

Dear South Shore NIHOA Membership,

Tonight the MIAA conducted an Officials Summit. For our members that joined, thank you for joining. For those that missed it, I would recommend that you go on and view the MIAA website and find the video. According to the MIAA it should be posted in the next day or so. They answered a lot of our questions discussed at our meeting. Please see below for the key points discussed and “answers” to our questions.

Key Points:

- We’re not the COVID Police. Let coaches deal with it.
- Keep a tight and quick faceoff, make sure that the wingers are 6’ apart, facing the faceoff, call the centers in and get the puck down
- The COVID Modifications were made to play the game as safe as possible, if you as a referee feel there is an unsafe condition blow the whistle down.
- If a player tests positive following a game you have officiated, it is recommended that the school let the official know but it is up to the mercy of the Board of Health

Questions:

1. Are all participants, including officials, expected to wear their skates into the rink and use skate guards to get from the parking lot to the rink?
Answer: You are expected to come dressed but you will have a space to put on your skates.
2. Where will officials be allowed to store their shoes, car keys, or any other personal items?
According to the guidance provided locker rooms will probably not be available for officials and we want to ensure that there is a safe/secure location for our personal items to be stored.
Answer: Not discussed, although there should be a location in the rink (probably in the open) for our personal items to be stored.
3. What is the official's role in the enforcement of the mask policy? If a player is not wearing a mask properly, what is the penalty that should be assessed? Is it similar to USA Hockey (Warning, 10 Minute Misconduct, then Game Misconduct)?
Answer: Very little, we are not to be the COVID Police. Most issues can be addressed at Faceoff, first problem is a warning; if it is not fixed the player gets sent back to the bench. To get a penalty it must be willful, flagrant violations such as not wearing it on purpose after being warned multiple times.
4. According to the guidance the centers are to line up 6 feet apart and the referee will call centers into the faceoff. Is the expectation that it will be a moving faceoff? Or will centers be required to stop before we drop the puck?
Answer: Get the puck down as fast as possible, but ensure it is safe.
5. According to the guidance if more than 1 player from each team enters a scrum a whistle shall occur. Where will the ensuing faceoff occur? Last play? If the offensive team causes the stoppage does the faceoff move to the neutral zone? We are concerned that a coach may use

this rule to gain an unfair advantage and anytime there is a scrum in the corner they will send an additional player into the scrum to obtain an offensive zone faceoff.

Answer: Last play faceoff. Even if it was an offensive player the draw stays inside.

6. Is there a penalty for a team causing multiple stoppages due to scrums along the boards? Again, we are concerned that a coach may use this rule to gain an unfair advantage and anytime there is a scrum in the corner they will send an additional player into the scrum to obtain an offensive zone faceoff.

Answer: No.

7. What happens to both teams and the officials if a rink completes an ice cleaning after each period? If locker rooms are unavailable where will we be able to sit?

Answer: Officials should be provided a location to sit down. It will be rink dependent.

8. Who is responsible for ensuring compliance with these rules? Coaches, Administrators, Officials?

Answer: Coaches.

9. If a player on a team you officiate tests positive for COVID, do you as an official have to quarantine? Will the MIAA pay for the required testing or will this be an expense bore by the official?

Answer: It would be the decision of the Board of Health.

Stay safe and be well.

In Solidarity,

The South Shore NIHOA Executive Board