



## Eden Prairie Hockey Association COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

*The information provided is to the best of our knowledge and is subject to change (FAQ's Current as of 1-2-2021).*

### **Where can I find the most up-to-date COVID information for the EPHA?**

Each time there is a significant change to the COVID protocol, an email blast will be sent to all EPHA members.

The information on [ephockey.com/covid19](http://ephockey.com/covid19) will be kept current.

### **Will the length of the season be adjusted given the 6-week pause?**

- Yes. MN Hockey has passed the following Season Extension:
  - Association State Tourneys - March 26-28
  - Association Region Tourneys - March 19-21
  - District Play completed by March 14
  - Team Roster and coaching lock deadline has been extended to January 31
- Travel teams will have 10 District Games scheduled and must complete 8 of them to be eligible for any post-season play.
- There will be no district tournament for Squirt/10U for the 2020-21 season.
- Tournaments will resume, but are subject to change based on host association determination on whether to move forward, adjust dates, etc.

### **What type of masks are required, and who needs to wear them?**

- Per the state mandate, cloth face coverings (masks) must be worn by everyone inside an arena at all times. This includes participants during on-ice practice and game play.
  - The CCM Game On Facemask is approved for on-ice use.
  - Bauer Bubbles and Splash Guards are currently NOT approved for use. Players may use a face shield if they wish, but also must wear a face covering.
  - Players aged 5 and under are recommended to wear a mask during on-ice activities, but are not required per Executive Order.

### **When will we be able to have spectators again?**

- In Phase 4 the only approved spectators will be POD or Team Manager. Exception being at the Mite/8U level which can have ONE parent or guardian in attendance. At the Squirt/10U and above levels - players are to be dropped off no more than 10minutes prior to ice time, and picked up no more than 10min post ice time.
- Additional guidance is expected to be provided prior to the anticipated start of Phase 5 on 1/14/2021.

## **Will my team be automatically quarantined if there is a positive case on our team?**

- Team practices, games and events will be paused until Local Health officials and/or the MDH can be consulted.
- After a contact tracing investigation the MDH will make the determination if a team needs to quarantine or not. Length of quarantine will also be determined by the MDH.
- The EPHA follows the recommendations of the MDH in all quarantine situations.

## **What is considered an EPHA Sanctioned Event?**

- EPHA Sanctioned events are games, practices or ice touches that are included in, and covered through your EPHA Registration fees.
- When participating in any EPHA Sanctioned event all EPHA players, coaches and parents/guardians must follow the rules and guidelines set forth by the rink or facility location, including but not limited to:
  - Performing a self-check for symptoms prior to arrival and staying home if any symptoms are present
  - Wearing masks when indoors; and
  - Maintain proper social distancing during any EPHA activity or event

## **Can we have team gatherings, meetings or parties?**

- In Phase 4, no on or off ice interaction (socializing, team meetings, dryland activities) should occur following the conclusion of practice. Players must remove skates and helmets and leave the premises within 10 minutes of the end of practice.
- For any non-EPHA sanctioned team event, meeting or off-site activity, all parents, teams and families should follow the current mandates and guidelines of the state of MN, and MDH. Including, but not limited to:
  - Performing a self-check for symptoms prior to arrival and staying home if any symptoms are present
  - Wearing masks when indoors; and
  - Maintain proper social distancing

Any non-EPHA sanctioned team event, meeting or off-site activity would be considered optional and will be up to each family to determine their level of participation. If a family chooses not to attend any non-EPHA sanctioned event, there will not be any negative consequences towards that player or family.

## **If the High School teams are cancelled by the MSHSL, does that mean association hockey is automatically cancelled?**

The MSHSL (Minnesota State High School League) is completely independent of the MN Hockey Associations. The cancellation, or delay, of the High School hockey season will have no bearing on Association hockey being cancelled or delayed.

## **Will refunds be issued if the season is cancelled?**

The EPHA will offer refunds for a fully cancelled season, less any previously allocated expenses, prorated to the determined date of cancellation.

