub goes online



From the IIHF President

Moving forward

By René Fasel

The start of the 2020/21 season saw hockey return under very challenging circumstances. As we prepare to bring back more tournaments, we look forward with caution but also with optimism.

We knew that this season the IIHF, together with the participating teams, the organizing committees, and all staff and players were going to be asked for patience, flexibility, and a willingness to go beyond what is normally needed to ensure that an IIHF tournament will be successful.

This was no more apparent than at the 2021 IIHF World Junior Championship in Edmonton. By the time Team USA won its fifth World Juniors gold medal, it was also clear that these efforts and sacrifices were not in vain.

From the time the tournament was confirmed to go ahead in a competition bubble, it was never fully certain that the Juniors could be

played. There were countless meetings, discussions, and deliberations as the IIHF together with the local organizing committee formulated its requirements for COVID-19 team and staff protocols. These mandated that the teams arrive weeks earlier than usual, undergo pre-and post-arrival quarantine measures, and subject themselves to daily COVID-19 testing until departure.

The resources and manpower required to do this were huge. But thanks to a superhuman effort from the organizers and diligent monitoring and coordination by the IIHF, we succeeded in operating all games on schedule. This was a huge success in itself, but also because we now have a workable blueprint for future events.

Which brings me now to the World Championship. With the World Juniors we did not leave anything to chance, and this approach has been the same for the IIHF's flagship event.

The objective for this tournament has never changed: we needed to do everything possible to hold this event, and this event could not possibly be held without ensuring safety and security for everyone. While it is with great regret that we have had to move the World Championship away from co-host Belarus,

which did such a great job hosting back in 2014, we can state with confidence that we did everything possible to evaluate all the options available to us. This included visits with the Belarus head of state which, while it was not viewed positively by the public, was nevertheless necessary to get the information we needed to give to the IIHF Council to make an informed decision. In the end, the Council made the right choice and we are looking forward to a safe and secure tournament in Riga.

We also look forward to hosting two other top division events, the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship and the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship. It is our goal to work again with the organizers and teams to ensure that we create the best conditions for these players to be able to represent their countries back on the ice.

To all our members that were not able to participate in the IIHF Championship program this year, we thank you for your patience and understanding, and we hope that the assistance we have offered through the launch of the new IIHF Development Hub (more on [Page 10](#)) and in our upcoming webinar sessions will help you to continue your work on the growth of ice hockey in your countries, until we are all ready to hit the ice together



News and Notes

IIHF OFFICE

The IIHF has announced that **Aku Nieminen** has resigned his position as Membership Development Manager within the Sport Department. His position will be filled ad-interim by IIHF Youth and Junior Development Committee Member **Johan Bollue**.

IIHF Compliance Officer **Simona Richiger** has resigned her position within the IIHF Legal Department.

IIHF Marketing & Event Coordinator **Victoria Metzger** resigned from her position in the IIHF Marketing & Communications Department.

IIHF Event Manager **Nicolas Marbach** resigned his position within the IIHF Event Department.

The IIHF wishes good luck and best wishes to Aku, Simona, Victoria, and Nicolas in their future endeavours.

IIHF GOVERNANCE

The IIHF has been named among the top-ranked winter-sports federations in an independent

International Federation Governance review.

The review, commissioned by the Association of International Winter Sports Federations (AIOWF), place the IIHF in category A1/A2 with 165 points. The IIHF 5-point lag behind the top A1 category was due to the delay of the implementation of certain governance items, resulting from rescheduling the 2020 IIHF Annual Congress for COVID-19 reasons.

The governance review is independently conducted involved 50 indicators in various governance criteria, including Transparency, Integrity, Democracy, Development and Control Mechanisms.

[Click here to access the International Governance Review](#)

From 2016 to 2020, the IIHF implemented the following good governance actions:

- Separation of Powers between an operational office and a strategic Council
- Clearer and more robust Council Eligibility requirement, Council Campaigning Procedures and Rules, and Council election requirements (minimum votes required to be elected and vetting by an independent auditor)
- Council Term Limits

- Creation of an Independent Ethics Board with members elected by the Congress (Board mandate takes effect in 2021 due to COVID-19)

- Clear requirements and procedures for organizations to become IIHF members and detailed accountability requirements for MNAs once they become members (IIHF Audit rights)
- Procurement Policy and Procedures for the IIHF and Hosts of IIHF Championships

- Financial clarity and transparency

- Creation of a clearer, more robust and accountable Integrity Program (Anti-Doping, Match Fixing, Abuse and Harassment – including racism, and Ethics) – Integrity Hub;

- IIHF Environmental and Social Responsibility Guidelines and Manual for IIHF Championship Hosts

IIHF SUSTAINABILITY

The IIHF has earned recognition for the second straight year from the International Olympic Committee for its actions in promoting climate action and sustainability.

On 6 November, the IOC announced that the IIHF together with 14 other International Sport Federations and five National Olympic Committees have received the 2020 Carbon

Action Award from the IOC and its official carbon partner DOW.

Launched in 2019, the Awards – which form part of the IOC-DOW Carbon Partnership – were created to inspire further climate action by recognising the sustainability efforts of key sports organisations within the Olympic Movement.

The Environment & Sustainability Committee was formed to promote climate action and contribute to a sustainable environment for ice hockey. The Committee has overseen numerous initiatives in the past years, including encouraging its Member National Associations to find ways to reduce their carbon footprint.

Some of the major examples of MNAs' work in this field include a unique project to [recycle arena water in South Africa](#), and providing sustainable [transport for accredited personnel](#) at the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship.

