



## PITTSBURGH AMATEUR HOCKEY LEAGUE (PAHL) SAFETY POLICY REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS With Addendum

In response to the Updated Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings, effective and enforceable as of November 18, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., the PAHL is now implementing the following Safety Policy Requiring Face Coverings (hereinafter “Face Coverings Policy”), effective immediately:

Every individual who participates in a PAHL sanctioned practice or game, including coaches, athletes and referees, must wear a face covering at all times, including in the locker room, on the bench and during game play, unless subject to an exception as set forth below. This policy also applies to any spectator or parent/guardian entering the event venue for the PAHL game.

A “face covering” shall mean a piece of material covering the nose and mouth and secured to the head with ties, straps or loops over the ears. It shall also include fabric wrapped around the lower face, covering the nose and mouth, in the form of what is commonly known as a neck gaiter.

PAHL will also allow the vendor masks made to Velcro inside of the helmet with full coverage over the nose and mouth.

PAHL will also allow a full shield with “splash” guard covering the open work around the mouth and chin, subject to facility rules. **Note that some rinks are not allowing this type of protective gear to satisfy for masking.**

The following are exceptions to the requirement to wear a face covering which may arise relative to a PAHL sanctioned practice or game, as set forth by the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health:

- If wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition or a disability.
  - **In this case the player must carry with them a doctor’s note granting them the waiver to masking requirement.**
- When necessary to confirm the individual’s identity.
- If an individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired or has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.

It is each Member Association’s responsibility to make sure its players and coaches are aware of this Face Coverings Policy and to disseminate within its organization any changes in this policy.

It is also each Member Association’s responsibility to require compliance with this Face Coverings Policy at all PAHL sanctioned events by its coaching staff and players to ensure the safety of the players, coaches, their families and the general public.

This Safety Policy Requiring Face Coverings is subject to change and may be updated as more information becomes available or as further laws, orders, policies or procedures are issued by local, state or federal authorities.

**ADDENDUM: 11/20/20**

**Based on the governor's 11/19/20 clarification on masks for youth athletes, the PAHL will continue to recommend masking at all times per the PA Guidance, but will defer to the athlete's choice only while they are wearing their helmet and mouth guard:**

According to Section 3, the athlete would be asked to work through alternatives that would reduce or eliminate the respiratory droplets that would impact others in proximity. If the sport, equipment, or exertion level does not allow for face covering to be worn safely then the athlete should not wear a face covering.

Please refer to the full PA Guidance for Sports document updated 11/19/20 and posted on the PAHL website. <https://www.pahockey.com/covid19>

Athletes must continue to mask when not on the ice/bench for game play.  
All coaches, admin, and spectators must mask and social distance. Do not allow them to be non compliant and risk shutting our youth sport down.

**Finally, there may still be facilities that will require a mask during game play unless you have a medical excuse. Your player will have to wear one at these locations during game play until such time as they amend their rules. Always check before you travel as this is a moving target and may continually be updated.**