- USA Hockey and the affiliate MN Hockey fees required prior to EPHA registration are non-refundable. Their organizations are separate from the EPHA and the fees cannot be refunded.

## **What is the registration fee insurance offered by SportsEngine?**

The registration insurance included as an option during registration is offered in partnership with a third-party provider and SportsEngine. This insurance, which is similar to travel insurance, has no affiliation with the EPHA and is unrelated to any prorated refunds that would be granted by the EPHA.

What is RegSaver Insurance?

<https://help.sportsengine.com/en/articles/301-what-is-regsaver-registration-insurance>

## What if there is a positive case on my team?

The EPHA will follow the most current guidelines set forth by the CDC, the MDH, and local governments. A confirmed case of COVID on your team, as indicated by a positive test, should be reported to the EPHA board COVID Director Sarah Hendrickson by emailing [secretary@ep hockey.com](mailto:secretary@ep hockey.com). For purposes of tracking, positive cases will be reported to the Minnesota Department of Health at [health.sports.covid19@state.mn.us](mailto:health.sports.covid19@state.mn.us) or 651-201-5000.

- If a player/coach becomes symptomatic during an EPHA event, they will immediately be removed from the event, and if applicable, their parent/guardian will be notified of the necessity of an immediate pickup.
  - The facility will be notified so the areas of contact can be closed until properly sanitized.
- If a player/coach/parent is symptomatic and has taken a test, it is expected that the player removes themselves from all team activity until a result is obtained.
- If a player/coach tests positive, all team activities will be paused until local health officials and/or MDH is consulted.
  - All team members will be notified of a positive case on their team, while maintaining that person's confidentiality in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- The team COVID manager will notify any opponents or teams that practiced or played with the infected player over the previous 14 days.
- If a positive case is revealed on the team of an opponent, it is expected that the team monitor the health and temperatures of all involved very closely for 14 days.

## Will we reschedule or refund practices that are missed because of COVID?

- If the Full Team is under "pause" or quarantine orders due to an exposure related to an EPHA event:
  - The EPHA will make reasonable efforts to assist the team to re-allocate and reschedule ice times. If a substitute team cannot be found to trade an ice time and it is non-refundable by the facility, the practice time may be forfeited.
- If an individual must quarantine due to an exposure unrelated to an EPHA event:
  - the individual will not receive a refund for initial lost ice time. If the required absence is deemed excessive, the Board will consider other actions on a case by case basis.
  - The EPHA understands this pandemic situation is unprecedented, and we MUST coordinate with local health authorities to manage COVID-19. Under no circumstance can we allow a player to participate in EPHA activities if mandates prevent it, and no EPHA player should be penalized for having to miss time due to COVID-19 concerns.

## Do we expect to have travel/out-of-town tournaments?

Yes. As in previous seasons, we have booked our tournaments and are planning that the teams will travel to their respective tournaments. Tournament registration Fees and any related Gate Fees have already been paid and calculated into the base registration fee.

- If a player/family is not comfortable traveling to a tournament, they will not be penalized in any way by the team or Coaches.
- If the team is traveling to a tournament and a player opts out of participating in that tournament, a refund for that tournament will not be available.
- If the team is under a "pause" or quarantine per local officials or MDH guidelines (such as suspecting or having a confirmed case on their team), and thus must cancel because they are unable to travel, any refund granted will be subject to the policy of the tournament host.
- A tournament team traveling to play in Eden Prairie at an Eden Prairie Home Tournament who is needing to cancel will not be afforded a refund if the team spot is not replaced.

## **What if the team needs to forfeit a district game, will the forfeit fine be in place?**

No. If a team needs to forfeit a district game due to COVID, the typical fine for that forfeiture will not be levied. It would be expected the game be rescheduled.

- Any game forfeiture should be reported to the EPHA Board, the EP Ice scheduler and District 6.

