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To Our DVHL Families and Friends:

Over the last twenty-four to forty-eight hours there has been much discussion relative to the issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DoH) with regard to their Universal Mask Directive. This document is intended to being some clarity to the situation as of its authoring. Please keep in mind that the directive is constantly evolving and in flux.

We have reached out to the PA DOH and to the Atlantic District for help on this and are awaiting a response to our questions. For now, we need to follow the directives as they are mandatory.

We know most of you do not like wearing masks. We realize that we are in a very difficult time and in order to remain active it is imperative that we work diligently to comply with the Commonwealth's and Affiliate's directives.

Below please find answers to your questions. If you have any questions that we may have missed, please contact your club representative who in turn will come to the league to get an answer for you.

This is another hurdle that we have to get thru while we are working with rules relative to COVID. We are now almost 2 months into the season and we are still going. We appreciate your support as we all go along thru this.

Colleen Marinari



In accordance with the Pennsylvania Health as updated on Nov. 20, 2020

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Universal-Masking-FAQ.aspx>

When will I be required to follow the terms of this Order, and for how long?

The updated Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until the Secretary of Health determines the public health risk is sufficiently reduced so that face coverings are no longer necessary as a widely utilized public health tool.

What type of mask complies with this Order?

The Order requires individuals to wear a "face covering." "Face covering" means covering of the nose and mouth with material that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. A "face covering" can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk or linen. A "face covering" may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or be improvised from household items, including, but not limited to, scarfs, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

While procedural and surgical masks intended for health care providers and first responders, such as N95 respirators, meet those requirements, these specialized masks should be reserved for appropriate occupational and health care settings.

Does a disposable face shield suffice in lieu of a mask?

Wearing a cloth face covering is best. A disposable face shield is considered an alternative to a face covering and may be worn when wearing a face covering is otherwise not possible.

I have asthma or another medical condition. Do I have to wear a mask?

Individuals must wear a face covering unless they meet one of the exceptions in Section 3 of the Order. Persons, including children, with sensory sensitivities may have challenges wearing a cloth face covering. They should consult with their health care provider for advice about an appropriate alternative.

Does the Order apply to athletes and sports activities?

Yes. Everyone who participates in sport activities including coaches, athletes (including cheerleaders), and spectators must wear a face covering, such as a mask, unless they fall under an exception in Section 3 of the Order.

Indoors: Coaches, athletes (including cheerleaders), and spectators must wear face coverings, when indoors and where another person or persons who are not members of the individual's household are present in the same space, irrespective of physical distance. This includes while actively engaged in workouts, competition, and on the sidelines, etc.

Can an athlete remove their mask during play if the mask causes a medical condition, including respiratory issues that impede breathing?

Yes, the Order provides an exception in section 3 that provides that if wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition or a disability. The order indicates all alternatives to wearing a face covering, including the use of a face shield, should be exhausted before an individual is excepted from this Order.

Using football as an example, wearing a mask in addition to a mouth guard and a helmet would likely create a medical issue for the athlete whether the athlete is a professional or youth player even if a previous medical issue was not present. For example, the CDC says that "wearing a mask with these types of protective equipment is not safe if it makes it hard to breathe." There are other sports where there are similar concerns that a mask would create a medical issue where one would otherwise not exist in an athlete. For example, it should also be obvious that wearing a mask while swimming presents an imminent health issue.

According to Section 3, the athlete would be asked to work through alternatives that would reduce or eliminate the respiratory droplets that would impact others in proximity. If the sport, equipment, or exertion level does not allow for face covering to be worn safely then the athlete should not wear a face covering.

There are no exemptions for specific sports, leagues, teams, or levels. We know that some people don't like masks. We are asking everyone to please give this their best effort so we can continue these activities and others as we all unite to fight COVID-19.

Outdoors: Coaches, athletes (including cheerleaders), and spectators must wear face coverings if they cannot maintain sustained physical distance from persons outside of their household. This includes while actively engaged in workouts, competition, and on the sidelines, in the dugout, etc. If sustained six-foot distancing can be maintained, face coverings may be removed when outdoors.



Acceptable



Acceptable



Keep your guard up. The Bauer Concept 3 Splash Guard is designed to fit onto the Bauer Concept 3 visor to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets. It's been created to reduce the exchange of respiratory droplets, and covers the wearer and those around him/her from sweat, coughs and sneezes, while still ensuring optimal breathability. The air flow created while skating will help reduce the possibility of your visor fogging, allowing you to focus on the game.

Acceptable with a medical condition until further clarification from the Commonwealth.

Please pay particular attention to the following:

ENFORCEMENT –

The Affiliate will dispatch supervisors and rely on other information sources to verify compliance.

PENALTIES –

Violations of State-required COVID-19 mitigation requirements will be subject to a disciplinary hearing, and verified violations shall subject the Club to penalties, including but not limited to; Club or team season-ending suspension, loss of tournament-bound status not to exceed three (3) years suspension from all AAHA participation of those individuals deemed responsible for the violation(s) for a period not to exceed (3) years.

GAME OFFICIALS -

It is not the responsibility of game officials to enforce the wearing of masks for player personal, as some may have a medical exemption. However, Coaches are required to wear masks during games and officials have been encouraged to warn the coach to wear the mask, if it occurs a second time during the game, issue a bench minor, and third time assess a game misconduct.

Game officials are not required to wear masks as approved by the Atlantic District working thru section 3 and its allowances.

Delaware is very specific. All participants must wear a mask. There aren't any exceptions, medically or otherwise. Additionally, on Monday, November 30, 2020 all facilities will have a fifty (50) person limit which in effect excludes spectators.