



STAFF REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: Chris Frotten, Cora Scott and Misty James

DATE: November 13, 2020

SUBJECT: Arena Spectator Capacity Increase Request

ORIGIN

At the last Committee of the Whole meeting, Committee considered a petition from Katrina Ross requesting that the spectator capacity at the arena be increased. Committee referred the request to the CAO for further consideration and requested a report at the November 16 Committee of the Whole meeting.

BACKGROUND

COVID-19 has altered many of our daily normalities and the use and operation of the arena has not been immune to this reality. This summer, in preparation of the upcoming season, the arena staff developed a comprehensive *Return to Ice* plan which outlined the rules and regulations for the use and operation of the arena within the public health guidelines set out by the Government of Nova Scotia and the Chief Medical Officer. With feedback from the public, the plan was adjusted to meet the needs of our users without forgoing our responsibility to maintain the health and safety of our users, visitors (some of whom are from other parts of the Province or the Atlantic bubble) and staff.

Before detailing the assessment of the request, it is important to understand the current restrictions and public health advice.

First, as per the current public health guidelines, we are required to follow the Health Protection Act Order and public health directives to limit the spread of COVID-19. Venues and facilities, such as the arena, that have the capacity to host large gatherings or events must build a plan that will help in limiting the spread of COVID-19. For a facility to host audiences larger than the current gathering limits (200 indoors), the plan needs to outline how the facility will safely manage separate zones of 200, along with how all public health directives will be followed. The plan must be available for onsite inspectors and all venues are responsible for its implementation. Inspections may happen at any time.

Second, if a facility does not have the capacity to manage separate zones, it must operate within the current gathering limits.

Third, plans for each specific activity can be developed. For example, a hockey game with spectators might look different than an event featuring vendors or a concert. Plans must also be adjusted as new information regarding COVID-19 becomes available.

DISCUSSION

Operational Matter

It must first be noted that this is an operational matter, therefore significant consideration should be given to the advice of the arena and recreation staff. They are the employees who have the most intimate knowledge of the operations of the arena and what might possible and must enforce the restrictions put in place.

Individual Request

We appreciate and share Katrina's desire, along with the others who signed the letter, to increase the spectator capacity, but this request is from an individual and not an organization. To date, we have not received any such request from any of our main users and all of the associations and groups that generally have spectators have been very cooperative and respectful of the capacity we have set.

Arena Comparison

To continue on the last point, we wanted to address the question of what other arenas throughout the Province are doing.

First, the Municipality has the right to set its own restrictions and protocols based on its financial and staff resources, regardless of what Provincial limits are permitted.

The petition provides a variety of examples of what other arenas are doing and as mentioned at our last Committee meeting, it varies immensely. The capacity of arenas depends on a number of factors, including their square footage, their layout, their staff complement and their level of hockey.

For example, all arenas in Halifax have spectator capacities of less than 100 while others have varying limits up to 200. The Glooscap District Arena (Canning) and Credit Union Centre (Kingston) both only allow one parent per player and the arenas in Shelburne and Clare allow up to 100 spectators. Just recently, the Colchester Legion Stadium in Truro reduced their occupancy to 80 people at any one time.

The other arenas the petition refers to – the Mariners Centre, the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre and the Kings Mutual Century Centre (Berwick), do have spectator capacities of more than 200 on some occasions but there are two specific reasons for this:

1. They are much larger buildings that have the ability to create "zones" of 200 spectators as outlined in the attached guide. These zones require complete segregation which includes separate entrances/exits, separate washrooms, separate concessions and separate walking paths into/out of the venue.

2. They have submitted plans and have received special approval from Public Health due to the elite level of hockey played at these arenas (i.e. Jr. A).

Possible Option

After considering the request with the arena staff, we determined that the best option to increase the arena's spectator capacity while still abiding by the Provincial restrictions, would be to develop a 10-person bubble system. This would allow up to approximately 150 people in our stands while still respecting the 6-foot physical distance between each bubble. Although this is the best option, the arena and recreation staff still have a few concerns:

1. The management of the zones would be difficult. Let's say there are 30 players on the ice. That would mean the potential for 30 10-person bubbles in the stands making it way over the limit. Although the group or association would determine who gets a "zone", it wouldn't allow for many players to have spectators.
2. There is still only one set of public washrooms with limited capacity.
3. We have limited entrances and exits.
4. Based on our recent experience, we know that spectators still sit in places they should not and do not socially distance so we would need physical barriers to keep the people in their designated zones.
5. It would be very difficult to properly control traffic flow and record and enforce the zones.
6. Our canteen is open, and the canteen operator has tried to reduce loitering in the lobby and the forming of long lines by taking text and phone orders from people in the stands. This has helped but it won't reduce the extra traffic caused by an increase in spectators.

Health Concerns

Increasing the spectator capacity increases the movement of people in our facility and the use of our canteen and washroom facilities. It is one thing if everyone is staying seated in their bubbles, but risk increases every time one moves around the facility. As mentioned, we also have a canteen service, which many arenas are not allowing this year to ensure mask use is consistent during an entire visit and eliminates more movement around the facility.

We are under the assumption that there are no confirmed cases in our area but based on the recent increases in cases in the central zone, we are no doubt in the second wave of this pandemic. Although we are not the central zone, minor hockey has just begun playing full games with other teams from across the Province, including the central zone. This means that visiting teams from across the Province and Atlantic Bubble are not only playing in our arena but also visiting our local shops, restaurants, and gas stations. . Although the responsibility lies with minor hockey – they are doing everything they can to help prevent the spread of the virus and not everyone follows the rules or is honest about whether they have been sick or have travelled outside of the Province/Atlantic bubble. This is an important factor that must be taken into consideration as the risk extends to residents of our Municipality. Now is not the time to be increasing our spectator capacity with cases on the rise as we should be doing more everything possible to reduce the spread of this virus.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

PUBLIC CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATIONS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Our priority from day one has been to provide the best and safest level of service while pushing the limits of our facilities and staff within the public health guidelines of the day. At the start of the season, we made a plan and tweaked it based on requests from the public (i.e. opened dressings rooms, increased spectator capacity slightly) but we believe we are now at our building's and staff's limit.