## **What happens if a District game is cancelled because of COVID?**

Where available and time permitting, District teams will be expected to reschedule games that have been cancelled.

- If the game requires a reschedule as a result of COVID, the fine for rescheduling will be waived.

## **How do I know the protocol of the rink where we are playing?**

- It is the responsibility of the team's COVID manager to source and communicate each rink's protocol to the team prior to any on-ice event.

## **What other changes can I expect at the rink?**

- Players and coaches are prohibited from spitting at any time or squirting water bottles for any reason other than as intended for personal use. EPHA will consider these instances to be violations of the Player Code of Conduct and subject to the 3-strikes rule.
- Spectators may be limited per each rink's capacity requirements, and teams and spectators should adhere to each arena/MDH policy and follow all guidelines.
- Expect reduced or eliminated pre-game indoor warm-ups and locker room chalk-talks, as most arenas are limiting the time before players are allowed to enter prior to their ice time.
- Expect to arrive at the arena dressed with the exception of skates, helmet and gloves.
- Expect some rinks to limit the use of hockey bags.
- Most arenas have reduced or eliminated concessions, access to water fountains, and even some restrooms. Players and spectators alike should arrive prepared for this potential.

## **Will tryouts be different because of COVID?**

Yes. We have adjusted our processes to align with COVID-19 recommended safety measures.

Pre-season clinics:

- For purposes of contact tracing, players must stay within their assigned pre-season clinic and try-out groups. Changing groups to accommodate schedules will not be allowed.

Tryouts:

- Try-outs are expected to proceed as usual with group sizes adjusted to align to COVID protocols.
- Except to allow for social distances.
- The EPHA has increased our supply of try-out pinneys allowing for player pinneys to be worn only once before being sanitized.
- Players should arrive fully dressed, with the exception of skates, gloves and helmet.
- The EPHA will follow all existing policies related to excused absences, injuries, or illness during tryouts. If the situation requires special considerations (such as affecting multiple players) the EPHA Board will convene for an emergency session to vote on a suitable action.

## **Will the EPHA be offering growth programs such as Try Hockey for Free, Rookie Camp and Termites?**

- At this time, we are planning and preparing to offer 'New to Hockey' programming. **This is subject to change based on additional guidance shared in Phase 5.**
- We will be following all return to play guidelines as it relates to number of skaters and helpers on the ice.

- Spectators and Parent attendees eligibility will be determined based on current MN Hockey Return to Play and MDH Guidelines.

## **Will the EPHA be offering the Mite Equipment Rental Program, allowing for the donation of and repurposing of used equipment, and the sharing of EPHA-owned goalie gear?**

### Mite Equipment Rental Program:

- The EPHA will be offering the Mite Equipment Rental Program, for additional details consult [ephockey.com/equipment program](http://ephockey.com/equipment-program).

### Equipment Donation Bins:

- For the time being, the donation bins will not be utilized at the EPCC. If you have an array of Mite/8U equipment in good shape that you would like to donate to our program, please contact Andrew Pieper at [fundraising@ephockey.com](mailto:fundraising@ephockey.com).
- We will not be accepting donations of used gear in larger sizes or equipment in very used condition at this time.
- We always accept used sticks in good condition.

### Mite/8U Shared Goalie Gear:

- The EPHA-owned goalie gear which typically is shared and rotated within Mite/8U teams will be distributed to teams per usual.
- It is the responsibility of the individual family utilizing the gear to assure it has been properly cleaned and sanitized prior to their player's use.
- Mite/8U goalies are encouraged to wear their own masks and helmets (goalie-specific helmets are not mandatory at these ages) and may also opt to wear their own skater gloves in lieu of the goalie glove and blocker.
- As is always the case, players can always opt out of their turn in the rotation for playing goalie without consequence.

***Do you have a question that you don't see on this list? Please send an email to [secretary@ephockey.com](mailto:secretary@ephockey.com) and your answer will be added and posted to all members ASAP.***