



# TIME TO UNTHAW

OHSAA Ice Hockey – Summer Odds and Ends

June 5, 2020

## COVID-19 AND GOVERNOR'S ORDERS

*Governor's DeWine's office has put forth several recommendations regarding skills training and conditioning. These recommendations apply to the sport of ice hockey. Currently, not contests are permitted to take place in the state of Ohio. However, you may begin to work with your student athletes as long as your school district and local health department have permitted it. Below are several pieces of information that will assist you in navigating these times. Please find additional information from the Governor's office here:*

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Skills-Training-All%20Sports.pdf>.

### SCHOOL ATHLETIC FACILITIES

On Thursday, May 21, Lt. Governor Husted announced that the opening of school athletic facilities is a decision to be made by individual school administrators. Please consult with your school administration and/or Local Health Department to determine if your athletic facilities are open for use. Further, we have produced and provided to your school administration a list of recommendations to consider when re-opening facilities. Again, these are recommendations and not requirements; schools may, and are encouraged to, come up with a plan that suits them best for reopening. These recommendations can be found here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/OHSAAGuidance2020.pdf>.

### REGULATION CHANGES AFFECTING MAY 26 – AUGUST 31, 2020

Below is a list of Regulation changes that will affect how you may coach from now through August 31, 2020. These changes went into effect on May 26. These were approved by the Board of Directors on April 30 and included in the memo sent to schools in the April 30 update. You can find that memo and the Regulation summaries here: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/BulletinBoard/OHSAUpdatesApril30.pdf>

1. The 10-day rule has been eliminated;
2. The 50% limitation has been eliminated;

### WHAT DO THESE CHANGES MEAN?

1. You were previously only permitted 10 days during June and July to work with more than 4 of your athletes. The elimination of the 10-day rule allows you to work with more than 4 of your own players on as many days as you want from May 26 – August 31, 2020. The only stipulation being that you *cannot* make participation mandatory.
2. You were previously permitted to only coach up to 5 of your athletes (50% limitation) in individual skill workouts and in non-interscholastic play at any time except during the no-contact period. This has been eliminated and you can work with as many of your athletes at any time between May 26 – August 31, 2020. This would permit you to take your entire team to tournaments or play other school teams as often as you'd like during that time if/when competition is permitted by the Governor's office.

**\*Please note, the changes above are in place for 2020 only.\***

### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER AUGUST?

After August 31, the regular, out of season regulations are in effect. This means you may only work with 4 of your athletes in individual skill workouts and in non-interscholastic play.

## NFHS PLAYING RULES

### RULES CHANGES

The NFHS Board of Directors recently approved five rules modifications for the sport of ice hockey. Most of these rules changes were made in the interest of health and safety of the student athletes participating in the sport. Additional changes were made for clarity purposes and the expansion of video replay as a state adoption. The full list of changes can be found here: <https://nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/ice-hockey-rules-changes-2020-21/>.

### NFHS vs. USA IH PLAYING RULES – \*IMPORTANT\*

We understand that the ability to play by NFHS rules at all times can be difficult, especially when traveling out of state to compete. Further, we understand that the issue may be amplified if we were to force your schools to cancel contracts with teams and tournament directors that have already been signed. For those reasons, we will be moving forward with the following plan:

- When your school competes against another OHSAA member school, NFHS rules shall be followed and OHSAA registered officials shall be used
- When your school competes against a non-OHSAA member school/team **AND** you are the host of the game, NFHS rules shall be followed and OHSAA registered officials shall be used

- When your school competes against a non-OHSAA member school/team in the state of Ohio **BUT** you are not the host of the game, USA Ice Hockey rules are permissible, **BUT** OHSAA registered officials must be used
  - This enables officials to report penalties that warrant a DQ as outlined in the NFHS rules
- When your school competes against a non-OHSAA member school/team outside the state of Ohio, **AND** that school/team is registered as a USA Ice Hockey team, USA Ice Hockey rules are permissible
  - In these instances, it is unlikely an NFHS registered official can be used
  - Therefore, it is your responsibility to report any penalty assessed to the play during the game that is equivalent to a DQ under NFHS rules to the OHSAA office
    - A failure to file a report will result in the school athletic director and head coach meeting with the OHSAA Executive Director to determine what action will be taken, **up to removal from the OHSAA State Ice Hockey Tournament**

There is a lot to unravel there, we know. However, this is the fairest way to go about this situation with out forcing schools into possible legal action because of cancelling contracts. If you have any questions regarding this adjustment, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or Jerry Snodgrass ([jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org](mailto:jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org)).

Lastly, please take the time to complete this short survey regarding the possibility of moving over to USA IH rules in the future. **We want to stress that this is not something we are doing, but we simply want to get your opinion on the topic.** Please note that you will have to sign into your myOHSAA account prior to taking the survey. You can find the survey here: <http://officials.myohsaa.org/Outside/PresentationDisplay?UniqueMeetingId=489123>

## **THANK YOU**

We know that these are extremely uncertain times and that questions will come up. Please do not hesitate to reach out when those arise. We are here to help. Most importantly, thank you for your leadership during this time. Your student athletes rely on you all more than any of us could ever realize. It helps us sleep easy at night knowing that Ohio ice hockey student athletes are in great hands.

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