We are still in a global pandemic and there remains many uncertainties. When we first opened, we hoped that we could make it to the New Year, without having to make any major alterations to our operations based on the implementation of new Provincial restrictions. We have done well thus far but we cannot overextend ourselves. If we see an opportunity to relax restrictions, we could consider increasing the dressing room time from 15 minutes to 20-30 minutes or adding a public skate (with controlled numbers) to the schedule.

We believe making changes to improve the player/user experience should take priority over spectators. There are many parents who would rather have their children be able to come and use the arena or compete in a sport they love without spectators than not do so at all because the arena had to shut down due to an outbreak.

We also understand the negative economic impact and frustrations that COVID-19 has caused but we have all made sacrifices and cannot control what restrictions are put in place by Public Health, we can only work with them. We want to allow more spectators in the arena, but we know our limits and want to respect the Public Health protocols. We also constantly monitor public health updates and are always ready to act on any changes.

Finally, the arena staff have worked diligently to understand how our "new normal" will impact the operations of the arena and have begun to feel comfortable with the new "routine" and current spectator capacity.

For these reasons, we recommend maintaining the spectator capacity at 80 for minor hockey and 90 for high school hockey games but commit to revisiting this capacity in January based on the public health directives at that time.

SUGGESTED MOTION

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

1. Katrina Ross Letter
2. NS Guidelines for Venues & Facilities
3. Arena Floorplans
4. Return to Ice Plan

Katrina Ross
Stoney Island, NS
B0W 3J0

November 4, 2020

Dear Municipality of the District of Barrington Councillors/CAO/Officials,

In light of recent announcements from our federal government providing NS municipalities **67.5 million dollars** in incremental funding to help municipalities address increased ***operating costs*** resulting from a reduction in revenue due to COVID-19 and to continue to implement social distancing and infection prevention and control protocols required to ***operate facilities***, public spaces and effectively deliver services to citizens; I am specifically hoping our arena spectator limits can be re-visited. The following points compare arenas in our province/area and how we can put the money to good use to safely expand our spectator numbers from 80 to 200 for special events to continue to deliver programs and services to our members.

Recently, in the HRM many arenas, where the instances of COVID-19 are more prevalent, have expanded their spectator limits from **50-100** beginning Sunday, Nov 1., (I.e. The Halifax Forum Arena, Zatzman Sportsplex, Saint Margaret's Centre – Fountain rink, and Rink D at Bedford's BMO Centre and Rink C at Dartmouth's RBC Centre will allow 100 spectators beginning Nov. 15. Over the weekend, in Berwick the 1,000 capacity rink (ours is 1,100) welcomed two bubble groups of 200 (400 total) who entered through their own entrance and exited through their own exits.

Examining numbers closer to our area, the LCLC is permitted to allow bubbles of $200 \times 3 = 600$, the Mariners Centre Arena #1 has expanded to accommodate 600 people (3 bubbles of 200), and the Mariners centre Arena #2 allows up to 100 spectators. The Shelburne Arena allows 100 spectators as well. Our arena has a capacity of 1,100 at maximum as per set by our fire marshalls. NS facilities can legally operate events and performances at 50 % of a facility's capacity, up to 200 inside (this is where I am assuming the bubbles come into play with Mariners' Centre, LCLC arenas and Berwick), with physical distancing and mandatory masks for spectators (para. 10 <http://www.sportnovascotia.ca/>). Selling advance

seating tickets to family bubbles would assist our local BMHS hockey team, minor hockey teams and figure skating spectators. If our arena was labeled for each section and seating we could even further safety by assigning family bubbles to sections for the year to help with contact tracing should a case come to our area. This is a small change we could do to improve safety and increase numbers. Our rural area thrives on this facility and it is the most used facility in winter months; why not expand our numbers when it is safe to do so. Should we need to roll back on our plan I am sure our community would understand.

Our arena currently sits at 80 spectators; that is roughly 2 spectators per player if you have a large team. This is extremely difficult for families that have other children that usually must accompany parents because of child care restraints, parents of children in blended families, those in blended families that might not agree on who can come on a rotation, for grandparents like that of my own children who this very well may be their last season that they are mobile enough to make it to see their grandchildren play we need to reconsider our numbers. At a recent game, I was very proud of our U11A team spectators for wearing their masks, despite it being uncomfortable at times, and we kept our spectator limits well under the amount needed for our rink. The away team was on one side of the rink and the home team was on one end. Keeping team spectators separate will be a key feature in expanding our numbers and keeping us safe.

Some ideas to safely increase our capacity for games and events (figure skating) to 200 include but are not limited to:

Dividing the arena at the storage doors on the north side entrance for one set of 100 and exit at east side doors for **away** teams. The other group of 100 (possible **home** teams) could be entering at the normal entrance and exit at the north side doors since the others would be forming a new traffic flow for their exit. Some simple signage could assist in this effort. Also, the labelling of seating would help increase safety measures and make for efficient contact tracing efforts if needed.

We would need to purchase mist machines to spray the seats. It should dry within 15 minutes with the heaters on or if needed dried off. Keep in mind every rental wouldn't need to accommodate 200, just events typically on the weekends and

special events for the arena. The mist machines are very affordable as the local gyms just use what one would use to spray on paint with. Bus drivers also use them to wipe down their seats daily between runs. I realize staffing is an issue; therefore, these mist machines could play a part in our expansion plan to make transitions between users easier. This could also generate some jobs for students, if full time staff can not be hired, who would attend local games and may be willing to stay behind and assist in cleaning efforts for big events we may have. Covid-19 is not going anywhere soon; we need to learn to live with it and take necessary precautions.

