



2020-2021 Return to Play Guidelines

Updated July 25, 2020

We are all looking forward to returning to the rink, and the staffs at both Codey Arena and RWJBarnabas Health Hockey House are working hard to work within current guidelines for youth sports. The health and safety of our players and families is always, and will continue to be, our top priority as we plan for our upcoming return to hockey. We want all our players and families to not only *be* safe at the rink, we want them to *feel* safe. Therefore, it is necessary that every member of our youth hockey community takes every precaution possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19 regardless of their own risk factors and personal beliefs.

Obviously, we will continue to follow the rules and recommendations put in place by federal, state, and local governments and governing bodies. In accordance with the recommendations made by the United States Ice Rink Association, USA Hockey, and US Figure Skating, Codey Arena and RWJBarnabas Health Hockey House have developed their own "Return to Play" protocols and policies for facility cleaning, staff training, supplies, equipment, signage, technology, mask usage, social distancing markers, and restroom and locker room usage. We expect all families, players, coaches, and staff members to obey all regulations that have been put in place at every facility they visit. With that said, Devils Youth reserves the right to impose stricter guidelines on our members than what may be required by each facility, and in all cases, we should all err on the side of caution.

As the situation continues to evolve, we will periodically revisit and revise these guidelines.



Personal Hygiene and Infection Control

- Maintain social distancing
- Everyone must wear a mask when entering and leaving the facility. Players may remove their masks when they put their helmets on and they must put their masks on when they remove their helmets. Individuals who arrive at the rink without a mask will be denied entry.
- Wash hands frequently and carefully
- Use hand sanitizer when hand washing is impossible
- Avoid touching your face
- No spitting
- No shaking hands, fist bumping, or hugging
- Do not share personal items
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow when you cough or sneeze
- Regularly clean and disinfect surfaces and personal items
- Avoid touching high-contact surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, and faucets
- At-risk individuals, such as senior citizens or individuals with a compromised immune system, should not come to the rink.
- Individuals who have come into contact with someone with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 should not come to the rink.
- Individuals who have traveled out-of-state should quarantine as recommended by New Jersey state guidelines before coming to the rink.
- Players, coaches, staff, and family members should take their temperature before coming to the rink, and they should stay home with a reading of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. All individuals will have their temperatures taken before being admitted to the rink, and individuals with fevers will be denied entry to the building. If a player, coach, staff member, or family member is exhibiting symptoms of illness including but not limited to fever, chills, cough, or shortness of breath, that individual should not come to the rink. Anyone who comes to practices and games exhibiting symptoms of illness will be asked to leave.
- We strongly recommend that players undergo a pre-participation physical examination
- Staff and parents must notify the Managing Director, Kelly Coyle DiNorcia, if they or their player becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms, tests positive for COVID-19, or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case. Staff and players must abide by CDC guidelines for safely ending home isolation following illness or exposure before returning to the rink.



Equipment and Personal Items

- Sharing of equipment is prohibited. We will not have equipment available for players to borrow.
- Devils Youth will not maintain a “Lost-and-Found” for forgotten equipment or personal items.
- Devils Youth cannot accept any equipment or apparel donations.
- Player equipment should be washed and/or disinfected after each use.
- Families should *strongly consider* purchasing helmets with a face shield (as opposed to a cage) for their players. Coaches are also encouraged to consider wearing a face shield during practices.
- Players must bring their own, clearly labelled water bottles to the rink. Sinks, water fountains, and vending machines are out of service until further notice. Unmarked and unclaimed water bottles will be thrown away.
- Coaches should bring their equipment home with them after each practice for cleaning.

Scheduling

- We will not have a rotating practice or game schedule this season. Instead, we will seek to create cohorts of teams to minimize the number of people each player and family comes into contact with.
- We will seek to stagger arrival and departure times for practices, and we may schedule buffer times between each on-ice session.
- Players and coaches should not enter the rink more than 10-15 minutes prior to the start of their scheduled ice time and should exit the building no more than 10-15 minutes after they leave the ice.
- Older players should be dropped off at the rink, and they should not be accompanied by an adult inside the rink. Players who are too young to be unaccompanied should have only one person with them whenever possible. Teams may want to consider creating a schedule where parents take turns supervising young players in order to minimize the number of people in the rink at any given time. While the number of spectators allowed to attend games is restricted, parents will be still able to watch games at BH3 using their existing broadcasting system, and the management at Codey Arena is working to bring a live broadcasting service into their facility.
- We will consider the feasibility of inter-state travel for games and tournaments as we get closer to the start of the season.
- Coaches will be responsible for supervising players inside the rink when parents cannot be present.
- Players will not be penalized for missing practices or games if they are sick or otherwise under quarantine; players or parents should communicate with their coaches regarding absences as far in advance as possible.



On-Ice

- Players will use multiple doors whenever possible to enter and exit the ice one at a time while maintaining a safe distance from each other.
- Coaches will work to create or modify drills to minimize the amount of time players spend waiting in line.
- Coaches will seek to minimize time spent on “chalk talk,” and to address players in smaller groups as opposed to gathering the entire team together.
- Coaches will minimize the use of shared equipment during practices and will sanitize equipment and supplies after each use.
- No handshakes, fist bumps, or celebratory hugs are allowed – elbow bumps and air-fives only!
- Coaches will minimize the use of whistles and sharing of whistles is strictly prohibited.

Off-Ice

- All non-essential team gatherings, including team meetings and classroom work, will be conducted virtually via Zoom. Coaches will consider ways to conduct socially distant pre- and post-game talks, especially while locker room access is limited.
- Warmups must be conducted outdoors in a safe area. While locker room access is limited and players are arriving at the rink already dressed, players may want to conduct their own warmups at home or coaches may need to modify their on-site warmups accordingly.
- The Devils Youth office will be closed to the public, and staff will work from home as much as possible.
- Locker room and bathroom usage should be kept to a minimum; locker rooms will be closed altogether in the early stages of rink reopening. Players should arrive at and leave the rink as fully dressed as possible, including skates.
- Coaches should minimize the amount of time they spend in the coaches’ room.
- Off-ice officials such as clock operators, scorekeepers, and penalty box attendants must wear a mask at all times.