

Expectations for Minnesota River Youth Hockey Practices

Below are specific requirements that Minnesota River Youth Hockey has in place for our players and coaches. These requirements were created with the guidance of Minnesota Hockey and USA Hockey.

Before Arriving at the Arena:

1. Understanding Facility Procedures and Policies: Members must become familiar with COVID-19 policies and practices of each facility where an activity is taking place prior to attending and must comply with all such policies and practices while at the arena.
2. Signs of Illness: Players or coaches that are feeling ill should not participate in any on-ice activities. Any players, coaches or spectators exhibiting symptoms or signs of an illness should not be in the arena or community center at any point.
3. Positive Test/Exposure: Members must inform the COVID-19 manager and coach of a player awaiting a COVID test result/testing positive, someone in their household testing positive or having been exposed to someone confirmed to have COVID-19. Exposure is defined by MDH as “being less than 6 feet from someone for 15 minutes or more throughout a 24-hour period”. Members awaiting a COVID test result/testing positive or having exposure to COVID-19 should:
 - a. Contact the players’ coach AND COVID-19 manager (please report via link on MN River webpage).
 - b. Self-quarantine using MDH guidelines: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>
 - c. To the extent requested, assist the COVID-19 manager, association, and state and local authorities to determine the extent of exposure.

Arrival at the Arena:

1. Timing of Arrival: Players should arrive at the rink no more than 10 minutes before the start of on-ice activities. Anyone arriving earlier than 10 minutes before their start time should wait outside of the facility and be socially distanced. Parents, please wait until your player has entered the arena before leaving the premises.
2. Dressing: Players should arrive at the arena fully dressed, with the exception of skates and helmets. Players can use the parking lot to dress if they would like. Locker rooms are not open and accessible at this time. Benches have been placed in the arena for the players to use to put on and remove skates. Players will not be allowed to bring their hockey bag into the arena, however a small cinch bag will be allowed at the LeSueur Community Center Arena. The exception is still goalies who should arrive as dressed as possible and can use a bag if needed for the rest of their equipment.
3. Entrance to Le Sueur Community Center: There will be a single point of entry for teams. The only way to enter the building is by key card access. Coaches will have access to a key card to let the players in. There will also be one person from that team by the door to let in any additional players, if needed. Please see the Le Sueur Community Center layout to see the traffic flow to the arena. Masks are also mandatory at all times in the community center.

Arena Drop-off:

- a. Players at the Girls 12u, PeeWee and Bantam levels, the player(s) should be dropped off at the rink. Parents/guardians should not remain at the arena and will need to wait outside the community center.
 - b. Players at the Girls 10u and Squirt level, one (1) parent/guardian is allowed in the arena per player to assist with any equipment needs. Once the player's needs are met, the parent/guardian must leave the building out the new single exit and will need to wait outside the community center. See community center layout for the new exit.
 - c. Players at the Mite levels, one (1) parent/guardian is allowed in the arena per player to assist with any equipment needs. That parent/guardian may also stay in the arena, and socially distanced from others, to provide assistance to the player if needed throughout practice time. Masks are mandatory for any spectator, per the MDH mandate.
 - d. While it is important to limit the number of people in the community center and arena as much as possible, there may be circumstances in which a parent/guardian must also bring in younger siblings. This is allowed, but should be limited as much as possible. The sibling should not be running around in the hallways or in the mezzanine. Also, siblings should not be playing in the elevator. We will have no access to the gym either. The sibling must sit and be with the parent/guardian at all times.
5. Water Bottles: Players should fill and bring their own water bottle to the arena in a clearly marked bottle. Players should not share their water bottles.

Practices and Clinics:

1. Maximum Players on Ice: A maximum of two (2) pods of 25 people or less at a time with no mixing between groups. Each coach and on-ice helper WILL count toward the number of people on the ice.
2. Masks: Coaches and players must be wearing a mask at all times before, during and after practices.
3. Spacing on Ice: Players need to maintain as much separation as possible during practices. Whenever possible, coaches should be promoting social distancing on the ice, while recognizing that there may be times of close contact by players.
4. Player Benches: Players should avoid using player benches during practices.
5. Spitting: There should be no spitting by any player or coach at any time inside the arena, including on the ice surface.

After On-Ice Activities are Completed:

1. Leaving the Arena: No off-ice interaction (socializing, team meetings) should occur following the conclusion of practice. Players should remove their skates and helmets immediately and leave the community center, using the new exit, no more than 10 minutes after the end of practice.

2. Disinfecting Arena: After each practice, coaches and/or parent volunteers will clean and disinfect benches, door handles, mezzanine railings and tables (after use at Mite levels), bleacher railings (after use at Mite levels) etc. Any high traffic, high touch areas will need to be disinfected. Le Sueur Community Center will be supplying us with the items we will need to disinfect the arena.

3. Player Pick-up: Parents/Guardians must be aware of the time when players will be done. Parents or the assigned person to pick up players at the arena must be punctual and not allow players to wait. Once players are outside the community center, they will not be allowed back into the building as a key card is needed.

4. Cleaning Gear: While at home, players should clean and disinfect gear after each use.