



July 30, 2020

To all Associations and Leadership:

The Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) acknowledges that this has been a difficult several months for all of us. Frankly, we anticipate there will be additional challenges to endure in the near future. As you're aware, the MAHA has continued to provide updates to our statewide membership, regarding the ongoing Federal, State and local guidelines for returning to hockey activity. In response, many of our members have inquired about any ongoing efforts to petition the State to allow our rinks to re-open, and for the hockey season to begin. In an effort to avoid any misconceptions, the MAHA wants to assure its Associations and leadership that we are not sitting dormant and awaiting government approval to return to activity.

The MAHA has taken a very proactive approach in attempts to persuade the State of Michigan to allow us to return to hockey activity. Members of our Executive Committee have been in contact with legislators, lobbyists, and members of the Governor's administration to make our case for reopening rinks statewide. We have had members participate in the Return to Sports Committee; in fact, those members have made formal presentations on our behalf. In addition, we have also worked closely with the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), which has the same goals for paving a return to sports activity. We are encouraged by the progress the MHSAA has made thus far, and they certainly share our desire to get our indoor facilities re-opened for business. Rest assured, there is a collaborative effort to get our hockey activities back up and running, and we will continue to provide updates on progress as they become available.

Until then, the majority of the state of Michigan remains in Phase 4 of Governor Whitmer's [Michigan Safe Start Plan](#). Per the Governor's orders, hockey activities and sanctioned events remain suspended by the MAHA in all regions currently in Phase 4. This was also taken pursuant to guidance from USA Hockey. While we remain optimistic that Governor Whitmer will amend these restrictions in the near future, circumstances will dictate whether she loosens or tightens them. For this reason, the MAHA has continued to discourage unsanctioned hockey activities that violate those government directives. In addition to the substantial liability and risk, we do not believe this will contribute to a timely return to activity across the State. As leaders in our hockey community, your support in discouraging any unsanctioned activity will go a long way to ensure a safe return to hockey for the 2020-21 season.

Recently, we have received complaints that another competing organization is directly contacting our local association representatives, in an attempt to initiate hockey activities with that organization. The MAHA will not permit another entity to contact our local association representatives, and it will take necessary action against the entity or the local association. We have already notified a third party of an improper contact with one of our local associations. If any organization / representative is offering opportunities to participants, to engage in hockey activities in violation of the Governor's orders, we encourage you to report these violations to the appropriate governmental entity.

The Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) is committed to following the State's mandates, as well as working with the Governor, to resume hockey activities in a safe and prudent manner. We are confident that hockey will resume at the right time. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

*George Atkinson*

George Atkinson

President

Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

*Jason Reynolds*

Jason Reynolds

Director of Operations & Marketing

Michigan Amateur Hockey Association