[Click here to access the IIHF Environment & Sustainability projects](#)

As part of the recognition, the IFs and NOCs will receive carbon offsets to compensate their 2020 unavoidable residual emissions. These include a diverse set of climate solutions, from conserving ecosystems and avoiding deforestation to energy efficiency and renewable energy.



2021 IIHF ICE HOCKEY U18 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The IIHF Council and the participating teams have approved the change of venues and amended dates of the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship in the United States.

The event will be hosted by USA Hockey in conjunction with the NHL's Dallas Stars in Frisco and Plano, Texas, from 26 April to 6 May 2021.

The 2021 edition will be the third held in the United States after Fargo and Moorhead in 2009 and Grand Forks in 2016.



The two venues are located north of Dallas and are approximately 15 minutes apart by car. Comerica Center in Frisco (pictured, bottom left) will be the primary venue and home of Group B with host USA, Russia, the Czech Republic, Finland and Germany, and host two quarter-final games, both semi-finals and the medal games. Comerica Center is home to the Dallas Stars' practice facility and offices.

Children's Health StarCenter in Plano will host Group A with Sweden, Canada, Belarus, Latvia and Switzerland as well as two quarter-final games.



2021 IIHF ICE HOCKEY WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship in Halifax and Truro in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia is tentatively booked for 6-16 May 2021.

All IIHF stakeholders approved the new tournament dates in a recent call and all teams committed to their participation despite the difficult circumstances and challenges for ice hockey and international travel posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To ensure a safe environment for the

tournament's operation, the IIHF, tournament host Hockey Canada, and the nine other participating IIHF member national associations held virtual meetings to evaluate the capabilities of teams to travel for the tournament. Meanwhile, the host committee has been working with several government departments at federal and provincial level to ensure a safe environment for players and staff.

During a recent call with the participating teams, the IIHF pledged to increase its financial support for the tournament, in order to reduce the financial burden for the organizer due to higher costs and decreased ticket revenues as well as to subsidize the higher travel and accommodation costs for the teams.

It is anticipated that a limited number of fans



may be able to attend games in Halifax and Truro. The exact capacity will be known closer to the tournament and will be used primarily to honour existing ticket commitments.

It will be the first top-level IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship since 2019 due to the cancellation of all IIHF tournaments scheduled in the spring of 2020 when the pandemic broke out – and it will be the last opportunity for the participating teams to play at that level prior to the 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

In order to eliminate any negative impact on the epidemiological situation and health care system in the province, participants travelling to the province will have to go through a thorough quarantine and COVID-19 testing process prior to travel to Canada. The tournament will be operated in accordance with Nova Scotia Government mandated protocols which will include but not be limited to regular COVID-19 testing, quarantine, masking and physical distancing.

The 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship will be the eighth edition to be held in Canada. Halifax previously hosted the 2004 Women's Worlds, and in men's hockey hosted the 2008 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship and the 2003 IIHF World Junior Championship.

HUNGARY

The Hungarian Ice Hockey Federation has signed **Sean Simpson** to a two-year contract as new head coach of the men's national team.



Sean Simpson was born in Great Britain but grew up in Canada and has both citizenships. He played at AHL level in North America before moving to Europe where he spent most of his career as a player and coach in Switzerland as well as six years in Germany and part of a season with the KHL's Lokomotiv Yaroslavl.

Simpson led EV Zug to its only championship in 1998 and two years later won the German DEL with the Munich Barons. In 2009 he won the Champions Hockey League with the ZSC Lions Zurich. It was the first and only time a Swiss club won a best-on-best European club title. Also in 2009 the CHL winner played for the Victoria Cup against an NHL team and Simpson's Lions beat the Chicago Blackhawks on home ice for the title – the first time a Swiss club team had beaten an NHL team.

For the next five years Sean Simpson was coaching the Swiss national team, which he led to a World Championship silver medal in 2013 – the first medal in 60 years. Most

recently Simpson worked as a coach advisor at Swiss club Fribourg-Gotteron. Hungary qualified for the top-level IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in 2009 and 2016 but hasn't managed to return in three attempts.

Hungary also advanced to the Final Olympic Qualification that will be staged in August 2021. In Group E in Riga, Hungary will play for a spot in Beijing 2022 against host Latvia, France and Italy.

GREAT BRITAIN

Clifton Wrottesley has been appointed as a Director and the new Chair of Ice Hockey UK.



Wrottesley will replace Richard Grieveson who announced he was standing down back in December.

Wrottesley is a former Olympian, representing Ireland in skeleton at the Winter Olympics. During the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, he served as Chef de Mission for the Irish team. He was chair of British Skeleton from 2012 to 2015 and was a board member of the British Bobsleigh and Skeleton Association between 2012 and 2019. He is still involved in overseeing the British Skeleton high-performance team.

Wrottesley has a number of plans he would like to see implemented in the coming years by Ice Hockey UK, including more focus on the women's game, as well as setting up a national academy and the potential for scholarships.

Wrottesley's appointment will be confirmed at the next IHUK AGM, currently planned for April 2021.

SLOVAKIA

The Slovak Ice Hockey Federation has extended the contract with men's national team head coach **Craig Ramsay**.



The contract was signed for the 2020/2021 season and by qualifying for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games at the Final Olympic Qualification in August 2021 it will be extended until the end of 2021/2022 season.

Ramsay joined the Slovak team in 2011. Under Ramsay Slovakia finished in ninth place at the last two World Championships and 11th at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games.

43-year-old former national team player Michal Handzus, who won World Championship gold with Slovakia in 2002 and the Stanley Cup with the Chicago Blackhawks in 2013,

will permanently work as assistant coach for the men's national team. A second assistant coach will be named on a rotational basis.

