



## **NJSIAA 2021 Ice Hockey Season Modifications**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the following modifications will be applied to the Ice Hockey Season. The NJSIAA is working with our member schools to offer our student athletes a worthwhile Ice Hockey experience for the 2020-2021 Season.

The NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust, change or cancel dates, for all 2021 Ice Hockey Schedules.

### **General Information**

**Season Dates:**

**First Indoor Practice – Sunday, January 3, 2021**

**Scrimmage** – Schools will have the opportunity to participate in one pre-season scrimmage with a neighboring school.

**First Game – Friday, January 15, 2021**

**End of Regular Season – Saturday, March 6, 2021**

**Maximum Number of games allowed for the 2020-2021 Season will be 15 which will include all Cup or Conference Championships.**

**Out of State Opponents – No out of state competition will be permitted by the NJSIAA.**

The practice start date, Monday, December 14, 2020, remains unchanged. Starting on this date, virtual contact or outdoor practices will be permitted. Indoor practices may begin on Sunday, January 3, 2021, unless Executive Order 204 is further modified prior to this date. As a reminder, competition cannot start until a team has completed six days of practice and one day of rest. School's may participate in one scrimmage after six days of practice and one day of rest at their discretion. Please be reminded that virtual practices do not count towards the six days of practice and one day of rest requirement.

## Ice Hockey – Season 2

### ***Season Limitations:***

Competition will be limited to three events per week. The total maximum events will be 15 events during the season, which includes league or conference tournaments. Teams may only compete in one event per day.

### ***NJSIAA Post-Season:***

There will be no NJSIAA sponsored post-season. Post-season play may be hosted locally by participating leagues and conferences at their discretion.

### ***Multi-Team/Invitational Events:***

Multi-team/invitational events are prohibited.

### ***Scrimmages:***

Schools will have the opportunity to participate in one pre-season scrimmage, preferably with a neighboring school. When possible, ice hockey teams are encouraged to participate in intra-squad scrimmages and utilize officials for additional preseason preparation.

### ***Out-of-State Competition:***

On November 10, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 196 which prohibits member schools from hosting interstate competition in all indoor sports. Therefore, no member school may host an out-of-state opponent or host an event out of state. Moreover, NJSIAA is prohibiting member schools from traveling out of state to compete.

### ***Transfers:***

Any student-athlete that is subject to a transfer sit period will be eligible for participation on Monday, February 1, 2021. As a reminder, those student-athletes that transferred between March 16, 2020 and November 1, 2020 are not subject to the transfer sit-period. If a student-athlete transfers after November 1, 2020, the student athlete shall be ineligible to participate for a period of 30 calendar days, or one half of the maximum number of games being played, whichever is less.



## 2020-2021 Ice Hockey Rules Considerations

In support of the Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee offers this document for state associations to consider whether any possible rules could be altered for the 2020-2021 season. The considerations outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

\*Ice arenas are most commonly privately-owned facilities. Be sure to know and follow the policies and procedures of the facility prior to practice or a contest.

### 1. Ice Hockey Rules Considerations

- Players' Benches (1-9-1)
  - Maintain social distancing as much as possible when on the bench.
  - Limit bench personal to observe social distancing of 6 feet or greater.
- Penalty Benches (1-10-1)
  - Limit to essential personnel and maintain social distancing from personnel and participation players.
- Team Captains (2-2-1, 2-2-4, and 2-2-5)
  - Captains need to maintain social distancing when talking or conferring with a referee.
  - Maintain social distancing during the pre-game meeting with captains and head coaches.
- Protective Equipment
  - Face masks (3-4-2) – Cloth face coverings are permissible.
  - Face masks (3-4-2) – Plastic shields covering the entire face (unless integrated into the face mask, attached on the inside of the face mask, and clear without the presence of any tint) shall be allowed during the contest.
- Tooth and mouth protectors (3-4-4) – State associations should develop statement instructing athletes to refrain from the removal of mouthguards while on the playing rink. If mouthguards are removed on the sidelines or bench area, the athlete should use hand sanitizer each time after touching the mouthguard.
- State Association Adoptions
  - Each state association may adopt other playing/administrative rules for ice hockey for the 2020-21 season that would decrease exposure to respiratory droplets and COVID-19.



## 2. Considerations for Officials

- On-Ice Officials Uniform and Equipment
  - Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited)
    - Choose a whistle whose tone will carry outside.
    - Fox 40 Mini –
    - Fox 40 Unisex Electronic – 3 tone
    - Ergo-Guard – (3 tone) grey
    - Check the market for other choices
  - Cloth face coverings are permissible.
  - Gloves are permissible.
  - Do not share uniforms, towels, apparel, and equipment.
  - Bring your own water bottle.
- Maintain social distancing for meetings with captains and coaches.
- Essential off-ice officials should maintain social distancing and wipe down workspace before and after each contest.

## 3. General Ice Hockey Considerations

- Before, during and after the contest, players, coaches, game officials, team personnel and game administration officials should wash and sanitize their hands as often as possible.
- Suspend pregame protocol of shaking hands during introductions/pregame meeting.
- Suspend postgame protocol of shaking hands.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet or greater on the bench when possible.
- Everyone should have their own beverage container that is not shared.
- Cloth face coverings are permissible for all coaches and team staff and for all game administration officials.
- Gloves are permissible for all coaches and team staff and for all game administration officials.
- Try and limit the number of non-essential personnel who are at ice level and near participants throughout the contest.
- If available, dressing facilities for game officials and teams should be large enough for them to use social-distancing protocols and should be properly cleaned and sanitized prior to arrival.
- Disinfect equipment and uniform after use.
- Learn more by taking the free online course: [“COVID-19 for Coaches and Administrators.”](#)