

## Australian Olympians to be given COVID-19 vaccine priority

## Tokyo Olympics, IOC push ahead during state of emergency

TOKYO, April 28, (AP) — Local organizers and the International Olympic Committee pushed ahead Wednesday with plans to open the postponed Tokyo Olympics in just under three months, unveiling the latest set of rule books to show how the games can be held during a pandemic.

The timing of the second edition of the "Playbooks" is not ideal. The version for Olympic athletes is out Wednesday, with similar guides for other participants out on Friday.

Tokyo, Osaka and several other areas came under a third state of emergency this week, and the death toll in Japan from COVID-19 has passed 10,000. The numbers are good by global standards, but poor compared with other places in Asia such as Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand or South Korea.

The state of emergency has closed department stores, theme parks, and bars and restaurants serving alcohol. It also has forced baseball games to be played in empty stadiums after having allowed fans for much of the pandemic.

Polls consistently show 70-80% in Japan think the Olympics should not be held.

Only 1% of the Japanese population has been vaccinated and that number will still be small when the Olympics open on July 23. So far, officials say Japanese athletes have not been vaccinated.

This contrasts with many of the 15,000 Olympic and Paralympic athletes entering Japan who - encouraged by the IOC - will have shots. As will thousands of judges, officials, sponsors, media and broadcasters.

## OLYMPICS

This version of the Playbooks will offer more details than the first edition in February, but much of the specific planning will remain in flux until the final update comes out in June.

Though vaccines are now available, the strategy for the Olympics is geared around holding the games in a "bubble" as if there were no vaccines.

Organizers are not expected to announce until June if fans will be allowed into venues - and if so, how many. Fans from abroad have already been banned. The decision on venue capacity was promised to come to this month by organizing committee President Seiko Hashimoto, but has been pushed back.

Taro Kono, the minister in charge of vaccination, suggested earlier this month that empty venues seemed likely. Ticket sales were to account for \$800 million in revenue.

Organizers are expected to announce daily testing for athletes, up from once every four days in the early edition. They are also expected to drop a 14-day quarantine, allowing athletes to train upon arrival. Athletes will be required to stay in the Olympic Village on Tokyo Bay, and venues and training areas.

Japan's Kyodo news agency, citing unnamed sources, said athletes and staff will have to be tested twice within 96 hours before leaving home. They will also be tested upon arrival in Japan.

Toshiro Muto, the CEO of the Tokyo organizing committee, said this week that 500 nurses were being requested for the games. Japanese television TBS on Tuesday, without citing a source, said organizers had contacted 30 hospitals to care for athletes who fall ill.

The British Medical Journal earlier this month, under an editorial titled: "Reconsider this Summer's Olympic and Paralympic Games," said mass gatherings such as the Olympics are still neither "safe nor secure."

The editorial read in part: "Holding Tokyo 2020 for domestic political and economic purposes - ignoring scientific and moral imperatives - is contradictory to Japan's commitment



Pittsburgh Penguins' Teddy Blueger (53) and Zach Aston-Reese (12) reach for the loose puck in front of Boston Bruins goaltender Tuukka Rask during an NHL hockey game, on April 27, in Pittsburgh. (AP)

## Bruins 'keep' Pens in check, tighten race in East Division

Panthers rally past Predators 7-4, clinch playoff spot

**PITTSBURGH, April 28, (AP) — Tuukka Rask turned aside 25 shots and the Boston Bruins edged the Pittsburgh Penguins 3-1 to tighten the playoff race in the hyper-competitive East Division.**

David Krejci gave the Bruins the lead with his seventh goal of the season late in the second period. Brad Marchand and Taylor Hall scored in the third as Boston ended a two-game losing streak.

Jeff Carter spoiled Rask's bid for his 52nd career shutout with his 11th of the season - and third since joining the Penguins at the trade deadline - with 2:21 left, but it wasn't enough. Tristan Jarry made 28 saves for Pittsburgh, two days after shutting out the Bruins.

## ICE HOCKEY

It was a taut, physical contest that had the look and feel of a playoff game. The next time the teams meet, it very well could be.

Pittsburgh and Boston are in a close race with Washington and the New York Islanders for the East Division's four available playoff spots, with the New York Rangers not completely out of it with just over two weeks remaining in the regular season.

The Penguins could have clinched a 15th straight playoff berth with a win and a loss by the Rangers to Buffalo. That celebration will have to wait after the Boston kept the NHL's most potent attack in check to earn its fifth win in eight meetings with Pittsburgh.

The Penguins came into the game averaging 4.00 goals in April. They left it having been pushed around by the Bruins. Boston didn't hesitate to initiate contact all over the ice and Pittsburgh found little room to work down low.

