

October 19, 2020

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Aaron Bisson, Manager of Recreation and Culture

RE: Spectators in the Arenas

Two weeks have passed since the beginning of the Ice in season at the Memorial Sports Centre. The first week we had the 52 Canadians Arena operating and for the second week the Ice for Kids Arena was brought online. There have been many changes in how ice users interact with the facility and the requirements the staff must adhere to this year compared to years past. With these new rules and procedures there have been growing pains associated with the operating of the facilities. The Memorial Sports Centre Staff and Administration are working with the user groups to continue to get buy-in from participants. It is of utmost importance that the intake/departure process operates as designed before allowing several spectators into the building which will significantly increase the workload on the screeners.

There have been a couple of changes to rules to help alleviate some congestion in the building and make the experience easier on the users. The Memorial Sports Centre now has a separate entrance for each ice rink to eliminate some of the congestion in the intake areas and allow more time for cleaning intake areas before the next group arrives. The no bag rule has been modified to allow for a small duffle bag to be brought in to store personal items such as participants masks, gloves, personal affects, hats, etc. Hockey bags however are still prohibited and participants are still required to be dressed when entering the facility and are only able to put on their skates/helmets/gloves once in the facility, all other equipment must be worn coming into the facility.

To allow for a successful start to the U9 & U7 season and to allow the facility to fully determine the impact of allowing an additional 20-30 people into the facility per ice surface, it is proposed that the user groups be allowed to have one parent/guardian per U9 or U7 player attend the facility and stay through the duration of the practice/game in the seating areas. As with other parts of the building it is mandatory that masks be worn while in the arena viewing areas.

In the Ice for Kids arena parents will be asked to access the stands areas via the staircase at the East Ice for Kids Entrance door. Sections C,D,E&F will be the designated areas to be used with all other sections of the arena roped off. Two of the first three rows will be used for seating to allow for social distancing and users will practice physical distancing. Once the practice/game has ended the parents will exit out the main entrance/exit of the IFK arena and then proceed out the front doors as before.

In the 52 Canadians arena parents will be asked to access the stands via the west stairs by the 52 ice users' entrance. The yellow seats will be the designated seats for users with all other seating being roped off and users will practice physical distancing. Once the practice/game has ended the parents will exit out the southeast exit of the 52 Canadians arena and then proceed out the front doors as before.

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Recommendation

The Community Services Executive Committee recommends to Mayor and Council to allow one spectator per child for the U7 & U9 age groups to allow for more data to be collected and a higher rate of compliance with facility rules before allowing parents/spectators for all levels of users. Determination of parents/spectators for other levels of users is at the discretion of the Recreation and Culture Manager. The change to the Ice in Plan and Participation Requirements to allow spectators for the U9 & U7 age groups would take effect on Tuesday October 27, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Bisson

Aaron Bisson
Manager of Recreation and Culture

Council approval of this report will agree to the recommendation of the Community Services Executive Committee to allow one spectator per child for the U7 & U9 age groups to allow for more data to be collected and a higher rate of compliance with facility rules before allowing parents/spectators for all levels of users beginning Tuesday October 27, 2020 and that the availability of spectators of older users be determined by the Recreation and Culture Manager when appropriate.