UKRAINE

Georgi Zubko became the new President of the Ice Hockey Federation of Ukraine. The candidate was elected during the federation's General Congress, which took place on 18 December.



Anatoli Brezvin, who has been the President of the Ice Hockey Federation of Ukraine for the past 14 years, didn't run for another term and was named Honorary President.

Previously Zubko was the Vice President of the Ice Hockey Federation of Ukraine (2016-2020). While he was serving, the U18 national team of Ukraine won Division IB gold in 2018 and the women's national team of Ukraine resumed its existence after a 20-year break making its World Championship debut in 2019.

The newly elected President was also the chairman of the organizing committees of three IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship tournaments hosted in the capital of Kyiv in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Obituaries

ART BERGLUND



Born in Canada and dedicating his life to USA Hockey, Art Berglund was a vital and long-time member of the international hockey community. He passed away on 19 December at the age of 80.

A player in his youth, Berglund played college hockey at Colorado, after which he moved to Europe and turned pro. He played for teams in Switzerland and Austria until Thayer Tutt, the American president of the IIHF at the time, offered Berglund a job as manager of the Broadmoor Arena in Colorado Springs, the venue of the only World Championship ever held in the United States, in 1962.

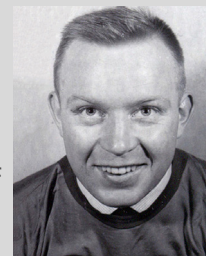
Berglund was manager of the U.S. National Team for the 1973, 1974, and 1975 World Championship. In 1976, Berglund was named manager of the Olympic team, after which he moved to the world of junior hockey, overseeing USA Hockey's U20 team eight times between 1977 and 1992. It was on his watch in 1986 that the team won its first World Junior medal ever, a bronze, a feat it replicated in 1992.

Berglund was also manager for the American entries at the 1981 and 1991 Canada Cup tournaments and was closely involved in the Olympic team selection process from 1984 to 2002.

Concurrently, Berglund moved into the world of the NHL, first as a scout for the St. Louis Blues and then as director of player recruitment for the Colorado Rockies. He later moved to USA Hockey in 1984 as director of national teams.

After retiring in 2005, Berglund remained with USA Hockey for another decade as a consultant. He was inducted into the IIHF Hall of Fame in 2008. He was given the Lester Patrick Award in 1992 for his contributions to hockey in the U.S. and was inducted into the U.S. Hall of Fame in 2010.

GERT BLOME



One of the greatest Swedish players of the 1960s, Gert Blome, died on 27 January at the age of 86.

Born in Gavle, Sweden, Blome made his professional debut with hometown team Brynas in the second division in 1955, but a year later moved to Gavle IK for the next five years.

During this time he represented Tre Kronor for the first time, at the 1958 IIHF Ice Hockey World

Championship in Oslo, Norway, winning a bronze medal. Blome played in the 1960 Olympics in Squaw Valley, California, placing fifth.

Blome reached the peak of success in 1962, at the World Championship in Colorado Springs. Sweden went through the tournament with a perfect 7-0 record, defeating Canada, Finland, and the United States to win gold. The following year Sweden won silver.

In 1964, Blome helped Sweden win silver at the Olympics in Innsbruck, his second and last Olympics, and he won two more medals at the World Championships, bronze in 1965 and silver two years later.

Domestically, Blome helped Frolunda win its first title in 1964/65 and earned league MVP honours. In 2017 he was named to Sweden's Hall of Fame.

ARTYOM CHERNOV



Russian hockey player Artyom Chernov passed on 10 December at the age of 38.

The Novokuznetsk native had his debut in the top Russian league with Metallurg Novokuznetsk as an 18-year-old. During this period he represented Russia at one U20 and one U18 World Championship winning a silver

medal at the U18 Worlds in 2000. The same year he was drafted in the fifth round by the Dallas Stars.

Chernov later played top-level hockey in Russia for Avangard Omsk, Spartak Moscow, MVD Balashikha, Dynamo Moscow, Torpedo Nizhni Novgorod, Avtomobilist Yekaterinburg, Atlant Mytishi and Salavat Yulayev Ufa. His biggest success was winning the KHL with Dynamo Moscow in 2012. For two seasons he also played for Yunost Minsk winning two Belarusian championships.

ADAM KOPCZYNSKI

Former Polish national team player Adam Kopczynski passed away on 8 February. He reportedly died at a hospital for Covid-19 patients in Zgierz at the age of 72.

Kopczynski was born in Krakow and spent his career with his hometown team Cracovia Krakow and LKS Lodz, which became his home for most of his life, and was also working as a player and coach for Olympia Heist op den Berg in Belgium.

He played 107 international games for Poland including the 1972 Olympic Winter Games in Sapporo and six World Championship tournaments (three in the top division).

AKSHAY KUMAR

The founder and former general secretary of the Ice Hockey Association of India, Akshay Kumar, passed away at the age of 51.



He died in hospital on 16 September after a cardiac arrest he suffered while cycling. Kumar led the Ice Hockey Association of India for many years. His father Col N Kumar earlier formed the Winter Games Federation of India from which the Ice Hockey Association of India was established later.

Akshay Kumar became the organization's first General Secretary in 2002 and held the position until 2013 and continued to be involved as a director. He was also a delegate for India at IIHF congresses until 2015.

During his time as General Secretary, India had its international debut in the 2009 IIHF Ice Hockey Challenge Cup of Asia. In 2012 India hosted the tournament for the first time in Dehradun and had its first win in IIHF history, 5-1 against Macau.

