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Dear Families and Friends of the DVHL:

We held our monthly meeting last night and discussed various topics that you will see below. We wanted to continue to keep you updated during this pandemic!

Our DVHL COVID protocol and game day protocols were approved and are posted on our website. We are required to do this by the CDC.

An update was given from:

DELAWARE – Permission has been given to play full ice, full roster games. The one restriction that is currently being addressed with the Governor is the requirement of the players having to wear face masks during play. Several proposals have been presented to him to avoid doing this, so are waiting on his answers. If any of our PA teams play in the state of DE, they will play a full ice/full roster game. Spectators are permitted but not sure on whether it is one parent or more

PHILADELPHIA – Permission was given yesterday to be able to play games at the 8U, 10U and 12U levels due to no contact being made. Even though play is permitted, these levels are still under the 25-person requirement. The 14U, 16U and 18U levels are not permitted to play so we are still discussing with the Mayor of Philadelphia to lift the restriction. At the current time, the DVHL has 4 clubs in the city of Philadelphia that are affected. Three of the clubs are currently working on relocating their home games for the month of October to a rink outside of Philadelphia so they can play games at the 14U, 16U and 18U levels. All levels can continue practicing at their home rinks, it is the contact that is restricting.

PENNSYLVANIA – Governor Wolf has not lifted the restriction of a 25-person play so we will need to look at a back up plan to start play if this restriction is not lifted.

Discussion was held if we should push the season back to a start date of November 7 weekend with the hopes that the Governor will change the rules and lift the 25-person restriction to enable us to play full ice/full roster games and not play the hybrid plans. Some of the reasons that were given to not push back the season start were:

- We have already pushed the season back from a start of September 6 to October 3 with the hopes the Governor would lift the restriction and that did not happen
- Scheduling is already done, ice paid for and if we do push it back, 773 games would need to be rescheduled from October to November or later in the season
- Rinks have already sold a lot of their ice and to do all of this re-scheduling would be a nightmare



A member of Atlantic District, USA Hockey



- USA Hockey has not changed the 10/20 rule at this time. Therefore, we are still required to meet the 10/20 rule for games to advance to District tournaments and USA Hockey Nationals if they are held. Pushing the season back will shorten the league another 4 weeks that could possibly prevent a team from making the required games to be eligible to advance
- With the 4 clubs in the state of DE, teams will be able to play full ice/full roster games when they play in DE
- Several clubs tested the hybrid methods the past couple weekends. While they admit that it was different from what we are use to, the players said they would rather play the hybrids then not play at all
- Clubs who do not want to play the hybrid can reschedule their games to start in November if they want and not stop the entire league from playing. These clubs if they choose to do that, will have to play the hybrid in November anyway if the Governor doesn't make a change
- If the clubs keep pushing the league season start back just so they don't have to play the hybrid, this could jeopardize that team from participating in DVHL playoffs, Districts or USA Hockey Nationals as they might not have time to complete their league season to make them eligible
- We still have 3 weeks before the season starts, so if the Governor makes the change then we can play normal games. If he doesn't make the change, then at least we have a back-up plan on how the game will be played. In the meantime, teams can be playing NL with the hybrid to get ready for the season
- Most clubs do not like the players waiting in the locker room. Teams that played the hybrid did not have them in the locker room but in the closest proximity to the ice that the rink allowed so that the players could watch the game as well as be ready to go on the ice as quickly as possible
- A reason in starting the season in November would be for teams that do not want to play the hybrid and hopefully the Governor will make a change
- By a vote of 27-2, it was agreed to keep the season start the weekend of October 3 and to address the hybrid in the event that the Governor does not make a change and we need to play it as a backup.

The hybrids were discussed in detail and comments received by the clubs. After input from the clubs and coaches who played the hybrids over the past weekend(s), the final decision was voted on and approved as to the final hybrid. Below is what the final will be. Please keep in mind, that this hybrid will only be played if the Governor does not change the restrictions for our start of October 3. If at any time that restriction is lifted, we will return to normal play.

We are still discussing how to play the game at the 8U level. Suggestions for formats are due in now and to be voted on by next Wednesday, Sept. 16 so that we can begin play October 3 weekend. If we cannot confirm playing format for the 8U by then, we will push the start date back to November to enable the scheduling to be done.

This should keep you up to date! The Atlantic District, the Mid-Am District and the DVHL have been working very hard to try to get the Governor to open up the sport and to get the players onto the ice. We appreciate your support and patience while we are trying to do this.

Colleen Marinari



GAME FORMAT FOR 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U DURING COVID RESTRICTIONS

This format is ONLY if competition is restricted to a max of 25 people in the active area. The Active Area is defined as: Ice Surface and Player Bench. If at any point during the season the restrictions allow for a return to “more normal” competition procedures, the league will amend the procedures as appropriate for member club’s approval.

Age Group	Minor Penalty	Major Penalty	Misconduct	Periods
10U	1.5 minutes	4 minutes	8 minutes	9 minutes
12U	2 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes	11 minutes
14U	2 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes	12 minutes
16U and 18U	2 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes	12 minutes

Game Format

- Games are played 5 on 5
- Games are 4 periods
- USAH/DVHL rules for major penalties, suspensions, etc., apply at all classifications.

Standings Point Structure will be in accordance with DVHL bylaws for each level

Example of who makes up the 25 people in the Active Area:

Home Team	9 skaters, 1 goalie, 1 coach	= 11
Away Team	9 skaters, 1 goalie, 1 coach	= 11
On-ice Game Officials	2	= 2
Scorekeeper	1	= 1
	Total	= 25

Considerations

- Pre-game warm up of 3 minutes.
- Each period, the team is permitted to have a maximum of 1 goalie and 9 skaters on the bench. The number of active forwards and defensemen will be at the coach’s discretion. The remaining players will wait in an area designated by the rink where they cannot be seen to be considered in the maximum head count permitted of 25.
- An injured or ejected player can be replaced immediately by another player.
- During the intermission of each period, the players on the bench may be replaced by any of the remaining players for the next period.
- Players from the designated area enter the ice first and the players leaving the ice go second.
- There will be a 2-minute warm up after all periods.
- Overtime will be played in accordance with DVHL bylaws. There is no swapping of players prior to the start of overtime.
- Goalies can be changed any time during the game with no warm-up.
- Teams will not change ends during the game.
- SafeSport guidelines must be adhered to.
- All teams must adhere to the DVHL Policies regarding COVID-19 and safe spacing.