



ARENA RESTART PROTOCOLS 2020/21





MEDIA REGULATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

While media access is critically important to promoting our Players, our Clubs and our sport, we are faced with an exceptionally challenging time with the effects of COVID-19. In that context, the following Media Regulations (the “2020/21 Media Regulations”) have been agreed to by the National Hockey League (NHL) and the National Hockey League Players’ Association (NHLPA) in order to, first and foremost, establish health and safety measures to ensure that all constituencies are protected to the fullest extent possible. At the same time, the 2020/21 Media Regulations are intended to continue to facilitate and promote effective and efficient methods of communicating to NHL fans through media interaction during this unique period. The 2020/21 Media Regulations will remain in place until we are able to return to normal operations. Media credentials may be revoked for noncompliance or for violation of the 2020/21 Media Regulations or the 2020/21 NHL Season COVID-19 Protocol.

“GROUP” DESIGNATIONS

In the 2020/21 NHL Season COVID-19 Protocol, all participants are assigned to “Groups” based on their roles and responsibilities, and their level of access to: (a) Player areas, (hereafter “Restricted Areas”) and (b) other areas (hereafter “Non-Restricted Areas”). Pursuant to that Protocol, **media are designated in Group 4.** Group 4 individuals shall always maintain the use of face coverings and physical distancing and shall have no in-person access to Players. Media subject to these 2020/21 Media Regulations shall be permitted to attend games and Club practices, but shall be subject to the restrictions listed below.

COMPLIANCE AND COOPERATION

The NHL and NHLPA will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the 2020/21 Media Regulations with the Member Clubs. Additionally, General Managers are responsible for ensuring that Players and Head Coaches are available and in full compliance with the new procedures as prescribed in the 2020/21 Media Regulations. No Head Coach or Player shall be excused from their media access obligations without League and Players’ Association approval. Failure to comply may result in fines. Repeated non-compliance may result in escalating fines. All Player fines shall be assessed in accordance with Exhibit 14 of the CBA and shall be subject to the grievance provisions of Article 17 of the CBA.

Overall cooperation between the NHL, NHLPA, Member Clubs and media representatives is crucial to the success of the 2020/21 Media Regulations. Final interpretation of these 2020/21 Media Regulations rests solely with the NHL and the NHLPA.

MEDIA ACCESS

All media access to Players, Coaches and Executives during the 2020/21 NHL Regular Season will be conducted through virtual means. There will be no event level or locker room access by any media during the 2020/21 NHL Regular Season, and no in person interviews will be permitted at any time. The Club will make best efforts to set up requested one-on-one interviews with the Players and the Head Coach, as appropriate.

Subject to any local, provincial/state, and/or federal restrictions, each Club will determine the number of media representatives who will be permitted access to the game and practice venues, and will also identify the media access areas, including the press box and/or other designated locations – all of which must be in Non-Restricted Areas of the venue.

Media representatives are subject to the following entry/access restrictions at both game and practice venues:

- There shall be no direct in-person interactions between any media members and anyone at the Club, including, without limitation, anyone on the Club's playing, management, coaching and support staffs. In addition, no one who has direct in-person contact with any media members (e.g., public relations staff assigned to service media) can have direct in-person contact with any of the Club's Players, coaches or staff members.

A. HEALTH SCREENINGS

- Media must enter the Club facilities (practice or game arena) through a separate entrance from the one used by the Club's Players, coaches and staff. At that entrance, each media member must be subject to a health screening. Such media shall comply with the health screening process adopted at each arena, and shall not enter the venue if they, or their household members and close contacts:
 - Are newly experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19;
 - Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days; or
 - Have been exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days, to their knowledge.

Additionally, if an individual is subject to a local, provincial/state, or federal quarantine, they shall not enter the venue.

- If any media member answers affirmatively to any of the above questions, they shall not be admitted entry to the facility and will need to follow up with their own physician for care, and shall not return to Club Facilities until they have been medically cleared by their personal physician to do so.

B. PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Media must view practices from a safe and secure location which satisfies distance, barrier and airflow guidelines, as follows:
 - **Distance:** Media must social distance from one another (minimum 6 feet) and be kept at a more significant distance from Club staff.

- **Barrier:** Unless they are significantly distanced from Players and Club staff (e.g., not on the same level of your facility), there should be a physical barrier between media and Players and Club staff.
- **Airflow:** Media shall not be staged in a place such as the entrance to a seating section where airflow may transmit any droplets toward the ice or Club staff.
- All interviews following games and practices shall be conducted via Zoom or some virtual equivalent. There are to be no mixed zones or in-person press conferences, regardless of how far the Players and coaches are distanced from the media.

Each Club shall submit to John Dellapina ([REDACTED]) and Jamey Horan ([REDACTED]) a detailed description (including photos and/or labeled diagrams) of its proposed media set-up (and the number of media it might expect to accommodate on a given day) for League review and approval, prior to the 2020/21 NHL Season.

FACE COVERINGS

Media representatives must always properly wear face coverings while inside the training facility and/or arena. See below:

- Face coverings shall completely cover the mouth and nose, fit snugly against the sides of the face, and shall be secured under the chin.
- Acceptable face coverings include medical grade masks or 3-layer cloth coverings (or at least two cloth layers with a filter).
- Gaiters are not permitted to function as face coverings.
- Bandanas are not permitted to function as face coverings.
- Use of a face shield does not eliminate the requirement to wear a face covering underneath.
- Face coverings with exhalation valves or vents are prohibited.

GAMES

Approximately 10 minutes following the conclusion of each NHL game, each Club will make a representative number of key Players and the Head Coach available for virtual interviews. The media access period for both Clubs will run concurrently. The selected Players and Head Coaches of each Club will be positioned in a separate area of the venue for the interview access period. The virtual media access periods will be organized and moderated by each Club's communications staff.

PRACTICE DAYS/MORNING SKATES

Media access to practices and morning skates will follow similar guidelines as media access for games. All media access to Players, Coaches or Executives will be conducted virtually. Each Club will determine the number of media representatives permitted access to the practices and morning skates as well as identify the media access areas. Each Club will make a representative number of key Players and the Head Coach available virtually whether the Club practices or not. The virtual media access periods will be organized and moderated by each Club's communications staff.

ACCREDITATION

Media accreditation for games, morning skates and practices for the 2020/21 NHL Regular Season will be determined by each Club in consultation with the NHL/NHLPA. Accreditation should be consistent with job function (i.e. television, print/online reporting, videographers and still photographers). All media must contact the Home Club for credentials. Media credentials are not transferable and may be revoked for noncompliance or for violation of the NHL Media Access Policy or the 2020/21 NHL Season COVID-19 Protocol.

Media are required to wear their credential at all times while in the Club facility.

PRESS BOX/MEDIA SEATING

A limited number of press box seats will be assigned to accredited media representatives either in the press box or in an auxiliary area designated by the Club. All seats must be physically distanced and all other health and safety protocols must be followed.

PRESS NOTES/STATISTICS

All game notes and statistics pertaining to the upcoming games will be available digitally prior to and during each game. Digital statistics will be available after the game.

INJURY REPORT

Absent prior approval by the League (who shall consult with the NHLPA), there shall be no disclosure by the Club to the media or to the public of information relating to a Player's positive test result or to a Player developing COVID-19 symptoms during Training Camp. At the conclusion of the Training Camp period, the League can make one announcement stating the total number of Players (without personal or Club identity) who tested positive during Training Camp. During the Regular Season, the League will announce, via official NHL media and social media platforms, the names of Players who have tested positive for COVID-19 as soon as is practical and, in all cases, before the Player(s)' Club's next game once any such positive test is confirmed. Clubs are required to inform the League as soon as a positive test is confirmed and to immediately implement the NHL/NHLPA's Positive Test Protocol. Decisions regarding a Player's return to play will be made by his Club's medical staff in accordance with local health guidelines and protocols.