



McKinney North Stars Hockey Club

North Stars Families,

The local hockey community has recently experienced a sharp rise in the number of COVID-19 cases. The local health department is now involved and monitoring local hockey events. DSTHL leadership, with council from health officials, is attempting to be as proactive as possible to avoid any interruption to the season and has invoked additional COVID-19 protocols that will go into effect immediately and remain in effect until further notice. The new protocols were created to serve the number one priority which is keep the players playing hockey as safely as possible and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the hockey community.

- Like the leveling tournament, players should arrive at the rink fully dressed except for gloves, helmets and skates for ice practice, scrimmages and games. Players cannot enter the rink more than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled event.
- Locker rooms in McKinney will be closed. Players should use the chairs at either end of the rink to get geared up. Players must stay 6 feet apart while getting geared up. Players cannot move the chairs closer together; they must remain 6 feet apart. Players must remain in the chairs until it is time to get on the ice. Players must not gather up at the rink door waiting to get on the ice. Stay in the chair, separated by 6 feet until the coach or referee signals that it is time to get on the ice.
- Players must wear masks all the time unless they are on the ice. When it is time to enter the ice players take their masks off and put them either in their hockey bag or plastic bag or health officials recommend a brown paper lunch bag; put on their helmets and proceed to the ice. Players should come off the ice, go straight to their chair, take off their helmet and immediately put on their mask.
- All dryland training will be performed outside. We will monitor the forecast and cancel dryland if there is a high percentage of bad weather. A mask must be worn at all times during dryland training. Prior to participating in dryland training, each player will be temperature screened. If a player has a temperature above 100 degrees then the player will be asked to wait a few minutes and their temperature will be taken again. If their temperature is still above 100 degrees then the player will not be allowed to attend dryland training. At this point the team manager and coach will be notified who will in-turn contact a parent or guardian.
- For practices, the only people allowed in the rink are TMs, scheduled LRMs, players and coaches. Parents, guardians, grandparents, friends, siblings, etc are not allowed to attend practices or be in the rink. Players must be dropped off and picked up at the front doors to the rink. Only players may enter the facility doors, be in the rink lobby and be in the rinks. If you wish to enter the bar then you must use the exterior bar entrance on the south side of the facility, you cannot enter the rink and enter the bar through the rink lobby.
- For games, only one parent or guardian can attend per player. Siblings are not allowed to attend games. All parents attending a game must wear a mask properly. Having the mask below the nose or above the mouth or around the neck does not count as wearing a mask.

Please review these protocols with your player. Make sure they understand the importance of following these protocols. Violators will be given a warning and then if they continue to violate a protocol they will be turned into the board and a suspension will follow.

We cannot overstate how important it is to follow these new protocols. We are teetering on the edge of losing hockey in the area. We are hoping that by clamping down even more that we can satisfy local health officials and more importantly get the number of COVID cases within the hockey community much lower. There is a chance that these new restrictions could be loosened once the numbers of cases within the hockey community are reduced.

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