Kumar was an ice hockey player and skier himself and worked in the tourism industry where he was CEO of Mercury Himalayan Explorations and a former President of Adventure Tour Operators Association of India and former Vice

President of the Federation of Associations in India Tourism & Hospitality.

Kumar is survived by his wife Dilshad and their daughter.

GORDON RENWICK



Gordon Renwick, IIHF Life Member and Hall of Famer, passed away 6 January at the age of 85. He was a past President of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association and Vice President of the IIHF.

Renwick became a director of the CAHA – the predecessor of Hockey Canada – in 1969 and its Vice President four years later. Renwick was elected the president of the CAHA in 1977. Among his first orders of business was to establish a women's council for the development of women's hockey in Canada. He also made facemasks mandatory for all players and helmets mandatory for all on-ice officials.

A year later, Renwick was named to the IIHF Council. He sat on the Council of the IIHF for 20 years and was Vice President from 1984 to 1996, during which time he modernized its accounting practices and took international marketing and sponsorship to new levels. Renwick sat on the Rules Committee for several years.

In the mid-1990s, he was a key member of the negotiation team that met with the NHL and NHLPA to get the league to participate in the Olympics, and was an energetic supporter of NHL club teams playing in Europe. In addition to being inducted into the IIHF Hall of Fame in 2002, Renwick was an inaugural honouree of the Order of Hockey in Canada in 2012.

MARK PAVELICH

One of the heroes from the 1980 Miracle on Ice team, Mark Pavelich, died on 5 March.



A native of Eveleth, Minnesota, Pavelich played his way onto the Olympic team after three years at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He spent the 1979/80 season with the U.S. Olympic Team. Pavelich earned two assists in the Miracle on Ice game, a 4-3 win over the Soviets on 22 February 1980, that led to the team's gold medal. In all, he had six assists and seven points.

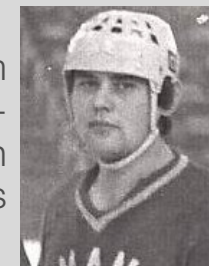
Undrafted by the NHL, he played the 1980/81 season in Switzerland, with HC Lugano, but then new New York Rangers coach Herb Brooks, knowing Pavelich from 1980, signed him to a contract. As a rookie he had 33 goals and 76 points, a Rangers record for rookies to this day. The Rangers were eliminated in the opening round of the playoffs, and that allowed

Pavelich to play for his country again, at the World Championship in Sweden, finishing fifth.

Pavelich scored 37 goals then next year with the Rangers and 82 points in his third season. After a short stint in Minnesota Pavelich ended his career in Europe. He later came out of retirement briefly, playing his final two pro games with the San Jose Sharks in October 1991.

MIHAIL LUCIAN POPESCU

Former Romanian national team player and Olympian Mihail Lucian Popescu passed away on 31 January in Bucharest. He was 60.



Popescu spent his career with Steaua Bucharest where he played his first games in the top Romanian league as a 16-year-old and ended up winning several national championships.

Two years later the defenceman got his first call to the national team and played at three IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship B-Pool tournaments (1979, 1981, 1983) as well as the 1980 Olympic Winter Games.

Popescu also represented Romania in lower divisions of the World Championship in 1989 and 1990 and as U18 national team coach.

Worlds to Latvia

Riga set to host all 16 participating teams

By Adam Steiss, Martin Merk



On 5 February, the IIHF Council voted to confirm Riga, Latvia, as the sole host for the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship.

The announcement came following the IIHF Council decision to withdraw the tournament from Minsk, Belarus. The Council cited the on-going challenges placed by COVID-19 together with various technical reasons for its decision to keep the tournament in one city.

With continued uncertainty surrounding international travel restrictions, the Council believes that keeping all teams in Riga throughout the tournament and avoiding travel between two host countries is the safest and most cost-effective way to operate the event. The tournament will take place within Riga under the following conditions:

- The main venue will be the Arena Riga in Riga and will host Group B, two quarter-final games, the semi-final round and the medal round



Riga will host the World Championship with Group B in Arena Riga (left) and Group A at the Olympic Sports Centre (right).

- The second venue will be the Olympic Sports Centre, which will be converted into a 6,000-capacity ice rink and will host Group A and two quarter-final games

- The Daugava Ice Rink, approximately 10 minutes from Arena Riga, will serve as the practice arena with two ice sheets. The arena is under construction and scheduled to be finished by the end of March

- All 16 participating teams will be housed in one hotel

With teams housed in one location and the Arena Riga and Olympic Sports Centre competi-



tion venues located approximately 150 metres away from each other, the IIHF would be able to implement a bubble concept if needed.

Should the COVID-19 situation in Latvia improve to the point that spectators would be allowed, the IIHF together with the Local Organizing Committee would be prepared to initiate a ticketing offer if there is a government approval to host fans in the venues.

Tournament schedule confirmed

The IIHF has released the [game schedule of the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship](#).

On Friday, 21 May 2021 host Latvia will start the tournament against top-seeded Canada at 20:15 local time at Arena Riga. Earlier that day Germany will play Italy in the same group. In Group A play it will be a clash between Russians and Czechs to open the tournament across the street at the Olympic Sports Centre. Belarus and Slovakia will play the evening game.

Day 1 of the 2021 Worlds will see eight of the 16 teams involved. The other teams in Group A are Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark and Great Britain, who will get involved the day after on Saturday, 22 May. Group B at Arena Riga also includes defending champion Finland, the United States, Norway and Kazakhstan.



