

Oahe Hockey Association COVID-19 Information

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oahe Hockey Association (OHA) has adopted this temporary information as guidance for continuing hockey activities during the 2020-2021 season. Recommendations may change and are subject to USA Hockey and South Dakota Amateur Hockey Association (SDAHA) policies.

Participation in OHA activities should be as safe as possible for athletes, coaches, officials, and fans.

*Any player, coach, official, or spectator exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms should not participate in or attend OHA activities until symptoms resolve. Athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators who are in a vulnerable population should take extra precautions and visit with their physician about participation, as consistent social distancing may not always be possible. Parents are encouraged to monitor players for symptoms daily.

*Signage will be placed in OHA facilities to encourage athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators to practice sound personal hygiene, maintain 6 ft. of social distancing when possible, and use good common sense.

*Facilities will be cleaned regularly and social distancing should be implemented to the extent possible. Regularly washing hands, using hand sanitizer, and other hygiene efforts are strongly encouraged. Coaches, coordinators, and parents should share this information and discuss techniques to reduce COVID-19 spread.

Protocol for Confirmed Close Contact and Positive Cases for Participants (athletes and coaches)

*All indications of positive cases and confirmed close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) must come through the South Dakota Department of Health and close contacts are encouraged to follow its guidance.

*Inform Risk Manager Rick Miller (k9miller@gmail.com) immediately when a player, coach, or other team personnel tests positive or is identified by SDDOH as a close contact.

*Prior to returning to hockey activities, participants with a positive case are encouraged to have received a negative COVID-19 test or be asymptomatic for three days without the use of fever-reducing medication.

*OHA will inform teammates and coaches when a player or coach has tested positive, but the individual's identity will remain anonymous, in compliance with HIPAA.

Gameplay, Player, and Facilities Recommendations

*Players should not share water bottles or equipment. Players are encouraged to spend limited time grouped in locker rooms. Dressing and showering at home, spacing throughout locker rooms, and dressing/undressing quickly and efficiently is strongly encouraged.

*Players are reminded to use the player entrance/exit rather than the public entrance/exit and to leave the facility immediately after leaving the locker room.

*No pre- or post-game handshakes; all OHA teams and visitors are invited to join the "Five Stick Taps."

*Mask use by spectators and certain event workers (penalty box, concessions, gate, etc.) is encouraged and spectators should practice social distancing in the stands, to the extent practical.

*During travel to games with other associations, various local policies may be in effect. Coaches and coordinators should share those local policies with parents, spectators, and players prior to those games.

*League play changes, forfeits or "no contest" games, post-season, etc., will follow SDAHA guidance.