



## UPDATE ON YOUTH SPORTS GUIDANCE

Connecticut issues updated guidance pertaining to rinks & hockey

NOVEMBER 11, 2020



On Thursday, November 5, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont signed Executive Order 9K ([CLICK HERE FOR LINK](#)). In that order, effective at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, November 6, 2020, the Governor gave authority to the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, in consultation with the Connecticut Department of Health (DPH), to establish, in Sector Rules or other rules issued by him, mandatory rules, regulations, and recommendations for the safe conduct of youth sports. Attached please find the updated guidance from the Governor's office and the DPH regarding youth sports in the state of Connecticut. ([CLICK HERE FOR LINK](#)). The DPH issued these sports-specific guidelines on Monday, November 9, 2020.

***The State Capital has put hockey 'under the microscope'. Disregard for this guidance may be subject to fines and shutdowns from various local and State agencies resulting in a much longer shut down. CHC and its member programs are looking to avoid this result.***

While we are highlighting some of the changes to the guidance below, we strongly urge everyone to read and understand the expectations. Note as well that, while the source and supporting information referenced from the National Association of State High School Associations refers to "recommendations," the Governor's order specifically refers to Rules, implying that these are to be considered mandates.

**FACE COVERINGS: Players, coaches and officials are required to wear face coverings at all times, including during play and while on the bench.** Acceptable face coverings should follow the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control ([CLICK HERE FOR LINK](#)). Products that are specific to the sport of hockey are understood to be acceptable unless otherwise indicated by local or state health authorities. There is additional information in the following links provided by USA Hockey regarding face coverings and various types of helmet modifications, including "spit guards" ([CLICK HERE FOR LINK](#)) and full clear shields ([CLICK HERE FOR LINK](#)).

**RULE MODIFICATION AND ENFORCEMENT:** CHC rules regarding facemasks will generally follow the USA Hockey rules as outlined in Rule 304 Protective Equipment. These rules apply to all players and team officials participating in a game involving at least one CHC member organization.

- (a) All players, including goalkeepers, and all team officials are required to wear a face mask or cloth facial covering that completely covers the nose and mouth.

For the first violation of this rule, the team shall be issued a warning. Each subsequent violation by any player of that team during that game shall result in a misconduct penalty for an equipment violation. For a second violation by any team official, a bench minor penalty shall be assessed. Each subsequent violation by any team official shall result in a game misconduct penalty to the offending team official.

- (b) If a face mask comes off during play, the on-ice officials shall stop play immediately. The player shall be ruled off the ice and may not participate in the game until completion of the ensuing face-off.



## UPDATE ON YOUTH SPORTS GUIDANCE

Connecticut issues updated guidance pertaining to rinks & hockey



NOVEMBER 11, 2020

- (c) Wearing a face mask does not absolve a player from the responsibility of wearing a mouthpiece. Since mouthpieces are not required to be attached to the cage/shield, they can still be worn under a facemask. An official's duties with regard to enforcing mouthpieces does not change. If an official observes a player on the ice improperly wearing a mouthpiece, regardless of whether or not the player is wearing a face mask, then the procedure under 304f paragraph two shall be followed.
- (d) Coaches are responsible for ensuring their players are properly equipped, including face masks and mouthpieces. Officials may ask the coaches to confirm that players are properly equipped during a pre-game meeting. An affirmative answer will eliminate the need to check for mouthpieces under face masks.

**SPECTATORS:** Facilities (at their discretion) may now allow up to two (2) spectators (parents/adult guardians and/or siblings) per participant, providing that they follow social distancing guidance and the facility remains below 50% of capacity.

**GAMES/PRACTICES:** Facilities may only allow CHC Member Programs Teams, Players and Participants (including long-standing CHC member programs Pawling & Putnam) to engage in Connecticut-based events held at Connecticut-based facilities (Tier 3 of the Risk Categories assigned to Various Athletic Activities).

**MULTIPLE GAMES/TOURNAMENTS:** In accordance with Risk Category Tier 4 (multi-team meets and tournaments) DPH also recommends suspending all activities and reconsidering for the Spring 2021 season. At this time, CHC has not eliminated the potential for state tournaments. Rather, we are waiting for further developments and guidance while we continue with the CHC season.

**OUT OF STATE COMPETITIONS:** In accordance with Risk Category 5, contests involving CHC Member Program Teams, players, and participants vs. non-members (i.e. teams from different states) are not recommended.

Please continue to follow established procedures for reporting COVID-positive test results and contacts, including local DPH notification and emailing:

CHC Health and Player Safety Director:

- Amy Landino ([amylandsk8@gmail.com](mailto:amylandsk8@gmail.com))

CHC Executive Board:

- Chuck Wilkerson ([chctournamentdirector@outlook.com](mailto:chctournamentdirector@outlook.com) )
- Art Blakeslee ([art.blakeslee4@gmail.com](mailto:art.blakeslee4@gmail.com) )
- Michael Federico ([mikefeds@federicosettecpa.com](mailto:mikefeds@federicosettecpa.com))
- Dawn Bryson ([dawnbryson91@yahoo.com](mailto:dawnbryson91@yahoo.com) )

Questions can be addressed to any of the above individuals.