

Plan for Athens Hockey High School Division 20-21

Policies Specific to the High School Division

- Athens Hockey is a member of the Ohio Scholastic Hockey League (OSHL) and complies with OSHL rules / policies / procedures for its high school team(s), including those governing rostering, scheduling, and player movement
 - Each member team has assigned school districts, and players may not play out of district unless released. Teams do not release players before selecting a full roster, often keeping more than 20 players per team.
 - Released players do not select a new team; they go into the league's player pool and are assigned to the OSHL team with the greatest need for additional players, with some consideration for extreme travel distance.
 - The OSHL has reaffirmed its commitment to school district boundaries and the player pool mechanism this season.
 - Athens is not the only OSHL member facing uncertainty due to COVID-19.
 - Athens high school normally begins practice the first week of October, occasionally with some preseason ice in September. Normal start dates for other OSHL teams range from August to November. The fact that some OSHL teams take the ice prior to early October is not a reason for a player to be released.
- Because high school rostering is based on grade and not age, some players are eligible for both 14U and high school rosters.
 - The Athens Hockey board decides annually based on player numbers whether to permit double-roster between 14U and high school and how to assign primary team.
 - For 20-21, Athens Hockey permits double-rostering between 14U and high school. Players eligible for both should register for their desired primary team. Such players may be assigned 14U as primary team based on high school coaches' evaluation after practice begins. Fees are based on primary team.

Scenario 1 – Bird Arena Opens for Practice by October 1

- Players should be properly registered with any past-due fees paid by September 15.
 - Players must meet the September 15 deadline in order for a request for release to be considered.
 - Players may not participate in any Athens high school division activities before they are properly registered and past-due fees have been paid.
- Athens proceeds with a high school season in the OSHL.
 - Schedule all league games on Columbus ice initially. Home league games will move to Bird Arena as it opens for game play, with minimum 30-day notice.
- If there are fewer than 25 high school players registered on September 15, then two teams cannot be supported, and Athens Hockey will place only one team in the OSHL.
 - Up to 30 players may be rostered on a high school team, but no more than 20 players may be on the bench for each game.
 - Players evaluated below #20 who are not eligible for 14U may request release to the OSHL player pool, if they met the September 15 deadline. Athens Hockey will retain deposit and fees appropriate for the week(s) prior to release and refund the remainder to the released player.

Scenario 2 – Bird Arena Does Not Open for Practice by October 1

- Players who are properly registered with no remaining past-due fees by September 15 may request release to the OSHL player pool.
 - Players not meeting the September 15 deadline will not be released to the OSHL player pool.
 - Athens Hockey will refund fees (not non-refundable deposit) paid by the released player for the current season.
- Proceed with a high school season in the OSHL
 - Consider play as one team in the OSHL JV division due to safety concerns with limited practice. (Requires league approval.) Non-league games may be scheduled with Varsity teams of appropriate level outside the OSHL.
 - Schedule all league games on Columbus ice initially. Home league games to be moved to Bird Arena if it opens for game play, with minimum 30-day notice
- Pursue opportunities for off-ice practice in Athens County at least once per week, and on-ice practice in Columbus / Newark / Charleston up to once per week.
 - Schedule will depend on facility availability and cost.
 - Ice time at other rinks is typically more expensive than Bird Arena, and many indoor facilities in Athens County are similar in cost to Bird Arena.

Scenario 3 – Bird Arena Opens for Practice, Then Later Closes for an Extended Time (More Than 3 Weeks)

- If all team activity is suspended, then fees will be suspended until play resumes.
- If practice and / or game play are restricted or prohibited for multiple OSHL teams, then Athens will not release players to the player pool. In a situation with such broad impact, the OSHL is likely to suspend player movement.
- If Bird Arena closes but activities of other OSHL teams are unaffected, Athens Hockey will ask the OSHL board to open the player pool and players may request release.
 - Players who did not meet the September 15 deadline for registration and payment of any past-due fees will not be released to the OSHL player pool.
 - Players not current on fees will not be released to the OSHL player pool.
 - If a player is released, Athens Hockey will retain deposit and fees appropriate for the week(s) prior to release, and refund any remaining fees paid by the released player for the current season.
- Athens Hockey will attempt in good faith to complete the game schedule, and to provide opportunities for off-ice practice in Athens County at least once per week, and on-ice practice in Columbus / Newark / Charleston up to once per week.
 - Actual schedule will depend on ice availability and facility cost and budget.
 - Ice time at other rinks is typically more expensive than Bird Arena, and many off-ice indoor facilities in Athens County are similar in cost to Bird Arena.

Registration and Fees

- Initial registration requires USA Hockey membership and payment of a non-refundable \$50 deposit. Full season fee will be \$1400 per player.
- Monthly payment plans encouraged. Payment of full fees up front discouraged.
- Playerships and multiplayer discounts available as usual.