

IceCat Hockey Club Families:

This letter is a follow-up to our parent meeting held last Saturday during which we promised to convey the outcome of our meeting with D128 and any additional steps we've taken as a result.

Members of our board met with both D128 Athletic Directors in person on October 9th at Libertyville High School, where we sought to clarify the communication they sent to our organization on Friday, October 2nd. Through those discussions, our team understood that D128 recognizes that the current situation is unprecedented for all of us. They explained that they will continue to provide the IceCats Hockey Club with the recognition and support they have historically (i.e., school yearbook, 8th grade orientation, activity fair, school announcements, game dates/times/locations posted on school website, etc.). In addition to the AHAI and USA Hockey guidelines we're already following, D128 asked our club to implement some additional measures aligned with other district sports programs and to follow their interpretation of IDPH guidelines, which go beyond those recommended by AHAI and USA Hockey. Due to perceived risks, if our club were unable to adopt their additional guidelines, the district would need to end their relationship with the club.

Yesterday, the IceCats Board held a special meeting to discuss these additional requests. As a Board, while we believe our relationship with D128 is valuable for our players and the future of the club, as well as a key differentiator from other competing programs. The Board then voted and approved the following changes to our policies, effective immediately:

1. The IceCats Hockey Club will continue to focus on non-contact practices and training in the State of Illinois. We will not cross state lines to practice or actively seek to engage in competitive play. Practice slots in Wisconsin have all been canceled and the board will seek to recoup those costs through a direct refund or selling those ice slots.
2. While the IceCats Hockey Club has been following AHAI guidance for on-ice activity, D128 has also requested the club adopt the district policy to use of face-coverings during indoor activities. As such, we will expand our face covering requirements to include all on- and off-ice activities while indoors. The board has approved and purchased CCM Face Masks for all players that covers the face, but also secures to the helmet in a way that does not obscure players' vision while on the ice. We wanted to ensure that every player had the latest mask designed for our sport, but did not want to burden families with an additional expense. Use of this specific mask is not mandatory, but is being provided as an additional option for families. These masks were pre-ordered and are not publicly available until October 21st, so until they arrive, players will need to utilize a mask of their choosing. Again, while indoors any participant in our program will not be able to participate in team activities without wearing a face covering.

Our relationship with D128 has been built over many years and we look forward to continuing to strengthen that relationship as we move forward. COVID-19 has created a fluid and ever-changing environment. We will continue to partner with the district to resume activities in a safe and responsible way.

IceCats Hockey Club Board of Directors