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May 15, 2020

The Honorable Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Getting Minnesotans Back on the Ice

The Minnesota Ice Arena Managers Association, Inc. (MIAMA) is a 501 C (6) non-profit organization representing the operators and manager of 110 ice arenas across Minnesota. MIAMA provides communication and support systems for arenas, arena managers, and staff to better face issues within the industry. MIAMA is also a networking platform for our members to share best practices.

MIAMA and its members thank you for your hard work and consistency in dealing with COVID-19. Your leadership and plan have shown the country that Minnesota is in a better position than many other states. Please share our thanks with your colleagues.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that MIAMA members and their 300 plus workers are prepared to safely reopen ice rinks throughout the state. MIAMA believes that the size, layout, and private group usage of ice arenas make them a “predictable setting” and as such can be safely reopened in the next phase on or around June 1, 2020.

In consideration of this action, MIAMA is following and referring to the attached COVID -19 guidance of the following industry groups:

- OSHA – COVID-19: Protecting Ice Arena Workers and Customers (draft under review)
- US Ice Arena Association, USA Hockey, USA Figure Skating – Returning to the Rinks
- Ice Sports Industry – Pandemic Preparedness & Response Plan for Reopening Ice Facilities

MIAMA and its members are recommending the following phased process to safely reopen arena facilities for all workers and customers:

- **PHASE 1 – Individual Groups Only (Highly Predictable Traffic)**
 - a. All employees and customers subjected to health screenings.
 - b. All events are scheduled in advance, open to members, groups, and teams only and do not have spectators.
 - c. Schedules continue as adjusted to minimize overlap in arrivals and departures Events are in group team practices and training with no actual games being played.

- **PHASE 2 – Re-Introduction of Game Play (Predictable Traffic)**
 - a. All employees and customers continue to be subjected to health screenings.
 - b. Events continue to be scheduled in advance, open to members, groups, and teams only and do not have spectators.
 - c. Schedules continue as adjusted to minimize overlap in arrivals and departures Events can be multi-group or team practices, training, and games.

- **PHASE 3 – Spectator Events Resume (Predictable Traffic)**
 - a. All employees and customers continue to be subjected to health screenings.
 - b. Events continue to be scheduled in advance, open to members, groups, and teams. **Spectators are allowed but are limited to a reduced capacity per facility plan.**
 - c. Schedules continue as adjusted to minimize overlap in arrivals and departures.
 - d. Events can be multi-group team practices, training, and games.

Our hockey players, figure skaters, and curlers will also modify how they use the facility. Each of these ice sports programs while having some close contact between participants, does not share or pass objects back and forth with their bare hands. In other words, they have the ability to participate in their sport and follow recommended social distancing and physical contact guidelines.

Further, arena managers are willing to work with staff at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), the Minnesota Department of Public Health (MDH), and any other State of Minnesota agency as needed to ensure the facilities can safely reopen. MIAMA is currently working with the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (MDLI) on a fact sheet. MIAMA is already implementing MDH’s air quality controls. Our professional networks within MIAMA will allow for the leadership of each arena to follow guidelines and make all protocols their number one priority. MIAMA also has a COVID-19 page on our members only website miama.org to reference.

MIAMA respectfully requests that you consider allowing ice arenas to reopen in the next phase on or around June 1, 2020. We also request that you, to the extent practicable, provide us some advance notice of approval to open in order to prepare to meet customer requests. Several ice arenas have taken their ice out, and it takes one or two weeks to put the ice back in a building.

Thank you for your consideration. MIAMA thanks you for your leadership and time on this important decision for the State of Hockey.

Sincerely,

MIAMA Board of Directors

Cc Minnesota Hockey
 USA Hockey
 US Ice Rink Association
 Ice Sports Industry
 Northeast Ice Arena Managers Association
 Wisconsin Ice Arena Managers Association