

WILDCAT YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

PARENT HANDBOOK – September 2021



www.wildcathockey.org

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WILDCAT YOUTH HOCKEY BYLAWS

Introduction

Welcome to the Wildcat Youth Hockey Association (“WYHA”). Our youth hockey association provides boys and girls in the Waunakee, Deforest, Lodi, Poynette, and surrounding communities with the opportunity to participate in the sport of youth hockey.

Bylaws

Article One - Name

SECTION 1 The registered legal name of this organization shall be the Waunakee Youth Hockey Association, Inc.

SECTION 2 The club will use the name Wildcat Youth Hockey Association for public use including for USA Hockey, Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association (WAHA), and all general public related communication.

SECTION 3 The Waunakee Youth Hockey Association, Inc. / Wildcat Youth Hockey Association is hereafter referred to as Wildcat Youth Hockey Association or WYHA.

Article Two - Purpose

SECTION 1 The WYHA is a non-stock corporation incorporated in the State of Wisconsin, and a 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization under the U.S. Treasury Internal Revenue Code.

SECTION 2 The WYHA is organized to provide a hockey program for youth development. This program is for youths who reside in the Waunakee and the surrounding area.

SECTION 3 The WYHA shall provide equal access to coaching, facilities, practice and participation for youths in the Waunakee and the surrounding areas regardless of their abilities.

SECTION 4 No youth shall be denied participation in the WYHA regardless of race, color, sex, creed, religion, national origin, disability (which would not prevent the youth from safely participation), or sexual orientation.

SECTION 5 The WYHA shall administer the regulations of the Wisconsin Region 4 Hockey Council or its successor, the Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association, Inc. and USA Hockey, Inc.

Article Three – Office

SECTION 1 The principal office of the WYHA shall be the current Post Office, Box Number 156, located at Waunakee, WI 53597-0156.

Article Four – Participants

SECTION 1 Any youth shall be a member for the purposes of participation as a youth hockey player provided his or her parent or guardian has completed the registration requirements and maintained current with money and fund-raising obligations.

Article Five –
Annual Meeting/Special Meeting, Membership and Voting Rights

SECTION 1 Voting membership in the WYHA shall be each parent or legal guardian of any participant in the WYHA with a limit of two voting members per participant regardless of the number of participants per family.

SECTION 2 The Officers may approve membership to others for services rendered to the WYHA.

SECTION 3 Coaches are members of the WYHA.

SECTION 4 Each member as designated in Section 1, 2, and 3 above has one vote in any WYHA action.

Article Six – Meeting of Members

SECTION 1 The Annual Meeting of the WYHA shall be held at a time and place designated by the Officers on or before April 30 with sufficient notice given to the membership.

SECTION 2 At the Annual Meeting, the first order of business shall be the report of the Treasurer, who shall account for all assets and liabilities and income and expenses.

SECTION 3 At the Annual Meeting, the WYHA shall hold elections for vacant Executive Board positions, per the WYHA Election Procedure.

SECTION 4 Special meetings of the voting membership may be called by the Officers as it deems necessary.

SECTION 5 A quorum at the annual meeting of the WYHA shall be the voting membership in attendance. A quorum at any special meeting of the WYHA shall consist of fifty percent of the voting membership of the WYHA. A quorum at a regular monthly WYHA board meeting shall consist of a majority of the voting WYHA board members.

SECTION 6 Assuming a quorum, a majority vote shall carry or defeat a motion except as otherwise provided for in these by-laws.

SECTION 7 In the case of tie votes, one succeeding vote may be taken by the WYHA to break the tie, if so desired by any member of the WYHA.

SECTION 8 The fiscal year of the WYHA shall be July 1 through June 30.

Article Seven – Executive Board

SECTION 1 The Officers of the WYHA shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President, Hockey Director, and Hockey Director Assistant.

SECTION 2 The President will be an officer of WYHA and shall preside at all meetings, appoint committees, attend or appoint a representative to represent the WYHA at County, State and Regional hockey meetings and shall, in general, perform the duties required of the office.

SECTION 3 The Vice President will be an officer of WYHA and shall assume all the powers and perform all the duties of the President in the President's absence or in the event of an inability or refusal to act, shall assume the office of President.

SECTION 4 The Secretary will be an officer of WYHA and shall keep a record of the meetings and conduct necessary correspondence for the WYHA. The Secretary shall disseminate the minutes of the meetings to the Executive Board. The Secretary shall turn over to a duly elected successor, all accounts, books, papers, vouchers and records pertaining to the office.

SECTION 5 The Treasurer will be an officer of WYHA and shall keep the accounts of the WYHA. The Treasurer shall receive money, pay bills, and make an itemized statement of the financial condition of the WYHA monthly and/or when asked to do so by the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall turn over to a duly elected successor, all accounts, books, papers, vouchers and records pertaining to the office.

SECTION 6 The Past-President will be an officer of WYHA and shall serve on and be an advisor to the President and entire Executive Board.

SECTION 7 The Hockey Director will be an officer of WYHA and shall serve on the Executive Board. The Hockey Director shall recommend coaches at all levels, arrange for proper training of coaches and assist the Age Level Directors and / or Executive Board on disciplinary cases.

SECTION 8 The Hockey Director Assistant will be an officer of WYHA and shall serve on the Executive Board and act as an advisor to the Hockey Director and perform all the duties of the Hockey Director in his or her absence or in the event of an inability or refusal to act, shall assume the position of Hockey Director.

SECTION 9 In addition to the Officers, the Executive Board shall include five or six (5 or 6) Age Level Directors (Midget/18U, Bantam/14U, Peewee/12U, Squirt/10U, 8U-Mite, and LTS/LTP/6U-Mite/Developmental) and Director of Fundraising. In addition to participating in the Board's decision-making process, the Executive Boards' purpose shall be to 1) carry out duties outlined in the Board Handbook; 2) promote WYHA; and 3) support the direction and decisions of WYHA board or its committees when communicating to WYHA membership, other organization or entities, or prospective members; and 4) serve as committee chairpersons as determined by the President or member(s) of Executive Board.

SECTION 10 The terms for the Executive Board is as follows:

Position	Term
President	2 years
Past-President	1 year (every other year, served by previous president after serving 2-year term)
Vice President	2 years
Secretary	2 years
Hockey Director*	2 years
Hockey Director Assistant*	2 years
Director of Fundraising	2 years
Five (5) Age Level Directors (ALDs)** (18U midget; 14U bantam; 12U Peewee; 10U squirt; 8U-mite; LTS-LTP-6U-mite)	2 years **

NOTE:

* The Hockey Director and Hockey Director Assistant will be officers of WYHA and shall serve on the Executive Board. The Hockey Director Assistant will act as an advisor to the Hockey Director and perform all the duties of the Hockey Director in his or her absence or in the event of an inability or refusal to act, shall assume the position of Hockey Director. Typically the Hockey Director Assistant moves into the Hockey Director role in the next season.

