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Colleen Marinari
President

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Dear Families and Friends of the DVHL:

Well, we have good news and not so good news!

As you may know, Judge William S. Stickman IV, of the U.S. District Court for Western Pennsylvania issued the following Declaratory Judgement Order two days ago:

AND NOW, this 14th day of September 2020, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that judgment is entered in favor of Plaintiffs Mike Kelly, Daryl Metcalfe, Marci Mustello, Tim Bonner, Nancy Gifford and Mike Gifford, d/b/a Double Image, Prima Capelli, Inc., Steven Schoeffel, Paul F. Crawford, t/d/b/a Marigold Farm, Cathy Hoskins, t/d/b/a Classy Cuts Hair Salon, R.W. McDonald & Sons, Inc., Starlight Drive-In, Inc., and, Skyview Drive-In, LLC for the reasons outlined in the Opinion filed by the Court this same day. The Court holds and declares: (1) that the congregate gathering limits imposed by Defendants' mitigation orders violate the right of assembly enshrined in the First Amendment; (2) that the stay-at-home and business closure components of Defendants' orders violate the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment; and (3) that the business closure components of Defendants' orders violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The Governor has already indicated their intention to appeal and request a stay. There are various opinions as to whether the Governor will be successful in obtaining the stay. The Atlantic District has interpreted that Judge Stickman's decision has a nullification of Governor's Wolf's capacity limitations, for the time being, and thereby allowing games to proceed with full rosters. This is subject to change pending the filing of an appeal by the Governor.

We are not being held to the 25-person count at this time as previously instructed. However, the not so good news is that we will still be asking that spectators not be in attendance at the games until we get further clarification from the appeal process that we are full steam ahead. We need to get the kids back onto the ice and then the spectators with the hopes of containing the spread of the virus.

The Atlantic District does require that all other lawful COVID mitigation orders, policies and procedures, as provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other Government authorities, be strictly followed during all Atlantic District and USA Hockey sanctioned activities.

Keep in mind that we are still under the Philadelphia restriction of playing contact in Philadelphia but all four of our clubs have addressed the issue by moving their home games to rinks outside of Philadelphia, at least for the month of October and into November.



A member of Atlantic District, USA Hockey



We are still under the restrictions of games being played in Delaware that I have listed below for you. Rinks will still need to follow the state compliances. We will play full roster games and spectators will be permitted on an individual rink basis. We are hoping that DE will drop these restrictions quickly as negotiations are still going on:

- All levels need to wear masks on the bench
- All kids on the ice that may do the faceoff need to wear a mask
- All kids (8U, 10U and 12U) not involved in a faceoff do not need to wear a mask on the ice
- All kids (14U, 16U and 18U) must wear a mask the entire time on the ice
- The old Itech facemask/bubble mask is not considered proper face covering for Covid.
- Contact games, masks are required for all contact games, the kind sold by ccm or bauer that goes under the mask are acceptable.
- 25% capacity is allowed, but 1 parent would only be allowed per player, no siblings. (as long as rink allows spectators)
- All coaches, fans, refs etc. need face covering at all times – always, as well maintain social distancing.
- Social distancing required on benches, and benches may need to be extended or space outside of the box used.
- Coaches same, no blowing whistles, electric kind only.
- Paperwork, claiming players/coaches/Refs/Fans are healthy and not showing signs of illness as also required by PA

This is a big plus for the league to be able to return to our normal playing games, even if temporarily! We thank you for your patience and cooperation and ask that you keep your fingers crossed that we may continue to play full roster games for the kids to enjoy the sport they love!

Colleen Marinari