

Welcome Back Hockey Families!

It has been a few weeks since hockey has resumed, and the members of the TAAA executive have been pleased to see smiling faces out on the ice. As you can imagine we were faced with a number of rules and regulations that we never could have anticipated, so we would like to thank families for their patience and flexibility as we navigate the world of hockey during COVID.

We would like to take this time to remind families of the following rules:

No Spectators in the Arena

The rule regarding no spectators in the arena is a City of Thorold policy, however it is consistent with most other facilities in the Niagara Region. Parents can escort their children into the arena to tie their skates but must exit the arena immediately following. The only people allowed to remain in the arena are the coaching staff. Parents who fail to follow this protocol, may have their child suspended or removed indefinitely from activities without refund. We all miss watching our children on the ice but we are all expected to follow the established protocols.

Completing the Online COVID screen

All people entering the arena are required to complete the Covid-19 screen at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfugJh7A37gEQBZVNd7PswiY2uyUwugg9Wnpl8TM4Beg4RYRg/viewform>. **This provides the TAAA with an accurate record of who was in the arena, at what time.** In the event that there is a positive COVID case within a cohort, this record will allow us to work effectively with Public Health to identify which participants have been exposed. By not consistently completing the screen we will be left with incomplete records, and potentially others will be placed at risk.

We also encourage parents to be vigilant when screening their child for **ANY** symptoms. Symptoms of a COVID infection in youth can be quite mild and misinterpreted for other health issues. We strongly recommend that if your child is showing **ANY** symptoms that they remain home until they are medically cleared or are symptom free.

Dressing Room Protocols

Players must sit 6 feet apart while in the change rooms. Parents must leave the dressing room as soon as their child is laced up. In addition, players must clear the dressing rooms within 15 minutes of leaving the ice. This will reduce unneeded exposure in confined spaces. If parents wish to socialize, we encourage you to do so outside the arena, while socially distanced.

Masks

Anyone entering the arena is required to wear a face covering in accordance with the Niagara Region by-law. Please remind your child to only remove their mask immediately before they put their helmet on, and to replace their mask as soon as they remove their helmet. This includes any parents entering the arena to tie skates.

Disinfecting Equipment

Parents are strongly reminded to wash jerseys, socks, and water bottles after every use. It is also recommended that helmets, gloves, and sticks are also wiped regularly.

At the TAAA our first priority is to provide safe programming for all participants. We thank you all for cooperation in doing so.

If you have any questions regarding the TAAA COVID protocols please connect with Sarah Burciul, the TAAA's risk management coordinator at safety@thoroldminorhockey.com