

Dear Halifax Hawks' Members:

Today the **Halifax Hawks COVID-19 Safety Committee** met to make the difficult decision to suspend further gameplay effective from **7:00 AM on Saturday, December 18, 2021** until further notice. Practices are permitted to continue for the time being until further notice.

We reached our decision based on balancing a number of factors including:

- The increased frequency of COVID-19 positive cases in the schools and communities that feed into the Hawks;
- Hockey Nova Scotia's latest guidance that deems anyone who participates in a game against a COVID-19 positive player or coach within 48 hours to be a "close contact";
- Similar gameplay suspension decisions made by our HRM counterpart associations (i.e. TASA, Bedford, Dartmouth, etc.); and
- The need to continue to provide an outlet for Hawks' players physical and mental well-being through sport.

As such, the COVID-19 Committee is implementing the following restrictions which take effect tomorrow morning at **7:00 AM on Saturday, December 18, 2021**:

- **Games:** Suspended until at least after January 1, 2022. An update will be provided before then;
- **Practices:** For those who wish to continue participating in practices, you may continue to do so. Should any player be uncomfortable participating, it is also acceptable not to practice during this time. Please advise your team manager whether or not you will be attending;
- **Call-Ups:** No call-ups between teams are permitted until further notice;
- **Outside/Speciality Coaches:** Outside/Speciality coaches who are not part of the regular team roster are not permitted to participate in practices until further notice (i.e. external goalie coach, power skating coach);
- **Coaching Multiple Teams:** Without prior approval of the Hawks COVID-19 Safety Committee, coaches who coach multiple teams are required to remain with only one team. Exceptions may be approved where lack of adequate coaching supervision risks the health and safety of the players;
- **Spectators at Practices:** Spectators are permitted at practices; however, must respect the rules and restrictions of the venue. All Hawks' teams' Safety Representatives **MUST** check they have the most up to date guidelines from these venues as these continue to change;
- **Masking:** Team staff will increase the focus on mask wearing for players at all times other than when on the ice;

You are also reminded that if you or your player are experiencing symptoms or awaiting a test result you are to refrain from attending any Hawks' events.

We completely understand and respect that you may choose that your player not participate in any Hawks activities at this time. Your choice to participate is entirely voluntary.

Once again, we will continue to monitor the risks with the spread of COVID-19 on a daily basis and provide you with updates as the situation evolves.

Sincerely,

The HAWKS COVID-19 Safety Committee