2021 IIHF ICE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP A	GROUP B
Russia	Canada
Sweden	Finland
Czech Republic	United States
Switzerland	Germany
Slovakia	Latvia
Denmark	Norway
Belarus	Italy
Great Britain	Kazakhstan

Olympics in sight

Beijing 2022 passes year to go milestone

By Martin Merk



The 4th February marked one year to go until the opening of the 2022 Olympic Winter Games. Next year Beijing will become the first city to have hosted both the Summer and Winter Games.

In China, the Beijing Organising Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (BOCOG) continues its work on building venues and recruiting manpower for the various sports. The National Indoor Stadium and the Wukesong Sports Centre will be used for the ice hockey tournaments. They are being transformed for ice hockey and extended with additional ice sheets for practices and dressing rooms.

The 18,826-seat National Indoor Stadium was constructed for the 2008 Olympics and sometimes nicknamed The Fan with the architecture resembling a traditional folding fan. In 2008 gymnastics, handball and trampolining events were held and in January it got its ice sheet for



The National Indoor Stadium got its first ice sheets in January. Inset: the official Olympic ice hockey sport pictograms.

the Winter Olympics. The venue will primarily host the men's ice hockey tournament.

To install the refrigeration floor and as part of the reconstruction, the field of play level was raised about 60 centimetres. 14 permanent dressing rooms have been established with all the necessary functions rooms for team staff. All venues will have 60-on-26-metre ice sheets, which are more commonly used in North America.

The Wukesong Sports Centre can accommodate 14,614 spectators for ice hockey and was also built for the 2008 Olympics when it hosted the basketball tournaments. It has already hosted ice hockey games when the Chinese KHL team Kunlun Red Star was created in 2016 and for the NHL China Games in 2017 and 2018.

A new Ice Sports Centre has been built right next to the competition venue with two indoor

and in future also one outdoor ice rink. With the maximal configuration there can be up to five ice rinks available at one spot leaving a legacy for ice sports in the future. During the 2022 Olympics the venue will be home to the women's ice hockey tournament but also host a few games of the men's tournament.

Introducing the Olympic pictograms

On New Year's Eve, the official Olympic sport pictograms were released – another step in the preparation for the big event.



The Beijing Organising Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games used the pictograms as an important carrier to convey the host country's culture. The long history of the Chinese characters represents a rich cultural expression and are represented in the logo that reminds of seal carving.

The combination of the Han Dynasty seal and athletic movements demonstrates the unique charm of strength and speed of winter sports. The ice hockey pictogram available in white or red is one of 30 pictograms depicting sports during the next Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

IIHF launches Development Hub

Resource-rich tool available for MNAs

By Derek O'Brien

Last fall, the IIHF launched its all-new [Development Hub](#), a resource-rich addition to the IIHF website that will serve as a central hub dedicated to the development of ice hockey.

It includes various training resources, including a framework for coaching development and a Player Development Guide – which includes a new video Drill Hub.

IIHF President René Fasel celebrated the launch of the Development Hub during a video call with each of the IIHF's 81 Member National Associations.

"All of you now have access to over 500 ice hockey drill and exercise videos, and so many other resources that have been carefully chosen to help you develop your coaches and players within your countries," said Fasel.



The Development Hub is a massive centralized platform dedicated to ice hockey growth and for the use of IIHF members.

The timing of the launch is an unexpected bonus for the IIHF's member nations. With limitations to ice access in some countries and with some IIHF tournaments having already been cancelled due to COVID-19, the Development Hub will equip member national associations with necessary resources to rebuild momentum in their domestic development plans.

"The idea came from the top IIHF leadership and the two respective Committees, those being Coaching as well as Youth and Junior Development," said IIHF Membership Development Manager Aku Nieminen, who has had more than 100 people contributing to this project over the past couple of years.

Some of the materials, such as those found in the [Learn to Play](#) and [Development Programs](#), were already part of the IIHF website, but they have been updated and are now part of something much bigger and better focused. For example, the Learn to Play section contains an over 367-page document on how to operate the IIHF Learn to Play Program: a massive coaching tool features sections on leadership, coaching basics, teaching, learning, organization, planning, playing rules and practice manuals.

Within the large Player Development Guide perhaps the most exciting new addition to this section is the [Drill Hub](#), a video resource library which focuses on numerous skill areas for both on-ice and off-ice training. There are already more than 500 videos in the library which are divided into three categories – Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. The videos were shot over the past year and a half, in partnership with the Vierumäki Sport Institute in Finland.

"While we acknowledge also the elite level, we have decided to prioritize and focus on the youth more," said Nieminen.

A quick visit to the Drill Hub confirms that, starting with a large number of basic skating, stickhandling, passing and skating

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drills before moving onto more advanced technical, tactical, and off-ice training drills. There are also drills for goaltenders of all skill levels. All of that makes the Drill Hub a resource which can be an invaluable tool to help coaches plan practices for teams of any level, or for players to improve fundamental skills on their own.

“Coaches are certainly the main target group as they are the ones to design and run the practices but we hope that also players, coaching or development directors, and basically all stakeholders could benefit from these,” said Nieminen.

Webinar Series in Development

The IIHF, in coordination with its Youth & Junior Development and Coaching Committees, is creating a series of online development webinars for all of our members.



