



SAHOF RETURN TO THE RINK POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Each association should have its own plan in place for returning to the rink. Local rinks and associations need to follow the guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Florida Department of Health and its Guidance for Social Distancing, as well as local government officials in determining when, and how, it is appropriate to return to the rinks, including requirements or guidelines for physical distancing, size of gatherings or number of people permitted in a facility, or wearing masks, etc.

The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, SAHOF makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this information. As you plan for a return to the ice, below are some ideas to consider assisting with developing a return to hockey programming in context of COVID-19. Please know these are not requirements but are recommendations and ideas to consider when evaluating your programming. As conditions and requirements may vary throughout the state, our best advice is to follow state and local government guidelines and recommendations from the CDC.

Until COVID-19 is either eradicated, a vaccine is developed, or a cure is found, there is no way of eliminating the risk of infection. We are thankful to all those essential workers and first responders who are guiding us and keeping us safe and healthy during this pandemic. Remember that we can contribute to helping eliminate COVID-19 by doing these four things:

1. Physical Distance
2. Wash Hands and Practice Safe Hygiene Habits
3. Clean Surfaces & Equipment between uses
4. Staying Home When Sick or Experiencing Any Symptoms

Arriving at the Rink

1. Players or coaches with any risk factors or illnesses should not participate in any on-ice activity. Any players, coaches or spectators exhibiting symptoms or signs of an illness should not be in the facility at any point.
2. Participants should utilize the [Florida COVID-19 Response](#) prior to any on-ice activity. These screens should be monitored by each association.
3. All participants must be USA Hockey registered for the 2020-21 season to participate in any SAHOF sanctioned on-ice activity.



4. Players should arrive at the rink no more than 20 minutes before the start of on-ice activities. Anyone arriving earlier than 20 minutes before their start time should wait outside of the facility and be socially distanced from others.

5. If there is an activity occurring at the rink before the team's scheduled start, the incoming team should wait until all players from the prior event have vacated the building. There should not be interaction between the two groups.

6. One parent or guardian is permitted to accompany participant into a facility unless said facility has a different policy.

7. Whenever possible, players should use the restroom at home prior to leaving for the rink to limit bathroom use at the facility.

8. Parents, Coaches and players are always required to wear masks while inside the facility and locker room areas. Players and Coaches should wear masks until its time to take the ice. At that time, they should put on helmets and go directly on the ice. Players and Coaches should not congregate at entrance while ice is being re-surfaced.

9. Players are recommended to arrive to the arena fully dressed with the exception of skates and helmets.

10. Players should be bringing their own rehydration liquids to the rink in clearly marked or labeled containers with the player's identity. The container should be re-sealable. Players should NOT plan on refilling their containers at the rink.

11. Coaches should be as prepared as possible to ensure complete utilization of the allowed ice time. This also helps ensure that players are not distracted and know they need to be on time and ready to go, not engaged in other areas of the building.

12. Each association and team should have an emergency plan for any positive outbreak within the team, association, or community.

13. Each association and team should have an alert plan to notify association members and anyone else who may have been exposed following any positive outbreak within team, association, or community.

14. MANDATORY

All personnel on the bench or in the Penalty box (other than participating players) are required to wear a face mask, failure to comply will result in a warning, then a 2 min bench penalty followed by a Game Misconduct.



After On-Ice Activities are Completed:

1. No on or off ice interaction (socializing, team meetings, dryland activities) should occur following the conclusion of practice. Players should remove skates and helmets and leave the premises within 20 minutes of the end of practice.
2. Parents/Guardians must be made aware of the time when the players will be done. The parents or person assigned to pick up players at the arena must be punctual. Players should not have to wait for a ride.
3. Players should vacate the arena immediately to allow for the next user group to enter.
4. Coaches or other responsible adults should remain until all players are safe and removed from the premises.
5. While at home, players should clean and disinfect gear after each use.