



Maine Amateur Hockey Association  
PO Box 427  
Hallowell, ME 04347

October 18, 2020

To MEAHA Associations and our members,

The events of the last 2 weeks have brought our sport into the spotlight. Here are 2 important points regarding Maine Amateur Hockey Association (MEAHA) and games that our association teams have been playing up until the point when play was suspended by MEAHA on 10/9/20. First and foremost, at no time has MEAHA, our associations or rink partners been in violation of an Executive Order of the State of Maine (Maine DHHS letter from Commissioner Lambrew dated 10/15/20) and thus are not subject to any fines or charges as outlined in the letter from Maine DHHS (Maine DHHS letter from Commissioner Lambrew dated 10/9/20). As of today, 10/20/20, we are 16 days out since the last contact the official had with anyone in the hockey community and there have been zero confirmed positive tests of players, officials or anyone else related to this event.

It is important to continue to follow all Maine CDC and any additional local guidelines that are put in place at the various facilities around the state as we move forward. I assure you that MEAHA takes the safety and health of our participants seriously and will do everything possible to ensure that protocols are being followed.

To that end, the MEAHA Executive Board is implementing the following changes to ensure the safety of all of our participants relative to COVID-19. The following policies will go into effect **immediately**:

1. All MEAHA (youth) coaches must wear facial coverings (cloth or disposable) at all times when attending a MEAHA sanctioned activity. That includes and is not limited to all games and practices as well as any time a coach is in and around players. **Failure to comply with this requirement will result in an automatic 30-day suspension from all USA Hockey activities.**
2. All MEAHA coaches must utilize electronic whistles during all practices.
3. During MEAHA sanctioned games, teams will be restricted to having 2 coaches on the bench during the game. Other than the 2 coaches, no coach can be present in the vicinity of the team which would include the penalty bench as well as the area in and around the players bench. It is recommended that there be one person managing the timekeeping and scorekeeping of the game but not more than 2 people are allowed in the timekeeper's area.

4. Players participating in a face-off (the center) and all players while on the bench, shall wear facial coverings (cloth or disposable). Upon entering the ice surface and during play, players may remove the facial covering but will return it to its proper position upon leaving the ice surface. Facial coverings must remain in place at all times when not on the ice surface. MEAHA considers a facial covering to be a piece of Protective Equipment as described in USA Hockey's Playing Rules (Rule 304). After the first ejection from a face-off for a violation of not properly wearing facial covering, the corresponding bench shall be warned. Further violations of the rule by the same team in the same game may result in a penalty for an equipment violation pursuant to Protective Equipment Rule 304 (g).
5. Team (communal) water bottles are not allowed during the 2020-21 season, all players must bring their own water bottle to all training sessions or competitions.
6. There will be no handshake between teams at the end of the game. Players will line up at their respective blue lines and acknowledge the opposing team with a stick tap or similar action.
7. All officials will wear facial coverings (cloth or disposable) and will utilize electronic whistles for all games sanctioned by MEAHA.

As we move forward, it is also imperative, in facilities that allow spectators, that anyone in attendance at a MEAHA event follow all guidelines relative to social distancing and facial coverings. Our rink partners are vital to our sport and we should be working with them to make sure we are doing everything possible to keep our participants safe. Quite simply, if those attending do not want to follow the guidelines, they should stay home. MEAHA will not tolerate abusive behavior directed at our rink partner employees who are enforcing local guidelines that are implemented at their privately owned facilities. Abusive behavior directed to association officials or any of our rink partners will be dealt with under USA Hockey's Parent Code of Conduct policy. As associations, you play an important role in implementing these guidelines an ensuring a safe and successful season. MEAHA will continue to monitor conditions and relay any information in a timely manner.

Regards,



Mike Keaney  
President

Maine Amateur Hockey Association