

Antigonish Arena Reopening Guidelines

November 5 2020

Antigonish Arena Guidelines

The Antigonish Arena (the “Arena”) has implemented the following protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at our facility. These guidelines are effective as of November 2, 2020. Please review these guidelines before entering the Arena.

These guidelines are supplemented to Hockey Nova Scotia’s “Rebound Plan”. All facility and organizational guidelines are subject to the Province of Nova Scotia’s “Return to Sport Guidelines” and any Order issued under the *Health Protection Act*.

The Arena reserves the right to change these guidelines at any time without notice.

General Procedures

Participants and spectators must follow all posted signage in the Arena. This includes following directional arrows, Enter and Exit signs, dressing room assignments, seating plans, and observing distancing limits that are posted. Contact with staff must be kept to a minimum

Anyone entering the Arena must wash their hands frequently, observe proper cough etiquette and stay at home if they or a family member are not feeling well.

Please ensure that you leave with everything you came with. As always, garbage is to be put in the waste bin. Any items left behind will be disposed of to lessen the potential exposure to COVID-19. No gear may be dropped off early or left behind without written consent.

If anyone is not willing to comply with these guidelines, they will be asked to leave the Arena. Non-compliance with the guidelines may result in the entire group losing privileges at the Arena.

There will be no Pickup Hockey or Free Skates until further notice.

Rental Groups

“Rental Group” means the persons who are actively participating in the activity for which the Arena has been rented. This includes players, coaches, referees, and team safety representatives. “Rental Group” **does not** include parents or spectators.

Rental Groups may enter the Arena 20 minutes before their scheduled ice time. They must proceed directly to their assigned dressing room. This means that there is no warming up in the lobby or hallways. All members of the Rental Groups must leave the Arena 20 minutes after their ice time ends.

It is the responsibility of the Rental Group to ensure that every member of their group follows the guidelines. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in the Rental Group losing privileges at the Arena.

Capacity Limits without Physical Distancing

Currently, 50 people can participate on the ice for practices, competitions and games without physical distancing. This allows full team practices and competitions to resume. This applies to youth and recreational league sports, including adult hockey.

The gathering limits for the “field of play” include players, officials, coaches, instructors and anyone else required to be on or near the ice surface. In addition to the ice surface, the “field of play” includes the benches, timekeeper’s box, penalty box and dressing rooms. It does not include spectators near the ice surface.

While mask use for all participants is not required on the field of play, everyone entering the Arena must wear a mask and maintain physical distance until they have entered the assigned dressing room.

Participants Requiring Assistance

The Arena recommends that all participants arrive at the Arena fully dressed and prepared to participate in their event, with skates on and tied. However, the Arena understands that some participants, particularly younger children, may require assistance with skate tying prior to their ice time. Due to gathering limits established by the Province of Nova Scotia, parents and guardians are not permitted in dressing rooms at any time.

To safely facilitate assistance with skate tying, the Arena will establish a designated area where participants needing assistance with skate tying can receive it with the following conditions:

- If a participant requires assistance tying their skates the participant and guardian will proceed directly to the designated area upon entering the Arena and abide by the posted signage;
- The participant and guardian will maintain 6-foot separation from others tying skates, as marked in the designated area. Masks are required to be worn by the participant and guardian in the skate tying area;
- One guardian may assist one or multiple participants in tying their skates;
- Once skates are tied, the participant will proceed to the “field of play” as directed by the renter and the guardian will proceed to a designated spectators area or leave the Arena.
- Because the designated area is outside the “field of play”, while assisting with tying skates the guardian will count as a spectator and not as a participant within the field of play.

Space in the designated area for skate tying is limited. Therefore, it is still recommended that participants arrive fully dressed with skates tied. However, the designated area for skate tying has been established to address a concern expressed by parents and participants. It is the responsibility of the renter to coordinate the use of the designated area as signed by the facility and within these guidelines. The renter may choose not to use this area. If the designated area is not used consistent with these guidelines use may be suspended by the facility.

Spectators

A maximum of 200 spectators can be in attendance during an event. All spectators are always required to wear masks and to physically distance the entire time they are in the Arena

Spectators must remain outside of the Arena, including the lobby until 10 minutes before their ice time. All spectators must leave the Arena immediately after their group leaves the ice to allow for Arena staff to disinfect the stands and allow others to spectate.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines on the part of spectators may result in those spectators or the Rental Group losing their privileges at the Arena.

Contact Tracing

The Rental Group is required to keep records of who is participating on the ice and to collect contact information for each spectator attending the game. One contact person per family bubble is acceptable. Failure to collect this information may result in the entire group losing the use of the arena

Compliance and Respectful Behavior

There will be zero tolerance for bullying, harassment, or abuse of any kind directed towards any person participating in the communication and enforcement of these guidelines. This includes but is not limited to Arena staff and volunteers or representatives from Rental Groups (for example, individuals involved with collecting contact tracing information, or controlling access to the Arena in accordance with these guidelines).

Individuals who are found to violate this provision may be asked to leave the Arena. Violations of this provision that are ongoing, or escalate to unacceptable levels, may result in the Rental Group losing the associated ice time, or losing their privileges at the arena altogether.

Cleaning Protocols

The main source of COVID-19 spread is close contact between people. Hand sanitizing stations are set up at the entrance, exits, washrooms and dressing rooms of the Arena. Participants and spectators entering the building must use sanitizer to clean their hands before entering.

High priority cleaning will focus on washrooms, dressing rooms and high touch surfaces (railings, door handles, etc.) and will be cleaned after each rental. Record keeping of cleaning practices will be maintained by the Arena. The Arena has purchased a Professional Electrostatic Sprayer for disinfecting dressing rooms, showers and benches after each rental.

Employees

Employees have been provided with masks, gloves and proper equipment to sanitize surfaces regularly. The Arena and staff are doing everything to maintain a safe environment while physically distancing. We ask that you do the same.

Antigonish Arena Manager

Bud MacInnis