



Key changes to the State's Guidelines as of November 6th, 2020

1. Contract Tracing Compliance!!!!

- a. This was the #1 concern with the state, if a coach, assistant coach or any program director receives a request for a roster they must comply immediately
- b. We would ask that any time such a request is made by the state that you also notify the Valley League office, so we can document the request, compliance and also detail whether the COVID-19 case was hockey related or actually non-hockey related.

2. All Players Must be registered and appear on VHL online Roster!!!

- a. **Any player or team that has not fully completed the online rosters will not be allowed to play effective immediately!!!**
- b. **A forfeit will be awarded along with the associated charges if a team has not completed the online roster!!!**

3. Face coverings or masks must be worn at all times including during play

- a. We are awaiting clarification but believe that the CCM mask that attaches beneath the chin guard and the Bauer Splash Guard for the Concept II shield are considered adequate face coverings.

4. Locker rooms are closed at all venues

- a. **All players must arrive dressed**
- b. **No dressing/undressing inside the rink!!!**

5. No Out of State Play Permitted

- a. No teams from out of Massachusetts are allowed to play in facilities located in Massachusetts
- b. No teams from Massachusetts are allowed to travel out of state for competition
- c. No players from outside the state are permitted to play for Massachusetts based team
- d. Violators will fined and/or suspended from all play and facilities can be closed

6. The language regarding number of players, larger playing surfaces and the reference to competition versus training has not been changed. Therefore, teams are still permitted to have 2 cohorts (each 25 or less) on the ice for practice, with each cohort 14 feet apart.

7. Operators should ensure that individuals are not congregating in common areas or parking lots before, during or following practices or events.

8. Tailgating and other social gatherings are strictly prohibited in common areas!!!

- a. **This will result in facility closures and possibly the entire sport if this practice continues.**
- b. **Parents please comply this was a major issue with the state!!**

9. Spectator Policy will be dictated by each individual rink (State limit will be 2 spectators per player)

- a. Please review the Individual Rink Policy prior to arriving at a rink at <https://www.valleyhockeyleague.com/pages/game-rink-guidelines/>

10. Many facilities have moved to a NO Spectator Policy

- a. With locker rooms now closed many rinks cannot offer sufficient skate tying areas and space for spectators to socially distance
- b. Many facilities encountered rampant non-compliance from spectators back in October
- c. Most facilities simply cannot comply with all mandatory guidelines inside the rink while also allowing spectators in the building

11. Checking is now permitted at Bantam age and above

12. Mites:

- a. All mite players must arrive dressed in their equipment and we strongly recommend players being fully dressed with skates and skate guards
- b. Strongly recommend Mite rosters be limited to 8 skaters and 1 goalie
- c. **Absolute Player Maximum for any given game will be 10 skaters and 1 goalie.**
 - i. Teams with more than 11 must rotate players on a weekly basis
 - ii. No more than 11 players may dress for any single game
- d. For Rinks with no spectators please review rink specific guidance for mites and special allowances to assist players with skate tying.