The sessions will provide development program coordinators, coaches, parents, officials, and more with background information on a set topic and an opportunity to ask questions of the presenter. [→ACCESS](#)



Covering the full spectrum of a player's life both on and off the ice, the Player Development Guide is a major part of the Development Hub and contains eight different sections:

- **Drill Hub:** Over 500 on and off-ice drills to support the development of players. [→ACCESS](#)
- **Physical Development:** Information for coaches, strength and conditioning coaches, and parents covering training programming, development of physical qualities, reduction of overuse injuries, conditioning, individualization of training, and training and adaptation differences between girls and boys. [→READ MORE](#) [→ACCESS](#)
- **Nutrition and Hydration:** Tips for players and parents on how to best fuel up with healthy nutrition and hydration to support the demands of becoming a better player. [→ACCESS](#)
- **Well-Being and Lifestyle:** Healthy training and good lifestyle habits plus the psychological factors impacting on well-being and lifestyle. [→ACCESS](#)
- **Parents:** Resource for hockey parents with information on ice hockey, physical activity, multi-sport participation, sleep, recovery, safety, how to best support your child playing hockey [→READ MORE](#) [→ACCESS](#)
- **Planning:** How to prepare for the practice sessions. Also, IIHF templates for designing those in detail. [→READ MORE](#) [→ACCESS](#)
- **Standards of Behaviour:** 10 golden rules for fair play for players, coaches, officials, parents and administrators. [→ACCESS](#)
- **External Resources:** Links to other great player development resources, made by the IIHF Membership or external organizations. [→ACCESS](#)



DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

PLAYER
DEVELOPMENT
GUIDE

COACH
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

LEARN
TO PLAY



Team USA golden in 2021

World's top junior tournament brings hockey back safely and in style

By Andrew Podnieks



In what was an IIHF World Junior Championship unlike any other, there were many takeaways. Here are 10 things we learned from the 2021 World Juniors.

1—You CAN host a tournament in a pandemic

The IIHF said yes. Hockey Canada said yes. Rogers Place said yes. And the players and staff said yes. Through determination and cooperation, all parties put safety first and managed to pull off a hockey miracle—a safe and exciting World Junior Championship, in a bubble.

2—It's not how you start—it's how you finish

The U.S. didn't look so great after their first game, a 5-3 loss to Russia on Christmas night. But goalie Spencer Knight shrugged off a poor start, and the team got better and better, playing its best game at the end and winning gold.

3—The expanding World Junior universe

Sure, the big boys had their stars, but much of the talk in the preliminary round focused on players from smaller nations—Tim Stutzle from Germany; Marco Rossi from Austria; Simon Lattkoczy from Slovakia. Their play was a breath of fresh air and gives hope to smaller nations hoping to make inroads at the U20 level.



Team USA played a complete game in the final, shutting down hosts Canada 2-0 to win the country's fifth gold medal.

Matt Zamboni / IIHF Images

4—From passer to scorer to superstar

Trevor Zegras scored no goals at the 2019 U18. He scored no goals at last year's World Juniors. But this year he scored seven goals in seven games and also led the tournament with 11 assists and 18 points. His time is now.

5—German resilience

Tough doesn't begin to describe what the Germans had to face when, upon arriving in Edmonton, they discovered ten members of their team had tested positive for covid. Coach Tobias Abstreiter could dress only 14 skaters for the team's first four games, yet it managed to qualify for the quarter-finals for the first time ever.

6—One venue

The co-host of this year's WJC was supposed to be Red Deer, but with bubble and quarantine measures in effect Rogers Place hosted all the games. That meant some long days, but it also meant TSN covered the entire tournament live, no overlapping games. Covid is bad, but this format was certainly appealing in many ways.

7—Levi-tation

Goaltender Devon Levi wasn't invited to Canada's summer camp and wasn't considered a contender for the team in any meaningful way even in November.

But he played his way into the starter's role, tied

a U20 record with three shutouts, and took his game to another level while the world watched.

8—So long Sweden streak

The Swedes came into this year's tournament with an incredible winning streak in preliminary-round games that stretched back 15 years, but after two more wins to make it 54 in a row they lost their final three games and were eliminated in the quarters, finishing in fifth place.

9—Finnish mettle

The Finns had their worst game of the tournament on New Year's Eve, losing to Canada, 4-1, and looking lost against the superior opponent. But in the first round of the playoffs they came back from 2-0 down to Sweden, scored late and advanced to the semis. Again, they trailed the Americans by two in the third but fought back to tie the game, but this time they lost on a late goal. Nevertheless, their tenacity and never-say-die attitude was thrilling to watch.

10—Officially excellent

The all-Canadian crew of referees and linesmen did a stellar job and played by the philosophy that less is more. That is, fewer penalties make for a better game. They didn't let dirty play go, but they allowed tough and gritty play to be the standard of judgement. Some people might like it and others not, but the players certainly weren't complaining.

2021 WORLD JUNIORS: BY THE NUMBERS

Here are some noteworthy numbers from the 2021 IIHF World Junior Championship.



- The 2021 #WorldJuniors is the most-watched since 2015, captivating 13.5 million unique Canadian viewers – 36% of Canada's population, and close to 120 million viewers across 12 broadcast countries.



- An average audience of nearly 3.8 million viewers tuned in to @TSN_Sports and @RDSca for the Gold Medal Game, which also became the most-streamed event ever for TSN digital platforms (up 87% vs 2020).



- IIHF.com registered over 22 million page views, up 70.58% from 2020. There was a 90% increase in website sessions from 2020.

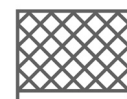


- Mobile consumption up to 78% for IIHF.com, and +29 % for the IIHF App (4,923,841 views).



- On IIHF social media channels, the IIHF gained 37,000 new fans, made 70.4 million impressions and 3.2 million engagements, a minimum 30%

increase from 2020. Worldwide, the hashtag #WorldJuniors was used over 74 million times.

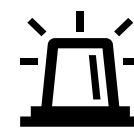


- It was 15 years ago that Justin Pogge led Canada to gold when he registered a record three shutouts. In 2021, two goalies equaled that mark. Both Devon Levi (CAN) and Spencer Knight (USA) had three each in Edmonton.



