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WHO A Official:

As all of you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the hockey landscape this year in every aspect from seminars to playing games. On November 19, 2020, the WAHA Board of Directors distributed a memo (click [here](#) to view the memo) to all Association Presidents outlining expectations if we are going to finish the regular season strong, play State Tournaments and other post-season games. In an effort to further educate our officials on the contents of the WAHA directive, below is a summary on how it relates to officials:

- 1) The use of face coverings at all times in the arena, practices and games included, by players, coaches, officials, volunteers and spectators is mandatory. This is currently a State of Wisconsin requirement from which officials are not exempt. The face covering MUST be worn properly, meaning covering completely the mouth and nose. (Remember, the virus is mainly transmitted through the air). Masks or gaiters must completely cover the mouth and nose.

HECC Approved "spit guards" are also considered an acceptable face covering for players while on the ice. See the list of approved "spit guards" [here](#). Any facial covering attached to a helmet face mask, other than those specified on the HECC website, affect the HECC certification of the mask. Players found wearing an unapproved "spit guards" will be subject to removal until it is corrected in accordance with Rule 304(b) – Protective Equipment in the 2017-2021 USA Hockey Playing Rules.

**\*\*NEW PROCEDURE\*\*** - During the warmup period, officials are to skate over to an area in between both team's player benches and ask both Head Coaches if their teams are properly masked. This is their warning. If there is non-compliance of the State of Wisconsin's masking mandate by a coach or player, no penalties are to be assessed; however, you must notate the player/coach on the scoresheet and file an Incident Report on the WHO A Game Reporting System. COVID-19 Mask Violation has been added as an option in the WHO A Incident Reporting system.

- 2) Officials may use an electronic whistle; however, it is not mandatory
- 3) Per WAHA directive, Wisconsin teams are prohibited from playing games involving teams from Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and any other state where their government or USA Hockey affiliate has a no-out-of-state-travel order in effect. Accordingly, officials are prohibited from officiating games involving WAHA teams playing teams from those states. This order will be in effect until December 21, 2020, when it will be reviewed again by the WAHA Board.

However, teams from outside of Wisconsin may travel into the state to play games from their own state (e.g. two Illinois teams renting ice time in Wisconsin). You may be contacted to officiate. Do not assume that these teams are USA Hockey-sanctioned. As an independent contractor, it is up to the individual official to determine whether they are sanctioned or not. If teams are not USA Hockey-sanctioned, you are on your own for insurance and you assume liability risk.

This guidance may change depending on conditions and actions by the WAHA Board of Directors. WHOA will communicate updates when warranted through emails and posts on the WHOA website.

If you have any additional questions, please email [info@wihoa.org](mailto:info@wihoa.org).

WAHA and WHOA thanks you for all of your efforts in keeping our game as safe as possible.

Stay Safe!  
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