

MYHA

Return to the Rink



2020-2021

Season

August 2020

MYHA Board Order

Prepared with guidance from US Ice Rink Association, USA Hockey,
WAHA, CDC Considerations for Youth Sports and the Dunn County Public
Health Administrative Order

Subject to Change as new info becomes available.

Menomonie Youth Hockey Association is committed to providing a safe environment and facility as we return to the rink. We are committed to open programming in phases, using guidelines set forth by Federal, State and Local Health Officials, USA Hockey, Wisconsin Amateur Hockey (WAHA) and the US Ice Rink Association.

The purpose of this document is to provide members, user groups, parents, participants and volunteers a summary of our requirements for utilizing the ice at the Fanetti Community Center. Due to the nature of the sport and with the restrictions listed out below MYHA will prioritize a safe environment for all.

As updates continue to emerge, pertaining to our return to rink for the 2020-2021 season, detail of this comprehensive plan is subject to change. Please visit our website for those continued updates.

Please note that every family should exercise their own discretion regarding return to play.

- We encourage our members to learn more about your plan and procedures and discuss expectations with their children.
- Make sure you are comfortable with this information before returning to play.
- Ultimately it is the parent's choice if, and when to return. Each family and skater will participate at their own risk.

Every family at MYHA as well as every user group participant/guest of the Fanetti Community Center must be committed to keeping our rink open and helping keep our community safe. It is essential and required that EVERYONE stays away when demonstrating any symptom (even if from another identified illness or issue, for example a headache from a migraine).

MYHA plans to utilize a Phased Approach to reopen the rink, with player and participant safety top of mind.

1. Phase One: Pre-Opening/Rink Management (August 1)
 - a. Player Agreement Policy
 - b. Off-Ice/Dryland Training
2. Phase Two: The Re-Opening (October 1)
 - a. Players Return to On-Ice Activities/Station Base Practices
 - b. Tryouts/Evaluations
3. Phase Three: Adaptive Play (TBA*)
4. Phase Four Unrestrictive Play (TBA if possible*)

*Note: This plan will be reviewed monthly by the MYHA President, Dunn County Health Officer, MYHA Board and Ice Board. Adjustments will be made as needed and dates will be updated when safe. The goal of MYHA would be to move to Adaptive Play this season with strict safety rules in place as outlined in this document.

General Guidelines:

1. MYHA will abide by the request that all user groups follow Emergency Order 1 from the Office of the Governor as it applies to the wearing of masks.
2. Players or coaches with any risk factors or illnesses will not be allowed to participate in any on-ice activity. Any players, coaches or spectators exhibiting symptoms or signs of an illness will not be allowed in the facility at any point.
 - a. Follow all other public health recommendations issued by Dunn County Public Health Department, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and the US Centers for Disease Control. This importantly includes practicing good hand hygiene, practicing good respiratory hygiene and staying home when sick, if you do not feel 100% healthy, please stay home.
3. MYHA will assign a person who will be responsible to ensure all updated and relevant information is passed on to everyone within their association. Responsibilities can include:
 - a. Monitoring all relevant updates from the CDC, State and Local public health authorities.
 - b. Monitoring all relevant updates from USA Hockey and WAHA.
 - c. Communicating with Ice Board/MYHA Board on *guidelines* and updates.
 - d. Ensuring teams are following the prevention guidelines set by the CDC, State and Local public health authorities, USA Hockey and WAHA.
 - e. Ensuring any COVID-19 cases are reported as required by the CDC, State and Local public health authorities, USA Hockey and WAHA.
 - f. Ensure all of the guidelines in this plan are followed and implemented.
4. All participants must be USA Hockey registered for the 2020-21 season to participate in any on-ice activity.
5. Our association will have an emergency plan for any positive outbreak within the team, association or community.
6. Our association will have an alert plan to notify association members and anyone else who may have been exposed following any positive outbreak within a team, association or community.
 - a. MYHA will handle tracking of every user in the rink during Phase 1 & 2, we will have all contact information on file.
 - b. During Phase 3 & 4 MYHA will require all spectators/parents to sign in and provide contact information (including date, time, email)
 - c. If you have been exposed to COVID-19 or tested positive or are awaiting test results, you are asked to stay home.

General Cleaning:

1. All high traffic areas of the facility will be frequently disinfected per usage/phase needs
2. MYHA will have a clear cleaning standard operating procedures (SOP)
 - a. Locker Rooms will be cleaned and disinfected after each use by group volunteers
 - b. Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily
 - c. Appropriate signage will be posted with signs/symptoms and recommendations
3. Additionally, Hand Sanitization Stations have been purchased for increased access for all players, coaches, and workers.
4. Water Fountains will be unavailable.
5. Bleachers and viewing glass will be cleaned after each use once in use by patrons, by user group volunteers.
6. All facility equipment will be disinfected after each user group using that equipment.
 - a. Pucks, divider boards, cones, etc.