We are losing weekly rentals from some of our community user groups who are normally renting our arena more. For example, my son's U11A team in a typical year rents the ice 3 times in Barrington and one in Shelburne a month. Now, it's 2 in Barr and 2 in Shelb. That's a 25% loss in revenue from this one user group. As a taxpayer, I feel this is unnecessary since we already run a deficit on most recreation facilities when it's not necessary. If we increase our cleaning machines/protocols we can safely accommodate more rentals.

When away teams come to our area they also spend money here. We are losing money in this area. Only one parent, at times, is attending the away games here; which is taking money from our local economy, restaurants, and shops that were all hit hard because of Covid-19. This also diminishes the profit that our in-house Twisted Sisters local business can generate. These ladies owners and employees live in our community, feed us when we're hungry at games/events and spend money and pay taxes in our local municipality.

We have had our beaches, parks, playgrounds and spring taken from us. Let's not prevent family and friends who may not make it to another season from seeing their favourite players play the game of hockey or family/friends watch skating performances that our community knows and loves. I feel like now is the time to do this when our cases are so low; who knows what the future months hold. Please discuss these options and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

If you are in support of the above recommendations or have any further ideas please submit your name, district where you live and ideas below this will be tabled on November 9, 2020 at the council meeting Monday night.

Sincerely,

Katrina Ross

References:

CBC (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/spectator-capacity-to-expand-halifax-area-rinks-starting-sunday-1.5784092>

Government of Canada (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/intergovernmental-affairs/services/safe-restart-agreement/letters/nova-scotia.html>

CTV NEWS (2020). Retrieved from <https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/hrm-rinks-to-increase-number-of-spectators-allowed-1.5167623>

Timestamp	Name	Where I live:	Other Ideas to add to this letter: Just put n/a if you can't think of anything				
11/4/2020 19:49:52	Katrina ross	Stoney island	N/A				
11/4/2020 19:50:59	Kristen Atwood	Smithsville, NS					
11/4/2020 19:53:55	Jessica Mood	Barrington, Nova Scotia	N/A				
11/4/2020 19:55:15	Paige Newell	Stoney Island					
11/4/2020 20:05:12	Gail Goreham	Oak park					
11/4/2020 20:07:24	Kara Hatfield	North East Point					
11/4/2020 20:08:39	Jasmine Thomas	Sherose Island					
11/4/2020 20:10:21	Paige Symonds	Woods Harbour					
11/4/2020 20:10:33	Travis Smith	Shag Harbour					
11/4/2020 20:12:44	Jennifer Ross	Clam Point	N/a				
11/4/2020 20:13:26	Jeremy Smith	Woods Harbour					
11/4/2020 20:20:45	Kara Smith	Woods Harbour	N/A				
11/4/2020 20:21:46	Jillian Newell	Shag Harbour					
11/4/2020 20:21:57	Charla Strang	Cape Sable Island	Looks great!!				
11/4/2020 20:22:53	Robert Strang	Cape Sable Island					
11/4/2020 20:26:23	Jennifer Ross	Cape Sable Island					
11/4/2020 20:26:41	Jeremy Ross	Cape Sable Island					
11/4/2020 20:26:59	Nixon Ross	Cape Sable Island					
11/4/2020 20:29:30	Kalinda mood	Clarks harbour	N/a				
11/4/2020 20:32:42	Lorraine Ross	Stoney Island					
11/4/2020 20:33:03	Cecil Ross	Stoney Island					
11/4/2020 20:33:21	Falyn Goreham-Smith	Woods Harbour, NS	N/a				
11/4/2020 20:36:08	Nixon Ross	Cape Sable Island					
11/4/2020 20:37:20	Petora Newell	Stoney Island	n/a				
11/4/2020 20:43:47	Emily Smith	Woods Harbour	n/a				
11/4/2020 20:44:50	Celeste hatfield	Woods Harbour NS					
11/4/2020 20:56:41	Debbie Smith	Shag Harbour, NS	N/A				
11/4/2020 21:01:06	Megan	Shag Harbour					
11/4/2020 21:05:05	Cindy Perry	Port Clyde	N/a				
11/4/2020 21:21:11	Suzanne Newell	Oak park, Barrington	NA				
11/4/2020 21:26:19	Monty Smith	Shag Harbour	N/a				
11/4/2020 21:28:22	Ashley Nickerson	Cape Sable Island	Na				
11/4/2020 21:37:04	Shannon Jones	Centerville	You said everything I have been stressing about especially the blended families and child care!				
11/4/2020 21:41:02	Amber Hiltz	Shag Harbour	N/A				
11/4/2020 21:42:12	Robbie Newell	Stoney Island	n/a				
11/4/2020 21:42:28	Stefan Newell	Barrington	Na				
11/4/2020 22:15:25	Ian Nickerson	Barrington					
11/4/2020 23:35:52	Jocelyn Smith	North East Point, CSI					
11/4/2020 23:53:58	Ryan Ross	Cape sable island	N/A				
11/5/2020 5:43:23	Todd Brannen	Pubnico					
11/5/2020 5:43:41	Jill Brannen	Pubnico					
11/5/2020 5:44:07	Brenda Armstrong	Yarmouth					
11/5/2020 5:44:22	Janine Dixon	Tusket NS	N/a				
11/5/2020 5:44:27	Mike Armstrong	Tusket					
11/5/2020 5:44:46	Elaine Ross	Cape Sable Island					
11/5/2020 5:45:02	Chris Ross	Cape Sable Island					
11/5/2020 6:19:18	Shelley smith	Clark's harbour	n/a				
11/5/2020 6:19:55	corey smith	ckarks harbout	n/a				
11/5/2020 6:23:59	Makynzie Smith	Woods Harbour					
11/5/2020 6:39:30	Jolene Nickerson	North East Point, Cape Sable Island					
11/5/2020 7:00:33	Graydon Mood	Barrington, Nova Scotia	N/A				
11/5/2020 7:04:59	Maitlynn Dixon	Oak Park Barrington	Na				
11/5/2020 7:07:36	Stacey swim	Clarks harbour					
11/5/2020 7:26:48	Alexandra Stoddard	Port Clyde	N/A				
11/5/2020 7:30:07	Natina Fisher	North East Point	N/A				
11/5/2020 7:36:24	Rose Crowell	Bear Point	N/a				
11/5/2020 7:36:41	Kenda d'Eon Amiro	Pubnico	N/a				
11/5/2020 7:37:58	Larissa Nickerson	Centreville South Side Road					
11/5/2020 7:56:55	Karine Smith	Doctors Cove					
11/5/2020 8:27:04	Sandy Thorburn Goodwin	Barrington NS	N/a				
11/5/2020 8:27:51	Chris Goodwin	Barrington ns	N/a				
11/5/2020 8:28:23	Lindsey Nickerson	Barrington	N/A				
11/5/2020 8:39:04	Vanna Ross	Northeast point					
11/5/2020 8:44:20	Marina Williams	Port Clyde					
11/5/2020 9:04:26	Michelle Stoddard	Clyde River	N/A				
11/5/2020 9:23:23	Shauna Snow	Stoney Island	N/a				
11/5/2020 9:37:40	Della smith	Clark's Harbour Shelb. Co	n/a				
11/5/2020 9:45:20	Joyce Newell	North East Point	NA				
11/5/2020 9:46:44	Karen Stoddard	Newellton	NA				
11/5/2020 9:47:15	Matt Stoddard	Newellton	Na				
11/5/2020 10:00:13	Stephen Maxwell	Beaverdam , Shelburne C	I fully agree with this letter.				
11/5/2020 10:16:38	Lori Smith	Newellton					
11/5/2020 10:34:23	Samantha Atkinson	Woods Harbour					
11/5/2020 10:56:30	Claire Newell	Centreville	N/a				
11/5/2020 11:00:46	sharon wolkins	wireless station rd					
11/5/2020 11:26:57	Kegin watt	Shag harbour	N/A				
11/5/2020 11:29:21	Jennifer messenger	Clark's harbour	N/a				
11/5/2020 11:35:17	Lorraine	Stoney Island	N/a				
11/5/2020 11:44:19	Karen	Cape sable island					
11/5/2020 12:04:55	Robin MacDougall	Beaverdam	N/a				
11/5/2020 12:47:28	Geri ross	Shag harbour					
11/5/2020 12:50:54	Gina Smith	Woods Harbour	Would love for more fans to be able to support our barons. Many siblings,step parents, grandparents etc. are being left out with such a low spectator limit				

