



CUHL Club Leaders,

We hope that this letter finds everyone safe and healthy. The CUHL Board wanted to take a minute to touch base and let everyone know where we stand regarding the upcoming season.

While there is no way to completely mitigate the uncertainty surrounding the upcoming months, the CUHL would like to reassure our members that we are committed to playing mite hockey this year – as long as it continues to be deemed legal and safe to do so by our governing bodies. We are a board of hockey directors, not epidemiologists, so we are not going to start making health decisions for our membership. As a league based out of Illinois and sanctioned by the Amateur Athletic Union, we have deferred judgement on safe health practices to those organizations and their experts.

As of July 21, 2020:

- The entirety of the state of Illinois is currently in Phase 4 of Restore Illinois. This phase currently allows for sport competition.
- The AAU and AAU Hockey have released a communication allowing their leagues to operate within their local guidelines and policy regarding COVID reopening.
- The majority of the ice facilities that are used by our member clubs are open, or are scheduled to be opening soon, in a manner that will successfully accommodate hockey games.
- All individual clubs and facilities have adopted specific COVID-related safety policies and have procedures in place as a function of reopening.

In light of these circumstances, and of course assuming there are no changes to the above criteria, we are announcing the following schedule for the 2020-2021 season:

**Travel Divisions:**

**Seeding Round (6 Games) 9/18-10/25**

**Regular Season (18 Games) 11/6-2/21**

**Playoffs (Play-In, Round Robin, Finals) 2/22-3/7**

**House Divisions**

**Seeding Round (4 Games) 10/5-11/8**

**Regular Season (10 Games) 11/20-2/14**

**Playoff Primer (2 Games) 2/15-2/28**

**Playoffs (Round Robin, Finals) 3/1-3/14**

It is important to note a couple of items relating to the season schedule and our plan to play this year:

- This schedule is subject to change at ANY TIME. The CUHL COVID Committee has a number of season contingency plans worked out, and can adjust on the fly if needed throughout the course of the year. Prepare to be adaptable.
- The CUHL will be adopting a policy regarding a positive COVID test on a team and what that means for scheduled league games.
- All CUHL clubs will be required to obtain and provide to the league a copy of the regulations at any ice facility they use for games. This database of information will be put on the CUHL website to allow visiting teams to follow protocol for away games. Facility management will have the final say regarding what goes on in their rinks.
- The CUHL COVID Committee will serve as an intermediary to facilitate clubs working together regarding unforeseen circumstances that will undoubtedly arise this year.

Although nothing more is being mandated at this time, the CUHL COVID Committee would like to publish the following list of "Best Practices" we believe all clubs should be taking into consideration for the following season.

- 1) Allow for frequent hand washing for players and coaches (including having hand sanitizer available before and after ice slots)
- 2) Wash player equipment after each use
- 3) Mandate individual water bottles for each player
- 4) Require players to arrive fully dressed with skates on for games and practices
- 5) Limit spectators at games (1 chaperone per child)
- 6) Wear face coverings at all times when not on the ice or bench
- 7) Arrive right before game time and leave immediately following game time
- 8) ENCOURAGE PLAYERS AND COACHES TO STAY HOME WHEN FEELING ILL

Please remember that this list is not comprehensive, nor should it be construed as mandatory. The final say regarding all regulations and protocols will lie with the individual clubs and facilities in which they skate.

The CUHL believes that hockey is not a luxury for our players, but an essential part of their growth and development. In this year of challenge and change for our 1,400 youngsters, sport plays an even more critical role than usual – it provides an outlet, some socialization, and a sense of normalcy. We may not know exactly what the season will look like, but we are committed to doing whatever we can - within the guidelines of safe and responsible behavior - to provide the infrastructure for kids to play the game they love.

Please be on the lookout for two more upcoming emails regarding our CUHL Scholarship program and our preliminary team count requests.

Stay well,

CUHL Board of Directors