

November 19, 2020

Greetings GAHA families,

I'm sure you've all heard the announcement of the Governor's executive order placing a pause on youth sports. Minnesota Hockey is taking a strong stance in support of the four week pause, so we wanted to share with you what we know, so that we are in compliance with the order. Attached you will find a letter from Minnesota Hockey President, Steve Oleheiser, please read it for more detail.

We must follow the guidelines set forth by the Governor's order and Minnesota Hockey. What this means: All Minnesota Hockey teams are not allowed to play during the designated pause time period. This includes play outside of Minnesota in bordering states. Play is defined as practice, scrimmages, games and tournaments.

- No organized team skates on an outdoor rink or pond
- No small group skates indoors or outdoors
- Minnesota Ice Arenas will be closed.
- Virtual coaching only. No in-person instruction.

"Failure by an association, team and or coach to follow the directives outlined in the government issued executive order could result in severe sanctions to a team or coach. These sanctions could include loss of privilege to participate in post season play including District, Regions and State tournaments. The failure of an association to enforce the directives of the executive order could result in sanctions to the association including the loss of ability to host tournaments." Steve Oleheiser, President, Minnesota Hockey

To be clear, if people try to go around the Governor's orders and the direction from Minnesota Hockey, we will not be returning to play this season. Members from the Minnesota Department of Health have stated, if they find any congregated or structured play, they will not let us come back. Do your part and do not put our return to hockey at risk. As President Oleheiser said, if you are found to be non-compliant and your association turns a blind eye, there will be consequences.

We know you have many questions and to be honest, we have more questions than answers right now. We will continue to update you when we know more information, but for now, this is what we know:

- Pee wee B and Pee wee A home tournaments scheduled for the weekends of December 11-13 and December 18-20 have been cancelled.
- Away tournaments that have been cancelled:
 - Squirt Green – December 11-13 Cloquet tournament has been cancelled.
 - Squirt White – December 18-20 Proctor tournament has been cancelled.
 - Pee wee A – December 11-13 Detroit Lakes tournament has been cancelled.
 - Bantam A – December 4-6 Eveleth tournament has been cancelled.

We are not making any schedule adjustments at this time. When the pause is lifted, we are expecting some new Return to Play policies and procedures from Minnesota Hockey.

We are asking for your patience as we navigate this “time out” and any new policies/procedures that will come with the next iteration of Minnesota Hockey’s Return to Play policy. We are planning on coming back in four weeks.

Sincerely,

The GAHA Board