



McKinney North Stars Hockey Club

North Stars Families,

With the safety of the players being the highest priority and in-line with that the prevention of an COVID-19 outbreak within a team or several teams, the DSTHL, rinks and tournament leadership have made changes to the protocols for this weekend and beyond.

- All players must enter the rink fully dressed except for helmet, gloves and skates (and goalie pads for goalies). There are no exceptions to this rule. Your TM is working with the coaches to develop a pregame plan for each team. Your TM will be communicating the plan to you. This will most likely include warm-up and getting dressed together outside of the rink (i.e. parking lot). Please remind your players that they are to act accordingly in the parking lot and not be running around.
- If your player does not feel comfortable with gearing up outside then please communicate this to the TM and provide the alternative your player is comfortable doing but getting dressed inside the rink will not be an option.
- Locker rooms will be available 15 minutes before the game. Coaches and players cannot enter the building and wait for the locker rooms to open. Teams must enter the building at the 15 minute mark, through the marked entrance doors, go directly to the locker room and get skates and gloves on. Right before leaving the locker room for the ice; players take their masks off and put them either in their hockey bag or plastic bag or health officials recommend a brown paper lunch bag, regardless they should not leave the masks laying around the locker room; put on their helmets and proceed to the ice.
- After the game, locker room will only be available for 15 minutes. Players should come off the ice, enter the locker room, take off their helmet and immediately put on their mask. They can either get completely out of their gear at that point or just take off their gloves and skates. The bottom line is the locker room must be 100% vacated at the 15 minute mark and not 1 second later.
- Coaches and locker room monitors must wear masks PROPERLY at all times. Having the mask below the nose or above the mouth or around the neck does not count as wearing a mask. Coaches that break this rule will face suspension.
- To keep crowds at the rink minimal, it is highly recommended that only ONE parent attend. All the rinks have LiveBarn so that could be an option for some instead of coming in person. Observe marked entrance and exit doors and enter & exit the rink through separate doors whenever possible.

Please review these protocols with your player. Make sure they understand the importance of following these protocols. It is important that you stay positive because your players will reflect your attitude.

The TMs and coaches are working on pregame plans which includes taking into account differences between availability (or lack thereof) of outdoor space at each rink. I ask that you stay flexible and patient as none of them have had to deal with these restrictions before. Please do not take pictures of players getting dressed in the parking lot. Although hockey players being forced to get dressed in the parking lot might seem like a good social network post, trust me it is not.

Thank you for your attention, cooperation and patience. Best of luck to your player(s) this weekend!

Jim Outman
President
McKinney North Stars