**Executive board may decide that the 14U Bantam ALD will serve as 18U/Midget ALD.

**ALDs are appointed and subsequently elected by a majority of WYHA Officers.

**WYHA Officers may deem it necessary that an Age Level Director must have a child currently skating for the age level they are appointed to serve.

SECTION 11 The Executive Board shall appoint by majority vote a new Officer or Executive Board Member to fill the unexpired term of a vacated position.

SECTION 12 The Executive Board shall meet monthly unless otherwise agreed upon by the Executive Board.

SECTION 13 The Executive Board shall serve annual terms from July 1 through June 30.

SECTION 14 Any Executive Board members not attending three (3) consecutive or a total of four (4) regular meetings of the WYHA Board, during a fiscal year, without an excused absence from the President or not satisfactorily fulfilling their responsibilities and purpose as defined in Article 7, Section 8 of these By-Laws may be removed from office by majority vote of the remaining Executive Board Members and a replacement Executive Board member appointed. Proper notice shall be given to the Executive Board member prior to any action taken under this Section.

SECTION 15 No two family voting members may serve on the WYHA Board at the same time as either an Officer or Executive Board member. If two members from the same family are nominated to serve on the Board, as either an Officer or Executive Board member, only one (1) may accept the nomination.

SECTION 16 The WYHA Board member discount will be based off an amount that is the same for all positions. This figure will be calculated from the average value of 8U through Bantam current season fees. In the event there is a board member discount credit balance at the end of a season, it will carry over to the following season. Under no circumstances will the board discount be paid out in cash if a credit balance remains upon the board member leaving or graduating from WYHA .

Article Eight – Discipline

SECTION 1 Both parent and skater have the right to appear before the majority of the Officers and appropriate Age Level Director to appeal any disciplinary action.

Article Nine – Amendments

SECTION 1 Amendments to these by-laws are permissible. The method of amendment shall be by submitting, in writing to the Secretary, the exact text of the proposed amendment at least fifteen days prior to the Annual or Special Meeting. The Amendments will be submitted to the general membership for a vote at the Annual meeting.

Article Ten – Administrative Structure

SECTION 1 The President shall, with the approval of the Executive Board, establish any administrative structure consistent with these by-laws.

SECTION 2 The Executive Board may create or revise rules and/or policies by majority vote of the voting members of the WYHA Board. Any rule and/or policy created or revised by the voting members of the WYHA Board will be reported to the membership via the newsletter or meeting or email or website or any combination thereof. The membership may create or revise a rule and/or policy by a majority vote at any meeting called for that purpose.

Adoption Date: April 13, 2003

Amended: April 17, 2005, April 22, 2007, April 25, 2010, April 13, 2014, April 2018, March

WYHA Policies and Procedures

Introduction

For the 2021-22 season, all policies in this handbook are subject to adjustment based on WYHA COVID-19 policy and necessary changes to our season based on state and local restrictions due to the health emergency and COVID-19. The COVID-19 policy will be governing policy and will supersede all Parent Handbook Policies

WYHA Levels of Play

Playing Level	Age*
<p>Learn to Skate (LTS): Children learn the fundamentals of skating (forward, backward, stopping) combined with fun games on the ice. *Full hockey equipment is not needed</p>	Any age (most are 4-7)
<p>6U Mite Learn to Play (cross-ice without goalies): Continued skating and hockey skill development through one to two practice sessions each week; plus one-hour game ice per week. For skaters aged 5-6. Full hockey equipment is required and can be rented through the club.</p>	6 & under
<p>8U Mite Learn to Play (half-ice w/goalies): Similar to U6 Mite, but for 7- to 8- year old hockey players; two practice sessions per week and one game ice per week (2-3 games per hour game ice). Rotating goalies week to week.</p>	7 & 8
<p>Rink Rat (Learn to Play for older kids): This program is intended for first year skaters who are not ready to play full ice games at the Squirt or Peewee level. Typically, these skaters will be in their first year of playing hockey. They will have 1-2 practice sessions per week and will play games versus other Rink Rat teams from area clubs. <i>**This level is only available if numbers support it and thus is a season-by-season decision.</i></p>	9-12
<p>Squirt (10U): No checking. Approximately 2.5 practices per week and 1-3 60-minute games (12-minute periods) on weekends. They will participate in 1-3 tournaments each season. Total games per season will range from 25-30 games.</p>	9-10
<p>Peewee (12U) : No checking. Approximately 3 practices per week and 2-3 75-minute games (15-minute periods) per weekend. They will participate in 1-3 tournaments each season. Total games per season will range from 25-35 games.</p>	11-12
<p>Bantam (14U) : Checking. Approximately 3.5 practices per week and 2-4 90-minute games (15-minute periods) per weekend. They will participate in 1-3 tournaments each season. Total games per season will range from 30-35 games.</p>	13-14

Midget (18U) : Checking. Approximately 2-3 practices per week and 2-4 105-minute games (17-minute periods) per weekend. They will participate in 1-3 tournaments each season. Total games per season will range from 25-35 games.	18 & under
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Skater Evaluation and Team Placement Process (See Appendix A)

WYHA will conduct formal team placement tryouts each year at the beginning of the season for the levels of Bantam (14U), Pee wee (12U), and Squirt (10U). For the levels of 6U and 8U Mites, informal evaluations will be done during practices held early in the season. See Appendix A for the full tryout process including the specific drills.

Registration / Fees

WYHA will publish a fee schedule prior to each season. This will be available from the website. All skaters are required to register with USA Hockey (additional fee but is free for skaters ages 6 and under) and pay skater fees. Skating fees include a nonrefundable administration/ice time fee for skaters who leave the club after tryouts for whatever reason. Please refer to the fee schedule for detailed information.

Bantam, Pee wee, Squirts, Mites

A minimum of one third (33%) of the skating fees per skater are due prior to Sept. 15. If you indicated during registration that you need a jersey, your account will be charged an additional jersey fee at that time. On November 15, 50% of a family's remaining balance is due. The remaining balance of fees, unworked volunteer hours charge and any other charges are due by Jan. 15. These additional charges and any discounts or credits due will be added by the treasurer as they are incurred. No skater will be allowed to skate after this date without fees being paid. All skater fees can be viewed on the skater's profile on the Wildcat website.

