

October 30, 2020



#WeAreBackTogether



Presenting Sponsor
U11 - U18

Recreational and Rep Divisions
www.scotiabank.ca

Virtual Coffee Chats

We know there are always questions and that most members don't want to send an email, so we are going to try a new way for you to reach out and ask. The following dates will be a virtual coffee time with our Executive Director, Tanya Foley, and is open to anyone in our membership - players or parents - to jump on at any time during the hour and ask a question on any topic relating to TBirds. Click the date below for the Zoom link and stay for 5 minutes or however long you wish.

[Friday, November 13 - 10:30 - 11:30 am](#)
[Monday, December 7 - 1:00 - 2:00 pm](#)

Photo Day

Darby Photos has been working hard with their sport and school clients to find a way to continue this annual tradition.

Date: Sunday, November 15

Team managers will receive further information shortly.



It will take everyone to succeed

As we start to settle into somewhat of a routine with changes still coming but at a much slower trickle, we must continue to be vigilant. The number of calls and emails from our venues is starting to increase again about rules not being followed and we cannot allow this to continue. We absolutely need everyone working together to allow the season to continue.

Team staff get regular emails outlining changes, and our [TBird Family Quick Reference page](#) linked from our website has information that all members should be familiar with. More information on specific rules to follow are outlined later in this newsletter, but there are three things EVERY MEMBER needs to understand is mandatory:

- 1) every venue is different, and the venue staff must be treated with respect and listened to;
- 2) whether you agree with a rule or not, if you wish to continue playing with TBirds this season you will follow all rules; and
- 3) safety for players, team staff, game officials and venue staff come first. All decisions will be based on this.

We need to be able to trust that our players and team staff will adhere to the rules, and we ask that everyone work together to keep the season going.

Tanya Foley, Executive Director
tfoley@vancouvertbirds.ca

Current Status at our Venues

Every venue owner is operating a little bit differently which does make it even more necessary for everyone to be familiar with what they must do. We have to follow the rules set out for each place we enter - both our home venues and any we may go to as the visiting team and we do not have the ability to alter them. Below is a high level review of our home venue key rules - more information can be found on the [TBirds Family Quick Reference page](#) in the venue section.

Vancouver Park Board Arenas

(Kits, Kerrisdale, Hillcrest, Sunset, Trout Lake and West End)

- **Weekday morning practice times:** both dressing areas can be used if two teams are sharing the ice time as no one is booked immediately before or after our ice time
- **All other times: only one dressing area is assigned to each ice time and there will be NO DEVIATION from the following:**
 - i. If there is **one team or skill group for a practice that can fit within the assigned dressing area**, that team can use the one dressing area for all players and coaches up to the maximum in the dressing area (if there are not enough seats, coaches can also put skates on at the players bench). The minimum number of seats in any dressing area is 19, however it does alter. All capacities are included in the venue information section on the [TBirds Family Quick Reference Page](#)
 - ii. If there are **two teams or one skill group that has more players than seats in the one dressing area for a practice**, ONLY GOALIES AND COACHES are permitted to enter the building 10 minutes in advance to use the dressing area to finish getting ready. **All other players must enter the building fully dressed including skates with skate guards.** They will be allowed in ~2-3 minutes prior to the ice time and they are to go directly to the ice/players' bench and are not permitted to use a dressing area. **At the end of the game, players put on skate guards and immediately walk out of the building. They are NOT permitted to undress or take off their skates.** Goalies/Coaches have 5 minutes to partially undress and leave the building.
 - iii. For **any game**, ONLY GOALIES AND GAME OFFICIALS are permitted to enter the building 10 minutes in advance to use the dressing area to finish getting ready. **All other players must enter the building fully dressed including skates with skate guards.** They will be allowed in ~2-3 minutes prior to the ice time and they are to go directly to the ice/players' bench and are not permitted to use a dressing area. Skate guards are to be kept on the bench. **At the end of the game, players put on skate guards and immediately walk out of the building. They are NOT permitted to undress or take off their skates.** Goalies/Game Officials have 5 minutes to partially undress and leave the building.
- **Mask on until helmet on** - if your player is using a dressing area, they will need to enter the venue wearing a mask and can remove it when they put their helmet on and are ready to go to the ice, and vice versa at the end where they take their helmet off and put their mask on. If they are walking into the rink fully dressed and going directly to the ice, helmet should be on before they enter and a mask is not required but physical distancing should be kept while they walk.
- All team officials and timekeeper must wear a mask at all times inside the venues except for coaches who are able to maintain physical distancing on the ice. Coaches must wear a mask on the bench during games at all times.
- Back up goalies must wear a mask under their helmet.

