

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR WILDCAT YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION 2020-21 SEASON (as of 11-5-20)

RESOURCES

[USA Hockey COVID-19 page](#)

[WAHA COVID-19 Return to Play guidelines](#)

[WYHA Return to Play plan](#)

How will player evaluations work?

See Appendix A of the Parent Handbook for details on how the hockey directors will conduct evaluations. The season will start with informal practices to help skaters get their “hockey legs” back. The Parent Handbook can be found on the [Wildcats website information page](#).

Will my skater be placed on a team after player evaluations?

Yes, however, it is anticipated that for the first few weeks they will practice in small groups as required by Dane County.

Will USA Hockey sanction playing hockey this season?

According to the [USA Hockey website](#), “USA Hockey will sanction hockey for the 2020-21 season and medical experts have confirmed that with taking appropriate precautions, it is indeed safe to play hockey today.”

What do we do if we suspect our skater has COVID-19?

Members should conduct a thorough check of their health for symptoms or signs of COVID-19 each day before participating in any WYHA activity. Here are some symptoms of COVID-19 recognized by Public Health of Madison and Dane County (PHMDC):

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Congestion
- New loss of taste or smell

Members should understand that it is critical to not participate in any WYHA activities when experiencing any of these symptoms. Those members who have experienced symptoms of COVID-19 may return to WYHA activities after following guidance from PHMDC about when it is safe to return. The guidelines can be found at this link:

<https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/what-to-do-if-you-are-sick-or-possibly-exposed#symptoms>

The current PHMDC guidelines include these steps:

1. People can stop isolating 10 days after their symptoms started if they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours and their symptoms are improving. The last day for isolation for someone who never had symptoms is 10 days after their positive test.
2. You don't need to get tested again if you've recently had a positive test, your test is likely to be positive for many weeks after you recover. You don't need a negative test to stop isolating.

If a member tests positive or is exposed to COVID-19, the appropriate ALD and ALA for that member's age group is responsible for communicating to team or practice group members, as well as serving as a conduit to the board for any member questions about COVID-19.

What if our skater had close contact with someone with COVID-19?

WYHA will inform members if they are aware the member has been exposed to a person with COVID-19 during any WYHA activities. WYHA will protect privacy of the infected person's health status and information, and WYHA will not disclose the name of anyone who tests positive unless that member provides consent.

Members must inform their player's ALD or ALA if a player tests positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, or if someone in their household tests positive or is exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19. [PHMDC defines an exposure](#) as being within six feet of a person with confirmed COVID-19 for about 15 minutes. Members who test positive or have exposure to COVID-19 should self-quarantine according to PHMDC guidelines, which will offer directions about when it is safe to return, and work with the ALD, ALA, WYHA COVID-19 advisor, WYHA board and local authorities to trace and determine the extent of the exposure.

Members must follow all recommendations and guidelines from PHMDC and the CDC if they have been exposed to COVID-19. [According to the CDC guidelines](#), "a [close contact](#) is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated." Those guidelines say anyone who tests positive will be managed as a COVID-19 case, and those who test negative should self-quarantine for 14 days after their last exposure to a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case.

What if our skater tests positive for COVID-19?

If a member tests positive or is exposed to COVID-19, the appropriate ALD and ALA for that member's age group is responsible for communicating to team or practice group members, as well as serving as a conduit to the board for any member questions about COVID-19.

Should my skater wear a face shield instead of a cage on his/her helmet?

Per [USA Hockey](#), "There is no scientific proof that a full clear shield on a hockey helmet provides better protection against infectious diseases compared to a visor (half shield) or cage.

That said, a full clear shield is likely better than a visor (half shield) or cage:

1. Can act as a barrier in case someone in close proximity coughs or sneezes
2. May be a deterrent to decrease touch of the face (vs. cages where players stick their fingers through the cage)
3. Likely to prevent spitting on the ice/bench (should be enforced regardless) It should be noted that a full clear shield will not prevent the inhalation of aerosolized droplets."

https://cdn3.sportngin.com/attachments/document/a86d-2166147/FullShield.FaceMasks.COVID19.June2020.pdf#_ga=2.97633432.620389337.1597354822-261171081.1595796098

How do we know the rink is being appropriately cleaned?