Multiple Skater Discount

Families registering multiple skaters at 8U Mite and above will receive a fee discount as follows:

- The second skater will receive a 30% reduction in the fees for his/her division. The "second" skater will be considered the younger of the two skaters.
- The third (or more) skater placed at or above the 8U Mite level will receive a 60% reduction in the fees for his/her division. The "third" skater will be considered the youngest of the three skaters.

Game Jersey & Number Assignment

Jersey number assignment is managed by the apparel director(s). Here are the rules or guidelines they follow:

There is a firm rule on birth year for game jersey number assignment:

Even birth year must have an even game jersey number

Odd birth year must have an odd game jersey number

Skaters new to the program will select a jersey number from a predefined list of available numbers.

Exception: For 8U and 6U Mites – If a skater has a sibling jersey that fits and it doesn't match the above birth-year rule, it is OK. However, when the player becomes a Squirt, they MUST conform to the above birth-year rule.

Game jerseys are not included with skater fees and are an extra cost. Please reference the current season fee schedule for the cost of game jerseys. If your skater doesn't already have a jersey for their

appropriate age level, they will be required to purchase one prior to starting the season. Otherwise if your skater's jersey from last season still fits, they may use it. During registration you will be asked if you need a game jersey. Selecting "Yes" will result in the jersey fee being charged to your account. The Apparel Director will hold jersey try-on session(s) prior to ordering game jerseys to ensure the desired size is ordered for your player.

Skater Transfers

All transfers into and out of the Wildcat Youth Hockey Association must be reviewed by the Transfer Committee (consisting of the President, Vice President (Past President may substitute for one), Hockey Director (Hockey Director Assistant may substitute), Age Level Director, and Registrar. If the transfer is approved by the Transfer Committee it will next be recommended to the WYHA board, which will vote on the transfer to determine final approval or denial. WYHA will grant a financial release for a skater under WAHA rule when a skater is moving to a higher classified organization. Requests for transfer must be submitted to the WYHA Board President in writing, and the family may be required to appear before the board in person to discuss the transfer.

Team Rosters / Final Rosters

Preliminary WYHA Team Rosters will be established by Nov. 15. Rosters may be amended up until Dec. 31 at which point final WAHA/ USA Hockey rosters must be set. The Registrar will provide each team with a link to the final roster signed by WAHA. Only players and coaches on the official WYHA and WAHA team roster may practice or play with a team. WYHA teams are made using only WYHA players for the playing season (September-March).

Fee Reduction for Injured Players

A player who is significantly injured or ill in which the injury or illness results in a loss of play for six weeks or greater could be given a prorated credit on their skater fees based upon the number of weeks they were lost from play (must equal six weeks or greater). A family wishing to apply for the fee reduction must submit a request in writing to the WYHA Board of Directors for consideration. Any skater who is injured for at least six weeks must provide a signed doctor's note to return to play.

Fee Reduction for High School-Eligible Players

Some 14U/Bantam players may be eligible for both high school hockey and the Wildcats. Those who make a high school team after registering for the Wildcats may receive a prorated refund for payments made to WYHA. A family wishing to apply for the refund must submit a request in writing to the WYHA Board of Directors for consideration.

Return To Play After Injury (Non-Concussion Related)

It is the policy of WYHA that any injury requiring the medical attention of a physician that prohibits the player from playing the game or practice of any duration will require the physician to sign a return to play release allowing the injured player to return to the ice to play or practice the game of hockey. The release will give the date at which they are allowed to return and must be signed by the treating physician. Any guidelines or limitations that the physician requires regarding the return of the player must be outlined on the signed release form.

Please note: The WYHA Board is committed to preserving all players', as well as their families', personal medical information. All HIPAA requirements in effect at the time of the injury will be adhered to.

Concussion Management Program

WYHA takes concussions very seriously and has adopted USA Hockey's "2019 Concussion Management Program" in an effort to comply with both national and state regulations regarding concussion management. Parents should understand both the USAH Concussion Management Program and the 2011 Wisconsin Act 172 pertaining to concussions. During registration you were required to acknowledge your understanding of the concussion rules and the steps WYHA, its coaches, and the parents/guardians must take if a concussion is suspected.

In the case of a suspected concussion by a coach, or one diagnosed by a physician, the player will not be allowed to return to the ice per Wisconsin Law. The skater is required to seek medical attention and will not be allowed to play or practice with the team until medical clearance is obtained.

What is a Concussion?

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury that interferes with normal functioning of the brain (changes how the cells in the brain normally work). A concussion can be caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body. Basically, any force that is transmitted to the head causing the brain to literally bounce around or twist within the skull can result in a concussion. Over 90% of concussions do not involve loss of consciousness. It is important to note that a concussion can happen to anyone in any sport or athletic activity.

Concussions affect people in four areas of function:

- Physical – This describes how a person may feel: headache, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, etc.
- Thinking – Poor memory and concentration, responds to questions more slowly, asks repetitive questions. Concussion can cause an altered state of awareness.
- Emotions – A concussion can make a person more irritable and cause mood swings.
- Sleep – Concussions frequently cause changes in sleeping patterns, which can increase fatigue.

Return to Play After a Concussion

Per USA Hockey's Concussion Management Program, written clearance from a qualified health care provider is required for an athlete to return to play without restriction (training, practice, and competition). The USA Hockey Return to Play Form is the only acceptable form of written clearance. This form must be presented to the head coach and forwarded to the ALD of the skater's level.

A qualified health care provider under Wisconsin law is defined as a person to whom all of the following apply:

1. He or she holds a credential that authorizes the person to provide health care.
2. He or she is trained and has experience in evaluating and managing pediatric concussions and head injuries.
3. He or she is practicing within the scope of his or her credential.

Equipment

Protective hockey equipment is important to the safety and well-being of all skaters participating in the sport of hockey. Skaters must wear protective equipment. All WYHA Skaters above Learn to Skate level must wear the following properly fitted and well-maintained USA Hockey approved equipment for all regularly scheduled games and practices:

- Helmet (black encouraged) with face mask and securing straps (HECC approved with a valid expiration date)
- Colored mouth guard

- Shoulder pads (solar plexus padding strongly recommended)
- Elbow pads
- Gloves (black encouraged)
- Breezers (black encouraged) with hip pads and thigh and tailbone protection
- Protective cup for boys/pelvic protector for girls
- Knee and shin pads
- Hockey skates
- The Board strongly recommends the use of a neck guard
- Anyone 18 and under must wear a helmet when on the bench

Coaches

It is WYHA's intention to use qualified and certified parent and non-parent coaches for its teams. WYHA will pay a stipend to a non-parent coach approved by the Board of Directors of WYHA. For Squirt, Pee wee and Bantam teams with a non-parent coach, the stipend will be covered by an additional fee paid by players placed on a team with a non-parent coach. For Midget teams with non-parent coaches, the stipend will be included in the season fee. These coaches must meet all certification criteria. WYHA will perform background checks on all coaches in compliance with USA Hockey rules and guidelines.

