

## **DRAFT Athens Hockey Practice and Game Procedures at Bird Arena**

Updated 2020-08-31 Valerie Young

These procedures specify how Athens Hockey will comply with current guidance from the CDC and the Ohio Department of Health Director's First Amended Order that Provides Mandatory Requirements for Youth, Collegiate, Amateur, Club, and Professional Sports dated 08-28-2020 in the specific environment of Bird Arena. Procedures will be updated as needed in consultation with Bird Arena leadership as guidance changes.

### **Practice Structure**

- All participants must register in advance for all Athens Hockey activities.
- Each practice will involve no more than 35 participants, including coaches and players.
- Practices will be designed and scheduled to minimize interaction among different age divisions.
- Participants will be assigned a specific preparation area to use before and after their event, and a designated access door to enter and exit the ice.
- Sequential events will be assigned preparation areas that avoid close interaction.

### **Game Structure**

- All participants must register in advance for all Athens Hockey activities, and all games with visiting teams must be scheduled in advance.
- Each game will involve no more than 50 participants. This includes:
  - Up to 22 combined players and coaches for each team
  - 2 officials, 1 clock operator, 2 penalty box monitors
  - 1 athletic trainer (for high school)
- Visiting teams will be provided with Bird Arena COVID-19 policies in advance.
- Games will be scheduled to minimize interactions among different age divisions and teams.
  - Two games scheduled back-to-back for the same teams when possible.
  - Minimum of 20 minutes between games if new teams are participating.
- Each team will have a designated preparation area and designated doors to enter and exit the ice.
- Home team will administer standard AYHA Health Check Questionnaire to all athletic trainers, on-ice officials and off-ice officials, and record their names LEGIBLY on the score sheet to aid with contact tracing.

### **Designated Preparation Areas**

- Bird Arena will mark designated preparation areas that provide 6 ft distancing.
- Preparation areas will be located on the first row of each section of bleachers, behind the benches, at the corner seats near the glass, and near South locker room. Preparation will not be permitted in the lobby or in dressing rooms or in front of the lobby doors.
- Participants will be assigned to specific sections for their preparation area for each event, as part of the event scheduling.
- Specific ice access doors are designated for each preparation area.
  - South end home side = south door beside Olympia doors
  - North end home side = west door beside scorer's table

- North end away side = north door facing lobby
- South end away side = east door near dressing room hallway

### **Before Arrival**

- All participants must register in advance for all Athens Hockey activities.
- Participants are permitted in Bird Arena only for their scheduled event, and for 15 minutes immediately before and after their scheduled event.
- No hockey bags are permitted in Bird Arena, except for goalies. Players may bring one bag no larger than a standard plastic grocery store bag to organize their belongings.
  - Goalies should arrive in full underlayer and pants, ready to don pads and skates.
  - Skaters should arrive in full gear with the exception of skates.
  - All players should bring their own full water bottle labeled with their name.

### **Upon Arrival**

- Everyone above age 8 must wear a facial covering that covers both nose and mouth.
- Enter only through the front entrance of Bird Arena.
- A designated adult for each team will conduct an on-site health check of all players and coaches, including temperature measurement and the Standard AYHA Health Check Questionnaire (below).
  1. Temperature above 100.4 °F?
  2. Have you been in contact with a COVID-19 confirmed or suspected case within the past 14 days?
  3. Have you had a high temperature (fever) in the past 48 hours?
  4. Are you experiencing any new or unexplained congestion or runny nose?
  5. Are you experiencing any new chills or unexplainable pains or aches?
  6. Are you experiencing any new loss of taste or smell, or a sore throat?
  7. Are you experiencing any new nausea or vomiting or diarrhea?
    - *A “Yes” answer to any of these questions means the person*
      - *may not participate in any in-person team activity today*
      - *should self-isolate and seek medical advice*
    - *Return-to-play will be governed by state and local health department advice.*
- Players proceed directly to their designated preparation area to prepare for on-ice activity.
  - No dressing room access.
  - Players must prepare in the area designated for their group.
  - Players must prepare in one of the marked “stalls”; only one player per stall.
  - When players take the ice, they leave their possessions neatly behind their seat and take their water bottle on the ice.
  - A parent / guardian assisting a player to prepare must remain in the player’s “stall” until the player takes the ice.
- Players take the ice using their designated door. Do not enter the ice surface before the prior group has completely vacated the ice.
- A family member accompanying a player to Bird Arena must either sit in the upper half of the bleachers at least 6 feet from anyone not a member of their household or exit Bird Arena through one of the side exits. No mezzanine or crow’s nest access permitted.

### **On the Ice**

- Players must wear hockey helmets with a full integrated mask or shield at all times on the ice. Because hockey includes substitution on the fly, all players on the bench or in the penalty box are considered to be imminently in the field of play and must keep helmets on with integrated masks down. A player who needs to lift the integrated mask or remove the helmet, except in an emergency, must leave the ice and return to the designated preparation area before so doing.
- Coaches and penalty box monitors and athletic trainers must wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth at all times on the bench or in the box.

### **After the Event**

- Players exit the ice promptly using their designated door.
- Players return to their assigned preparation area and don their face-covering immediately.
- Players exit the arena via their assigned exit door within 15 minutes of their event ending.
  - Home side exits through side door behind home bench
  - Away side exits through the side door in the locker room hallway.
- A parent / guardian assisting a player must remain in the player's "stall" until ready to exit Bird Arena directly from there.

### **General Responsibilities**

- Members must notify the Athens Hockey Vice President (Jason Stengel vp@athenshockey.com) and Registrar (Brianna Adams registration@athenshockey.com) if their player or any close contact has been diagnosed with COVID-19, is presumed to have COVID-19, or has been directed to quarantine due to COVID-19. They must not participate in team events unless advised that it is acceptable by the Department of Health or a licensed health care provider.
- Teams are responsible for keeping a record of attendance at all team events.
- Members and volunteers are expected to cooperate fully with all requests related to contact tracing from the state or local Department of Health