



ACYHA COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

Armstrong Cooper Youth Hockey Association is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all our players, families, coaches and spectators. We, as members of the ACYHA association family, should not only look out for ourselves and our families, but our extended hockey family as well. It is our hope that as we return to play, we support each other in our commitment to provide a safe and healthy environment for all. In order to help us achieve this goal, ACYHA has developed the following COVID-19 Preparedness Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please note – this plan will be updated as needed due to changes in New Hope Ice Arena policies; local, state and national mandates; CDC guidelines; MDH guidelines; USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey rules and policies.

VOLUNTARY – First and probably most importantly: competing in or attending hockey events this season is, as in any year, a voluntary choice. If you are not comfortable allowing your player to practice and/or compete at this time, we unconditionally respect and support this decision. We will welcome you back to the rink when you decide it is the right time for your family. ACYHA is moving ahead, although cautiously, specifically and solely for those families who understand and have weighed the risks of potential exposure to the virus (as can happen in any public setting) versus the benefit of returning to hockey. We recognize that this is a very personal choice and will not be the same for every family. While we cannot guarantee that someone won't get sick, we will do everything we can to mitigate the risk for our ACYHA families.

For our fans and spectators, we ask that you follow the rules of each rink as it pertains to attendance and their safety measures. We will ask that our team managers inform their teams of the other rinks' policies and we trust that families will share this information with others as needed.

CONSIDERATIONS – Please stay home if you are feeling ill. If a player feels ill while at a practice or game, they must inform their coach immediately, leave immediately and do not return until permitted under MDH guidelines. ACYHA may request appropriate information related to illnesses from any player before they participate in any activity.

ACYHA will meet – or in some instances, exceed – all protocols established by local authorities to help mitigate exposure to the virus. We are asking anyone who is sick or shows any symptoms of illness (including, but not limited to: fever, chills, cough, congestion, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, headaches, vomiting or diarrhea) to not enter any hockey or ACYHA facilities or events and we will also ask that coaches help us enforce this as it relates to their team's players.

SAFETY MEASURES – We will follow all policies and procedures as requested by the City of New Hope and the New Hope Ice Arena. Their policy is linked on our COVID page on the ACYHA website. Their policy is as follows:

Mandatory COVID-19 Guidelines NEW HOPE ICE ARENA -Date 9/29/20

These plans are subject to change, and some restrictions may ease as we get closer to the season.

- Armstrong Cooper Youth Hockey Association continues to follow current CDC guidelines, as well as protocols from the City of New Hope. Your cooperation in following these guidelines is vital to ensure we can keep the facility safe and open for your activities on the ice.

-Face Masks are **required** to be worn by everyone. Please continue social distancing, remaining 6 ft apart.

-Players and Coaches will be let in 20 minutes before game

-Players must get dressed outside.

- Players must wear masks entering and exiting the arena – they are not required while on the ice
- Sticks, skates, helmets, and gloves can be put on inside arena
- No bags will be allowed in arena (**updated 9/29 – bags will be allowed once games start or teams are formed**)
- Water Bottles have to be filled before entering arena water fountains are not available
- Water Bottles are not to be shared
- Players must stay in the locker room until time to go on ice
- Please no spitting of gum or saliva on the floor PLEASE USE GARBAGE CANS
- Throw tape ball and other trash in garbage cans
- Players must leave 10 minutes after game through designated exit door

-Coaches lead team in the building and to their locker room

- Coaches must stay with team in locker room
- Coaches leave last making sure team is out 10 minutes after game
- Responsible for picking up locker room and making sure nothing is left behind
- Please stress/enforce the guidelines of the arena with your players
- Make sure the players go out designated exit door
- No dryland or warm up in arena, must be done outside
- All coaches will wear masks prior to, during and after all games and practices per MN Hockey.

-Parents will be let in at game time

- A limit of 2 spectators per player will be allowed (2 parents, 1 parent and child, etc.)
- Masks required per state mandate
- Must leave immediately following the game through designated exit door
- No outside food or drink
- Bathrooms are closed, please go before entering the arena
- Arena lobbies are closed

Updates to the above policy as of 10/14/2020:

- Must go to locker room and stay in locker room until ice time with masks on
 - 2 locker rooms will be assigned for every hour
 - if locker rooms are too crowded, there will be some chairs set up outside locker rooms to use
- No spectators for practice except:
 - Locker room supervisor and coaches
 - Players 10 and under may have 1 parent if needed
- 2 parents are allowed for games
 - Strongly recommend no siblings
 - if necessary, siblings must stay with parents for the whole game

IF YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO A PERSON CONFIRMED TO HAVE COVID-19 – Per CDC and MDH guidelines, this is defined as ‘close contact within 6 feet of an individual for at least 15 minutes’ without the use of personal protective equipment. Currently, their recommendation suggests persons with exposure isolate at home for 14 days after last exposure, maintain social distance from others at all times, self-monitor for symptoms twice per day and avoid contact with people at higher risk for severe illness. It is also suggested that you get a Covid test.

IF A PLAYER OR COACH TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 – Please notify ACYHA immediately. There is a button on the COVID page of our website that you can click on to notify us. Or, please notify Kim Nau at kimmilou2@yahoo.com or 612-802-3443. All precautions will be taken to protect privacy while also following CDC and MDH protocols for notifying those directly impacted. ACYHA will also follow the MN Hockey Guidelines for Managing Confirmed COVID-19 cases. This guideline can be found here: https://cdn4.sportngin.com/attachments/document/0629-2210441/Minnesota_Hockey_Positive_Test_Guidelines_final.pdf#_ga=2.37093536.1226986427.1597708190-1957812430.1595442555

- ACYHA will notify all team members if a positive test is confirmed, while maintaining that person's confidentiality in accordance with the American with Disabilities ACT (ADA).
- We may also notify any opponents, rinks or associated persons that may have had contact with the infected person over the previous 14 days.
- Team activities may be paused until ACYHA has consulted with local health officials and/or the MN Department of Health on additional testing or requirements before returning to play.
- According to MN Hockey Guidelines, "Teams should not be penalized for forfeiting games due to COVID-19 concerns".
- There is no 'one size fits all' when determining a course of action. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis using all resources available to us.

Tournaments – Level Coordinators and our Tournament Director are scheduling tournaments as they have in the past. The Board is mindful of concerns and questions you may have – regarding COVID, possible cancellations, hotels, etc. We appreciate your patience as we explore scenarios as we move closer to the season. Contact your Level Coordinator if needed in the meantime.

Mid-Season Cancellation – In the event our season is cancelled (at any point), the Association will work to refund what is fair and possible, taking into account ice time, season length, etc.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE – We know many of you are also concerned about registration, volunteer hours, volunteer deposits, and items that happen during a normal year. As we are all aware, we are living in uncertain times. And, it's no different for those of us planning for a return to the game we love so much. We know you have many questions and concerns and we will do our best to address those in time. There will be times when the answer could be 'we don't know' or 'we aren't sure'. And, the answers may change over time.

Please know we will make decisions thoughtfully, prudently and fairly. For instance, we understand that volunteer hours might be hard to get if the rink doesn't allow the concession stand to open. We know that we may need to look at our volunteer policy during the season and make any needed adjustments given what is known at that time.

Information surrounding the virus changes rapidly, and we anticipate that as an association we will need to be adaptable to those changes and the guidelines that will surely follow. Let's all work together to ensure a safe season for everyone.

GO WINGS!