Student Coach

WYHA will also allow the use of student coaches per the WYHA and USA Hockey Policy (see Appendix B). The student coach must follow the USA Hockey Policy including SafeSport requirements. WYHA requires the student coach to be registered with USA Hockey and can only coach two levels below their current level (i.e. Bantam -> Squirt, Pee wee -> Mite).

Off-Ice Officials

The Penalty Box Operator, Game Timekeeper, and Official Scorer are official USAH off-ice duties. These off-ice officials are considered an extension of the on-ice officiating team. Off-ice officials are expected to familiarize themselves with their duties before the game. Off-ice officials are held to a higher standard than the fans in the stands and shall not dispute the rulings of the on-ice officials, disrupt the game or criticize players, coaches, or on-ice officials. They also may not coach players from the scorer's bench or the penalty box. The minimum age for an off-ice official is 18 years old. With the exception of an adult announcer/ DJ, only off-ice officials shall be in the vicinity of the scorer's bench or in the penalty boxes.

SafeSport & SafeSportTravel Policy

Comprehensive information on SafeSport can be found at <https://www.usahockey.com/safesportprogram>. Required WYHA personnel are required to complete SafeSport training. The Registrar is the SafeSport Coordinator for WYHA.

WYHA follows the guidelines for travel based on the USA Hockey SafeSport program. The Travel Policy is in place to protect the player (athlete), coaches, and families. The complete WYHA Travel Policy can be found in Appendix D.

WYHA prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook. Participants, employees or volunteers in WYHA may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these locker room policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse or that violates the USA Hockey SafeSport

Policies. Reports of any actual or suspected violations, you may email USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or call 1-800-888-4656.

Inclement Weather Policy

WYHA inclement weather policy is that each family should use their discretion when traveling to the rink for practice or a game during inclement weather. While the rink usually does not close due to weather, we do have to consider the safety of our families, and anyone who has concerns about traveling to the rink any evening where weather is not favorable to driving should please stay home. While some families can make a short trip across town and not be impacted by the weather, many have several miles and or country roads to travel. WYHA does not want to put any coach, player, or parent in a situation where they do not feel safe driving to a game or practice. If you have concerns about travel, stay home, stay warm, and stay safe. We support your decision.

A head coach can use his/her discretion to cancel practice or a game due to weather. If they do decide to cancel, they will work with their ALD and/or team manager to do so and communicate it to the team. If you don't hear from your coach that a practice or game is cancelled, then assume it is a go and use your discretion about travel.

WYHA WILL cancel weekday hockey events only when there is a windchill warning (-35 sustained wind chill) in effect at 4 p.m. as issued by the National Weather Service. This may or may not coincide with school closing, e.g, if a windchill warning is lifted by 4 p.m.on a weekday, then WYHA will not cancel evening hockey events.

For games the final decision to play a previously scheduled game lies with the head coach and team manager of each team. Team Managers should contact the facility directly if you have questions about their operating status of a rink. Referees must be contacted immediately when the decision is made to cancel a game due to weather.

Team Sponsorship Program

The Team Sponsorship program was designed as a team fundraiser. This is a great way to build your team's tournament fund, which is used to cover costs of tournament fees, team parties, team equipment, team apparel, and extra sheets of practice / game ice. Use the Team Sponsorship brochure to approach businesses for support. The Fundraising Director has copies of the Team Sponsorship brochure or you can obtain a copy at www.wildcatyouthhockey.org under Info, Volunteer/Fundraising Opportunities.

Team Sponsorship Distribution / Use

Any team that is sponsored must first fulfill the sponsorship-level requirements before funds are distributed to the team. After all sponsorship level requirements are met, 10% of the remaining dollars go to the club and 90% can be used, by the sponsored team, to reimburse or pay for the following:

- Tournament fees
- Purchasing additional sheets of ice
- Team equipment
- Team apparel
- Team parties

Any funds that have not been spent will be used by the club to reduce overall skater fees. Any team sponsorships that are not designated to a specific team or age level will be allocated to the oldest team first. Each additional unspecified sponsorship will be allocated to the team one level below. Ex. Bantam

A, then Bantam B, then Peewee A, then Peewee B, etc.

Any Team Sponsorships that are designated for a specific age level will first be allocated to the top team at that age level. Each additional age level specific sponsorship will rotate through the teams at that age level.

Scholarship Assistance Program

It is WYHA policy to assist in making hockey affordable for local youth. In keeping with this, each season WYHA offers a limited number of scholarships based upon financial need. These scholarships will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Scholarship application, approval, or denial is kept confidential.

Scholarship requests should be received by the Treasurer of WYHA at P.O. Box 156, Waunakee, WI 53597 by Sept. 1 the month prior to the start of the fall season. Exceptions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Partial or full scholarships will be awarded based on available funds. Scholarships are for skating fees only. All other expenses for the season are the family's responsibility. Factors determining scholarship approval include, but are not limited to:

- Number of children per family participating in the program.
- Memo documenting the family situation indicating financial hardship.
- The WYHA Board of Directors, based on the Scholarship Committee recommendation, will determine scholarship approval or denial.
- Based upon scholarship approval, the player/parent or guardian will be responsible for the annual USA Hockey Registration fee at the beginning of the season.
- The season's equipment fees, if any, will be waived. If equipment is not returned at the end of the season, the player will not be eligible for future scholarships or participation in the youth hockey program.
- Parental and player involvement in fundraising activities is mandatory (including volunteer hours).
- Incomplete or falsified forms will be denied.

Scholarship Procedures

Any WYHA member family may apply for scholarship assistance from the WYHA for their skater(s)' fees (full or partial amount but may not include volunteer hour credits). Families will be responsible for annual USA Hockey registration fee, team fund fees, hotels for tournaments, jerseys and socks. The following procedures should be followed:

- Using the form supplied (see www.wildcathockey.org), send forms to the Treasurer at P.O. Box 156, Waunakee, WI 53597 by Sept. 1 of upcoming hockey season.
- The Treasurer will review the request form and verify financial information submitted.
- The Scholarship Committee, which consists of the current WYHA President, Treasurer, and appropriate Age Level Director, will meet and make a recommendation to the WYHA Board of Directors as to approval or denial.
- The WYHA Board of Directors will vote in closed session to approve or deny applicants after considering the Scholarship Committee's recommendation.
- Applicants will be notified of results in writing immediately following the WYHA Board of Directors meeting where the vote took place.