Guidelines for Venues & Facilities

All businesses, organizations and employees need to follow the [Health Protection Act Order and public health directives](#) to limit the spread of COVID-19. It is important that we all understand the current restrictions and public health advice currently in place. You can read the full Health Protection Act Order [here](#).

This document is designed for venues and facilities that have the capacity to host large gatherings or events. This document will guide you through building a plan that will help our province limit the spread of COVID-19.

For your facility to host audiences larger than the current gathering limits, your plan needs to outline how the facility will safely manage zones of 200 (indoors) and 250 (outdoors), along with how all public health directives will be followed.

This guide is meant to help you build a plan to manage those zones and implement all necessary public health recommendations. If your facility does not have the capacity to manage separate zones, you must operate within the current gathering limits.

Your plan must be available for onsite inspectors and all venues are responsible for its implementation. Inspections may happen at any time.

Nova Scotia's COVID-19 website has a check list for creating a prevention plan, which you can find here: <https://novascotia.ca/reopening-nova-scotia/prevention-plans/#reopening>

Your plan must outline:

- How many zones can be managed (what is the limit depending upon event type)
- How you plan to prevent crossover of zones of 200 at all times. This must include separate entrances/exits, separate washrooms, separate concessions for each group of 200 and separate walking paths into/out of the venue. If separate entrances, exits, concessions and washroom isn't feasible, your plan must clearly outline how zones will be formed and managed, how you will prevent mixing and mingling between zones, and how these instructions will be communicated to audiences.
If this is not possible, you cannot have multiple zones.

- How you will sell tickets to existing households or close social groups of up to 10 within each zone. Households and close social groups can sit or group together, but must remain 2 metres / 6 feet from other households / close social groups.
- Clarity on the process for managing and monitoring the individual zones
- The logistics of the event activity and how guidelines will be followed
- A plan for tracking all participants, volunteers, attendees, and event officials. It is recommended facilities keep these records for a minimum of 21 days after the event or activity has taken place
- An emergency plan for individuals displaying symptoms and how they will be isolated
- How the facility will communicate the public health directives to stakeholders and attendees prior to and during the event
- How the facility will ensure the use of non-medical masks by all participants, except when eating or drinking, along with maintaining a 2 metre / 6 foot distance
- How the venue will limit risk of transmission and promote hygiene practices
- How workers and/or vendors will be managed

Venues must develop a plan for each specific activity. For example, a hockey game with spectators might look different than an event featuring vendors or a concert.

Plans may need to be adjusted as new information regarding COVID-19 becomes available.

It's recommended to consult with your local municipality, sport/cultural governing body, local occupational health and safety office, local community officials, venue tenants or others who may be impacted throughout the development of your facility plan.

Gathering Limits

Stay up to date on the latest gathering limits and how they apply to your operation.

- All persons in attendance must practice physical distancing, except persons residing in the same household or close social group of up to 10 people.
- These gathering limits may change and it is the responsibility of the venue to stay up to date on public health requirements and adjust its plan as needed.