UBC

- **Dressing rooms are being used** - but no use of washrooms or showers are allowed inside them. Teams will be escorted in ~15 minutes prior to their ice session and must leave as a group within 10 minutes after their ice session.
- Masks are mandatory except immediate walking to and from the ice surface to the dressing room. A mask must be worn entering the building, in the dressing room and exiting the building.
- All team officials and timekeeper must wear a mask at all times inside the venues except for coaches who are able to maintain physical distancing on the ice. Coaches must wear a mask on the bench during games at all times.
- Back up goalies must wear a mask under their helmet.

Richmond Olympic Oval

- **Both dressing areas can be used but group must be out and have area cleaned within 5 minutes after their ice session** - as the group is required to wipe down the chairs at the Oval in the dressing area, it is strongly encouraged that skaters enter fully dressed and go directly to the ice whenever possible and only goalies/coaches use the chairs to limit the amount of cleaning required. If we do not clear out of the dressing areas within 5 minutes after ice time, we will be required to reduce ice times. If desired, a similar approach to Vancouver Park Board can be employed by teams.
- **Masks are mandatory** at all times except when player is going between the dressing area and the ice or during their ice session on the ice and/or bench. As of Nov 1 (this Sunday) it is mandatory for masks to be worn at all other times including walking into and exiting the venue. **For our younger players (U6-U9)**, they should have a neck gaiter pulled up under their helmet as they enter the building, they can then pull it down when it's time to go onto the ice (parents please teach them how to do this as coaches will not be able to assist), and they have special exemption to leave the building without a mask. We ask that the team staff escort them out as a group so they go directly to the parking lot and assist with keeping physical distancing both within our group and with anyone the group may encounter as they exit.
- All team officials and timekeeper must wear a mask at all times inside the venues except for coaches who are able to maintain physical distancing on the ice. Coaches must wear a mask on the bench during games and at any time on the ice during practice they cannot maintain distancing from players or other coaches.
- Back up goalies must wear a mask under their helmet.

Richmond Ice Center

- **Dressing rooms are being used - max 11 per room. Teams will have 15 minutes before and after their ice.**
- Masks are mandatory except immediate walking to and from the ice surface to the dressing room. A mask must be worn entering the building, in the dressing room and exiting the building.



U18 C1 and C2 were the first TBird teams to drop the puck for a league game this season on October 13.

Physical Distancing for Parents

Parents who are staying in the parking lot or may be trying to peek in through windows at venues are reminded that you are required to maintain physical distancing at all times. Venue staff are not able to leave their duties to remind you however we are receiving reports of parents, with no masks, gathering for extended periods around monitors to watch the live stream together or crowding around small windows with views inside the arena. We know it is difficult this year for parents as part of the fun of hockey for you all is spending time with the other parents, but we must do everything humanly possible to ensure there is no outbreak or transmission that occurs around the hockey rink so health authorities do not step in and close the doors. It does not only apply to those inside the rink, but anyone who is at a location because of a hockey activity.

Who is allowed into the rink?

For U6 - U9 Divisions

As U7 - U9 divisions will begin to move toward having skill group and team ice times, the following parameters have been put into place for who is allowed into TBirds home rinks. Note there are some changes that venues have requested that should be implemented immediately.

- * no one should be in the building unless they have a required role to fill
- * maximum # of team officials in the venue will be:
 - skill groups - max 7 on-ice coaches, 1 HCSPs and 1 Group oversights
 - a second HCSP and Group oversight can be permitted if the number of players exceeds 20 for the session or at the Oval to assist with

cleaning the dressing area

- team practices - max 5 on-ice coaches, 1 HCSP and 1 Team Manager
- games - max 5 team officials (must be rostered and on game sheet) with no more than 1 per team physically on each bench and 1 on the ice if required. 1 timekeeper is permitted.