Funds for the scholarship fund will be set aside or replenished when necessary in years where there is a budget surplus and at the discretion of the WYHA Board of Directors. The funds must be allocated to the scholarship fund prior to the close out of the current budget year, which ends annually on June 30. Fund allocations will require a recommendation by the Treasurer to the Board and will require a majority vote of the Board for funds to be allocated.

WYHA Volunteer Policy (25 Volunteer Hours)

General Requirements

WYHA is a parent-run organization and depends solely on volunteer hours to run a very large and complex operation. Each family with a Skater U8 Mite age through Bantam is required to work 25 volunteer hours. Families that only have a skater at the U6 Mite level are required to schedule themselves to work 5 volunteer hours between Jan. 15 and March 15. Families that only have a skater at the Midget level will not be required to fulfill any of the volunteer hours.

Off-ice officiating duties (scorers table, penalty box, time keeper) for regular games do NOT count as the 25 volunteer hours.

Off-ice officiating duties for WYHA hosted tournaments may count toward the 25 volunteer hours only when officiating games that do not include a WYHA team.

It is the member family's responsibility to seek volunteer opportunities. Volunteer opportunities are communicated via email, WYHA newsletters, and the WYHA website. Any questions you have in regard to volunteer hours can be directed to your Age Level Director (ALD).

Because of insurance issues, family members under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent to volunteer. Some opportunities may be set at an 18-year-old limit. Families must sign in and out of their shift for credits to be applied. Volunteer hours cannot be shared or transferred from one family to another without the approval of the WYHA board of directors.

Volunteer hours worked will be credited at \$25 per hour (\$625 total). The hours worked will be credited to WYHA accounts on a monthly basis. Any unworked or unscheduled hours will need to be paid by Jan. 15. Hours worked after Jan. 15 will continue to be credited to the family's account and will be available for:

1. Refund after May board meeting
2. Carry over for next year's fee
3. Tax-deductible donation to WYHA

Buying Out Volunteer Hours:

If a family desires to buy out their volunteer hours instead of working them, they will be charged at a discounted rate of \$500 by Nov. 1 and this will be included in their second installment of the season dues. This must be indicated in the "My Volunteer Hours" section of a family's website profile prior to Nov. 1. ***If a family chooses to buy out their volunteer hours after the registration time period, the buyout will be charged at \$25 per remaining hour and this will be added to the family's final Jan. 15 payment.***

Concession Stand Volunteer Hours:

There will be many opportunities to work volunteer hours in the concession stand during the months of October through March. Parents will be credited \$25 per hour worked in the concession stand. Open volunteer hours will be posted up to six weeks in advance. The online link to sign up for concession stand hours will be made available through email and will be posted on the Wildcat website.

Cancelling Concession Stand Volunteer Hours:

1. You may cancel your volunteer hours in the concession stand up to one week in advance of when you were to work without penalty.

2. If you need to cancel within seven days of the time that you volunteered for, you must either find a replacement for your time or pay a \$35 fee.
3. A no-show for a volunteer spot in the concession stand will be charged a \$35 fee.

Working Hours for Next Season:

When special cases arise where we have open concessions positions, the Concessions Director will allow families to work hours toward next season's volunteer hour requirements. These only apply if the family has completed all their hours for the current season and no one else is able to work the open concession shift. Extra time worked that does not fall under the above case cannot be applied to the next season. For those working hours for next season, WYHA will only credit volunteer hours, WYHA will not pay a family for extra hours worked. Carry-over hours will be applied at the discretion of the Board.

Examples of Volunteer Opportunities:

- Working Concessions at the Rink – Main opportunity for volunteer hours for the club.
- Head Coach – Rostered and approved coaches at or above 8U/Learn to Play level (if applicable due to having older skaters requiring volunteer hours).
- Assistant Coaches – Rostered and approved assistant coach of an individual team (maximum of two per team at Squirt level and above and one per team for 8U Mite and 6U Mite) per the official USA Hockey Roster.
- Team Managers Squirt and Above – Will earn their 25 hours of volunteer services.
- Team Managers 8U Mite Level and below – Granted 10 volunteer hours; they can earn 10 additional hours working with the Mite ALD and Tournament Director in putting on the Mite Jamboree.
- Specific Fundraiser or Event Chairperson – Specific hours are determined, awarded, and tracked by the Director of Fundraising per event not based on actual hours spent. The board has the discretion to award the volunteer hours based on time served.
- Other special cases approved by the Board of Directors including special events, tasks, or hardships.

Activities specifically NOT qualified for volunteer hours include

- Off-ice officiating for regular WYHA games and scrimmages, and WYHA-hosted tournament games that include WYHA teams. (running the scoreboard, staffing penalty boxes, timesheet)
- On-ice help by parent not rostered as an official coach
- Locker room monitor for practice and games
- Ice Pond-run activities (putting in and taking out ice, adult tournaments, etc.)

Individual Fundraisers:

The WYHA will provide families opportunities to reduce their skater fees via one or two individual fundraising programs per year. Typically, the money raised will be distributed 90% to the family skating fees and 10% to the club to cover administrative costs of the program.

Codes of Conduct – See Appendix C

Wildcat Youth Hockey supports the USA Hockey Zero Tolerance policy as it relates to conduct by coaches, players, parents, and fans in the sport of youth hockey. It is our hope that by enforcing this policy, everyone has a pleasant youth athletic experience. Parents, Skaters and Coaches will review and sign the codes of conduct in the team and coaches' meetings at the start of each season and turn into the ALD or Hockey Director. Parents, players, and fans can and will be removed from Wildcat events and will be asked to appear in front of the Discipline Committee if they should break the USA Hockey Zero Tolerance policy. See Appendix C for the Codes of Conduct.

24 Hour Rule

WYHA has adopted a “24-hour rule” in that coaches will not discuss a game or situation until at least 24 hours after the fact. This important rule does two things. First, it moves the discussion away from the presence of the players. Second, it allows all parties to have time to put things into perspective and “cool off” if necessary.

Discipline / Appeal Committee

The Discipline Committee will consist of the appropriate Age Level Director (who will chair the committee for a particular matter) and at least two of the following: Hockey Director, Hockey Director Assistant, President, Vice President, Past President, Treasurer, or Secretary. No committee member involved in the complaint or with a child on a team from which the complaint originated shall serve on the committee.

WYHA Procedure for Conflicts/Issues (including Appeal Procedure)

Identifying and addressing a problem or concern is not always easy. Therefore, we have established this procedure in order to resolve conflicts/issues as well as to appeal disciplinary decisions.