Krejci finally broke a scoreless tie with 1:50 left in the second period

## Kuwait SC snatch Kuwait volleyball Cup

**KUWAIT CITY, April 28, (KUNA) — The Kuwait SC crowned as the champion of the Kuwait Volleyball Association (KVA) Cup after defeating Kazma SC in the final match**

(3-0).

Kuwait SC controlled the match from the beginning, as they ended the 1st set with the score of (25-18), the 2nd with (25-22) and the 3rd with (29-27).

Five clubs have won this Cup. Al-Qadsia SC tops the list of KVA winners with 17 Cups, Kuwait SC with 15, Kazma SC with 13, Al-Arabi Club with seven, and Al-Jahra SC only one.

when he took a feed from Charlie McAvoy, sliced through the Pittsburgh zone and ripped a pretty backhand by Jarry to give the Bruins the lead.

Marchand, long an issue for the Penguins, doubled the advantage with his 26th goal 9:11 into the third period. Hall, whose arrival at the trade deadline sparked a turnaround that thrust the Bruins out of a midseason funk, collected his fifth of the season and fourth with the Boston just over three minutes later to seal it.

## Panthers 7, Predators 4

In Nashville, Tennessee, Jonathan Huberdeau had two goals and three assists, and Florida rallied for a victory over Nashville to clinch a playoff berth.

Aleksander Barkov scored twice and had and assist for the Panthers. Anthony Duclair, Owen Tippett and Frank Vatrano also scored, while Sam Bennett had three assists in Florida's

second win in three games.

Ryan Ellis scored twice and Luke Kunin and Tanner Jeannot also scored for the Predators.

## Capitals 1, Islanders 0

In Washington, Daniel Sprong scored 1:29 in for his third goal in two games. Vitek Vanecsek made 18 saves and Washington shut out the Islanders to win their first home game with fans this season and sweep a three-game series.

Washington's Alex Ovechkin missed a second consecutive game with a lower-body injury. The Capitals leapfrogged Pittsburgh to move back into first place in the tight East Division.

The Islanders have fallen to third after picking up one point out of a possible six in three games against Washington.

New York's rookie goalie, Ilya Sorokin made 32 saves.

## Rangers 3, Sabres 1

In New York, Alexis Lafreniere scored the go-ahead goal in the third period, and the Rangers beat Buffalo.

Mika Zibanejad and Brendan Smith also scored and Igor Shesterkin made 36 saves as New York improved to 9-2-0 in its last eleven home games. Ryan Strome added two assists.

## Devils 6, Flyers 4

In Newark, New Jersey, Yegor Sharangovich scored the go-ahead goal at 12:36 of the third period and New Jersey snapped a 10-game winless streak with a wild victory over Philadelphia.

Nico Hischier, Pavel Zacha, Miles Wood and Connor Carrick also scored for the Devils, who saw the Flyers rally from third-period deficits twice to tie the game.

Mackenzie Blackwood made 26 saves as the Devils ended an 0-9-1 skid and won for the first time since April 8. Mikhail Maltsev scored into an empty net in the waning seconds to ice the game.

## Blue Jackets 1, Red Wings 0, SO

In Columbus, Ohio, Patrik Laine and Oliver Bjorkstrand scored in a shootout and Columbus snapped a nine-game losing streak with a win over Detroit.

Laine beat Thomas Greiss between the pads to lead off. Blue Jackets goalie Elvis Merzlikins denied Jakob Vrana and Adam Erne, and Bjorkstrand's shot sealed the win.

Merzlikins had 41 saves and recorded his second shutout of the season and the seventh of his career.

## Lightning 7, Blackhawks 4

In Chicago, Alex Killorn had a power-play goal and scored into an empty net, and Tampa Bay defeated Chicago to clinch a playoff berth for the fourth straight season.

Brayden Point stuffed in his team-leading 21st goal and added two assists. Erik Cernak, Yannick Auried, Alex Barre-Boulet, and Blake Coleman also scored for defending Stanley Cup champion Tampa Bay.

Brandon Hagel, Dominik Kubalik, Wyatt Kalynuk and Duncan Keith had goals for the fading Blackhawks.

## Hurricanes 5, Stars 1

In Dallas, Jordan Staal scored two power-play goals and Central Division-leading Carolina beat playoff-chasing Dallas.

Sebastian Aho had a goal and two assists for the Hurricanes, and Andrei Svechnikov, had a career-high three assists.

Jason Robertson had his 15th goal for Dallas to extend his point streak to nine games, breaking a tie with Jamie Langenbrunner (1996-97) for the longest by a rookie in Stars history. It is also the longest by any NHL rookie this season.



