

Tampa Bay Lightning Media Rules and Regulations

Credential Policy

Media credentials are issued in accordance with NHL guidelines to working media members who maintain a consistent and legitimate journalistic function covering the Tampa Bay Lightning. Credential priority is given to outlets that provide regular coverage and have an established track record of professionalism and accuracy.

Outlets that are unaffiliated with traditional media organizations may apply on a case-by-case basis. Approval is at the discretion of the Lightning PR staff and may depend on coverage history, audience engagement and alignment with team standards.

**Credentials may not be shared, transferred or posted on social media under any circumstances.*

Credential Requests

Media seeking credentials for Tampa Bay Lightning home games must submit a request via email to Stephen Buck (sbuck@viniksportsgroup.com) by noon the day before the game. Submitting a request does not guarantee approval. Credentials are issued at the discretion of the Tampa Bay Lightning PR Department and are subject to space limitations.

Season Credentials

Outlets may request full-season credentials, which will be evaluated based on the applicant's reach, quality of coverage and adherence to professional standards. Those with season credentials should still provide advance notice of attendance.

Freelancers and Bloggers

Freelancers and bloggers will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Social media presence alone is not sufficient justification for access.

Arrival and Media Entrance

Credentialed media must enter through the designated Media Entrance at Benchmark International Arena, located on Water St. across from the Tampa Bay History Center. Credentials are available at the security table outside Gate D starting at 8:30 a.m. Approximately two hours prior to puck drop, remaining credentials will be moved inside at Gate D and will be distributed by Lightning PR.

Press Seating and Workspaces

Seating assignments and press box locations will be provided upon arrival. Media are also welcome to use the press workroom, located on the event level adjacent to the media meal room. WiFi information will be posted in the workroom.

Media Meal

The media dining room, located adjacent to the media workroom on the event level, will open 3.5 hours prior to puck drop and remain open until 30 minutes after puck drop. Meals are available for \$8 (card only).

INTERVIEWS & AVAILABILITY

Practice and Morning Skate

Credentialed media may attend practices and morning skates at TGH Ice Plex or Benchmark International Arena. Attendance must be confirmed by contacting Chris Krenn (ckrenn@viniksportsgroup.com). Practice times will be distributed via email (Lightning Look Ahead), posted to the Lightning Online Press Box and shared on the Lightning PR X account: @TBL_PR.

Coach and Player Availability

For full morning skates, the locker room will be opened for player availability following the skate, with head coach Jon Cooper speaking afterward. On optional morning skates, Coach Cooper will be available to media at approximately 10:30 a.m. For optional “come to the rink” days, he will speak at approximately 5:30 p.m. On practice days, the locker room will open for player availability following the skate, with Coach Cooper’s availability time announced prior to the session. Specific availability details will be distributed via email, posted to the Lightning Online Press Box, and shared on the TBL PR X account: @TBLMedia. One-on-one interviews may be arranged in advance through the PR Department.

Note: Times provided are a general outline and are subject to change.

CONDUCT & EXPECTATIONS

Professional Behavior

Credentialed individuals are expected to conduct themselves professionally at all times. This includes respectful interaction with players, coaches, staff, patrons and fellow media members. Disruptive or inappropriate behavior may result in credential revocation.

Photography and Video

Photography and video captured by credentialed media may only be used for editorial

purposes. Freelance photographers must be on assignment from a verified outlet. Shooting positions will be distributed following credential approval. No lights or tripods are permitted in or behind the benches or glass areas.

POSTGAME

Postgame Availability

Following home games, the locker room will open for player availability approximately five minutes after the final horn sounds. Afterward, head coach Jon Cooper will address the media in the media workroom. Media may remain in the workroom or press seating area for up to two hours after availability concludes.

Visiting Team Access

Media wishing to cover the visiting team must coordinate with that team's communications staff. Access to the visiting locker room hallway will be granted only to those with appropriate clearance.

PRACTICES & EVENTS AT TGH ICE PLEX

Practices held at TGH Ice Plex will be open to approved media. Media must RSVP to Chris Krenn (ckrenn@viniksportsgroup.com). Parking is available in the main lot at the front of the building. Media can enter through the front door of the facility.

PARKING

Media parking is located at the Channelside Parking Garage at 369 S. 12th St. Pull a ticket upon entrance (garage staff may ask to see a credential or proof of employment) and bring the ticket to the security window at Gate D for validation. During times of high traffic (holidays), media may be asked to park in the Fort Brooke Garage at 107 N. Franklin St. Parking updates will be posted on the Lightning PR X account: @TBL_PR.

CREDENTIAL REVOCATION

Credentials may be revoked at any time at the discretion of the Tampa Bay Lightning PR Department. Grounds for revocation include, but are not limited to:

- Failure to comply with this policy
- Inappropriate or unprofessional behavior
- Misuse of access
- Failure to provide coverage following credential use