Developing Your Plan – Required Information

The following outlines a series of required protocols to ensure appropriate management of attendee safety, venue zones (not exceeding 200 attendees), capacity management, flow of people, cleaning, concessions, staff and suppliers. These protocols must align with the Health Protection Act Order and should be regularly monitored and adjusted based on evolving public health requirements.

Venues must do a risk assessment to assess the of potential hazards at their venue. The risk assessment will inform what control measures are required.

Seating & Ticketing

The seating and ticketing plan must be designed to facilitate zones of 200, while maintaining physical distancing between households or close social groups of 10 or fewer, enabling contact tracing and supporting the health and safety of facility staff and attendees. This list will be provided to Public Health to assist with any necessary contact tracing.

Some additional requirements include:

- All seating is required to be assigned in advance through a ticketing system.
- Seating must allow for a minimum of 2 metres / 6 feet between each party and/or group of seats.
- Tickets must not be sold in groups larger than 10.
- The ticket purchaser will be the primary contact used and must be able to provide the names of those in their party if there is a requirement for contact tracing.

- Tickets should be sold via an online/mobile ticketing solution. If online is not an option, the facility needs to consider alternatives such as an outside lineup with physical distancing or arrangements for individuals to pick up tickets at arranged times.
- At the time of ticket purchase, facilities should consider the opportunity to provide a disclaimer notifying the purchaser that their contact information is being collected in the event that contact tracing is required. The purchaser should agree to this requirement to finalize their order. Following the purchase, information should be provided outlining requirements for self-assessment, travel restrictions and individual public health protocols, like masking, hand hygiene and physical distancing. A summary of COVID-19 safety requirements should be on all tickets and reinforced at the venue through signage and announcements, if possible. Venues are also encouraged to make COVID-19 safety requirements available online via their website, social media and emails sent prior to the event.
- Each ticket will be assigned a zone based on location in the venue, which will indicate to the ticket holder which entrance/exit they must use as well as concessions and washroom amenities. Assigning zones based on seating location in the venue will prevent zone crossover and enable efficient contact tracing if required.
- Attendee contact information should be maintained for a minimum of 21 days in case COVID-19 is detected and contact tracing is required.
- Plans should include a seating map outlining locations of available seats for the event.

Venue Zones & Crowd Management

Physical distancing of 2 metres or 6 feet between all individuals helps reduce the spread of illness. Gatherings make this more difficult, so your plan must implement measures to encourage physical distancing across all facets of your facility and operation.

- A 2-metre / 6-foot physical distance must be maintained
 - Between families or groupings of people
 - Between staff and/or volunteers throughout the venue/event, including back of house
 - Between any booth or vendor spaces
 - Between participants/attendees
- Each ticket holder must be assigned to a zone within the facility.
- Zones are required to have their own designated washrooms, concessions and entrances/exits and outline how zones will be managed and prevent crossover between zones.
- Signage and/or colour coding system should be used to manage each zone, which can aid attendees to clearly understand zone boundaries.
- Have staff monitor line-ups to ensure physical distancing is being maintained.
- Visual cues such as drawing circles in the venue or on the grounds where seating isn't available to encourage physical distancing between households/ close social groups.
- Signage should be posted throughout the facility to promote physical distancing.
- Clear directional signage for entry and exit locations should be displayed, with extra staff to monitor physical distancing.
- Signage must be posted to promote and ensure one-way traffic for entering and exiting the venue, as well as the flow of people to and from washrooms and concessions.
- Increase the distance between seating, picnic tables and benches to ensure there is a 2-metre/6-foot distance between groups.
- From the entry point through to the seating location, a mix of staff, stanchions and floor markings will be used to separate the zones and guide attendees to their seats.

5

Declarations

Achieving a safe venue/event requires that an effective and responsible social contract be in place with patrons. They need to participate and contribute to achieving a safe event. Events and venues should include a patron declaration step in their COVID safety plans. The following questions should be used to identify individuals with a heightened risk for transmission:

- Are you feeling unwell?
- Have you traveled outside Atlantic Canada within the last 14 days?
- Are you a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- Are you waiting for results of a COVID-19 test?
- Are you self-isolating for any reason?

These declarations must be asked at the ticket purchase stage and upon arrival at the venue. If the guest answers 'yes' to any of these questions, they should not be permitted entry into the facility. Facilities should have a plan in place to contact local law enforcement in cases of non-compliance.

Washrooms

- Limit the number of occupants in the restroom at one time to allow for physical distancing.
- Do not allow lines or crowds to form near the restroom without maintaining a distance of at least 2 metres/6 feet from other people. Clearly post signs or markers to help attendees maintain the appropriate physical distance of at least 2 metres/6 feet.
- Ensure open restrooms are:
 - Operational with functional toilets
 - Cleaned and disinfected regularly, particularly high-touch surfaces such as faucets, toilets, stall doors, doorknobs, countertops, dispensers, diaper changing tables, and light switches. High touch surfaces, like those found in a washroom, should be cleaned and disinfected twice daily at a minimum and more often if necessary.

- Cleaned and disinfected with a Health Canada-recommended disinfectant, which is stored away from children
- Adequately stocked with supplies for handwashing, including soap and water or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), paper towels, tissues, and no-touch trash cans Portable washrooms for outdoor activities
- If you are providing portable toilets (outdoor events), you must also provide portable handwashing stations and ensure that they remain stocked throughout the duration of the event. If possible, also provide hand sanitizer stations, ideally ones that are touch free
- Organizers should develop a maintenance plan in place that outlines the number of washrooms and handwashing/sanitizing stations required, the frequency of cleaning, staffing requirements, etc.

