



Navigating COVID-19 – Effective August 18, 2020, Revised December 1, 2020

The Northwest Chargers Hockey Association is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment to all our members. Of primary importance is our effort to mitigate the potential for the transmission of COVID-19 within our Club, the ice arenas, and the community. Not only will this effort require full cooperation from our members, but it will also require flexibility as the circumstances surrounding this virus are constantly changing. **Our ability to remain on the ice will be directly related to the efforts we put forth to reduce the spread of COVID-19.**

Ultimately, despite our best efforts, we cannot eliminate the risk that COVID-19 presents. If you have an underlying health condition or a specific health concern about participating in hockey this season, you should work with your health care provider to determine the best decision for your family.

The Northwest Chargers top priority is the safety of our players, and this will remain unchanged no matter the circumstances. Please review the following Northwest Chargers policies regarding COVID-19. In the event any of this information changes, we will notify all members at the email address that is registered to your SportsEngine account and on our website.

COVID-19 NOTIFICATIONS, CLOSE CONTACT

- Throughout the season, we ask that players, family members and friends remain home if they are experiencing any COVID-like symptoms as described by the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and detailed on their website www.cdc.gov.
- An email address was created to allow for confidential communication of COVID-19 positive cases, exposure risk and any other information you believe is relevant. This account is closely monitored by the Northwest Chargers Executive Board. covid@nwchargers.org
- Any player with a confirmed case (positive test) for COVID-19 must inform their Head Coach immediately, (and/or send an email to covid@nwchargers.org). This player must quarantine themselves away from all Charger events, games, practices and accompanying ice arenas until they have received a letter of release from a physician indicating they are cleared to return to sports and recreation.
- If a player or coach tests positive all team members will be notified, and they must follow the advice of their respective health care professionals to determine exposure risk and any quarantine requirements. The CDC recommends individuals quarantine themselves if they believe they were within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more. Please see the www.cdc.gov for more information on *close contact*.
- If a family member of a player or coach that resides in the same household tests positive for COVID-19, that player or coach must quarantine until the incubation period has passed and they can provide a negative test after the incubation period.

Cancelation of Charger practices, games, events will be determined on a case-by-case basis

COVID-19 PREVENTION

- Policies and procedures as published by our home ice arenas, as well as any other participating rinks must be strictly followed. This includes, but not limited to, numbers and ages of spectators.
- Every player or coach entering/exiting the ice arenas or using the locker room, must be properly wearing a mask over the nose and mouth. This mask must remain in place until it is time for the player or coach to put on their helmet. After the conclusion of the ice session, once the helmet is removed, the mask must be put back on immediately and remain on until the player or coach has exited the building. (In a game situation, coaching staff may remove their mask while on the bench). However, please let it be known that any local government

guidelines, or rink policies that require a mask to be worn while on the ice or bench will supersede such requirements as stated.

- For teams participating in the dryland sessions at the MPI Sports Development Center, all players must wear a mask until the dryland session begins. At the conclusion of the session, masks must be placed over nose and mouth as they exit the building. The trainers have designed exercises with social distancing in mind, but each player must also take responsibility in this regard.
- Teams are strongly encouraged to come dressed in their equipment as much as possible before arriving to rinks to limit the amount of time spent in the locker room together. While inside the locker room, players are encouraged to dress with the same players to the left and right of them to aid in possible contact tracing in the event of a positive case.
- Players may only use their own equipment and water bottles.
- Players gear including practice jerseys, socks, mouth guards, etc. must be washed and disinfected on a regular basis.
- Players and coaches must take their temperatures at home prior to leaving for the rink.
- All participants have signed our waiver to participate during the registration process.

Any failure to comply with the above policies may result in loss of ice time and game play

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The primary cost for any hockey organization is ice rental. Once we complete tryouts and assign players to teams, those teams will use the same amount of ice that they would have any other season. The level of instruction and development will be the same as well. By maintaining the amount and high level of training that we have offered in the past, our teams will be in the best position to succeed once we are able to play league games.

As you know, we are offering a six-payment plan to help lower and spread out the payment of fees. If we are forced to stop training due to a governmental directive or the closure of home ice arenas, members will not be responsible for payments beyond their most recent SportsEngine billing. Members who elect to pay in full at the beginning of the season will receive a proration similar to those members on the payment plan. However, any brief pause to hockey activity based on State mitigations will be evaluated based on the ability to “make good” on missed ice slots, or credits at the end of the season.

In the event that your team is unable to play any league games, we will return the fees associated with those games (league fees and estimated referee expenses). We will not reimburse members for a temporary suspension of activities based on an individual or group quarantine. This means, for example, that if you or your team is forced to quarantine due to a positive test or if home ice arenas must temporarily close for a COVID-related reason (i.e., cleaning), you will not receive a refund for the period of time that you are not on the ice.

If your league extends its season beyond March 31, 2021 due to a delay in start or interruption, the Club will incur additional expense for ice rental and instruction. Members will be informed of these details, potential additional cost and requirements at a later date.