The Ice Pond staff will clean the rink regularly and follow all CDC and PHMDC guidelines for disinfecting surfaces. Members should notify the Ice Pond staff immediately if they think the rink isn't being cleaned appropriately and report any chronic or repeated problems to WYHA.

A volunteer with each practice group will be responsible for cleaning door handles, chairs and dressing areas after each practice, as well as picking up any trash left behind by the team. Someone in each group should be designated with that job for each practice. Members can earn volunteer hours for cleaning and disinfecting the appropriate areas; completing four cleaning shifts will equal one volunteer hour. Any chronic or repeated problems with cleaning should be reported immediately to WYHA at Return-to-Play-Info@wildcathockey.org.

Equipment should not be shared among members, including water bottles. WYHA will purchase additional sets of goalie equipment so each team has two sets, which will allow one set to disinfect while the other one is being used.

Members should sanitize and disinfect their own equipment after each use.

Why are we limited to only having 10 skaters in each group on the ice?

Current Ice Pond policies and PHMDC health regulations allow for a maximum of two pods of 10 players or less on the ice at a time with no mixing of groups allowed. (This number may change as PHMDC changes its restrictions.)

Players should maintain a distance from other skaters as much as possible when on the ice, and coaches should promote social distancing among the players.

Teams should avoid using benches during activities.

Players should not leave the ice during an activity unless it's absolutely necessary.

No player or coach should spit at any time in a facility, including on the ice.

Safesport policies will be in effect at all activities. A minimum of two adults will be at every on-ice activity, and there will be no unsupervised one-on-one interaction between a coach and player.

Indoor dryland workouts at The Ice Pond and other school district facilities have been postponed until further notice. Outdoor dryland or indoor dryland practices at a private facility are a possibility; coaches will communicate to practice teams when those opportunities come up.

The Ice Pond will follow guidelines set by Public Health of Madison & Dane County.

<https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/forward-dane/current-order>

Can parents come into the rink to watch practice?

UPDATED 9/25: Ice Pond rules do not allow any spectators in the rink during practice.

What if our family isn't comfortable traveling outside of Dane County to play games?

It's up to each family to decide whether traveling to play in other places is something they're comfortable doing. Players who opt not to travel and play at other rinks will still have the same opportunity to practice with their designated team.

What if our family isn't comfortable traveling to a tournament in another part of the state?

Families will be able to opt out of tournament participation. Before committing to a tournament, managers should survey families to see how many skaters will participate before registering the team and paying any fees.

How will we pay fees for the season? What if the pandemic worsens and the rest of the season gets canceled?

Fees should be paid in three installments — there is a fee schedule on the Wildcat website that outlines the payment schedule.

If I have questions or concerns about the COVID-19 policies, who should I contact?

You can always reach out to your ALA or ALD Wildcat Hockey board members. There is also a designated email for COVID-19 questions at return-to-play-info@wildcathockey.org.

Are volunteer hours still required this season?

Updated 11/5: Yes, families that choose to fulfill volunteer hours will be responsible for contributing through work for their teams. Instead of having families put in a certain number of hours, we're asking that volunteers take on particular roles, such as practice cleaners, assistant managers (to help with health checks) or game protocol managers (coordinating off-ice officials for games). If a family cannot commit to working as a volunteer or elects not to work in a volunteer capacity, those families also have the option to buy out their volunteer commitment by paying \$250.

Will hours I earned last year carry over to this season?

No, however any hours you earned last season will carry over to 2021-22.

If I already earned hours this year by cleaning, will those hours apply to this year's volunteer requirement?

No, but you could say you're going to fulfill the cleaner role and then the work you've already done would count toward the work we're asking you to do this season. The bottom line is that we need more help than usual to keep things going this season, and we're asking people to think differently about the volunteer commitment.

How does the Wildcats spectator policy work?

Because we'll be hosting games and playing at a variety of rinks, which all have different rules, the WYHA officers wanted to set a baseline policy for all games. When we looked at the different rink policies, those that were more developed and closer to our own Ice Pond policies had spectator restrictions. We adopted a policy for WYHA based on those guidelines. WYHA families must abide with the rink rules or WYHA spectator policies, whichever is more restrictive.

How many spectators can attend a WYHA game?

The WYHA policy is that each player can have up to two spectators, and they must both be adults. (Many rinks already have a policy about not allowing children.)

