



## Granite State Wild – Return to Play

### Phase 1 Time Period - September 2020-January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

As of 8/25, Granite State Wild (GSW) plans for our players, coaches, parents, volunteers and spectators to participate in games and in practices. This communication includes the following:

- What to do in the event you need to report a COVID Case
- What to do if you need to report a COVID incident
- Phase 1 Return-to-Play Game Travel Restrictions and Tournaments
- Phase 1 Return-to-Play Guidelines, Rules & Procedures for the Dover Rink, For Parents and Coaches

We sincerely appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as this is an extremely fluid situation in which we will do all we can to ensure everyone's safety as our number one priority.

### COVID

In the event that someone may need to report a COVID Case, please follow CDC Regulations:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/reporting-lab-data.html>

In the event that someone may need to report a COVID incident where you have observed that a person or people are not following the Guidelines established here within, please report this through your team's coach and ultimately to the board member that supports the team's age group.

### Phase 1 Return-to-Play Game Travel Restrictions and Tournaments

- **Games** - During Phase 1, no games will be permitted against MA organization teams in MA or NH. DYHA will only approve games against NH, ME and VT organization teams.
- **Tournaments** –They will not be permitted during Phase 1 of the GSW 2020-21 season. Tournaments will be evaluated for Phase 2 of the season as more data and guidance is given in the pandemic. Factors considered in implementation of these rules:
  - 1) **Population Density & Back To School** - With a population of 6.83 million, 125,000+ COVID cases and 8,091 COVID related deaths in Massachusetts combined with 3/4 of Massachusetts schools going back to school in some form of in-person instruction, we feel a safer return to play will be achieved by limiting travel of players and families to and from a state with a higher population density and will help mitigate potential transmission.
  - 2) **Maine Travel Restrictions** - 30%+ of GSW players are from Maine. Maine currently has travel restrictions in place that will make playing in Massachusetts a major hurdle for players and families.

Governor Mills has issued a “Stay Safer at Home” Order for all Maine residents. All out-of-state travelers coming into Maine and Maine residents returning to Maine, must either receive a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to arrival or complete a 14-day quarantine, per the Keep Maine Healthy plan.

States Exempted from Quarantine or Testing Requirements

- Connecticut (Effective July 3, 2020)
- New Hampshire (Effective June 26, 2020)
- New Jersey (Effective July 3, 2020)
- New York (Effective July 3, 2020)
- Vermont (Effective June 26, 2020)

Maine considered a number of quantitative and qualitative measures in making this determination, which is designed to protect public health.

The State will continue to evaluate exemptions based on public health information

3) **City of Dover** – The City of Dover has put processes in place for a safer return to play within its facility, and keeping games limited to NH, ME, and VT organizations allows tighter control.

We will closely monitor state and local guidance as we approach Phase 2 of season. Here is a list of Resources:

- <http://www.dover.nh.gov/services/covid19.html>
- <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://www.usahockey.com/playersafety>

## **Phase 1 Return-to-Play Guidelines, Rules & Procedures**

### **The Rink at Dover**

**These are “Must Do’s.” Patrons that cannot follow these guidelines will not be allowed to use the facility.**

- No congregating at any time.
- The Conference Room is closed until further notice.
- No rental skates will be available in the pro shop due to sanitary reasons.
- Showers are off limits until further notice.
- No walk-ins allowed.
- Patrons must maintain 6 feet distance from others in the facility while not on the ice.
- Masks or cloth face coverings must be worn when entering and exiting the facility, in the lobby, in the locker rooms. Skaters must wear them until they are ready to put a helmet on and step on the ice.
- All Patrons will be asked the following questions during each visit:
  - Is your current temperature in excess of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit?

- Have you had a fever in the last 72 hours?
- Have you had close contact with anyone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19?
- Do you have respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath?
- Do you have flu-like symptoms such as muscle aches, chills, or severe fatigue?
- Have you experienced changes in your sense of taste or smell (loss of either)? \*If you answer yes to any of the questions above, please do not put our employees and other patrons at risk! Please come back when you can answer no to all the above questions.
- Only skaters will be allowed to enter the facility except for 1 parent/guardian with youth during practice session.
- You must maintain 6 feet distance in the bleachers (marked on the bleachers).
- No spitting, sharing water bottles, or chewing gum allowed in the facility.
- The main hallway is for one-way traffic only to get to your locker room and exit out the back door.