Conflict/Issue Resolution

1. WYHA encourages parents to take the initiative in resolving conflicts that they or their child may have with other team members, parents, and/or coaches, via respectful communication directly with those involved.
2. If the issue cannot be resolved in step 1, the team manager is the first line of official communication for all parents and players. The complaint must be presented to the team manager who should notify the ALD for information purposes only.
3. If the problem is such that the team manager is unable to resolve the conflict, it should be escalated to the appropriate Age Level Director for resolution. The ALD may seek advice from appropriate WYHA officers or other ALDs for assistance with coming to a proposed resolution.
4. The matter may be brought to a formal Discipline Committee only under the following circumstances:
 - a. As a last resort in resolving an issue, the ALD may formally bring the matter to the Discipline Committee
 - b. The individual(s) against whom the complaint has been filed may appeal the decision to a formal Discipline Committee. The appeal complaint must be submitted to the President and Vice President in writing.
 - c. When WYHA receives a letter from WAHA requesting a response to a zero-tolerance violation by a coach, player, parent, or fan.
5. The Discipline Committee will review the matter in a reasonable time frame (usually within 48-96 hours after notification) and provide next steps for the parties involved.
6. If requested, the individual(s) against whom the complaint has been filed shall appear before the Discipline Committee and be asked to respond to the matter.
7. The Discipline Committee, acting in the best interest of WYHA, will further investigate the complaint as deemed appropriate and are authorized to enforce disciplinary actions as appropriate. These actions may include written warnings and/or temporary and/or permanent suspension from the program.
8. All actions taken by the Discipline Committee will be communicated only to the individuals involved during a closed session or by an official letter or email.

Background Screening - WYHA / USA Hockey Screening Policy

Per WAHA and USA Hockey guidelines, WYHA will screen coaches, team managers, employees of the association, association board members and adults (18 yrs. and older) skating on youth teams through a national criminal background search service. The screen will consist of a National Criminal Database and National Sex Offender Search. WYHA will cover the screening cost. The current WYHA President and/or Vice President will shoulder the role of “point person.” The point person will be trusted to maintain confidentiality while implementing the screening process fairly and diligently. The President will submit a “Verification of Association Compliance with Abuse Screening Policy Form” (WAHA Form 9-15-2010) to the appropriate WAHA Secretary annually after screening is complete.

USA HOCKEY Screening Policy

It is the policy of USA Hockey and USA Hockey Inline that it will not authorize or sanction in its programs that it directly controls any volunteer or employee who has routine access to children (anyone under the age of majority) who refuses to consent to be screened by USA Hockey or USA Hockey Inline before he/she is allowed to have routine access to children in USA Hockey’s and USA Hockey In-Line’s programs. Further, it is the policy of USA Hockey that it will require its Affiliates to adopt this policy as a condition of its affiliation with USA Hockey, and it is a policy of USA Hockey Inline that it will require its sanctioned leagues to adopt this policy as a condition of its sanctioning by USA Hockey Inline.

A person may be disqualified and prohibited from serving as an employee or Volunteer of USA Hockey and USA Hockey Inline if the person has:

1. Been convicted (including crimes the record of which has been expunged and pleas of “no contest”) of a crime of child abuse, sexual abuse of a minor, physical abuse, causing a child’s death, neglect of a child, murder, manslaughter, felony assault, any assault against a minor, kidnapping, arson, criminal sexual conduct, prostitution related crimes or controlled substance crimes.
2. Being adjudged liable for civil penalties or damages involving sexual or physical abuse of children.
3. Being subject to any court order involving any sexual abuse or physical abuse of a minor, including but not limited to domestic order or protection.
4. Had their parental rights terminated.
5. A history with another organization (volunteer, employment, etc.) of complaints of sexual or physical abuse of minors.
6. Resigned, been terminated from or been asked to resign from a position, whether paid or unpaid, due to complaint(s) of sexual or physical abuse of minors.
7. Has a history of other behavior that indicates they may be a danger to children in USA Hockey or USA Hockey Inline.

WYHA Board of Directors Election Procedure

1. Open elected positions will be communicated to the general membership in early January.
2. All candidates must submit in writing a desire to run for a position before March 1.
3. A short 3-4 sentence bio needs to be submitted by the candidate explaining why they are running and what would make them a good candidate. This is due five weeks before the annual meeting.
4. All bios will be sent out to the general membership by the first week of April.
5. The ballot (or link to an online ballot) will be set and sent out via email by the first week of April with voting instructions.
6. Write-in votes are only allowed if there is no candidate for the open position.
7. Voting membership in the WYHA shall be each parent or legal guardian of any participant in the WYHA with a limit of two voting members per participant regardless of the number of participants per family.

8. The voting will be by private ballot and votes tallied at the Annual Meeting. Voting can be conducted via a paper ballot and/or online form.
9. Winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

WYHA Board Voting Members (Referenced in the Bylaws)

Please reference the Bylaws included at the top of this handbook.

Appointed (Non-Voting) Board Members

The Executive Board of Directors will appoint individuals to the following positions as appointed, non-voting members of the Board. Each appointed position will be expected to serve a two-year term (unless otherwise noted) upon approval at the July WYHA Board of Directors meeting. These positions are expected to attend the monthly Board meeting.

Apparel Director – duties include organizing jersey number assignments to players, maintenance of inventory of hockey jerseys, organizing and oversight of Wildcat Hockey apparel, merchandise, and associated sales.

Equipment Manager – duties include maintaining adequate inventory of hockey equipment for rental to new families and Learn to Play/Skate children, goalie equipment, and coaching equipment. Managing rental of all equipment and purchasing of needed equipment for the club.

Ice Scheduler – duties include scheduling and securing adequate amount of practice and game ice time for each team/age level, based on the number of teams anticipated for the upcoming season. The ice will incorporate practices, scrimmages, tournaments, goalie practice, tryouts, learn-to-play, cross ice programs and any co-ops WYHA may be involved in.

Registrar – maintain and update the WYHA database of players, team rosters, and USA Hockey Rosters. Additionally help as registrar for initial Learn to Play/Skate sessions as needed.

Tournament Director – duties include scheduling and registering of tournaments, coordination of tournament planning, staffing tournament committee, managing budget, and overseeing tournament weekend activities.

Concessions Director – duties to include volunteer coordination of the rink concessions area.

Skills Director – duties to oversee and manage the WYHA's skills development program.

Age Level Assistants – Whether there is an ALA for a specific age level is at the discretion of the ALD. The ALD will be an extension of the hockey directors at each level and they will be actively involved with coaches. The ALA will be responsible for the administrative/logistics related to directing team managers and providing early information to parents. The ALD may choose to appoint an ALA to assume those responsibilities or assume both aspects of the position themselves.

