



MEMORANDUM

OCTOBER 16, 2020

TO: ALL THUNDERBIRD TEAMS

FROM: BOARD EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: SAFETY FIRST PROTOCOLS

As we enter into game play (and fyi, PCAHA is one of the first and only minor hockey associations in Canada that is playing games right now), we want to remind all of our teams that safety must be our first priority with respect to all of our decisions and actions as TBirds.

The executive and rest of the Board truly appreciate all the hard work our volunteers have been putting in to getting this season off to such a smooth start in the midst of the pandemic.

After some careful consideration, we have decided to implement some further protocols that will ensure consistency across our association and which should relieve some pressure on team officials from having to make up their own team safety rules.

So, effective immediately, the following protocols must be followed by all TBird teams:

- The venue capacity must be fully adhered to, however it is a maximum and not a target number. It is NOT an opportunity to add extra bodies into the rink just to use up the space. Our goal should be to always maximize social distancing as much as possible and minimize the total number of people in our venues.
- TBirds teams will have the following capacity limits for games and practices (and it is the responsibility of the HC to ensure these limits are followed):
 - Games:
 - all rostered players are to be counted first when looking at venue capacity. Two team staff are required including a minimum of 1 coach and 1 person with HCSP certification (may be a dual role coach/HCSP), but additional team staff should not be added if it then creates a "healthy scratch" situation for players.
 - maximum of 5 permitted rostered team officials (maximum of: 1 HC, 2 ACs, 1 HCSP, 1 TM - and each of these people must be named on the game sheet) if venue capacity number permits that many **with a maximum of 3 physically located on the bench**
 - if venue capacity does not permit all 5 team officials to be in the building, the following order of priority will be used:



- if there is only room for 2 team officials: Head Coach and 1 Assistant Coach with one requiring the HCSP certification
- if there is only room for 3 team officials: Head Coach, 1 Assistant Coach and 1 HCSP
 - *note HCSP may be a person with dual role as Coach/HCSP but they must fill the role of HCSP if there is an injury and step away from coaching at that time*
- if there is only room for 4 team officials: Head Coach, 1 AC, 1 HCSP, plus one more AC or TM
- Only one parent or other team official must do both timekeeping and scorekeeping for each game. No exceptions.
- Practices:
 - all rostered players are to be counted first when looking at venue capacity. Two team staff are required including a minimum of 1 coach and 1 person with HCSP certification (may be a dual role coach/HCSP), but additional team staff should not be added if it then creates a "healthy scratch" situation for players.
 - Additional on-ice support is permitted above the team official venue limits above to a maximum of 5 on-ice coaches for any U7 to U18 team, or 7 for any U6-U9 skill group if venue capacity number permits that many
 - If venue limits permit then a maximum of 1 HCSP (in addition to all on-ice coaches) and 1 TM is permitted in the building at any time
- Skills sessions or association programming outside of teams:
 - those programs will be provided specific guidance on who will be permitted to enter the building as we ensure two deep supervision and other safety elements.

We would also like to take the opportunity to remind our teams of the following elements that will be communicated to the membership in our upcoming next newsletter:

- Parents are asked to ensure they follow appropriate physical distancing protocols outside of the arenas as they wait, including at those areas with viewing opportunities into the arenas.
- While carpooling is not prohibited, it should be recognized as higher risk. For those who are carpooling, we ask that enhanced safety protocols are followed in the vehicle such as sitting as far away as possible, wearing a mask, sanitizing door handles/arm rests/seats, and ensuring players are handling their own bags.

If you require any further clarifications on these protocols please contact your Division Ambassadors for the recreational division or Tanya Foley at tfoley@vancouverbirds.ca for the rep division.