- Team USA set a team record for longest shutout streak, not allowing a goal for 2:18:53 of game time.

- Speaking of shutouts, 2021 set a record with 12 in 28 games. The previous record was 11 in 2004.



- Trevor Zegras led the tournament with 18 points. The last player to record as many was Canada's Brayden Schenn in 2011, and the last person to get more than 18 was Peter Forsberg way back in 1993 (31).



- This year's 28 games featured only 176 goals, an average of 6.3 goals per game. The lowest goals totals came in 1979, when teams scored only 171, but that was in only 22 games (average 7.8 per game). The lowest per-game average was in both 2015 and 2019 when there were only 176 goals in 30 games, a 5.87 average.

- The U.S. 2-0 win in the gold game was the lowest scoring championship game since 2012 when Sweden beat Russia, 1-0, in overtime.



- Finland captain Anton Lundell not only took way more faceoffs than any other player in the tournament – 91 – he also won 70 per cent of those draws, tops among all players with at least 35 faceoffs to their credit.

- Team Canada defenceman Thomas Hartley led all players with a plus-minus of +14, he wasn't on the ice for a single opponent's goal.

- The Czechs and Austrians tied a record in their game on 31 December 2020. The Czechs didn't incur a single penalty (to tie one record) and Austria had one, their total of two PIMs also tying a record. Sweden also had a penalty-free game on 28 December 2020, vs. Austria.



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Video Highlights: 2021 IIHF World Junior Championship



Click here to view all the game highlights from the 2021 IIHF World Junior Championship

All-Star Team/MVP

Devon Levi, G, CAN

Bowen Byram, D, CAN
Ville Heinola, D, FIN

Tim Stutzle, F, GER
Dylan Cozens, F, CAN
Trevor Zegras, F, USA (MVP)

Directorate Best
Forward, All-Star



Tim Stutzle, Germany

5GP, 5G, 5A, 10P, -4

Coming into the tournament with an undermanned team due to COVID quarantine restrictions, Tim Stutzle pulled Germany through the preliminary round and into its first-ever World Juniors play-off appearance. As an 18-year old, Stutzle stood out among a group of talented Juniors players, notching a goal a game and driving the German offence.

Directorate Best
Defenceman, All-Star



Topi Niemela, Finland

7GP, 2G, 6A, 8P, +4

The 18-year-old Karpat Oulu product finished atop the scoring table for defencemen at the tournament and was a key factor in Finland's bronze medal run. Niemela, a Toronto Maple Leafs NHL prospect, flashed the skating ability and veteran hockey sense that will likely earn him a return spot for Team Finland in 2022.

Directorate Best
Goalkeeper, All-Star



Devon Levi, Canada

7GP, 6W, 0.75GAA, 96.40SVS%, 3SO

If not for a loss to USA in the gold medal game, Devon Levi's performance would be considered the best-ever by a World Juniors goalie. Levi tied the tournament shutout record, recording his third game without allowing a goal in a 5-0 semi-final win over Russia. In addition, a sparkling 0.75 GAA showed the young goalie's promise.

Gallery



Canada's Devon Levi guards his net against as USA's John Farinacci in the gold medal game at the 2021 IIHF World Junior Championship.



Brendan Brisson receives his gold medal from Cam York after USA won gold in Edmonton.



USA's Matthew Boldy scores a goal against Austria's Sebastian Wraneschitz.



Matt Zambonin / HHOF-IIHF Images

Czech Republic's Karel Klikorka reaches for the puck as it trickles behind Lukas Parik at the 2021 World Juniors.



Matt Zambonin / HHOF-IIHF Images

Germany's Markus Schweiger attempts to bat the puck past Switzerland's Thibault Fatton at the 2021 World Juniors.



Matt Zambonin / HHOF-IIHF Images

Russia's Vasili Ponomaryov attempts to hit Sweden's Theodor Niederbach during World Junior preliminary round action.



Czech Republic's Jan Mysak scores a first period goal against Sweden's Hugo Alnefelt at the 2021 IIHF World Junior Championship.



Germany's Florian Elias with a scoring chance against Slovakia's Simon Latkoczy.



Finland celebrates a 4-0 bronze medal game win against Russia at the 2021 World Juniors.

Building the bubble

Inside Hockey Canada's WJC safety plans

By Lucas Aykroyd

Creating a pandemic bubble to play the 2021 IIHF World Junior Championship in Edmonton was no small feat. According to Hockey Canada statistics, it involved close to 10,000 COVID-19 tests and 33,000 health questionnaires, among many other measures.

Dean McIntosh, Hockey Canada's vice-president of events and properties, was a key bubble organizer and recently shared details with Ice Times.

When did you start planning your World Junior bubble?

The original event planning started when we were awarded the World Juniors in December 2018. When COVID-19 hit in March last year, we took the next three or four months to get a sense of what the world would look like, whether we could put anyone in the building.

By mid-July, six months out, we decided to move forward in a format with one venue in Edmonton and a couple of hotels.



An 18,500-seat empty arena was an unusual site for players and officials at the 2021 IIHF World Junior Championship.

We saw the writing on the wall. We hadn't finalized plans yet, but had started to map things out, taking into account what Toronto and Edmonton were delivering in the NHL playoff bubble.

What did you learn from the NHL's model?

The biggest lesson was how thorough we would need to be with ensuring that we were compliant with everything – testing, masking, travel, individuals attempting to leave the bubble, and so on. There's a sense that people are good and make good decisions, but that's

not always the case. So you have to build a plan and reinforce compliance over and over again.

