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Colleen Marinari
President

August 13, 2020

Dear Families and Friends of the DVHL:

This is a trying time for all of us so we thought it best to keep the lines of communication open and to address the past week and happenings in the DVHL!

To help everyone understand more clearly, below is the calendar of events that occurred. Prior to this week, the DVHL was going full speed ahead with our league schedule starting the weekend of September 12th, playing full roster, full ice games, the same as we always have from 10U to 18U.

- Friday, August 7th - Governor Wolf made the announcement of the recommendation to stop youth sports until Jan. 1, 2021.
- Saturday, August 8th - After speaking with the Atlantic Affiliate, we were advised that it was up to the league if we wanted to follow the recommendation or not. We were advised that we must follow the mandated rules, but that recommended rules were up to the league.
- Saturday, August 8th - All clubs and the Atlantic Affiliate were notified that we would be taking a poll to see if we were going to adhere to the recommendation or continue as planned. The poll was set up on the website as well as clubs polling their own people.
- Tuesday, August 11th - At 12:58 PM we requested from the Atlantic Affiliate confirmation that the DVHL would be permitted to continue with our full ice roster/games as there seemed to be controversy in the understanding of the rules when it came to rink capacity, ice capacity, etc. and that our rinks did not match up in their interpretation of the rules as they are so confusing.
- Tuesday, August 11th - At 2:33 PM we were told by the Atlantic Affiliate President:
 - "I am sure some want to interpret the order differently. The entire statement from the Governor and the Department of Health must be considered in totality. Below is an email from Elena Cross. She's the Deputy Chief of Staff for Gov. Wolf and is handling the sports issues. She understands the issue and is very clear... "Our order is pretty firm on the 25-person limit at this time, which is a challenge in games as described below. "

Recreational and Amateur Sports

Recreational and amateur sports organizations and teams (not affiliated with a public or private PK-12 school), including, but not limited to basketball, hockey, field hockey, football, soccer, swimming, baseball, softball, lacrosse, gymnastics, and kickball, are permitted to conduct in-person activities, including games and practices, if they strictly adhere to the requirements of this guidance, including the limits on total occupancy outlined below (25 or fewer people indoors, 250 or fewer outdoors).

"The Affiliate cannot and will not sanction activity that exceeds the State's requirements. Full Stop. The reality is, it doesn't matter how anyone feels, thinks, interprets, etc... only the State's determination is what matters."

- Tuesday, Aug 11 - At 3:00 PM we had a zoom meeting with all of the DVHL rinks to advise them that the DVHL was taking a poll as to whether or not we were going to adhere to the recommendation and that the vote would

be taken at a meeting on Aug. 12. We also spoke with the rinks with regard to the 25 or fewer people indoor situation that had now come to our attention as being mandatory. Some rinks did not agree with the ruling and had different interpretations. However, we must follow the 25-person rule. We cannot put the rinks in jeopardy of losing their operating licenses by not abiding by this rule.

- Tuesday, August 11th - At 9:00 PM we had a zoom meeting with all of the DVHL club Hockey Directors advising them of the situation and asked for guidance in how to handle the 25-person cap on the ice and how we could possibly play games. Two Hockey Directors drew up a possibility that was circulated and now seems to be the center of controversy.
- Wednesday, August 12th - At 7:30 PM we had a meeting with the club Presidents/Representatives and took the vote on to whether or not we (the league) wanted to adhere to the Governor's recommendation to stop all hockey until January 1, 2021. The vote was unanimous that we would not adhere to the recommendation.
- At the same meeting, based on the fact that we have reached a hurdle with the Governor's playing rules, a proposal was made to postpone the league schedule to start October 3 weekend to give us more time to make sure of how to go forward with how we were going to play the games. The vote was 29-3 to postpone the league to start October 3rd weekend.

At this time, the Atlantic Affiliate is in contact with Governor Wolf's office asking them to change the 25 indoor capacity to 50 to allow us to play full ice/full roster games. A point of recognition would be the size capacity of the rink that does not compare to the size capacity of other venues that they are using to come up with the 25 indoor capacity figure. The Atlantic Affiliate is working hard on this and we need time to see if they can be successful in their endeavor to help us.

At this time, it is our understanding that rinks are also reaching out to the Governor's office. We are also doing what we can to reach out.

Our main goal is to change the capacity to at least 50 and play our normal games. However, if they do not allow us to do that... we need to come up with an alternative way to play the game to get the kids back onto the ice to play hockey.

We are currently looking at alternatives and have NOT decided on anything at this time. We are receiving input from the Atlantic Affiliate, USA Hockey, NHL and Collegiate coaches for their guidance on what they suggest.

While we know the rumors are rampant and people are going to jump to conclusions, it is our attempt to tell you straight out:

- We will begin league play the weekend of **October 3rd**.
- We are working diligently along with others to have the capacity changed from 25 to 50 to allow the kids to play a full ice/full roster game.
- We are working diligently with a lot of good connections to come up with plan B on how to play the game if we cannot have the capacity changed.

In the meantime, please be patient while we work thru this. We are all here for the same reason and that is for the kids.

If you would like to write letters, or have any contacts that could possibly helps us, please, by all means go for it! We are all volunteers and can use the help!



A member of Atlantic District, USA Hockey

