

Return to Play Standards

Michigan Amateur Hockey Association 2020-21

Released September 5, 2020

The Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) is initiating the following 2020-21 Return to Play Standards as a protocol to ensure the safety and well-being of all ice hockey participants and spectators, while allowing ice rinks to safely rent ice to our members during Phases 4-6 of the Michigan Safe Start Plan. It is designed with the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, as well as Executive Orders 2020-175 and 176 signed by Governor Whitmer. Furthermore, in collaboration with the U.S. Ice Rink Association and U.S. Figure Skating, USA Hockey published a comprehensive [‘Returning to the Rinks’](#) document containing additional guidelines and recommendations successfully put into practice by many of our USA Hockey affiliates nationwide. Collectively, this provides us a path to safely operate while minimizing risks tied to COVID-19.

NOTE: This policy is not intended to replace local and state government orders or safety policies and procedures put in place at your ice rink facility. This policy is not intended for the operation of other rink entities including, but not limited to: concession stands, open skating sessions, birthday parties or other higher-risk in-rink activities that are not provided for in the current Executive Orders.

MAHA

- All participants in MAHA sanctioned on-ice activity must be registered with USA Hockey for the 2020-21 season
- The MAHA requires that all associations, teams, players, coaches, officials and volunteers maintain full compliance with all SafeSport policies, including mandatory training and certification
- The MAHA requires that all coaches, employees, volunteers, and other adults involved must complete an online Concussion Awareness training program, with re-certification every three years as required by State law
- The MAHA will provide educational materials, on the signs/symptoms and consequences of concussions, to each athlete and parent/guardian and obtain signed acknowledgements that the information was received.
- The MAHA will not prevent teams from traveling out-of-state for competition; however, the MAHA requires that those teams complete the Interstate Travel Notification Form to support contact tracing
- The MAHA will initiate disciplinary action without delay for any team, association, volunteer and/or tournament host that is NOT in compliance with USA Hockey policies, MAHA policies, and the laws, rules and policies established by the local government and health authorities

ASSOCIATIONS

- Players or coaches with any COVID-19 risk factors or illnesses SHOULD NOT participate in any on-ice activity. Any player, coach or spectator exhibiting signs or symptoms of an illness SHOULD NOT be in the facility at any point. Furthermore, any player, coach or spectator awaiting results from a COVID-19 test SHOULD NOT be in the facility until a negative result has been confirmed
 - Each association and team should have an emergency plan for any positive COVID-19 cases that arise
 - All associations should designate a person or group, to serve as a liaison with your ice rink facility, as well as notifying all applicable parties if a positive test is confirmed
 - All teams should designate a person who will be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns, as well as notifying all applicable parties, regarding positive COVID-19 cases. Contact information for these individuals should be accessible to all coaches, volunteers and families



ASSOCIATIONS (continued)

- If a case is reported to any team, and/or association liaison, it should immediately be reported to all applicable parties including association leadership, rink management, the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA), as well as local health officials
- If a positive test is confirmed:
 - Confidentiality of the individual must be maintained in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and any other corresponding state laws
 - Notify any teams or players that shared ice sessions with the infected player over the previous 14 days
 - Notify any opponents or teams scheduled to practice or compete with the player's team over the upcoming 14 days
 - Pause team activities until appropriate contact tracing, reporting to all applicable parties, and consultation with local health officials on next steps has been achieved. This includes any out-of-town and/or out-of-state tournaments and events that may occur within this timeframe
 - Teams should not be penalized for forfeiting games due to COVID-19 concerns
- Know your facility's safety measures and require all members to follow them. Some of these procedures will include:
 - cleaning/disinfecting practices and schedules
 - online payment options
 - building entrance and exit routes
 - arrival and exit timing
 - locker room availability
 - social distancing measures
 - spectator policy
 - use of face coverings/masks in facility
 - screening required before entry

RINK OPERATORS

- Rink operators are expected to maintain compliance with operational guidelines, as summarized in the following Executive Orders:
 - [Executive Order 2020-175 \(September 3, 2020\)](#)
 - Workplace Safeguards (Section 1, pgs 2-4)
 - Public Accommodations (Section 12, pgs 14-15)
 - Sports and Exercise Facilities (Section 13, pgs 15-16)
 - [Executive Order 2020-176 \(September 3, 2020\)](#)
 - Public Accommodation Restrictions (Section 3e, pg 3)
 - Organized Sports (Section 7, pg 5)
- Rink operators are expected to notify the MAHA of member programs not complying with these Return to Play Standards. Likewise, local associations and member programs are expected to notify the MAHA of rink operators in non-compliance as well. It is everyone's job to keep participants safe at rinks available for play

MEMBERSHIP

- Inform your team, and/or association, designated COVID-19 contact of any participant(s) testing positive, someone in your household testing positive, or any instances of exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19
- If you, or members of your household, are awaiting results from a COVID-19 test, please stay home until a negative result has been confirmed
- If you, or members of your household, are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home for a minimum of 10 days since the first appearance of symptoms
 - [When is it safe to leave home, if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or live with someone who does?](#)



MEMBERSHIP (continued)

