

## Junior Crusaders Youth Hockey



### Next Steps in Returning to the Rink August 19, 2020

The following summary of information was obtained from the Mass Hockey Webinar on Monday, August 17, 2020. Additional guidance may be forthcoming, from both USA and Mass Hockey.

These guidelines became effective on Monday, August 17, 2020.

#### ***Youth Ice Hockey Classification / General Comments***

1. Youth Ice Hockey remains classified as a high risk sport.
2. However, under the current guidance from the Governor's Task force, we **are permitted to play games and have scrimmages**, (Level III) with certain restrictions (see below).
3. Ice Hockey Tournaments are not permitted in the Commonwealth.
4. There will be no body checking for all ages for the 20-21 season.
5. Also, officials may use their discretion to stop play for extended battles that involve contact, (quick whistles).
6. All participants must be free of COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days.

#### ***Face Mask / Coverings***

1. All players will be required to wear face masks in and out of the facilities at all times, (in line with the state guidance).
2. A face mask will be required while on benches (Neck Gaiters were discussed as a potential solution).
3. Face masks will be required during face-offs, (most likely only centers)
4. NO face mask are required during play.

**Please Note:** As of today, these are requirements for face masks. The task force and Mass Hockey are working with the state to try and relieve some of these restrictions but as of now, this is the requirement.

### ***Locker Rooms***

1. Locker rooms can only be at 50% capacity, with social distancing.
2. No showers are allowed.
3. If need be we can separate teams into 2 locker rooms to allow for more room, (facility dependent).
4. 15-20 minutes allowed after games to get undressed and out of the facility
  - a. It seems that the VHL will allow you time to get some of your gear on in the locker room, and then remove your bags to another area near the bench.
  - b. This will aid in cleaning the locker rooms and help with the transition between games.

### ***Benches***

1. While on the bench players and coaches are required to have a mask on (neck gaiter).
2. The benches will be marked for social distancing in between players, the overflow will be available in seats to either side of the benches.
3. Water bottles per individual not to be shared.

**Please Note:** Mass Hockey is working to loosen some restrictions but for now, this is the standard.

### ***Spectators / Team count***

1. Only 1 spectator per player will be allowed
  - a. A coach is not considered a spectator with respect to building capacity
2. We can have two cohorts (of 25) on the ice (playing surface) for practices, etc.



## RETURNING TO THE RINKS

### Phase III, Sep 1 Expansion of Activities - off the ice:

- Preface: EVERY RINK IS UNIQUE
  - The state has issued guidance, rinks will have some flexibility on how to meet the requirements
- Rinks are allowed to open for all ages and activities (except for tournaments) as long as they comply with the game modifications.
- It is the rink's responsibility working in partnership with the organizers to ensure all guidance is enforced.
  - Subject to local board of health approval / additional requirements
- Snack shops may open if they comply with the state restaurant guidance
  - Vending can be operated – no water bubblers but water fill stations are allowed
- Skate shops may open under the state retail guidance
- Team rooms may open but only up to 50% capacity – small rooms or larger teams may need to rotate.
  - Many rinks will continue to advise players to come dressed and put their skates on in the rink.
- Showers to remain closed.
- Indoor common use areas (lobby , bleachers, restrooms, etc.) are open but social distancing is required



## RETURNING TO THE RINKS

### Phase III, Sep 1 Expansion of Activities - off the ice:

- Team benches are allowed to be used with 6' distancing between players.
  - Many rinks will expand benches using chairs outside the box. Some may construct dividers between players if they cannot expand seating outside of the box.
  - Coaches are responsible to organize the players for line rotation to minimize proximity as much as possible.
  - Only 1 player can use the penalty box at a time. If more than one player is serving a penalty the additional players all serve their penalty on the team bench.
- Spectators are limited to one parent/guardian/chaperone per participant up to 40% of the rink's occupant capacity
  - NO SPECTATORS FOR PARTICIPANTS 21 OR OLDER. No non-essential visitors
- Access to office and equipment storage by employees only
  - Limit in person transactions – online where possible
- Restrooms set up for distancing with reduced occupancy posted
- Designated Entrance and Exit with one way traffic aisles to create distancing



## RETURNING TO THE RINKS

### Phase III, Sep 1 Expansion of Activities - off the ice:

- Face covering is required for EVERYONE – participants, coaches, spectators, staff
  - Participants on the ice do not need to wear a face covering when engaged in aerobic activity (practice or game play)
- Signage at the entrance and throughout the rink is required to remind of hygiene and distancing
- Participants, coaches, spectators, staff must show no Covid-19 symptoms for 14 days
- High risk persons discouraged from attending the rink as participants, spectators or employees
- Hand sanitizing throughout the facility and pre/post participation
- Frequent cleaning / sanitizing high use areas and touch surfaces – logs
- Employee health screening and training is required
- If any person attending the rink tests positive for Covid-19:
  - The rink must be deep cleaned and sanitized prior to any further use
  - The rink (in cooperation with the organizer) must contact their local board of health and supply a list of all contacts who have been in proximity with the person testing positive
  - The person should not return to the rink or play until their symptoms have gone AND they have tested negative

**We will share more information as it becomes available.**