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**Whatcom County Amateur Hockey Association**

**COVID-19 Facility Safety Plan**

In conjunction with USA Hockey and Pacific Northwest Amateur Hockey Association (PNAHA) risk mitigation guidelines, along with state and local health department’s current youth sports guidelines, the WCAHA Board of Directors has assembled the following directives for on ice activities at the Bellingham Sportsplex.

WCAHA related activities at the Bellingham Sportsplex shall adhere to all rules and regulations mandated by the Sportsplex staff, and shall meet or exceed those activity practices noted below, with the more restrictive guideline governing.

***WCAHA Hockey Operations:***

* WCAHA continues to ask all members to stay home if they have COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to anyone with a positive COVID-19 test or COVID symptoms.
* Masks, covering both mouth and nose at all times, by everyone in the rink, including skaters and coaches. This will be strictly enforced.
* Teams may incorporate full ice practices, play in scrimmages & games and participate in tournaments.
* Spectators will be allowed at all WCAHA events, including practices and games.
  + Families are asked to make good judgement in bringing spectators outside of immediate family so that we do not exceed our designated capacity.
  + Parents are asked to keep siblings with them during practices and games and not allow them to wander the building.
  + Spectators are asked to stay together in their family unit and maintain a distance of 6', whenever possible, from people outside of their family bubble.
  + Spectators are encouraged to hand sanitize on their way in and out of the rink.
* Coaches shall clearly communicate the following guidelines with parents and players:
  + Any child, parent, or family member that shows symptoms of COVID-19 shall not participate in any activities and must leave the facility immediately. The Association will notify persons who may have come in contact with identified person(s) with such symptoms promptly.
  + Players to show up to the arena mostly dressed and ready to play.
  + Players should leave the rink mostly geared.
  + All non-players shall wear masks within the facility at all times. This includes skate tightening and assisting in dressing immediately outside of facility.
  + Masks shall be worn by all when entering or exiting the facility and are also required on the ice by skaters and coaches. Masks will cover nose and mouth.
  + No spitting, hugging, or bare skin contact permitted. Gloves on at all times.
  + No sharing of water bottles. Arrive at practice with a full water bottle. Assume water fountains and bathroom facilities are closed.
* Coaching staff is encouraged to utilize electronic whistles.
* Coaches and teams are encouraged to avoid locker rooms and use the open seating area for players making final dressing adjustments or tying/removing skates.
* All participants / parents shall sign a waiver of acknowledgment of risk.
* Respect the facility at all times. Recognize and respect the facility entry and exit policies.
* WCAHA Board reserves the right to enforce discipline for any member, or family member refusing to adhere to the modified guidelines.

*Resources*

*PNAHA MASK REQUIREMENT:* [*https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/4788-2367311/PNAHA\_Mask\_Requirement\_Memo-2.pdf#\_ga=2.265068041.709541188.1630091625-356990.1629928303*](https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/4788-2367311/PNAHA_Mask_Requirement_Memo-2.pdf#_ga=2.265068041.709541188.1630091625-356990.1629928303)

*WA DOH – FACE COVERINGS STATEWIDE:* [*https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/Secretary\_of\_Health\_Order\_20-03\_Statewide\_Face\_Coverings.pdf*](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/Secretary_of_Health_Order_20-03_Statewide_Face_Coverings.pdf)

*WA DOH – SPORTS AND FITNESS GUIDANCE DURING COVID-19:* [*https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/820-201-SportsFitnessGuidance.pdf*](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/820-201-SportsFitnessGuidance.pdf)

*AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS: COVID-19 INTERIM GUIDANCE ON RETURN TO SPORTS:* [*https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-interim-guidance-return-to-sports/*](https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-interim-guidance-return-to-sports/)

*CDC ON DELTA VARIANT:* [*https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html*](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html)

RECOMMENDATION FROM WHATCOM HEALTH OFFICER, DR. STERN: email to board dated 8/23/2021