



CUHL Update – November 24, 2020

CUHL Club Leaders,

The governor's announcement last week that the entire state of Illinois will be subject to Tier 3 Mitigation has hit all of us in the hockey world like a ton of bricks. In just one week the promise of a return to hockey has slipped away, clubs have been forced to pause operations, rinks are closing once again, and families are having to make difficult choices.

The goal of the CUHL has always been to provide a service where needed. We have worked to give introductory level players a quality experience and a solid foundation by providing their clubs with the infrastructure and community of support to succeed in player development. Through the growth of our league and buy-in from our membership, we have expanded to include every competitive tier of 8U hockey, and have succeeded in providing a level playing field for all member clubs regardless of size or make-up.

As the trials of COVID-19 wear on, we as a league have had to look in the mirror and determine how we best serve our membership this season. At this point it has become clear that if we return to the game this winter – which is certainly not a guarantee – things will not be equal across the board. There will be different rules at different facilities. Some clubs may be limited in travel. Some may be limited in roster size. Some may not be able to field teams at all. At this point the unknowns are infinite, and a level playing field is almost certainly impossible to imagine.

With that in mind, it is with heavy hearts that we announce the official cancellation of the 2020-2021 Chicago United Hockey League Season.

By cancelling the season, we are allowing each club to operate in the way that best suits their membership moving forward. Referee fees will be refunded, so there will be no financial impact for our members this year. If and when there is a return to play, individual clubs/teams may feel free to schedule tournaments, games, or whatever else may be most conducive to their situation without the pressure of having to cram league games into an abbreviated calendar. In addition, this ensures that the clubs will not have to extend ice contracts or re-arrange spring programming to fit a CUHL agenda.

Do not think you have seen the last of us this year though! We are hopeful to have one large event to close out 2020-2021. If legal and responsible to do so, we are planning to host a CUHL Chicagoland

Tournament in early March. This will be open to any CUHL member clubs who are interested, and will strive to bring everyone together under the CUHL banner at least once this year. More details on this event will be released as we get closer to spring.

You can expect refund checks by January 1. Club reps - please reach out to CUHL Secretary Stephe Arkus and let her know where your club check should be mailed to.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the CUHL. The strength of our community is more critical than ever before.

Best regards,

Chicago United Hockey League Board