

# AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ILLINOIS, Inc.

*"Dedicated to the development of today's youth  
through Athletic and Academic excellence."*

Visit Us on the Web: [www.ahai.org](http://www.ahai.org)



## **AHAI Advisory on COVID-19 and Youth Hockey** **November 19, 2020**

As of Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, the State of Illinois has issued new guidance concerning COVID mitigations. We realize that this is a disappointment to the hockey community. It is hard to deny the acceleration of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths throughout the state and country. We know the hockey community has done it's best to stay safe at the rinks.

Currently, the State of Illinois has released the **Tier 3 Resurgence Mitigations**

<https://covid19-illinoisgov.cs32.force.com/coronavirus/s/restore-illinois-mitigation-plan>

The mitigations, as stated in the above document, impact AHAI and its member affiliates: regarding AHAI sanctioned events:

### **Organized group recreational activities** (sports, indoor sports and activity facilities, etc.)

- Pause all indoor group sporting and recreational activities including youth and adult recreational sports, individual training may remain (with facility reservation)
- Includes park districts and travel leagues
- Outdoor sports and recreation allowed
- Participant groups and practices outdoors limited to 10 persons or less with social distancing
- Face coverings required for all activities at all times
- Locker rooms should be closed

*During this pause, all AHAI sanctioned activity will be postponed until additional updates are available.*

*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, IDPH travel policy, the All Sports Policy, Youth Sports Guidance, and Indoor/Outdoor Recreation Facilities Guidance from the State of Illinois and Tier 3 Resurgence Mitigations. AHAI realizes that the policies can (and may very well) change at some point in the future. Each AHAI Affiliate Organization is responsible for awareness of the most current policies.*

*As has been previously communicated, The issuance of a USAH team roster does NOT permit an AHAI/USA Hockey rostered team to participate in **any** games or scrimmages In the State of Illinois nor does it permit an*



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AHAI sanctioned league to conduct games or scrimmages during this **Tier 3 Resurgence Mitigation**. AHAI will not sanction any in-state games or tournaments at this time.

If AHAI is made aware of any affiliate violating the current state policies surrounding COVID, AHAI will refer that complaint to IDPH for follow-up.

A violation of AHAI rules, including all in state Illinois Game play, 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.

AHAI Does not recommending Affiliate Associations or teams travel outside the state Of Illinois.

If teams or participants travel out of Illinois, they would be subject to any applicable State of Illinois quarantine requirements and may be subject to penalties by the State of Illinois if it determines that such travel violated the current health regulations. At this time, AHAI does not intend to take disciplinary action for participating in sanctioned activities in another Affiliate, **If that Affiliate is open for play as determined by said Affiliates governmental agency**, unless the State of Illinois issues a clearer directive on the subject.

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 return to the ice safely and as soon as safely possible. 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



**Sanctioned Affiliate of USA Hockey 2**