Food & Beverage Service

- Place minimum 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers at booth for customer use.
- Use single service condiments, dispensed by staff, to avoid contamination.
- Avoid contact and maintain physical distance from customers when providing food orders.
- Consider a limited food and beverage menu that will be offered in each zone.
- Consider the option of offering food and beverage through a dedicated online/in-seat app.
- Alcohol purchases from concession stands is not permitted. In-seat service only.
- Attendees will only be permitted to eat and drink while in their seats and communication should be posted to advise on this requirement.
- All vendors must have a food permit, unless exempt. Information on food permits can be found at: <https://novascotia.ca/nse/food-protection/retailers.asp>

- Directional arrows and stanchions, ropes, or other form of physical crowd management will be in place at all concessions areas to facilitate physical distancing in queues.
- As an additional precaution to wearing non-medical masks within the venue, all concessions service areas will have plexiglass screens to protect staff and attendees.
- Make cashless payment options available and encouraged in all concession areas and bars.
 - If not an option, dedicate one staff person to handling money and one to food service if you are unable to adequately wash hands between tasks
- Follow the [Restaurant COVID-19 Rapid Recovery Guide for Nova Scotia Reopening Resource for Foodservice Operators](#)

Building Sanitization

Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects help prevent the spread of COVID-19. This will reduce the chance of people becoming ill after touching dirty surfaces. Cleaning does not kill germs but helps remove them from the surface. Disinfecting refers to using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This is most effective after surfaces are cleaned. Both steps are important to reduce the spread of infection. Do not mix cleaning agents and disinfectants together or use multiple disinfectants together.

- Areas touched often (e.g. tables, railings, light switches, doorknobs, toilets, cash boxes, etc.) should be cleaned and disinfected at least twice daily and more often as needed
- An approved disinfectant must be used to eliminate the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. Consult the products instruction for proper dilution and use for disinfection. Consult the product's Safety Data Sheets for storage and handling requirements. For a list of recommended disinfectants, refer to: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>
- Items used between customers (i.e. point of sale systems) must be disinfected between each use

- Sharing of items used by venue staff, participants or performers (i.e. equipment, instruments) should be avoided
- Equipment, instruments and other items that must be shared or passed between individuals should be cleaned and disinfected at an increased frequency. If this is not possible, individuals touching these props should perform hand hygiene before and after touching the items
- Try to avoid the use and handling of cash by using contactless payment. If not possible, it is recommended you keep the cash you receive separate from the cash you use to make change. Try to round your prices to dollar values that will not require change. Have a designated area on the table for customers to leave cash
- Building mechanical ventilation systems(s) should be checked before the event, and each day after, to ensure equipment is operating as intended
- Consideration should be given to changing ventilation system air filters between events, where applicable
- At indoor events, opening windows to increase air flow when weather permits may help reduce the spread of illness
- Waste should be disposed of regularly and hands should be washed after waste removal. No-touch waste receptacles should be used
- Plan should outline the frequency of cleaning high-touch surfaces and the deep cleaning protocols used for the cleaning and sanitization of front-of-house and participant/team spaces post event
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizing stations (minimum 60%) should be located throughout the facility zones and at seating area entrance points with posted signage to support hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

Communicating Your Plan

Ensuring attendees, clients and participants are properly informed and reminded about requirements is important to delivering a safe event and ensuring an enjoyable experience for all.

- Consider how the facility will communicate the new COVID-19 protocols to stakeholders, ticket buyers, tenants and regular users of the facility well in advance of the changes taking place.
- Use in-venue digital signage (if available), such as a video scoreboard or concourse signage, to reinforce both facility and personal hygiene protocols.
- Make announcements throughout the event to remind attendees of the protocols.
- Use facility social media channels and website to post the protocols.
- Signage throughout the facility and within back-of-house spaces to outline COVID-19 protocols, including reinforcement of the importance of monitoring for symptoms.

Employee & Supplier Protocols

Recognize the importance of keeping your staff safe and ensuring that they are properly informed and trained.

- Provide advance communication on what to expect when returning to work, including information about new procedures.
- Conduct training with facility staff and third-party suppliers to ensure they are aware of the protocols and their responsibilities for enforcement.
- Implement an employee self-assessment tool to ensure a pre-screening prior to reporting to work. Staff who feel unwell or have limitations due to travel restrictions will be asked to stay home. If an employee begins showing signs or symptoms of COVID-19 once arriving to work, they must be isolated and sent home to complete the COVID-19 self-assessment tool for further guidance.

- Staff should be restricted to entering and exiting the venue through dedicated staff entrances that require an individual sign in process to support contact tracing.
- Supplier access to the venue should be managed through a single-entry point and require sign-in.
- Require all staff, regardless of role, to wear a non-medical mask while at the venue.
- Provide cleaning stations in all common areas and staff areas, including disinfectant wipes and alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Post proper handwashing guidelines in all staff areas to ensure frequent reminders.
- Consider the appointment of a facility safety lead by team and shift to ensure protocols are adhered to.
- Provide safety checklists by team and shift for clear monitoring of protocols and procedures.

Venue Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the venue and the event organizer to maintain oversight of the gathering and to ensure all persons in attendance comply with the requirement of the facility's COVID-19 plan as well as the requirements under Nova Scotia's [Health Protection Act Order](#).

Inspectors will be onsite, without notice.

In the situation where a facility is renting the venue to an organization or event, it is the responsibility of the facility to ensure the facility guidelines are provided in advance and followed throughout. Facilities are encouraged to work with the organization to develop and submit a plan to the facility for review.

Event Organizer / Rental Responsibilities

The renter of the facility must ensure each event is organized and hosted within the requirements as set out in the [Health Protection Act Order](#) and within the requirements as defined by the facility. The facility is ultimately responsible for the oversight of all protocols related to their facility.

