

NEW YORK STATE AMATEUR



HOCKEY ASSOCIATION, INC.

TO: All NYSAHA Members
FROM: NYSAHA Board of Directors
DATE: January 24, 2021

Dear NYSAHA Members:

This correspondence is a follow up to the informal update dated January 19, 2021. As you might be aware the Law Firm of HoganWillig has filed a lawsuit against Governor Andrew Cuomo, the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Economic Development Corporation on behalf of the New York State Amateur Hockey Association (NYSAHA). The petition challenges the arbitrary and capricious nature of the restrictions imposed against NYSAHA and its members, and the sport of ice hockey more generally. The State of New York, and its empowered agencies, arbitrarily classified ice hockey as a high-risk sport for viral transmission of COVID-19, contrary to scientific evidence establishing that ice hockey poses *no increased risk of transmission*. As you are aware, the classification of ice hockey as “high risk” has resulted in NYSAHA’s seasons being suspended, indefinitely, and the prohibition on NYSAHA from engaging in any activities beyond “individual or distanced group training and organized no/low-contact group training.” The restrictions have also prohibited competitive tournaments which require travel.

The petition was filed on January 22, 2021 immediately following a 2:00 PM press conference that was held at the law offices of HoganWillig in Williamsville, NY with NYSAHA Secretary Eric Guzdek representing NYSAHA. During this press conference the State of New York issued guidance that will allow high risk sports to begin on February 1, 2021 with significant restrictions. NYSAHA understands that many of you have questions regarding that updated guidance including but not limited to travel restrictions from county to county and region to region, etc.

The NYSAHA Board of Directors met during the evening of Friday January 22, 2021 and dissected the updated NY Forward guidance and formulated questions for HoganWillig and the Economic Development Council. Presently, the NYSAHA Board of Directors is working with the legal team at HoganWillig to obtain answers and guidance for the NYSAHA membership regarding the lawsuit and how the legal challenge will affect the updated NY Forward policy. We are hopeful that HoganWillig will prevail with the legal challenge and NYSAHA members be allowed to resume ice hockey in New York State with limited restrictions.

As always, the COVID pandemic has proved to be a very fluid situation. The NYSAHA Board of Directors will make every effort to keep the membership informed. Once the NYSAHA Board of Directors receives further guidance we anticipate hosting a webinar for Association Presidents or their designee. Thank you for your time and consideration. Stay safe and be well.