



Hartford Parks & Recreation COVID-19 Operating Guidelines for WABA Arena

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Our main objective this season is provide a safe and healthy skating experience for families, youth and adults while offering instructional programs, public skating, recreational and competitive hockey play. We ask for your cooperation in following these important health and safety guidelines while visiting and participating at the WABA Facility.

ICE TIMES: The facility's ice schedule in several instances will be adjusted by 25 minutes between each ice slot to minimize contact exposure between different user groups. This schedule will allow for the necessary time needed to maintain and sanitize the facility prior to the next group or groups arrival at the facility. A rotation of east end and west end usage provides for shorter adjustments. Some adjustments between youth and adult groups have remained at the 10minute interval due to end of evening operations.

10 MINUTE RULE - ARRIVING AND DEPARTING THE RINK: Arriving group/participants will be admitted into the building no sooner than 10 minutes prior to their scheduled ice time. **Arrive dressed and ready to play.** All groups must vacate the building within 10 minutes of the conclusion of their scheduled ice time. Adherence to this is vital so staff have the time required to properly sanitize the facility to reduce the potential risk of contact exposure. Youth players are encouraged to arrive and depart the facility with ice skates on, using protective skate guards.

WEEKDAY HOLDING AREA AND THE WEEKEND LOCKER ROOM USE FOR GAMES: With the uncertainty of the pandemic, we have taken step-by-step measures to keep everyone safe. This will require the use of a holding area located in the concession stand space in the lobby. Weekend use for games will utilize one locker room for skate changes only.

- Weekday usage will consist of a holding area for groups. Groups must arrive no earlier than 10 minutes prior to a scheduled ice slot. Once the ice slot begins, personal belongings that have been provided to groups will need to be carted to the hallway for after ice collection. The holding area will then be cleaned and ready for the next group. Once you have left the ice, users will exit toward the locker room locations and remove your belongings from the cart. Benches in the locker room hallway are for removing skates or putting on skate guards. Skaters are to depart within 10 minutes of leaving the ice.
- Weekend usage will consist of using the holding area (concession stand) and locker room A and B. Assignments will be posted. Utilizing the 25-minute time between ice slots, we expect limited to no contact exposure with other groups. Please arrive no earlier than 10 minutes prior to your schedule ice slot. Following your ice time, the visiting team will retreat to the locker room that was assigned and the opponent (home team) will retreat to the hallway. You must immediately remove skates and depart the facility within 10 minutes.

The above guidance for weekday and weekend usage will provide the proper timeline for adequate sanitizing of the spaces to keep each and everyone as safe as possible and limit contact exposure between user groups.

FACILITY OCCUPANCY AND SPECTATORS: Only practices, games and programs which are limited to players, coaches, team support staff, volunteers and game management. No adult play allowed at this time. No more than 75 occupants will be allowed in the building unless otherwise noted in this document. Occupancy is limited to players, coaches, team support staff, volunteers and game management. No spectators will be allowed at this time for games.

FOR YOUTH HOCKEY GAMES There is a maximum of 18 players per-team. Team benches must be managed to provide appropriate distancing for non-active players or line rotations. Though it may be difficult, a 3rd line of players should be located behind the bench and circulated through when called to the bench for rotation of play. This may require additional seating behind the bench area and must be appropriately supervised. 5 team support personnel are allowed per-team. A total of 46 (combined players and coaches) will occupy the bench and ice surface for a game. Example for the 5-team

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support would be 3 coaches and 2 team parents. In addition, a game situation you may have: 1 scorekeeper, 1 clock operator and 2 for the penalty boxes along with 2 referees. For U10 and under, 1 parent per-player may arrive to assist the child for a team-based activity, and they may return following the activity to assist the child participant. They must arrive and depart in 15 minutes or less. No spectators allowed. We encourage users to visit the LiveBarn web site for viewing access to all activities at the facility. Sign up and receive a 10% discount by using PROMO CODE: 5cc2-7874. View live stream, watch on-demand, save and share highlights and download games and practices.

FOR YOUTH HOCKEY PRACTICES: No more than 25 players on the ice. No more than 5 coaches on the ice for a total of 30 on the ice at one time. team support staff and volunteers of no more than 5 are allowed in the building to support the team practice and must practice physical and social distancing at all times. Masks are required.

FOR HIGH SCHOOL GAMES AND PRACTICES: Teams must comply with the Vermont Department of Education Winter Sports Guidance for Indoor Sports Involving Close Proximity or Moderate Contact. Teams must work with WABA Staff to assure proper distancing is in place for non-active players to ensure sufficient bench space for physical distancing. In addition, teams must follow all guidance identified within this guidance.

TEAM SUPPORT AND GAME MANAGEMENT: Team and Game Management support consists of employees or volunteers that have a primary responsibility to the team. Equipment manager, scorekeeper, player support personnel to aid players in the holding areas. They are considered Team Support and Game Management. Team Support and Game Management personnel must be clearly identifiable to rink staff, coaches and players. Please see Facility Occupancy and Spectators section for the number of Team Support and Game Management.

HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL ACCESS: Hartford High School Hockey will enter and exit the east entrance and utilize HHS locker room area and east end bathrooms throughout the hockey season. HHS should not access the west end of the building during practice and game ice times. This is to limit contact exposure between HHS and other hockey groups.

