

IHSHL Hayes Suburban Clubs,

Everyone at Hayes Suburban would like to convey that we are as enthusiastic for the 2020-2021 high school hockey season to drop the puck as you are. Please understand that our ability to start this season is based on guidelines and regulations pertaining to COVID-19 from Federal, State and Local governments as well as protocols being implemented at all ice rinks, whether municipal, park district or privately owned.

As we have all witnessed since March 2020, these guidelines and regulations are fluid and ever changing. The Hayes Suburban COVID-19 response committee continues to monitor and further develop and adapt our own guidelines based on the ever-changing public health mandates that are released.

Here at Hayes, we made a concerted effort to drown out the rumor mills that are constantly swirling and be guided by the state and local mandates. Please remember that rumors are not guidelines and do not help any of us gain insight into when hockey will return. The following information is presented as a recap to all clubs and offer some guidance on how Hayes Suburban will proceed as we maneuver "Return to Play". Keep in mind, what is presented below regarding the current state applies to all youth hockey, not just high school hockey.

State of Illinois Mandate:

Please see <https://dceocovid19resources.com/assets/Restore-Illinois/businessguidelines4/youthsports.pdf> for the complete Illinois State "All Sports Policy" document which goes into effect on August 15, 2020. The policy is jointly issued by the Illinois State Board of Education (schools) and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (private operators).

The four levels of play are as follows:

Level 1 No-contact practices, and trainings only;

Level 2 Intra-team scrimmages allowed, with parental consent for minors; no competitive play;

Level 3 Intra-conference or Intra-EMS-region or intra-league play/meets only; state- or league-championship game/meet allowed for low-risk sports only

Level 4 Tournaments, out-of-conference/league play, out-of-state play allowed; championship games allowed

Current Conditions Allow for the Following Types of Play per Sport Risk Level:

Low-risk sports can currently play at Levels 1, 2, and 3;

Medium-risk sports can currently play at Level 1 and 2;

High-risk sports can currently play at Level 1.

To complicate this, Illinois also has 11 Emergency Medical Health Regions. Looking at the clubs that play within Hayes Suburban, we cover 6 of the 11 regions and play games in Indiana.

Based on the Illinois COVID-19 2020 ALL SPORTS POLICY released on July 29, 2020 and effective August 15, 2020, Hockey has been classified as a Higher Risk sport, and the State's assessment of Current Conditions restrict our sport to "Level 1: No-contact practices and trainings only." No competitive play or games of any sort are allowed.

Whether we agree or disagree with this classification, Governor Pritzker and IDPH have not changed it despite several petitions to do so.

What does this mean?

As shared above, clubs can offer on ice practice and skills without any contact. No games can be scheduled at this time. This goes for all youth hockey organizations in Illinois.

When will hockey move to Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4?

This decision will be determined by the State of Illinois. Hayes Suburban, AHAI and USAH have no bearing or ability to make this decision and it rests solely with IDPH, Governor Pritzker and the State of Illinois. There are no clear guidelines or measurable statistics in the mandate currently.

At Level 2, intra-team scrimmages will be allowed, with parental consent for minors; but no competitive play.

At Level 3, intra-conference or intra-EMS-region or intra-league play/meets only; state- or league-championship game/meet allowed for low-risk sports only. Again, please remember that Hayes has clubs located in six of the eleven regions, so this would continue to be very limiting regarding games schedules.

At Level 4, tournaments, out-of-conference/league play, out-of-state play allowed; championship games allowed. This level would allow all clubs to return to normal play within Hayes Suburban. Clubs could move between health regions as well as play out of state games.

Only at this level could Hayes Suburban, or any other Youth Hockey league in Illinois, put together an unrestricted season.

IHSHL Hayes Suburban Plan:

The Hayes Suburban Board will adhere to the "All Sports Policy" as mandated by the State of Illinois (IDPH). For games to be scheduled, hockey must move to Level 3 status, preferably Level 4. Our goal is to stay informed of all updates with the "All Sports Policy" and continually advise our clubs.

We recognize the season will start later and could either be shortened or extended based on guidance from AHAI (if offered). Hayes Suburban is in constant communication with AHAI, the Illinois High School Hockey Committee and many of the ice rinks that our clubs utilize. If we all work together to prepare our clubs and condition our players, we should be ready to start the season as soon as the State of Illinois moves hockey to Level 3 and 4.

At this time, Hayes Suburban will not be scheduling any games, but we will continue to prep and be ready to do so as soon as the State allows. In regards to league fees, it is challenging to set the fees at this time, but rest assured, we will do our best to stay at or below last years fees based on length of season allowed.

We will be scheduling a Zoom call for next week to address any questions that you may have. We all understand how frustrating this is with the lack of metrics and no understanding of how or when hockey could move to Level 2, 3 and 4, but we do ask for everyone's patience while we all work through this together.

We strongly encourage all clubs to complete the following:

- Import/Add personnel to your USAH Portal
- Create USAH teams
- Ensure all players born in 01 or 02 have completed SafeSport
- Ensure all Board Members, Coaches and Managers have completed Background Screening (NCSI) and SafeSport
- Send rosters to AHAI via Webtool for Certification

A few notes about rosters:

- Remember, no player can play down from Varsity to JV this season. The 7 Up – 7 Down Rule is discontinued.
- You may Dual Roster JV players to Varsity for up to 9 league games before they become frozen on Varsity and are no longer eligible for JV games.
- All players MUST be rostered to participate with the club.
- If any rostering dates get changed, Laura Johnson will communicate to the club presidents and registrars as well as the leagues.

We are all very hopeful hockey can navigate the levels quickly and we see our players enjoying the game they dedicated so much time and effort to over the years.

Thank you,

Board of Directors
IHSHL Hayes Suburban