

Brooklyn Park Recreation & Parks

Brooklyn Park Community Activity Center Hockey Return To Indoor Ice Plan

Updated 11/2/20

Local ice rinks and associations must follow the guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and its Guidance for Social Distancing, as well as local government officials in determining when, and how, it is appropriate to return to the rinks, including requirements or guidelines for physical distancing, size of gatherings or number of people permitted in a facility, or wearing masks, etc.

The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, City of Brooklyn Park makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this information.

Remember that we can contribute to helping eliminate COVID-19 by doing these four things:

1. Physical Distance
2. Wash Hands and Practice Safe Hygiene Habits
3. Clean Surfaces & Equipment between uses
4. Staying Home When Sick or Experiencing Any Symptoms

Restrictions placed by state or local governments are subject to change. It should be noted that certain policies regarding mask wearing inside facilities and limits of players on the ice are mandates, and not guidelines. ***Masks are required to be worn at all times inside the facilities, with the exception of players practicing or playing games, and officials during game play. Coaches must wear masks at all times, including on the bench during games, and during practices.***

General Rink Guidelines:

1. Any players, coaches or spectators exhibiting symptoms or signs of an illness should not enter the facility.
2. Participants should utilize the Minnesota Symptom Screener Guide prior to any on-ice activity. These screens should be monitored by each association. Associations and teams are also encouraged to use a "Quick Entry Check In" or "Check in and Tracking Protocol," provided by Minnesota Hockey.
3. Players should arrive at the rink **no more than 15 minutes** before the start of on-ice activities. Anyone arriving earlier than 15 minutes before their start time should wait outside of the facility and be socially distanced from others.
4. If there is an activity occurring at the rink before the team's scheduled start, there should not be interaction between the two groups.
5. For practices or clinics, players are allowed one parent/guardian to be in the arena. Those parents/guardians should be socially distanced from others. Masks are required for any spectators, per the MDH mandate.

6. While it is important to limit the number of people in the facility as much as possible, there may be circumstances in which a parent or guardian must also bring in young siblings. This will be allowed but should be limited as much as possible. The parent of guardian shall always remain in the presence of non-participant siblings.
7. 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.
8. Whenever possible, players should use the restroom at home prior to leaving for the rink to limit bathroom use at the facility.
9. It is recommended that players and officials arrive to the arena fully dressed, and at a minimum, half-dressed, with the exception of skates (coming into the arena with skate guards on is ideal) and helmets. Exceptions may be made for goalies, who may need to put on additional equipment at the rink.
10. Players must bring their own rehydration liquids to the rink in clearly marked or labeled containers with the player's identity. The container should be re-sealable. Water bottles should not be shared. Players should **NOT** plan on refilling their containers at the rink.
11. Prior to the first on-ice session, coaches and/or association leaders should host an e-meeting to explain procedures to parents, and to answer any questions.
12. Coaches should be as prepared as possible to ensure complete utilization of the allowed ice time. This also helps ensure that players are not distracted and know they need to be on time and ready to go, not engaged in other areas of the building.
13. Each association and team must have an emergency plan for any positive cases within the team or association. If a case of COVID-19 is reported to you and is a part of your organization or team, report the case to the Minnesota Department of Health at health.sports.covid19@state.mn.us and local health officials. MDH or local public health will work with you to identify close contacts and do follow-up with your team. Minnesota Hockey provides Guidelines for Confirmed Cases within teams and associations.
14. Each association and team must have a designated contact who is responsible for concerns and communications related to COVID-19. All team and association members should know who this person is and how to contact them
15. Each association and team must maintain accurate rosters of teams or pods and be prepared to support local public health contact tracing efforts.
16. Dryland activities inside the arena are not allowed at this time.
17. It is the responsibility of coaches, parents and athletes to adhere to the social distancing guidelines at all times. When reminded by staff of these guidelines please be respectful and follow their guidance.

On-Ice Activities for Practices, Clinics and Tryouts:

1. Within the program, create consistent pods of the same staff, volunteers and participants with a maximum number of 25 people in each pod. Ice rinks will be allowed to have two (2) pods of 25 people or less at a time with no mixing between the groups. During tryouts, it is recommended that pods do not mix for the duration of the process.
2. Players need to maintain as much separation as possible during practices. Whenever possible, coaches should be promoting social distancing on the ice, while recognizing that there may be times of close contact by players.
3. Avoid using player benches during practices.
4. Coaches should always be keeping players active and engaged. Players should not leave the ice during a practice unless necessary.
5. Each coach and on-ice helper counts toward the number of people allowed on the ice as stipulated by the MDH.

6. Reduce contact between players as much as possible.
7. Coaches should avoid talking face-to-face with players, as well as avoid contact with players whenever possible. Physical contact may be necessary when assisting a young player or a player with a disability (helping up or adjusting equipment), but whenever possible, coaches should provide assistance without physical contact, or ask the player's parent/guardian to assist.
8. Prior to the completion of the ice time, players should be excused from the rink one by one and through different exit points of the rink. Do not ask players to participate in picking up pucks or other equipment from the ice.
9. There should be no spitting by any player or coach at any time inside the arena, including on the ice surface.
10. **Coaches must be wearing masks at all times before, during and after practice.** Players are not required to wear masks while on the ice for team activities.
11. Electronic whistles are an encouraged alternative for coaches to use during practices.

After On-Ice Activities are Completed:

1. No on or off ice interaction (socializing, team meetings, dryland activities) should occur following the conclusion of practice. To minimize time spent in confined spaces, **players should leave the premises within 15 minutes of the end of practice through the designated exits** to minimize interaction with other groups.
2. Players should vacate the arena immediately to allow for the next user group to enter.
3. Parents/Guardians must be aware of the time when the players will be done. The parents or person assigned to pick up players at the arena must be punctual. Players should not have to wait for a ride. **Players waiting for a ride will be required to wait outside.**
4. Coaches or other responsible adults should remain until all players are safe and removed from the premises.
5. While at home, players should clean and disinfect gear after each use.

Local Games, Scrimmages & Tournaments

1. A maximum of two spectators per player are allowed for games. Spectators must wait until the time of the event to enter the facility. If arena or MDH guidelines are stricter, teams must adhere to the arena/MDH policy. Spectators should be physically distanced at all times. **Cloth face coverings are required at all times** inside the facility.
2. Spectators should exit the building immediately after the game.
3. The scorer's/announcer's/penalty box should be staffed by no more than two persons, preferably from the same household, and should be staffed by the home team. If off-ice officials are not from the same household, they should maintain social distancing at all times. Masks should be worn by off ice officials at all times.
4. Whenever possible, resurfacing of the ice sheet should only take place before or after a game. During any intermissions, players and coaches should go to an area where social distancing can be maintained.
5. There should be no more than two coaches allowed in the bench area during games. Coaches on benches must be wearing masks. One coach should monitor players on the bench and keeping them physically distanced.
6. Coaches should figure out a system that maximizes physical distance between players on the bench during game play, stoppages, intermissions, etc. Space outside the bench area (next to bench) should be utilized whenever possible.
7. During a stoppage of play caused by a save, the goalie should drop the puck on the ice for the official to retrieve.
8. There should be no pregame or postgame handshakes. Teams should honor each other

after the game with a stick salute.

9. There should be no pregame or postgame huddles or post goal gatherings on the ice.
10. A two official system shall be used for games at all levels