A man wearing a protective mask to help curb the spread of the coronavirus stands guard near a logo of Tokyo 2020 Olympic games in Tokyo on Feb 1, 2021. (AP)

## NHL Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, April 28, (AP) — Results and standings from the NHL games on Tuesday.

| Team                    | W  | L  | OT | PTS | GF  | GA  | Team        | W         | L  | OT | PTS | GF  | GA  |     |     |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-----------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| NY Rangers              | 3  | 0  | 0  | 6   | 171 | 144 | New Jersey  | 6         | 0  | 0  | 12  | 160 | 103 |     |     |
| Boston                  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 6   | 170 | 138 | Chicago     | 7         | 0  | 0  | 14  | 162 | 112 |     |     |
| Washington              | 1  | 1  | 0  | 2   | 136 | 114 | Florida     | 7         | 0  | 0  | 14  | 151 | 123 |     |     |
| Columbus                | 1  | 1  | 0  | 2   | 139 | 119 | Carolina    | 5         | 7  | 0  | 12  | 143 | 143 |     |     |
| <b>East Division</b>    |    |    |    |     |     |     |             |           |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |
| Washington              | 49 | 32 | 13 | 4   | 68  | 171 | x-Vegas     | 47        | 34 | 11 | 2   | 70  | 160 | 103 |     |
| Pittsburgh              | 50 | 32 | 15 | 3   | 67  | 170 | x-Colorado  | 46        | 31 | 11 | 4   | 66  | 162 | 112 |     |
| NY Islanders            | 49 | 29 | 15 | 5   | 63  | 136 | x-Minnesota | 47        | 31 | 13 | 3   | 65  | 151 | 123 |     |
| Boston                  | 48 | 28 | 14 | 6   | 62  | 139 | St. Louis   | 46        | 21 | 19 | 6   | 48  | 135 | 143 |     |
| NY Rangers              | 50 | 26 | 18 | 6   | 58  | 167 | Arizona     | 49        | 21 | 23 | 5   | 47  | 132 | 156 |     |
| Philadelphia            | 49 | 22 | 20 | 7   | 51  | 140 | San Jose    | 48        | 19 | 24 | 5   | 43  | 131 | 167 |     |
| New Jersey              | 49 | 15 | 27 | 7   | 37  | 127 | Los Angeles | 46        | 18 | 22 | 6   | 42  | 124 | 137 |     |
| Buffalo                 | 50 | 13 | 30 | 7   | 33  | 122 | Anaheim     | 49        | 14 | 28 | 7   | 35  | 106 | 160 |     |
| <b>Central Division</b> |    |    |    |     |     |     |             |           |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |
| x-Carolina              | 49 | 32 | 10 | 7   | 71  | 161 | 119         | Toronto   | 48 | 30 | 13  | 5   | 65  | 159 | 130 |
| x-Florida               | 51 | 32 | 14 | 5   | 69  | 166 | 141         | Edmonton  | 46 | 28 | 16  | 2   | 58  | 150 | 126 |
| x-Tampa Bay             | 49 | 33 | 14 | 2   | 68  | 167 | 129         | Winnipeg  | 48 | 27 | 18  | 3   | 57  | 149 | 135 |
| Nashville               | 51 | 27 | 22 | 2   | 56  | 141 | 146         | Montreal  | 47 | 21 | 17  | 9   | 51  | 136 | 138 |
| Dallas                  | 49 | 21 | 16 | 12  | 54  | 140 | 129         | Calgary   | 48 | 21 | 24  | 3   | 45  | 128 | 139 |
| Chicago                 | 49 | 22 | 22 | 5   | 49  | 139 | 158         | Vancouver | 42 | 19 | 20  | 3   | 41  | 114 | 132 |
| Detroit                 | 51 | 17 | 25 | 9   | 43  | 115 | 159         | Ottawa    | 49 | 18 | 27  | 4   | 40  | 133 | 171 |
| Columbus                | 51 | 16 | 25 | 10  | 42  | 122 | 170         |           |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |

Note: Two points for a win one point for overtime loss. The top four teams in each division will qualify for playoffs under this season's temporary realignment.

x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division

## Skate America headed back to Orleans Arena in October

**LAS VEGAS, April 28, (AP) — Skate America, traditionally the first event in the Grand Prix figure skating series, is headed back to the Orleans Arena.**

The competition will be held Oct. 22-24 as the first significant event of the Olympic season. It also was staged at the venue in 2019, then again last fall but without fans. The national championships were held at the arena in January, also minus fans due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

U.S. Figure Skating indicated the public will be able to attend the upcoming Skate America when it announced the venue on Tuesday.

"The Orleans Arena was such a great

partner for this competition in 2020, so we are excited to bring Skate America back to Las Vegas in 2021," U.S. Figure Skating President Anne Cammett said. "We're looking forward to having fans in attendance as athletes from the United States and abroad continue on their journey towards the Olympic Winter Games."

The complete list of athletes who will compete at Skate America and all other ISU Grand Prix competitions will be announced in June. Typically, the defending U.S. champions appear at Skate America.

Beijing will host the Winter Olympics in February.