- Michigan Economic Recovery Council (MERC) Regional Map:
 - Regions 1-5, & 7: Live spectators are limited to the guests of the athletes, with each athlete limited to two (2) guests
 - Regions 6 & 8: Phase 5 guidelines limit the number of people in a venue to 25% of its maximum capacity or to 250, whichever is smaller. Each rink is considered a separate venue.
- Members / families are encouraged to use, support and promote risk mitigation strategies to minimize the potential spread of COVID-19:
 - *Personal Hygiene*
 - Wash hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
 - Do not touch your face
 - Cough or sneeze into a tissue or the bend of your elbow, dispose of the tissue and wash/ sanitize hands immediately
 - *Social Distancing*
 - Maintain social distancing measures (6 ft apart) whenever possible on or off the ice
 - Limit on-ice group discussions so players are not in close proximity for extended periods of time
 - Do not use benches during practice sessions
 - Discourage unnecessary physical contact, such as high fives, handshakes, fist bumps, or hugs
 - *Personal Protective Equipment*
 - Players are required to wear a facial covering when entering & exiting the facility, while in common areas of the facility, as well as during on-ice participation (in addition to their hockey face mask)
 - Coaches, parents and spectators shall all wear a facial covering at all times in the facility
 - Do not share water bottles. Mark them clearly so you know which one is yours
 - Players should bring their own hand sanitizer
 - Players should clean and disinfect gear after each use
 - Your helmet facemask is a personal choice, but a *full, clear polycarbonate shield or clear shield cage combination may provide a higher level of protection than a traditional cage*

ON-ICE GUIDELINES

- Players need to maintain 6 feet of separation whenever possible during practices. Coaches should be promoting social distancing on-ice, while keeping players active and engaged at all times
- Coaches and players shall wear facial coverings at all times during on-ice practices
- In-rink capacity would allow for regular game play, with the following conditions:
 - All on-ice and off-ice officials (i.e. timekeeper, scorekeeper, penalty box attendee) will be required to wear facial coverings during game play
 - Coaches and players are required to wear a facial covering, properly worn at all times during game play
 - Players will be sent back to the locker room if they come to the bench without a facial covering
 - A penalty will be assessed if players enter on-ice competition without a facial covering
 - Coaches must maintain physical distancing between players on bench during game play, stoppages, intermissions, etc. Space outside the bench area should be utilized to accommodate social distancing
 - No pre-game or post-game handshakes will be conducted. Stick salutes will be utilized
 - No pre-game or post-game huddles or team pile-ups on the ice
 - A two-official system shall be used for games at all levels



ON-ICE GUIDELINES (continued)

- Any observed violation of facial covering protocols by a team will result in an immediate 3-game summary suspension for the Head Coach, assessed by the MAHA
 - Individual suspensions will also be instituted for non-compliance of facial covering protocols
 - Associations whose member(s) is found in violation, will receive one warning. Additional violations within the association will result in immediate disciplinary action

LEAGUE PLAY

Given the unforeseeable future of the COVID-19 pandemic, where possible, our league partners (i.e. Little Caesars Amateur Hockey League, Adray, MGHL, etc.) should align their divisional play based on the regions established by the Michigan Economic Recovery Council (MERC) map. This will minimize travel requirements for divisional play, as well as minimize potential disruptions in league play caused by fluctuations in COVID-19 cases.

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL NOTIFICATION

The Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) must prioritize the safety and well-being of its participants. With this in mind, The MAHA recommends that all teams attempt to minimize their out-of-state travel for competition during the 2020-21 season. All teams traveling outside of Michigan are advised to adhere to local and state government guidelines, as well as CDC regulations, as part of their planning process. Effective immediately, the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association has introduced a mandatory Out-Of-State Travel Notification that all teams are required to complete, before registering for an out-of-state tournament or event. This allows the MAHA to carefully monitor where teams may be traveling for the purposes of contact tracing. In addition, the MAHA can provide critical updates to teams if local, and/or state government guidelines determine the trip would be inadvisable.

ADULT HOCKEY

Adults will be expected to follow local government guidelines, including the above, as indicated in Executive Orders 2020-175 & 176 signed by Governor Whitmer.



TEAM TRYOUTS

TIER I TRYOUTS – YOUTH & GIRLS 12U – 19U – May be scheduled no sooner than Wednesday, September 9th, 2020

TIER II TRYOUTS – YOUTH & GIRLS 10U – 19U – May be scheduled no sooner than Wednesday, September 16th, 2020

TIER III – EVALUATIONS / DRAFT – Evaluation skates may be scheduled no sooner than Wednesday, September 23rd, 2020. Team drafts may be scheduled at the discretion of each association.

Additional Links & Information

For more information, we encourage you to visit the following sites:

LOCAL RESOURCES – COVID-19

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[State of Michigan – COVID-19 Updates](#)

[Michigan Department of Health & Human Services](#)

ICE HOCKEY – NEWS AND UPDATES

[USA Hockey](#)

[Michigan Amateur Hockey Association](#)

[Michigan High School Athletic Association](#)

USA HOCKEY AFFILIATES – KEY CONTRIBUTORS

[Minnesota Hockey](#)

[Massachusetts Hockey](#)

CORONAVIRUS & YOUTH SPORTS

[The Aspen Institute's Project Play](#)

