



TIME TO UNTHAW

OHSAA Ice Hockey – Summer Memo #2

July 30, 2020

Good afternoon! I wanted to reach out and provide some updates regarding recent developments throughout the state and with our association. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out!

COVID-19, OHSAA AND GOVERNOR'S ORDERS

OHSAA SUSPENSION OF SCRIMMAGES

On July 28, 2020, the OHSAA sent out a memo that included information regarding the suspension of scrimmages. **This suspension of scrimmages includes the sport of ice hockey.** With the “10-day rule” and “50% limitation” being suspended (see below), we know that you may have been planning scrimmages with other schools. Those scrimmages, even though they are outside of the designated season, are now not permitted to take place.

CONTACT SPORTS

On July 22, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health extended an order regarding contact sport competitions. Section 9 of this order specifically addresses inter-team competition (two different teams competing against one another). Within this section are requirements that state “players, coaches, athletic trainers, support staff, and officials must...receive a negative COVID-19 test result before traveling to competition and a PCR COVID-19 test must be administered to each athlete and staff member participating in the competition no more than 72 hours prior to the start of the competition.” Full order: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/2nd-Ext-Exp-2nd-Amended-Order-Contact-Sport.pdf>

This means that no competition should be taking place in the sport of ice hockey unless those involved test negative no more than three days prior to the event taking place. I've been made aware of contests occurring, and while I can't put a stop to these as this is a government order, I urge you all to encourage your athletes to follow the guidelines that are set in place. Compliance with these guidelines allows us all to reach our end goal: Normalcy and a 2020-21 ice hockey season.

REMINDER: 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.

OHSAA ADJUSTMENTS

As I am sure most of you are aware, Jerry Snodgrass is no longer with the associations. Because of this, I will be taking over the administration of ice hockey full time for the 2020-21 school year. This is a new adventure for me, and I am still learning, so please bear with me as I get my

footing. I have a lot of good support around me, including the advisory committee, Ice Hockey DOD Gary Wilkins and longtime OHSAA sport administrator Dale Gabor. I am extremely excited to step into this role and work with each one of you to grow the sport throughout the state.

All in all, we have no plans of looking back; only forward. There have been some great conversations that have taken place since the transition and we have no other plans than to keep those going. We currently have an advisory committee meeting set for Thursday, August 6, 2020. We will be sure to pass along some meeting notes once those are compiled.

THANK YOU (AGAIN)

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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