HEALTH SCREENING REQUIREMENTS: Skating groups/participants are required to provide their own program health screening for coaches, players, team support staff, volunteers and game management. Health screening logs should be readily available to the Department of Health if exposure has occurred.

MASK AND/OR FACIAL COVERING MEDICAL EXEMPTION: Players wishing to claim a medical exemption from the mask mandate should be asked to produce a doctor's note that specifically states that they should not wear a mask for sports, specifically, or activities involving physical exertion, in general. The note should have been issued on or after March 1, 2020, so that it is clearly in consideration of conditions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Leagues and organizations using the WABA facility are encouraged to collect this information as part of their registration process. The Department of Health suggests that leagues consider using armbands or some other visible indicator that could be worn during competition or game play to indicate a player has received a medical exemption from the mask requirement.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS WHILE USING THIS FACILITY:

- Do not enter the facility if you are experiencing any ill symptoms, you have a temperature of 100.4 or greater, experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat.
- Masks or proper facial coverings must be worn in the facility at all times. This includes on ice activities. Coaches, scorekeepers, team support personnel, game management and players.
- You must arrive at the facility ready to play, i.e. all uniform equipment items on. Skates, helmets and hockey gloves can be put on in the holding area. Youth players should also arrive and depart with skate guards. Team Support or Game Management are required to remain with and assist all players in the identified holding area for on ice and departure from the facility. No congregating on bleachers during the practice. You must remain 6ft apart while in the facility.



- The holding area will be in the existing lobby concession room. Skates, if not using skate guards, are to be changed in this location for all groups. Bench seating will be provided as well in the rink side lobby.
- Equipment carts will be provided for participants personal belongings. All items will be carted to the player exit location within the locker room hallways following transition to the ice. Movement of the cart is the responsibility of the user group.
- **There will be a maximum of 25 skating participants on the ice at one time.**
- **If and when games are allowed, no more than 75 occupants will be allowed in the building and limited to players, coaches, team support staff, volunteers, team parents and game management unless otherwise noted in this document.** **No spectators** will be allowed at this time for games.
- Bathroom usage in the lobby is limited to on-ice participants and programs.
- Only coaches, team volunteers and game management allowed in the team bench area.
- **Head coach, team volunteers or your programs game management will be responsible for cleaning up and sanitizing the player bench area, score/penalty box at completion of ice time slot. Sanitizing supplies will be provided.**
- Following completion of on-ice session, you must leave the facility within 10 minutes.
- Six (6) feet Social distancing must be followed at all times.
- There will be no concessions. Bringing and sharing of food will not be allowed.
- Participants should come with their own water bottle. Water bottles are not to be shared.
- No hand shaking, no huddling, and no spitting anywhere within the building. This includes while on the ice.
- Skate sharpening will be allowed if there is adequate time to be completed. It is highly recommended to leave your skates with staff following a practice or game for sharpening. Skates can be picked up the following day.
- Cross state participation between Vermont and New Hampshire is NOT allowed. No spectators, teams, groups, athletes from other states will per permitted to participate in programs or games at the WABA facility unless they have followed State of Vermont and CDC Guidelines and have properly quarantined 14 days or have completed a COVID test no earlier than day 8 of quarantine and tested negative.

ADDITIONAL FACILITY SPECIFIC INFORMATION:

- The Lobby will be closed and is to be used specifically for entry and exit into the building. Entrance will be through the doors labeled Enter on the right. Exiting the facility will be through the door marked Exit. **HHS game situations may have an altered exit for visiting teams. Please check with arena staff.**
- East end entrance slots must enter the east end and are not allowed in the west end of the facility.
- Doors will remain locked on the west end of the facility until 10 minutes prior to a scheduled ice time slot.
- Lobby bathrooms will be limited to the use of the on-ice users that are exiting the building. Bathrooms are limited to 3 occupants at one time.
- During game usage, locker room A & B will be used by visiting teams. Home team will use the holding area off the lobby with the exception of HHS.
- Locker room bathrooms and showers will be closed and will not to be used unless scheduled.
- Please follow directional arrows and signage that identifies the proper entry and exit pattern while using the facility.
- The facilities touch points will be sanitized between each ice slot. This includes but is not limited to: door push guards and handles, benches, bathrooms, counters, score keepers area and team benches.
- Hand sanitizer is provided throughout the facility and should be used when entering the facility, while exiting the ice and the facility.



- CDC recommended handwashing posters and social distancing communication will be posted throughout the facility.

CLOSE CONTACT / COVID-19 CASE IN FACILITY:

If a skater, or parent/caregiver who has been identified as a close contact to someone who is diagnosed with COVID-19, should self-quarantine by staying home. Please refer to the Vermont Health Department's website for what it means to be in close contact and for instructions for isolation, quarantine, and self-observation. <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/about-coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 with facility staff, or with skaters and other program participants that have been active within the WABA facility; we are required to contact the Town of Hartford Health Officer and consult with the contact tracing team at the Vermont Department of Health. All groups and their participants, parents/guardians will be notified of the situation. The facility protocols are set to manage potential contact exposure. If it is deemed necessary to close the facility for further cleaning the Department will notify all user groups of the potential cancelation of ice time slots. For further details on Governor Scott's Executive Order 9.1 Sports/Organized Sports Including Youth Leagues, Adult Leagues, Practices, Games, and Tournaments us the link below.

<https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-be-smart-stay-safe-order#sports-and-organized-sports>

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