Enforcement

Government inspectors may do spot checks at facilities without notice and will request of copy of the facility and event/organizers COVID-19 plan. They will ensure the facility is following its plan and meeting public health and health and safety requirements. Failure to comply or manage the requirements of the [Health Protection Act Order](#) may result in closure of the facility and/or penalties.

If you have any questions or concerns about these guidelines you can contact the [Events Nova Scotia Team](#).

Links

[COVID-19 Prevention Guide for event organizers, theatres and performance venues](#)

Link to [coronavirus](#) (COVID-19): occupational health and safety hazards

[Health Protection Act Order](#)

[Self Assessment Tool](#)

[Daily Checklist](#)

EXISTING ARENA Seating Plan

for Covid-19
90 Seats Total

(Actually 105 Stickers)

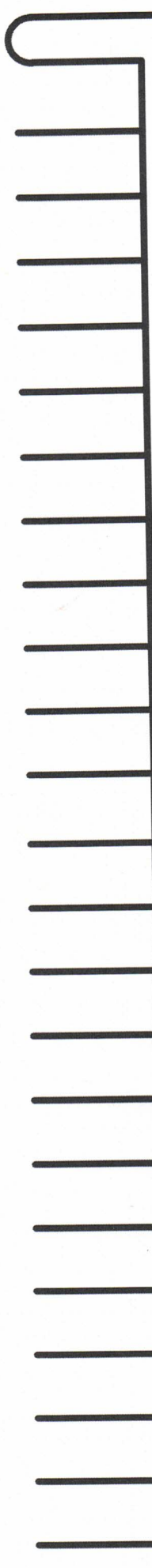
COORDINATOR

Stairs

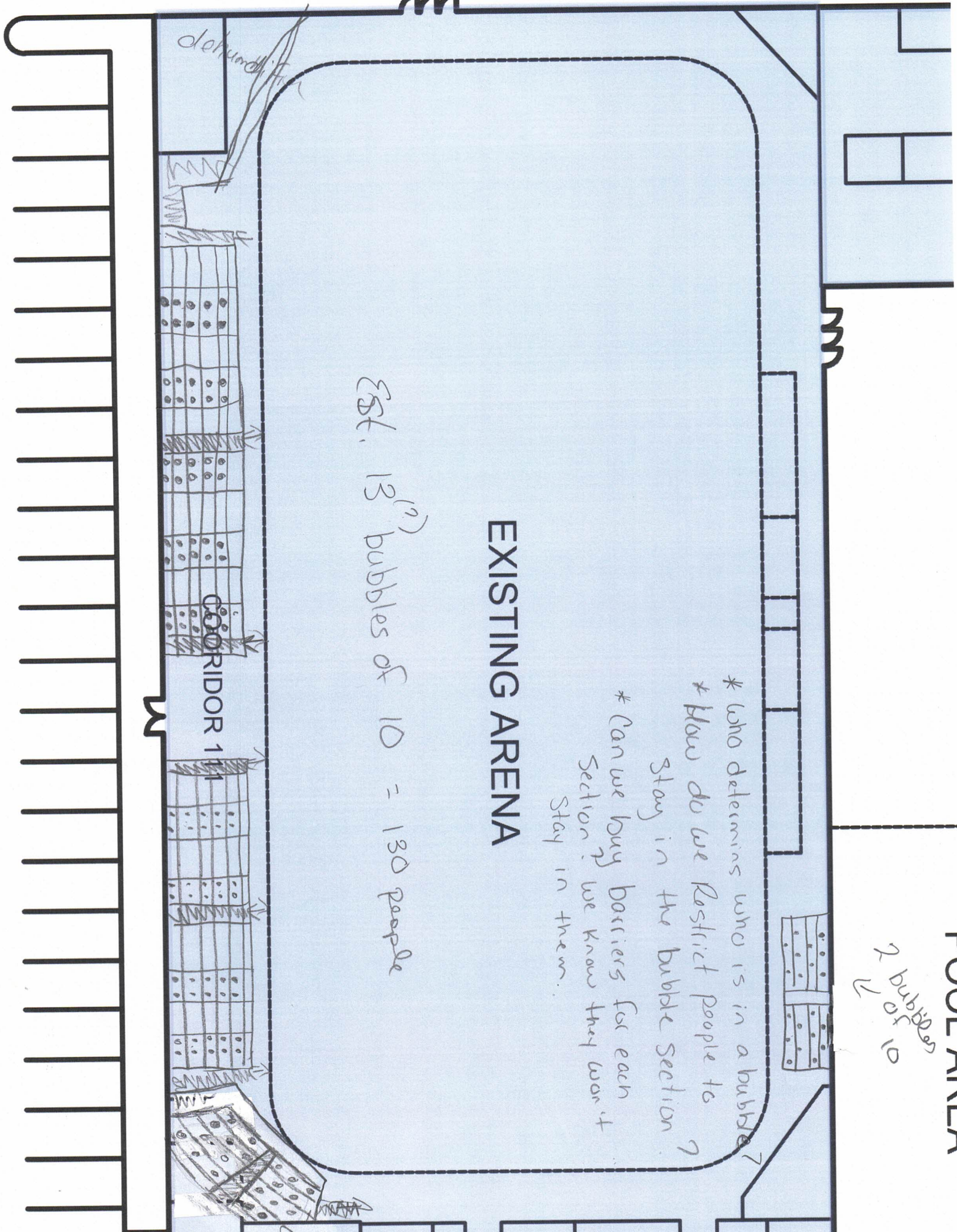
Stairs

Stairs

855
100



233



EXISTING ARENA

Est. 13⁽¹⁹⁾ bubbles of 10 = 130 people

- * Who determines who is in a bubble?
- * How do we restrict people to stay in the bubble section?
- * Can we buy barriers for each section? we know they won't stay in them.

