

AHAI Statement Regarding Game Play in Illinois – August 24, 2020

Currently, the State of Illinois classifies ice hockey as a “Higher Risk” sport. According to the Illinois classification, Higher Risk sports allow for no-contact practices and training only. The All Sports Policy may be found here: <https://dceocovid19resources.com/assets/Restore-Illinois/businessguidelines4/youthsports.pdf>.

AHAI Affiliate Organizations and leagues are accountable to governmental authorities and AHAI expects all its members strictly adhere to federal, state and local government and departments of health policies, including local rink rules, for best practices on COVID-19 health and prevention. These policies include, but are not limited to, the All Sports Policy, Youth Sports Guidance, and Indoor/Outdoor Recreation Facilities Guidance from the State of Illinois. AHAI realizes that the policies can (and may very well) change at some point in the future. Each AHAI organization is responsible for awareness of the most current policies.

As players and ice hockey participants return to the ice, and in hopeful anticipation that scrimmages and/or games will occur soon, AHAI released the 2020/2021 Hockey Registry to all AHAI Affiliate organizations. Similar to prior years, rosters that comply with the AHAI/USAH Rules and Regulations will be certified.

However, the issuance of a team roster does NOT permit an AHAI/USA Hockey rostered team to participate in games or scrimmages (in state or out of state) nor does it permit an AHAI sanctioned league to conduct games or scrimmages. To be clear, the current AHAI policy does not permit any registered AHAI affiliated organization, team or league to participate in any games or scrimmages. At this time, AHAI is not approving travel permits or sanctioning in-state tournaments.

A violation of AHAI rules, regulations, bylaws, policies or procedures may be referred to the appropriate disciplinary AHAI committee for further action. A determination by the AHAI committee that an organization, team or league violated any AHAI rule, regulation, bylaw, policy or procedure may result in disciplinary measures including, but not limited to, coaching suspension, team staff suspension, decertification of a team or league, and elimination of eligibility to participate in the AHAI State Tournament.

Each AHAI affiliate should prepare its own plan, in conjunction with its local rinks, for returning players to the ice. AHAI does not operate ice rinks or affiliates nor does it determine when, and how, it is appropriate to return to the rinks. AHAI has no role in determining such actions.

Working collaboratively, and in compliance with the policies discussed above, may increase the opportunity to reevaluate the current classification of ice hockey. Conversely, creating an environment which could lead to further exposure and incidence of Covid-19 infection may move the community further back from its intended goals. We are all in this together!

AHAI will release additional information as it becomes available.

Stay well. AHAI Board of Directors