* if maximum #s listed above exceed venue capacity, the order of priority is:

- players - no player should be a healthy scratch unless it is required to allow for the minimum 1 coach and 1 person with HCSP certification (which can be a coach that is HCSP certified). If only 2 adults permitted, they will each oversee one bench for their players.

- if 3 team officials permitted = 1 HC, 1AC, 1 HCSP (or second AC if they have HCSP certification)

- if 4 team officials permitted = 1 HC, 1 AC, 1 HCSP, and 1 other AC or the TM

Who is allowed into the rink?

For U11 - U18 Divisions

On October 16, the Board Executive sent a memo to the team staff on all U11-U18 teams as PCAHA league games were getting underway to set the parameters for who is allowed into TBirds home rinks. The following are the highlights:

- * no one should be in the building unless they have a required role to fill
- * maximum # of team officials in the venue will be:
 - practices - max 5 on-ice coaches, 1 HCSP and 1 Team Manager
 - games - max 5 team officials (must be rostered and on game sheet) with no more than 3 physically on the team bench. 1 timekeeper/scorekeeper (dual role) is permitted and the same person must sign the scoresheet for both roles.
- * if maximum #s listed above exceed

venue capacity, the order of priority is:

- players - no player should be a healthy scratch unless it is required to allow for the minimum 1 coach and 1 person with HCSP certification (which can be a coach that is HCSP certified).

- if 3 team officials permitted = 1 HC, 1AC, 1 HCSP (or second AC if they have HCSP certification)

- if 4 team officials permitted = 1 HC, 1 AC, 1 HCSP, and 1 other AC or the TM

Carpools - Proceed with Caution

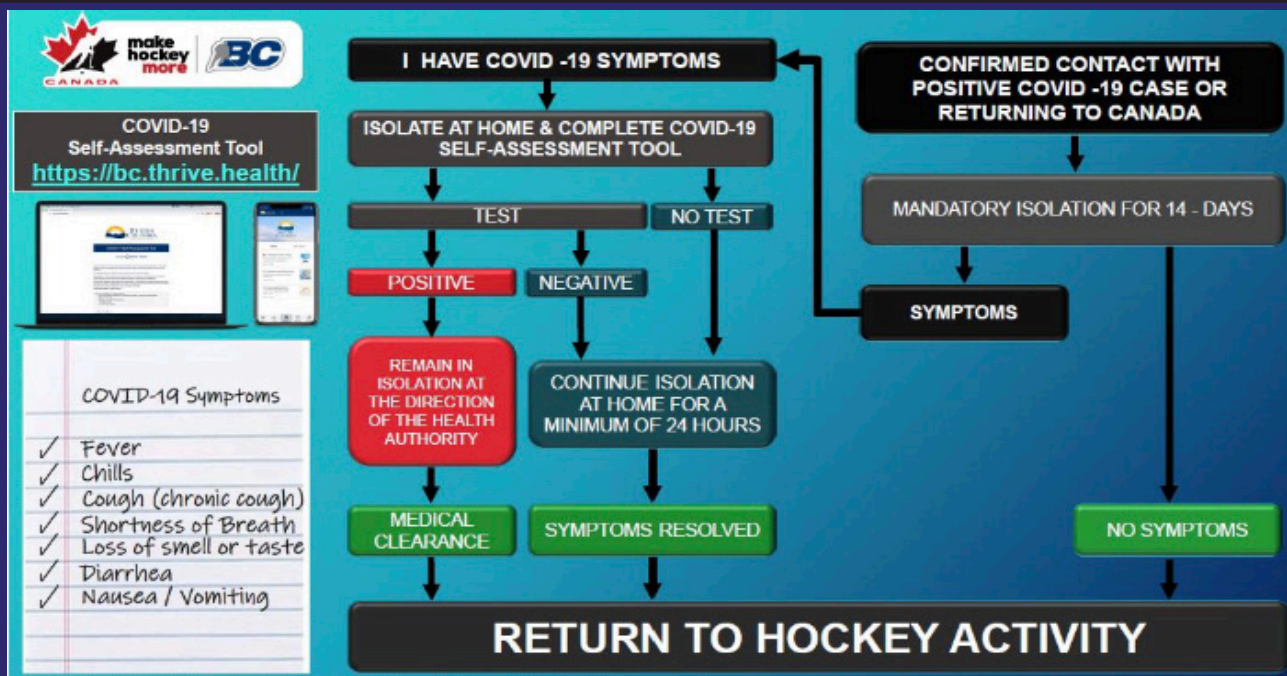
We know that sometimes it is not possible to avoid the practice of car pooling but we ask that you recognize this is a higher risk activity than the other elements of the hockey program and has been flagged by health authorities as something they deem as high enough risk that it will prompt immediate self-isolation for all car occupants if one does test positive. They have recommended that to reduce this risk, car handles, arm rests and seats be wiped down and players should only handle their own bags and sticks.

