

MN Hockey District 9



December 8, 2020

District 9 Associations

An update on what is going on within MN Hockey.

I have a District Directors meeting tomorrow night to prepare for a special MN Hockey Board meeting this Sunday night.

The agenda for the District Directors

1. Season Extension

- a. Plan Motion going to Special Board Meeting is Districts March 12, Regions March 19, State March 26, 2021

	Present Plan	Option 1	Option 2
Districts	2/11-14	3/12-14	3/19-21
Regions	2/25-28	3/19-21	3/26-28
State	3/11-14	3/26-28	4/9-11

- b. Develop a plan for extending past if this initial pause is extended – April 9th

- i. Ice Availability
- ii. Spring Break ramifications

- c. Region Tournaments concerns

2. Invitational Tournaments

- a. If continued, are out of state teams allowed to participate
- b. Should we cancel all sanctioned MH Invitational Tournaments 20/21
 - i. Associations are asking for direction.
 - ii. Statewide decision on how to cancel invitational tournaments should be handled by districts/associations
- c. Process for returning Sanctioning Fee, if canceled

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While we do not know what Governor Walz will do, MN Hockey wants to have in place options for extending the season. The initial thought was adding 2 weeks to the season, with option 2 moving State Tournaments out to April 9. I expect much discussion on this, main issue will be the present unknown with Governor Walz's plan on reopening.

I have talked with many of you, and I will be voting to extend season. We typically have 1 week open between Districts and Regions, we would remove this and use this week to finish league play. The open week was used if we experience weather issues. Each Association could continue to practice/play games during the overall extended season time if not participating in Regions or State Tournament play.

I would like to know your thoughts on Invitational Tournaments. There is growing support to cancel these, as you can imagine, the revenue loss would be a major hurdle to overcome. Two biggest reason to cancel the Invitational Tournaments would be to reduce social gathering time and to create more ice time for use. This item is also on the list that MN Hockey is working with MDH on the reopening plan.

An update on MN Hockey & MDH meetings - Last Friday there was a informal meeting to exchange thoughts on what the reopening could look like. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday. Reading the news today, sounds like the Governor is planning on telling us if he is extending the pause this week. I hope we get in front of the Governors team prior to his announcing. I wish I had more information to relay. Yesterday I talked with 2 other Directors and Steve Olehieser – MN Hockey President, just trying to express my concerns that we need to sell our program that we can reopen responsibly.

Please get back to me on any new thoughts regarding the above information. Ice time availability concerns, thoughts on Invitational Tournaments and any other concerns are very helpful.

Mark Blaisdell
D9 Director

Board Members:
Mark Blaisdell
Kathy Heightland

Scott Schneider
Troy Marquardt

Mike Carlson
Josh Anderson

Josh Storm
Kathy Thoen