General Communication:

- MYHA will have clear in-rink signage with reminders, website updates, social media reminders, regular email blasts and welcome back training.
- MYHA will communicate Rink Guidelines and Requirements to all user groups.
- MYHA will have records & contact info for all users.

See these resources for more information:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>
- <https://www.usahockey.com/playersafety>
- <https://www.co.dunn.wi.us/covid19>

Phase 1: Pre-Opening/Rink Management

In an effort to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants and spectators, rink management and the MYHA organization will be committed to a higher standard of sanitation and day-to-day operational practice. The following is an outline highlighting key practices we will take at the Fanetti Community Center.

Building Access/Usage (approved by County on 7/15)

- Limiting participants to 25 individuals per session.
- Participants will be required to arrive dressed for the activity and will be prohibited from using locker rooms and showers.
- Participants will be required to adhere to the 6-foot social distancing recommendation.
- Participants must wear their own equipment (helmets and gloves) and wear masks while inside the facility and during conditioning activities.
- All activities will be supervised by certified coaching staff.
- No parents or spectators will be allowed in the building.
- Participation will be voluntary and any individuals appearing to be sick or known to be ill will not be allowed to participate.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the facility.
- Use of the water fountain will be discontinued and participants will be required to bring their own water bottle. No shared bottles.
- No concessions will be available at this time.
- A list of all participants that includes their name, the name of a contact person, and an email address, phone number, and address for each will be established.

Compliance with social distancing requirements during conditioning exercises should not be difficult to establish and maintain due to the limited number of participants and the ample amount of available space within the arena. All participants will be provided with a handout that lists the conditions for participation and prior to the start of the initial activities an informational meeting will be held for players and coaches to inform them of Covid-19 policies and procedures. In addition, the association is in the process of purchasing and posting signs and guidelines throughout the facility to inform users of measures needed to be adhered to in order to minimize and prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Additionally, MYHA will use this time to prepare and prep the rink and employees for Phase 2.

Phase 2: The Re-Opening (October 1)

Building Access/Usage

- No more than 25 skaters on the ice per session including coaches.
 - Based on NCAA/WIAA recommendations and in accommodating a full team there may be 30 players plus coaches for those larger teams.
- Player arrival 10 minutes prior to ice time. They will be asked to wait outside if they are early.
- There will be 20 minutes between ice times. This will mean there will be 10 minutes of dead ice times between each group.
 - There shall not be interaction between the two groups.
- Players must be fully dress prior to coming into the rink. This should include skates with skate guards.
 - Locker Rooms and showers will not be available.
 - There will be a designated area for Goalies to prepare inside the rink.
- Traffic flow –one way in / one way out
 - Signage / markings for clear definition
- Parents or caregivers are discouraged from attending practice.
 - We are asking that skaters Squirt age and above be dropped off and picked up after their ice time. Mini-Mite/Mite Parents can help skater in via the outlined entry/exit but should then wait in their car.
 - No parents at this level inside the rink unless given permission.
 - Permission will be given to those parents responsibly for rink cleaning and other rink responsibilities.
 - If your skater is in our younger group (LTS), we are asking that only ONE parent/spectator be present if needed, no siblings.
 - If attendance is necessary, proper social distancing (6 ft) must be maintained.
- Masks required for all patrons per Emergency Order 1
- Interior doors propped open to limit surface contact.
- Online or mobile payments recommended when applicable.
- Families should provide coach/team manager with accurate contact information in the event of emergency while the player is at the arena.
 - This information MUST be accurate, and the responsible party MUST be able to reach the designated person if the need arises.
- Whenever possible, players should use the restroom at home prior to leaving for the rink to limit bathroom use at the facility.
- Concession Stand will remain closed during this Phase I and II.

Ice Utilization:

- Coaches should prioritize individual skills and/or station work, emphasizing continued development while adhering to recommended social distancing guidelines.
- Coaches are encouraged to develop efficient practice plans, dividing the ice in an effort to keep small groups separate
 - USA Hockey will provide further direction on practice formats, based on local government restrictions on group gatherings
- Coaches are encouraged to use best practices to achieve social distancing as per state, local and arena guidelines.

- Coaches are required to wear masks during practices and games
- Coaches should keep, distribute and collect practice pucks
- Coaches should bring their own white board to practice. It is recommended that coaches minimize gatherings at the white board. At the end of practice, white boards and markers should be disinfected.
- Coaches should advise players to bring their own water bottles
- Coaches/Team managers are encouraged to educate players / families on best practices pertaining to personal hygiene, social distancing guidelines and common-sense practices for staying healthy to help support the Associations direction.
 - Physical distance
 - Wash hands frequently, avoid touching face
 - Clean surfaces and equipment between uses
 - Staying home when sick or experiencing any symptoms
- All participants must leave helmet and gloves on
- No player bench usage
- No penalty box usage during practices
- No team water bottle sets
 - Players must bring their own, fill them at home.
 - Younger players will not be allowed to have water bottles on the ice.