Injured and/or Suspended Players

As we want to limit the people inside the rinks to only those required to be there, effective immediately, injured and/or suspended players are not permitted to enter the venue to watch the games. If they are not actively participating in their role as a player, they are deemed a spectator and cannot enter.

Supervision until Departure

Team Staff should ensure all players are safely picked up at the completion of all ice sessions. Younger players should be met at the exit by their parent.



Covid-19 Safety Protocols

BC Hockey has developed the infographic above to assist families and team staff with understanding the steps should anyone develop Covid-19 symptoms or receive a call from the health authorities that they have been in contact with a positive case and must self-isolate. This aligns with the [TBirds Covid-19 Impact Policy 24](#) - Section 8 Return to Play section which provides further details.

Thunderbirds will continue to take direction from the health authorities and will provide notice to any team when instructed to do so. The conversations that we have had are encouraging in that the measures in place put our hockey activities at a lower risk and we have not had any transmissions occur as a result of TBirds hockey activities to date, however we ask that everyone continues to be mindful of wearing masks, washing hands and maintaining distance outside of the field of play. We all need to look out for each other and we want to continue to show that we will do what we can to keep hockey going.

Should you receive a phone call from health authorities about an exposure, they will inform you to either self-isolate OR self-monitor. If you are asked to self-isolate, follow the instructions they provide and use the chart above and Policy 24 Section 8 as a guide. If you are asked to self-monitor, you are permitted to continue with regular activities (school, hockey, etc) as per Vancouver Coastal Health direction, but do ensure you are taking every precaution to prevent a potential transmission. Anyone who is contacted by the health authorities with either a positive Covid-19 test or asked to self-isolate must follow the directions of the health authorities and are not permitted to return to any in-person TBird activity until cleared to do so.

Note that "Medical Clearance" following a positive test can be any one of the following:

- Physician's note (which most doctors are currently NOT providing)
- Public Health authority notification to end isolation
- A further negative Covid-19 test

Fundraising

Every team should have a fundraising lead(s) who will lead the coordination of these programs. This is a great opportunity for anyone who has yet to find a way to help their team to fulfill the team component of the Volunteer program!

Thunderbirds will be offering two fundraising programs this season:

1) We will be launching the Purdy's Chocolate campaign online next week! Ordering will be open until November 23. As a bonus any team that purchases \$1,000 or more will get their team order delivered directly to their team contact for faster distribution. Information will be sent to Team Managers early next week with more information.

2) With all profit from Thunderball used to support the Thunderbird Bursary Program to help alleviate financial pressure for some of our families, we wanted to find a way to re-imagine this traditional fun event. Everyone will be invited this season to participate in our 1st (and hopefully last) Thunder-NO-ball! Teams will be asked to provide two bottles of wine (min value \$25 each) and we will be asking for members to donate items for the online silent auction. As well, in lieu of buying tickets since we can't enjoy a night at the event together, we will offer a chance for anyone wishing to still support the Bursary to purchase a \$20 ticket to NOT leave their house but remain part of the success story. Stay tuned for LOTS more fun stuff about this event over the next month....

First Shift Program Registration Opens 9:00 am on Wednesday, November 4th

TBirds have been selected to be one of the limited organizers for this year's First Shift program - a program that allows brand new to hockey players a chance to join in a 6 week program where they receive hockey equipment and have a lot of fun on the ice. We will be running the program out of the Richmond Olympic Oval from January 24th to February 28th at 7:45 - 8:45 am. If you know anyone aged 6-9 who wants to try hockey, this is a great program for them to get involved with! To register on Wednesday, go to www.FirstShift.ca and select the Vancouver Thunderbirds program. Space is limited to only 30 participants this year!