Communications Director – Serve as the primary outlet to members for specific, routine communications.

COVID Advisor – Advise the board on policy related to the COVID-19 pandemic for the 2021-22

season. This position will end June 30, 2022.

See separate document that provides the WYHA Board Organization Chart

Handbook Revision History

Date of Adoption: March 2003

Amended – July 2004, March 2005, February 2006, September 2007, August 2008, March 2009, October 2009, August 2010, August 2011, July 2012, June 2013, June 2014, June 2016, July 2017, August 2018, August 2019, August 2020, September 9, 2021

Appendix A - Team Evaluation Format & Process

PARENT HANDBOOK ADDENDUM TO APPENDIX A

Due to the numerous restrictions placed on the Ice Pond and the Wildcat Youth Hockey Association (WYHA) by county and state public health officials in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not feasible for WYHA to conduct player evaluations and team selections in accordance with Appendix A of the Wildcat Parent Handbook.

Given the evolving impact of COVID-19, it is important that WYHA's player evaluation process has the ability to adapt and conform in a timely manner.

This addendum outlines temporary changes to WYHA's player evaluation and team selection process described in Appendix A of the WYHA Parent Handbook.

The Tryout Committee, will:

- 1. To the best of its ability given the restrictions imposed on the evaluation process, develop an evaluation process that identifies skaters of like skill, based on an observable demonstration of skills relevant to the sport of hockey, as well as additional information deemed relevant by the committee for placement.*
- 2. Develop teams and/or practice groups of like-skilled skaters limited in size by the restrictions of public health officials or Ice Pond management at the time of grouping. Teams and/or practice groups may be altered at any time to conform with updated public health or Ice Pond guidelines or restrictions.*

This addendum supersedes Appendix A of the WYHA Parent Handbook and will take effect upon the approval of Wildcat Youth Hockey Association Board. This addendum will expire without further action on June 30, 2022.

Skater Evaluation and Team Placement Process (Squirt, Pee wee and Bantam Levels)

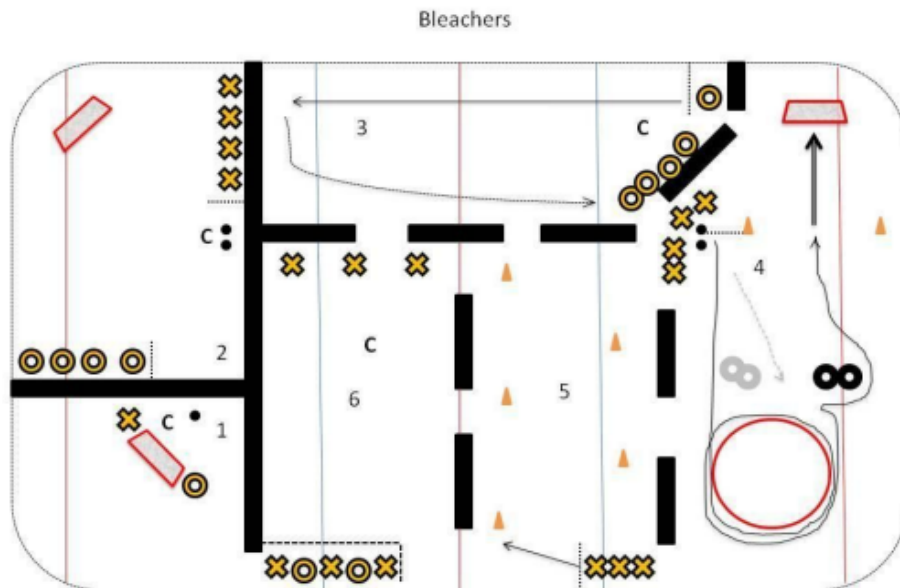
1. The evaluation and team placement process presented here pertains to Squirt, Pee wee, and Bantam age level divisions.
2. 8U Mite and 6U Mite age level placement will have a separate, unique and less "intense" process to be completed during early season practices. Typically the process involves ranking all skaters based on skill and then adjusting those initial rankings as evaluation practices are held.
3. Evaluations will be closed to spectators. Only designated on-ice coaches and evaluators for the age level trying out, and Tryout Committee members may be in the ice rink

- during evaluation sessions..
4. Team placement from the prior year and information, if any, from offseason observations from coaches will be used to initially place players into appropriate hockey based skill groups for the evaluation sessions. .
 5. Evaluations will consist of at least two and may consist of up to four sessions using up to six stations with a combination of skills, small area competitive games and scrimmages. In most cases, but not necessarily when team delineations are clear, there will be an invite-only bubble evaluation session to make final determination of player placement.
 6. It is highly recommended that players participate in all evaluation sessions, especially in a season when less than four evaluation sessions are utilized. But we understand there can be unavoidable conflicts. In those cases, parents must email their respective ALD twenty-four (24) hours in advance of any evaluation session that their skater will miss. A reason for the absence must be stated in the email.
 7. Evaluations will be completed using one of two formats. The format used will be at the discretion of the Hockey Director. The first approved format is a scoring scale of 0 (low) to 10 (high). Scoring numbers will be whole numbers only: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10. The 2nd approved format will be to use a ranking system where all skaters at an age level are ranked 1 to n. With each format evaluators (at least three but ideally six) will be responsible for providing objective scoring or ranking based on hockey skills being observed during the sessions.
 8. Evaluators must have a firm knowledge and experience of recognizing hockey-based skills. Evaluators may consist of current and past coaching staff, board members, or former or current players, coaches, hockey operation staff from other organizations. An evaluator may not be used if they have a conflict of interest at the age level being evaluated, e.g, a child, stepchild or relative skating at the age level being evaluated.
 9. Based on input from prior year coaches, the Tryout Committee may automatically place previous season A team skaters that are returning for their 2nd year in the same division on the A Team. The players selected for automatic placement are exempt from attending evaluations.
 10. All players MUST assume they need to report to all evaluation sessions unless they receive an email from the Hockey Director prior to the start of the next evaluation session..
 11. The Tryout Committee (AKA Evaluation Committee) will consist of the following “Core Members”: President, Vice President, Hockey Director, Hockey Director Assistant. These will be the “Core Members” of the committee. Optionally, up to two At-Large members, as determined by the Core Members, may join the Tryout Committee. The Tryout Committee will be responsible for supporting the Hockey Director and Hockey Director Assistant and play a part in making tryout-related decisions as well as final team roster selections and approving Head Coaches selected by the Hockey Director.
 12. The Tryout Committee may excuse up to five top-ranked skaters and five bottom-ranked skaters from remaining evaluations sessions. These skaters must have scored in the top five or bottom five skaters on that given evaluation session.
 13. Goalies will be evaluated year to year for team placement. Due to the uniqueness of this position, a separate tryout screening process will take place. Whenever possible former goalies and/or goalie coaches will be designated as the evaluator(s). A goalie evaluator may not be used if they have a conflict of interest at the age level being evaluated, e.g, a child, stepchild or relative playing goalie at the age level being evaluated.
 14. Final team selections will take place after all evaluation sessionsThe Tryout Committee will have final determination in the team rosters and the head coaches selected by the