POOL AREA
 2 bubbles of 10

delimited floor

CORRIDOR 1

Pos



Sandy Wickens Memorial Arena

Return to Ice plan

General

This document serves as the Sandy Wickens Memorial Arena opening and operating plan during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Municipality of Barrington is committed to following the guidelines set out by the Government of Nova Scotia and the Chief Medical Officer. The following policies and procedures are in place to help keep the spread of Covid-19 down and maintain the health and safety of our users. All policies and procedures are in place per the current recommendations of the Province and may relax or restrict further depending on the state of emergency.

It is expected that all patrons will follow the rules set by this facility, the guidelines of their respective sport plans and the Nova Scotia Health Protection Act.

Opening Date

The tentative date set for ice availability is October 1, 2020. This is subject to change according to the directives of the Chief Medical Officer or any other unforeseen complications due to weather or facility malfunctions.

Waivers & Agreements

Along with the Regular users' agreement, the Municipality of Barrington is asking users to sign an additional Rental Agreement and/or Facility Use Attestation and Agreement that states they will follow the rules put in place due to Covid-19. All associations, clubs and regular user groups must sign and adhere to the Facility Use Attestation and Agreement before being permitted to use the ice. All other bookings must sign the Sandy Wickens Memorial Rental Agreement, listing all participants during the time of use.



Entrances and Exits and flow of traffic

Enter through main lobby doors

Exits will be side door between bleachers for spectators and back door by dressing rooms for rental participants who are accessing the dressing rooms.

Masks

As per the current province wide mandated mask policy masks must be worn in all areas of the arena except for when on the ice surface.

Space limitations and Restrictions

- Dressing Rooms – Full access to dressing rooms 15 minutes prior to and after ice time. If a parent is required to help little ones get dressed please limit to 1 parent per participant in the dressing room.
- Players Benches – Access as needed.
- Showers – Restricted until further notice
- Hospitality Room – Only available to local organizations for meetings or “Bubble” bookings. Bubble bookings are things like birthday parties and social gatherings, under the current restrictions for gatherings that do not fall under organized sports the non-social distancing number is 10. (please see - <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/restrictions-and-guidance/#gatherings>)
- Lobby – There will be no loitering, the lobby will only be used as a pass through to access the arena and dressing rooms or to order and pick up food from the canteen.
- Spectator Seats/Bleachers – Rental organizers will be responsible to maintain their assigned maximum spectator numbers.
 - Minor Hockey- Seating will be open to two(2) spectators per participant, up to a maximum of 80 people in the stands, social distancing markers will be in place and maximum numbers will be maintained by the association.
 - High School Hockey Games – Seating will be open for up to 90 spectators (the balcony will be open only for High school games and accommodate 10 spectators), social distancing markers are in place and maximum numbers will be maintained by the High School.

- Shelburne County Skating Club – Seating will be open for up to 80 spectators, social distancing markers are in place and maximum numbers will be maintained by the club.
- Timekeeper booth & music room – The timekeeper booth will be available for Skate Nova Scotia participants to play music as needed; wipes/sanitizers will be provided to wipe down touched surfaces after use. It will be available to hockey groups as the game play restrictions relax. The upstairs music room is off-limits.
- Referee/Medical Room – This room will only be available in the case of a medical emergency and is designated as the “quarantine room” should someone show symptoms of Covid-19. As game play is allowed Referees ONLY will have access.
- Upstairs Balconies – Both balconies are off limits with the exception of a SCMHA representative to access the minor hockey room. Balcony Seating will be open for BMHS hockey games ONLY.
- Main lobby washrooms - restricted to 2 users at a time, stalls/urinals will be limited.

Arena organized functions and Private Rentals

There will be no open public skates.

Pre-school/home school and Adult/Senior skates will remain in place, but participants must pre-register and will be capped at 15 people.

The ice surface may be privately rented for groups of up to 50 people socially distancing on the ice.

Skate aids will be available upon request but must be wiped down by the user when done.

Booking Times

Booking times will be spaced 15 mins apart to allow for cleaning and sanitizing. Due to the added time, it may limit ice times available. For this reason, we are prioritizing youth bookings, i.e. Minor hockey, and Skate NS.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

Along with the regular cleaning and maintenance of the arena, the staff will be taking time between bookings to clean and sanitize high touched surfaces such as door handles, vending machines, and seating areas. There will be a cleaning checklist to be followed and initialed.

Skate Sharpening

There will be no on-demand skate sharpening. There will be a designated day/time (tba) for sharpening. Skates can be dropped off before the designated day/time and picked up that evening (if needed for a rental) or day after.

Skates can be dropped off no later than the day before they are needed and will be sharpened when staff has time during the evening and can be picked up the next day.

General user Rules

- Users will only be permitted in the building 15 minutes prior to their ice time and have 15 minutes after to exit the building.
- Participants are encouraged to come fully prepared for their ice time with the exception of skates and helmets due to the limited time before rental.
- User groups are expected to follow their Return to sport guidelines as they pertain to development sessions and game play.
- Users are expected to follow all rules pertaining to Covid-19 (do not attend if feeling unwell, if you have been in close contact to someone feeling unwell, etc.).
- Users are expected to follow the directional arrows for traffic flow.



Daily Cleaning check list

The Following must be completed before each new rental

Main Arena

- Bleachers – Clear debris and Sanitize hard surfaces
- Players Benches – Sanitize (wipe or spray)
- Board ledges and Water bottle holders
- Pop machine – Wipe high touched areas with sanitizer
- Door handles – Sanitize with wipes or spray
- Garbage if necessary

Lobby/washrooms

- Door handles – Sanitize with wipes or spray
- Vending Machine & ATM - Wipe high touched areas with sanitizer
- Sinks/Taps - Wipe high touched areas with sanitizer
- Toilets/Urinals - Wipe high touched areas with sanitizer
- Garbage if necessary



Updated: September 25, 2020 – cs

Updated: October 13, 2020 - cs