One big difference was that the NHL really had North America-based players, whereas our travel requirements were a lot different. We were attempting to bring in, let's say, 11 total teams, if you include tournament officials, not just from Canada and the U.S., but also European countries. These countries have managed COVID-19 differently, have different rules for booking charters, and so on. We spent lots of time on travel requirements.

What were some other major challenges and successes?

We successfully worked with many groups, including the IIHF, the individual teams, the city of Edmonton, the province of Alberta, and the federal government. They all had protocols in place to protect Canadians, travelers, and our communities. Our medical advisory committee built a plan that was vetted through those groups.

We took pride in sticking with our medical protocols, and we had solid quarantine plans. It would have been easy for us to panic after we had a couple of positive tests. But we had conversations: "The plan was to ensure

Andrea Cardin / IIHF-Images

we identified positive COVID-19 cases, and that plan is working.” We identified cases very early on in the “Level One” bubble with teams, federations, and officials, and the “Level Two” bubble with hotel and venue employees. We worked diligently right through 6 January to ensure a successful event.

Medically, what were some specific steps you took?

We implemented daily PCR testing. Every day, we had between 940 and 1,000 people that came to us. For those in quarantine, testing occurred in their rooms. Within 12 to 16 hours, we had results from all those tests and could respond quickly.

We also worked with two different companies. The Clear app let us do daily temperature checks for everyone in the bubble. TraceSafe’s wearable technology let us know if there were close contacts and where people spent time together.

Also, we required everyone in the bubble to wear the same light blue, disposable medical masks. And we gave each team their own dedicated space, with 10 permanent dressing rooms, and separate spaces for the officials and IIHF staff, using Rogers



Tournament chairmen Luc Tardif (left) and Frank Gonzalez (right) during the 2021 World Junior medal ceremony.

Place and the adjoining Downtown Community Arena. So we didn’t have much back-of-house movement, and all those spaces were sanitized regularly.

Who were the key members of your Hockey Canada team?

From top to bottom in the organization, everyone played a role. Ryan Robins, our director of events, focused on operations, and he worked with our logistics team to

deliver what we needed with hotels and transportation. Riley Wiwchar, our executive director on site in Edmonton, focused on bringing the community together, including 44 volunteers – compared to the 700 we’d normally have – and our staff, making sure everyone knew their roles and felt appreciated. Our CEO Tom Renney and COO Scott Smith really set the course with their leadership for the event, taking either a hands-on or hands-off approach when they needed to.

Do you have any “Bubble tips” that you could share for future organizers?

First, set the tone. What are you trying to deliver? We wanted to hand out World Junior gold medals on 5 January safely. That was our priority.

Second, put together a medical advisory team early on. We had two local Edmonton doctors, a University of Alberta infectious disease expert, two IIHF-assigned doctors, and Dr. Mark Aubry, the IIHF’s chief medical officer. We leaned on those people.

Third, be patient and flexible. If we’d given ultimatums to the Edmonton, Alberta, or federal governments about timelines – “You need to give us an answer today or we’re pulling the event” – the answer likely would have been, “No.” Those organizations have a mandate to keep Canadians safe, and the process takes time.

Under these conditions, Hockey Canada is proud we were able to give U20 players a chance to compete against the world’s best and broadcast that to over 100 million people worldwide through TSN and RDS. It’s an experience we’ll never forget.

Coming up

2021 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship

USA, Frisco & Plano
26.04-06.05.2021

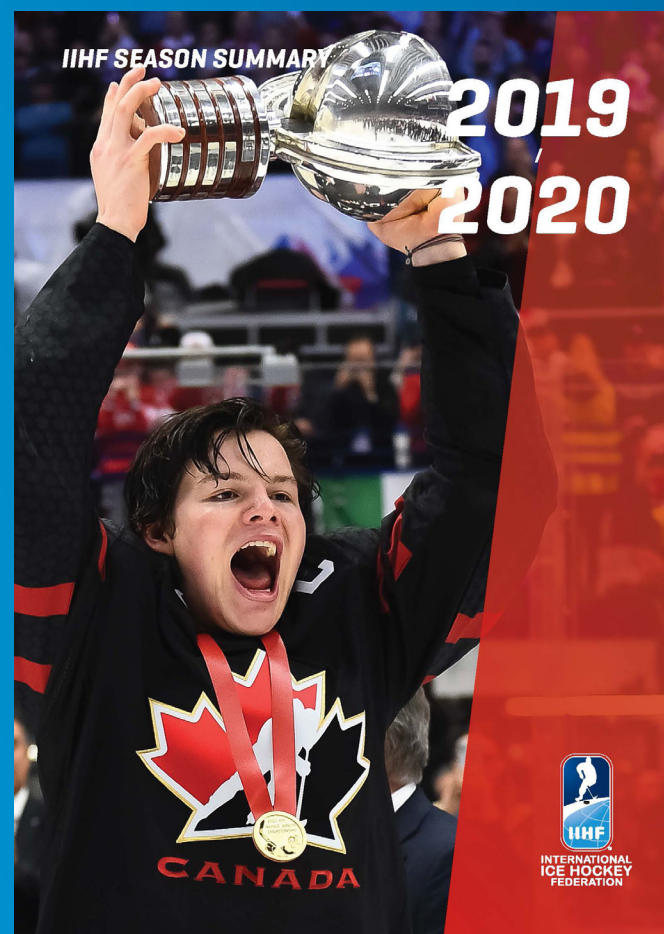
2021 IIHF Women's World Championship

CANADA, Halifax & Truro
06-16.05.2021

2021 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship

LATVIA, Riga
21.05.21-06.06.2021

The 2019/2020 IIHF Season Summary and the 2020 IIHF Guide and Record book, available now on [IIHF.com](https://www.iihf.com) and Amazon!



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