

Plan for Athens Hockey Age-Based Divisions 20-21

As of September 1, Bird Arena is expected to open for youth hockey on September 28. However, Athens Hockey is operating under tremendous uncertainty, both in terms of our local situation and in terms of the potential for restrictions or suspensions of youth sports to be imposed regionally or statewide.

Planning principles:

- (1) The safety of players and their families is of paramount importance.
- (2) Members (players and their parents) and coaches are responsible for complying with the orders of state and local health departments where they hold activities, with USA Hockey and MidAm requirements, with the rules of any venues where activities take place, and with Athens Hockey policies. The Board must hold them accountable.
- (3) Players should have the opportunity to play hockey this season.
- (4) Teams need a level of autonomy to respond to changing conditions with plans that meet the commitments and priorities of their members and coaches.

Fees

- Fees have been set for each age division based on the cost of 24 weeks of practice and 6 home game days (12 home ice slots) at Bird Arena.
- If practice or games *cannot* proceed as planned at Bird Arena for an extended period (more than three weeks):
 - Athens Hockey fees will be prorated. (Nonrefundable deposit of \$50 stands, to cover the fixed expenses of the association.)
 - Each team has the option to involve team families directly in budgeting, collection of funds, and payment of expenses for alternate practice and game arrangements, in the same way that teams make tournament arrangements in a typical season.
 - No team may obligate Athens Hockey for any expense without the express approval of the Board.
- In the case of extended absence due to illness, a prorated refund may be provided.
- Playerships and multiplayer discounts are available as usual. Playerships will be prorated if fees are prorated.

Practice

- Practices are scheduled at Bird Arena for each age division beginning September 28 and ending March 14.
 - 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, High School: Monday & Wednesday
 - 14U: Tuesday & Thursday
 - Modifications may be made to the schedule in response to enrollments in each age division or changing expectations from Bird Arena
- To limit opportunities for spread of COVID-19, age divisions will be isolated from one another and there will be no mixed-age-division skills practices for 20-21.
- Director of Hockey Beau Nishimura will assist team head coaches to plan practices with age-appropriate skill development as a priority.
- If practice cannot proceed at Bird Arena as planned, each team has the option to plan alternate practice activities with team families sharing the cost, in the same way that teams make tournament arrangements in a typical season.

Games

- For 20-21, the Buckeye Travel Hockey League (BTHL) is acting as an information-sharing resource ONLY and will not organize a league season. Information about this decision is available at <https://www.buckeyetravelhockey.com/> .
- 8U, 10U, 12U, and 14U teams will each be assigned 6 home game days (12 home game slots) at Bird Arena.
- To minimize interaction among teams, non-body-checking divisions will be scheduled back-to-back, and body-checking divisions will be scheduled in isolated game slots or with extended ice cuts between teams.
 - 8U will have two game slots scheduled back-to-back with no ice cut between.
 - 10U and 12U will have two game slots scheduled back-to-back with an ice cut in between
- If games cannot proceed at Bird Arena as planned, the first option will be to reschedule for another date. If rescheduling is not practical, then each team has the option to plan alternate competitive events with team families sharing the cost, in the same way that teams make tournament arrangements in a typical season.

Governance

- Teams are *strongly* encouraged to provide a team representative to the Board who will ensure active communication.
- Members and coaches are responsible for informing themselves of and complying with the orders of state and local health departments, with USA Hockey and MidAm requirements, with the rules of any venues where activities take place, and with Athens Hockey policies.