

Arena Policy

First may we please note that Fort St John Minor Hockey is primarily a volunteer run organization and that just as all of you our volunteers are mostly made up of Parents, Grandparents and Guardians.

It is a shared desire to be able to watch practices, games and find our way back to normalcy but just as every other aspect of life unfortunately we are not there yet.

In schools, businesses and other sporting clubs it has taken great lengths to get to where we are at right now. Our main goal is to keep Fort St John Minor Hockey running and kids on the ice. That said we have to follow the direction of numerous bodies such as Public Health Authorities, Hockey Canada, Via Sport and the City of Fort St John. It would be easiest for us to give a black and white outline of things but the guidelines we must follow are changing so often that unfortunately it is out of our control. There are other minor hockey associations that have closed due to compliance issues which is why we are so stringent. Our hope is we share the same goal with of our members of keeping hockey running.

Hopefully we can offer some clarity below by addressing repeat issues. FSJMHA is governed by BC Hockey and is a user group of the arena which means we must follow the guidelines of the City of Fort St John.

The City's official rules for Pomeroy Arena are as follows

Parents and Spectators

- Spectators are discouraged in all recreation facilities
- Priority in buildings and spectator areas should be given to workers, service users, program participants, athletes, coaches, and officials
- User groups are asked to include considerations in their COVID Safety Plans for managing their participants' spectators
- Parents of young children and assistants for people with mobility barriers or disabilities will be considered when managing spectators in recreation buildings

User Group Rentals

- Groups will be required to adhere to all COVID-19 procedures outlined in this document
 - Failure to comply with building guidelines will be evaluated on a case by case basis and may result in the removal of the user's bookings
- Groups are required to read and sign the addendum to Facility Use Agreement/License document in addition to their regular contract. This includes the requirement to:

- Create a COVID-19 Safety Plan for their activity in accordance with the Provincial Health Orders as well as recommendations from ViaSport BC
- Confirm all members and participants have read and understood their COVID-19 Safety Plan
- Implement policies and procedures to support the COVID-19 Safety Plan
- Review the addendum to Facility Use Agreement/License with all participants in their activities
- User groups will be asked to follow and enforce their own COVID-19 Safety Plans specific to their sport, including considerations for their own spectator management while using the facility
- Priority should be given to athletes, coaches and officials followed by spectators
- At no time is spitting permitted in any area of the buildings, including the ice surfaces or pools

Walking Track

- Capacity is 30
- Times must be prebooked
- This is for physical activity not to stand and watch practices

May we finish by saying that our membership is made up of approximately 620 people which does not include coaches, assistant coaches, HCSP and managers. Our priority is players safety. Therefore allowing everyone in to spectate is simply impossible. We are working towards a place where people could watch we just have to figure out a fair and responsible way to do so without failing to comply. We hope you can appreciate what an undertaking this has been and still is to get things going. If you have ideas that you are able to see through or wish to volunteer for covid safety position please see the office. As our teams start introducing their safety plans to the board only then can try to move ahead with spectators.

Policy Director of FSJMHA