Phase Three: Adaptive Play.

Date TBA as reviewed monthly by MYHA & County Health Officer

- MYHA's goal would be November time frame (if the situation stays the same).
- UW Stout and MHS games could be delayed to mid-late winter but MYHA would want to accommodate.

We anticipate that our initial return to the rink will be highly restricted in participation. The level of restriction in participation will ultimately determine when we transition from Phase Two to Phase Three of MYHA's plan.

Specifically, Phase Three allows us to return to competitive game play. Since we do not have confirmed information, regarding capacity restrictions at this potential time, MYHA must establish its own minimum thresholds of participation required to proceed with competitive game play. This phase will be adjusted as new State and County guidance is available.

It should be noted that these scenarios will influence this season's potential roster sizes, ice utilization, and game management. In addition, the details of each recommendation will vary based on age, playing surface, and local government social distancing guidelines. Ultimately, these recommendations are driven by the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic –the goal is to offer quality programming within the parameters of those restrictions.

Building Access/Usage:

- Participants will adhere to social distancing guidelines and mask mandates, as dictated by local and state governments.
- No more than 25 skaters on the ice per session including coaches and referees. *
- Teams arrival 15 minutes prior to ice time. They will be asked to wait outside if they are early, players will still be recommended to come dressed and ready to play.
 - Teams will be able to access locker rooms as needed but will be spread out into multiple locker rooms to ensure 6ft between each player.
 - If needed, teams can enter directly into the locker rooms from the outdoors.
 - The Fanatti Ice Rink allows for teams to be on opposite ends of the rink when using the locker rooms.
 - Players/Coaches are not to leave the locker room until instructed and other teams have left the ice.
- There will be 20 minutes between ice times. This will mean there will be 10 minutes of dead ice times between each group.
 - There shall not be interaction between the two groups.
- Traffic flow –one way in / one way out
 - Signage / markings for clear definition
- The rink will not be open to the public, only immediate family members living in the same household will be allowed and MUST stand/sit 6 ft apart (these spectators will have to sign in)
 - Chairs that can be set 6ft apart will be.
 - This number will/can be adjusted based on County Recommendations.
- No group gathering areas will be allowed.

- Concession Stand will be open with only one worker at a time. Only pre-packaged and pre-cooked items will be available for sale.
 - The concession stand will have plexiglass to shield the worker and participants.
 - No tables/chairs will be set for sitting.
 - Strict sanitary requirements will be posted in the concession stand.

Ice Utilization:

- Limited resurfacing in between periods. As needed based on level.
- Minimal time between periods
- Social Distancing on benches
- No handshakes, team celebrations or victory celebrations
 - Under no circumstance are players allowed to remove gloves or helmet
- No group pictures
- No team water bottles
- Coaches are encouraged to use best practices to achieve social distancing as per state, local and arena guidelines.
 - Coaches are required to wear masks during practices and games
 - Coaches should keep, distribute and collect practice/game pucks
 - Coaches should bring their own white board. It is recommended that coaches minimize gatherings at the white board. At the end of practice/game, white boards and markers should be disinfected.
 - Coaches should advise players to bring their own water bottles
 - Coaches/Team managers are encouraged to educate players / families on best practices pertaining to personal hygiene, social distancing guidelines and common-sense practices for staying healthy to help support the Associations direction.
 - Physical distance
 - Wash hands frequently, avoid touching face
 - Clean surfaces and equipment between uses
 - Staying home when sick or experiencing any symptoms

Phase Four: Unrestricted Play.

Date TBA as reviewed monthly by MYHA & County Health Officer.

MYHA is optimistic that our hockey community will eventually advance to Phase Four: Unrestricted Play (possible in 2021). At this stage, hockey programming would return to its full on-ice full capacity without number restrictions or limitations on participation or spectators. However, strict safety precautions and sanitation requirements would still be executed.

Although Phase Four has been identified as the next stage in the sequence, MYHA acknowledges that there may be additional 'phases' required before we achieve unrestricted status. Likewise, based on the progression of COVID-19, we must anticipate that potential fluctuations in progress may occur during the 2020-21 season. While this may prove to be the most difficult phase to achieve, we are confident that the collaborative efforts of our hockey community will bring us closer to this goal.

Exact Phase Four usage and safety requirements would be updated/written and approved by the MYHA Board and County prior to moving to this Phase. The exact recommendations, updates and reequipments will depend on the current guidelines and recommendations from the State, Dunn County Health Department, the United States Ice Rink Association, USA Hockey, the Wisconsin Ice Arena Management Association, and the Center for Disease Control.