## **Parents**

### **MUST DO's**

- Parents must sign a waiver of liability indemnifying Granite State Wild
- All parents must constantly monitor their children's health and must not send their children to the rink if they are not feeling well, have a temperature, a cough, shortness of breath, a runny nose, or any other flu-like symptoms
- All parents will need to be available for a phone call during their child's practice or game. If the player is not feeling well at the rink at any time, she/he will be immediately sent home without question
- Parents must check and review the policies and procedures for the rink in which you will be attending for all games.
- Parents must always wear masks and keep a 6-foot distance at all times while inside the Dover Ice Arena.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

- We recommend that parents wash their hands prior to and after leaving the rink
- We recommend that parents supply cloth masks for their children to wear during practices, games, and at all times except while playing ice hockey.  
[https://cdn3.sportngin.com/attachments/document/a86d-2166147/FullShield.FaceMasks.COVID19.June2020.pdf#\\_ga=2.248863748.221657044.1598297186-25034162.1594237792](https://cdn3.sportngin.com/attachments/document/a86d-2166147/FullShield.FaceMasks.COVID19.June2020.pdf#_ga=2.248863748.221657044.1598297186-25034162.1594237792)
- We recommend that parents purchase "bubbles" (full clear shield) for their children to wear during practices and games. [https://cdn3.sportngin.com/attachments/document/a86d-2166147/FullShield.FaceMasks.COVID19.June2020.pdf#\\_ga=2.248863748.221657044.1598297186-25034162.1594237792](https://cdn3.sportngin.com/attachments/document/a86d-2166147/FullShield.FaceMasks.COVID19.June2020.pdf#_ga=2.248863748.221657044.1598297186-25034162.1594237792)
- We recommend that parents wash all jerseys, socks, water bottles, and cloth masks between games and practices.

## Players

### **MUST DO's**

- Players must always wear cloth masks within the rink until the player enters the ice surface. It is expected that a cloth mask is worn while entering the rink, walking through the rink, and exiting the rink.
- Players must adhere to the Dover Arena or Arenas they are traveling to regarding traffic flow. Players must adhere to Dover Arena Policy while present in Dover Arena as well as our "Rink Partners" policies while players are physically present in those Arenas.
- Players will not show up to or enter the Dover Ice Arena until 20 minutes before game time or practice time.
- Players will keep a 6-foot distance between other players and coaches until the players are physically on the ice surface and play begins.
- Players will not share water bottles at all, will not spit, and will not chew gum at the rink.
- Players will immediately leave the facility following practice and games keeping a 6-foot distance and must not congregate at the rink or outside of the rink.
- All players will be honest and straightforward about how they feel during these times. If a player communicates to a coach that he or she is not feeling well, his or her parent will be immediately called, and the player will leave a practice or a game as soon as possible.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

- We recommend that all players wear cloth masks at all-times, except while they play hockey to protect their nose and mouths (it not recommended to wear these masks during aerobic activity per CDC and WHO).
- We recommend that players wear "bubbles" while playing hockey to protect the face and eyes from droplets; it is not scientifically proven that a full clear shield is "better" than a metal "cage" at this time: [https://cdn3.sportngin.com/attachments/document/a86d-2166147/FullShield.FaceMasks.COVID19.June2020.pdf#\\_ga=2.248863748.221657044.1598297186-25034162.1594237792](https://cdn3.sportngin.com/attachments/document/a86d-2166147/FullShield.FaceMasks.COVID19.June2020.pdf#_ga=2.248863748.221657044.1598297186-25034162.1594237792)
- We recommend that players dress prior to getting to the ice arena to minimize time in the locker room

## Coaches

### **MUST DO's**

- Coaches must wear a cloth mask at all times covering the nose and mouth. We are investigating electronic whistles for practice activities (much like what referees will use).
- Coaches must keep a 6-foot distance from players and parents while in the rink
- There will only be 3 coaches on the bench during games.
- We expect that coaches will report all issues with players and parents immediately to the rink management and to Ray Terrell (Coaching Director ray.terrell@doverhockey.org).

- If there is an injury; coaches and first responders will have disposable gloves on hand to address any injury
- Coaches are required to take attendance during practices and games in the event we need the information for contact tracing.
- Coaches are required to make players and parents aware of policies and procedures of the facilities that they are playing at, Dover Arena and rinks we travel to and that these requirements are communicated and checked often, as things may change daily.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

- We recommend that coaches conduct online meetings with players/parents for all team meetings, strategy sessions, pre-game planning, post skills reviews, and post-game observations.

#### **IN CLOSING**

We want to make this process as safe as possible for all involved. It is going to take everyone within the organization to do their part to make this work. As we have consistently communicated, Safety is our Number One Priority for all players, parents, coaches, volunteers and spectators.

If you are not comfortable with the Guidelines, Rules and Procedures listed here within, please email John O'Brien @ [john.obrien@doverhockey.org](mailto:john.obrien@doverhockey.org) as soon as possible and we will put a plan in place for your player/family to opt out of the 20/21 hockey season.

Additionally, DYHA reserves the right and will update these policies to ensure the safety of players, parents, coaches, spectators and volunteers as information is presented or prescribed by the CDC, US Government, State Government, Local Authorities and USA Hockey.