June 11, 2020

We want to add some clarity to rumors that have been going around regarding the possibility of ice rinks reopening with the Santa Clara County Covid-19 update of June 5th. The county did change the wording of the Summer Camp section to allow all children into summer camps and not only the children of essential workers. But, then the June 5th County update went on to include details of how these summer camps could be staffed. First, only 12 children could be in a group, and that group could not comingle with any other group. Second, any instructor or coach of that group would, in effect, become a member of that group and could not teach any other group of kids at any time that same day or that same week. The groups could only be changed every 3 weeks. The reason for this rule is so a coach or instructor could not be a vector in spreading Covid-19 from one group of kids and families to another.

The number of instructors/coaches needed to make something like an S3 program work would be beyond the capacity of any club, since they could only be on the ice with 1 group of 12 kids for a 3 week period.

We have not updated any opening dates yet because there is no one who actually knows, other than complete speculation, as to when those dates will be and what conditions/restrictions will be in place at that time. We could speculate with dates and rules, but we feel that we shouldn’t give our customers false information that a program will start on a certain date and have you make plans accordingly, only to have to tell you the date has been changed yet again and your plans are no longer viable.

Here is a note from the State of California Department of Public Health dated 6/8/2020 regarding guidance in the easing of some restrictions:

**NOTE: This guidance is not intended for ice rinks, roller rinks, laser tag arenas, etc., where guests are less able to maintain physical distancing of at least six feet, where a central part of the activity is circulating in the space, and which can accommodate a large number of guests who are mainly from different households.**

As soon as we have some factual information from the State of California and/or the Santa Clara County Health Department regarding opening dates and the rules for opening, we will use all options available to us to get the word out on the date, rules and the programs that we can offer. Until then, we ask for your patience and keep safe.

May 2020

We hope this finds you as well as can be expected. There is no doubt we are all missing hockey and can’t wait to begin play again. When new information becomes available from the State of California or the Santa Clara Health Department, we will let everyone know. However, we will not speculate on what might happen just to have something to say.

At this point, all Norcal 2019-2020 playoffs have been cancelled. We know that tryouts cannot begin before the following dates, but no one knows with any type of certainty when the actual dates will be. All we know is that, according to CAHA, AA tryouts cannot happen before August 21, and A/B tryouts cannot happen before August 28. To be clear, these dates were mentioned more to give everyone peace of mind that nothing could possibly happen before those dates. The actual tryout dates may very well turn out to be well after the dates mentioned by CAHA above. We are not going to set tryout dates when we know they are highly volatile at the current time.

Once USA Hockey, CAHA, the State of California and the Santa Clara County Health Department agree that hockey can be played, we will announce tryout dates and immediately post our tryout schedule, opening up registration. In addition, we will hold Zoom meetings so everyone has a better understanding of the tryout procedures, once we know what the procedure will actually be.

Until that point, we will continue our ongoing communication with local government and health department so we have a clear understanding of the updated governing rules and to give them any information they might need regarding specifics of ice rinks and ice hockey.

We are prepared for updated rules that will allow reopening within the safety and social distancing guidelines provided by the governing bodies. Detailed plans will be provided to all participants well in advance of any registration deadlines, and will be part of the Zoom meetings mentioned above.

The ice is in great shape and the facility is well prepared for the safety measures that will be put in place, both on and off the ice, to allow reopening.

And, we would like to clear up something that became a “thing” when the state announced certain facilities could open that were only for the children of essential workers, basically acting as day care so the parents could do their critically important work. This program does not apply, and never applied, to conducting a hockey skills class. The Santa Clara County Health Department was very clear when we contacted them: Customers - “need to be prepared to explain if requested by law enforcement why their travel is allowable under the Order.” Rinks – “if you believe your business is covered under the Order, be prepared if requested to provide justification/explanation to local law enforcement.”

We think it is unconscionable for anyone to try to profit off of the situation and the critical job that essential workers perform by taking advantage of the desire everyone has to simply get out of the house and back to something approaching normal.

We look forward to serving our entire hockey community as SOON as its safe to do so!!