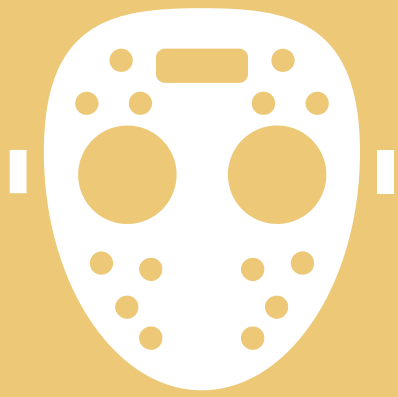


# NHL 2020 STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS FORMAT

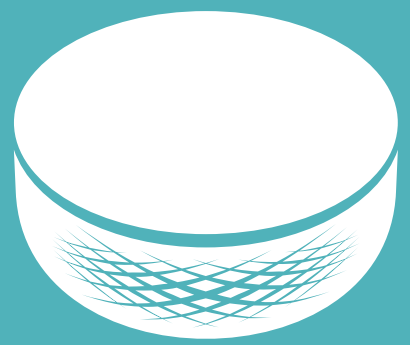


## NHL HOCKEY IN AUGUST

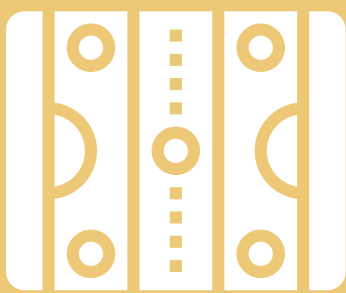
On August 1, 2020, the National Hockey League returns after the season was paused on March 12 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. There will be a "Play-In" round where 16 teams will compete to earn the final eight playoff positions. This marks the first time the NHL has had playoff games in August.

## NHL PLAY-IN TOURNAMENT

Based on winning percentage when play was suspended on March 12th, the NHL and NHLPA agreed to expand the playoffs to 24 teams by having a play-in round in order to have teams outside the top four of each conference earn a birth in the Stanley Cup playoffs. 16 teams will play a best-of-five series in the play-in round.



## FOUR ROUNDS - BEST OF 7



Once the play-in round is complete, the winners will enter the Stanley Cup Playoffs. The top four team in each conference will have played a mini-round to determine top four seeding and all remaining series will be best-of-7 and will be determined by seeding, not by a set bracket. The first round of the playoffs will begin on August 9th. The last possible game of the Stanley Cup Finals is October 2.

## NHL BUBBLE CITIES: CANADA EH!

Two cities were selected as bubble sites to host the 2019-2020 NHL Playoffs. Edmonton will play host to the Western Conference teams. Toronto will play host to the Eastern Conference teams. The NHL wanted a Canadian city to serve as a hub city in large part because the numbers for COVID-19 are much lower, but the way the bids from the two cities were structured.



## STANLEY CUP FINALS

All of the Conference Finals and Stanley Cup Finals games are set to be played in Edmonton. Conference Finals begin on September 6 with the Stanley Cup Finals commencing on September 20th. If a game 7 is required, the last date that the Stanley Cup will be presented by Gary Bettman is October 2, 2020. This could be the first time a team requires 19 wins to become Stanley Cup Champions.



## WHEN WILL THE 2020-21 SEASON START?

The NHL announced tentative dates pertaining to the start of the next NHL season. As per the NHL and NHLPA, Training Camps for the 2020/21 season will open on November 17th. Training camps will last two weeks with the tentative opening of the 2020/21 NHL set for December 1, 2020.