Volunteer Program

Thunderbirds rolled out the Volunteer program this year and we are so thankful for all of you who have already stepped up and really made the start to this atypical season happen. Did you know we had over 1600 hours available for people to volunteer during summer camps and the start of the season? The majority of our members have now completed the 3 hours per player (up to 6 hours per family) but not everyone took advantage of those opportunities so we will be providing a few more options for people to fulfill their requirements, or for those who simply spot a program they are passionate about and want to help make happen.

Over the next week, we will be posting up opportunities for a wide variety of programs - most of which do not require the volunteers to have hockey specific knowledge. If you know your family needs hours, this is your chance to get them checked off! Other opportunities will continue to be posted so check the [volunteer portal](#) for available opportunities. If you have not logged in yet, your username AND password is the email you used when registering for TBirds - you will be asked to set a new password when you enter for the first time.

Opportunities coming up next will include:

- Photo Day (Nov 15): we need two people to help coordinate the onsite logistics with Audrey and we will need ~9 volunteers to help maintain the flow into and out of the venue
- Career mentorship program: we will be looking for people to chat about their job/career path with our U18 players. This may be in person or over a short zoom call.
- TBirds in the Community: we will be looking for:
 - i. Food Bank Drive Lead(s) and support volunteers: whether it is in-person drop offs or a virtual fundraiser, we would like to find a way to support the Greater Vancouver Food Bank this season.
 - ii. Blood Drive: donations are lower this year than usual and MHAs have been asked to help spread the message around - looking for a Lead and support volunteers to help create a TBird program and work with the Canadian Blood Services
- Fundraising: we will need volunteers to assist with packing up the Purdy's orders (within strict Covid-19 protocols) and people to help with the silent auction website content creation and logistics.
- Players Giving Back: this is a program that matches our U18 players up with a younger team to provide on-ice support and start getting some coaching experience (including their certification if they wish to pursue it). We need 1-2 leads to help get this officially operating - and note the players involved also count towards the family volunteer hours needed.
- First Shift Coordinator and support volunteers: We have been given the go ahead to be one of the local sites to operate the NHL/NHLPA First Shift program in Jan/Feb and will need a Coordinator plus on-ice support.

Remember, to qualify to receive your \$75 Volunteer fee back, you need to complete 3 hours of association volunteer hours AND help your team in some way this season. Full information on the program can be [found here](#).

Birds Nest
properties

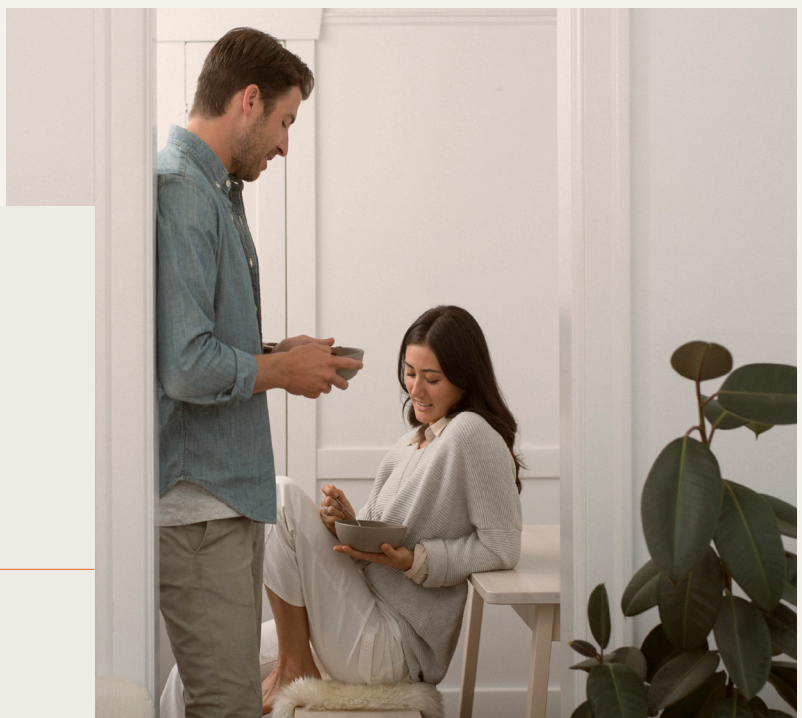
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