- Hockey Director and Hockey Director Assistant. The Tryout Committee will review team rosters and the head coaches selected for each team with the ALDs of that level (i.e., S squirt rosters and coaches will be reviewed by the S squirt ALD). The team rosters will be made available on the WYHA website as soon as reasonably possible.
15. Before final rosters are set, the identified coach(es) for a given team may choose up to two players from a designated list of skaters to round out that team's roster. The Tryout Committee will oversee this process and have final determination in the roster.
 16. The Tryout Committee and Age Level Director (ALD) will act as tryout coordinators for a particular age level. Age Level Directors will be used to assist with the organization of tryouts. At the discretion of the Hockey Director and Tryout Committee, two tryout data entry personnel may be used to tabulate all scores or rankings and provide the results to the Tryout Committee. The data entry personnel will not be a part of the Tryout Committee and will NOT have a skater at the level being tabulated.
 17. Questions or concerns after tryouts must be directed to the appropriate ALD, who may answer the question or address the concern themselves or may elect to involve the Hockey Director and Hockey Director Assistant.
 18. Upon request an individual child's tryout evaluation scores (when the 0 to 10 scoring format is being used) may be provided up to two weeks after the last tryout date. This may only be shared in a one-on-one meeting held with the Hockey Director and the ALD.
 19. Skaters must only participate in evaluation sessions at their age level unless they have been approved to be evaluated at the level above their age level or have been asked to assist with an evaluation session in order to get appropriate numbers to facilitate a scrimmage or small area games. (See the skating up policy in this Handbook for more clarification.)
 20. If a player is not injured but chooses not to be evaluated for other reasons, most commonly because they are new to hockey and don't feel they will benefit from going through evaluations, the player will be placed by default on the lowest team within their age level division. The parent or legal guardian of the skater must contact the ALD and Hockey Director prior to tryouts to exercise this option. When this option is selected the player may not elect to be evaluated later, i.e, they will remain on the lowest team for the season..
 21. A skater who is unable to attend evaluations due to injury MUST present a physician's note to the Hockey Director and appropriate ALD that indicates that the skater's injury does not allow them to participate in the evaluation process. These players will be placed on a team, determined by the Tryout Committee, to be the most appropriate for the skater's skill level. This same process will be used to place any new player joining WYHA (transfer or moved to the area) after the evaluation sessions are completed. The Hockey Director will determine team placement of a player that fits this case. If during the course of the season, but before Dec. 31, it is determined that a player that missed evaluations under this case (injury or new to the area) was placed on the incorrect team, the player may be moved up or down to the appropriate team, but only upon agreement by both teams' head coaches, the Tryout Committee, the player, and parents.
 22. Preliminary WAHA/ USA Hockey rosters will be established by Nov. 15. Rosters may be amended up until Dec. 31 at which point final WAHA/ USA Hockey Rosters must be set. These dates may change from year to year but will always follow WAHA/ USA Hockey published submittal dates.

Skills/Small Area Game Stations:

The following is a diagram and description of stations that **may** be used during evaluation sessions. This is approximate and there may be changes based on age level, number of skaters, the preference of the Hockey Directors, or other reasons. The intent of providing this in the Handbook is to give parents and skaters an idea of format. Actual stations may vary.



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Scrimmage:

5-on-5, 4-on-4, and/or 3-on-3 scrimmages, continuous rotations, change matchups throughout the scrimmage, and encourage kids to play all positions. Evaluators, on-ice coaches, or members of the Tryout Committee can request additional specific matchups as needed.

Bubble Evaluation Session:

The bubble evaluation session is an invite-only event. It may consist of a combination of skills, small area games, and scrimmages.

The following is a list of skills and concepts that evaluators and coaches will be looking for when evaluating players. It is not a complete, all-encompassing list, but it should give you a good idea of the types of things that will be evaluated.

1. Skating Skills (agility, speed, acceleration, pivots, stops, forward, backward)

Is the player a strong, middle of the pack, or weak skater?

Can the player make tight, controlled turns?

Can the player turn and stop both directions?

What are the player's strongest and weakest skating components?

2. Puck Control Skills (passing, receiving, stickhandling, shooting) - Can the player do the following:

Handle a puck in a crowd?

Control the puck while making tight turns?
Keep head up while stickhandling the puck?
Make good, accurate passes?
Skate at full speed while handling the puck?
Shoot hard and accurately (both forehand and backhand)?

3. Defensive Play - Can the player do the following:

Maintain proper "Gap?"
Cover the player in front of the net?
Play the body (take away the lane) of the opponent?
Take away options from the puck carrier (force the puck carrier wide)?
Go to where the puck is likely to be rather than chasing the puck?
Demonstrate good judgment as to when to hold the blue line or back up?

4. Offensive Play - Can the player do the following:

Step up the skating speed to the next level to beat a defensive player?
Pass to open teammates rather than always shooting?
Dig the puck out along the boards?
Hang onto the puck rather than just throwing it away or dumping it?
Move without the puck?
Go hard to the net?

5. Hockey Sense - Does the player understand important concepts such as: Angling

Support
Fore-checking
Back-checking
Positioning
Team Defense

6. Positional Play - Does the player do the following:

Move to open ice when not in possession of the puck?
Skate in proper lane vs. chase the puck?
Stay spread out instead of always skating close to the puck carrier?
Adjust position to the movement of teammates and opponents?
Cover for a teammate if necessary?

7. Determination

Does the player do the following:
Skate hard both ways (offensively and defensively)?
Get up right away when knocked down?
Hustle to the puck, beating teammates and opponents?
Play the man (or lane) and remain persistent?
Show second effort (or does he/she quit)?
Continue to give good effort when something doesn't come easily?
Work on his/her individual weaknesses or focus only on strengths?

Appendix B - WYHA Student Coach Policy

WYHA provides an opportunity for older skaters (13 to 17 years old) to act as student coaches per the USA Hockey guidelines for younger skaters in the organization.

WYHA / USA Hockey Student Coach Policy

1. Must attend a training session conducted by WYHA or audit a Level 1 clinic (not required to pay nor will they receive certification credit)
2. Must always be under the supervision of a carded, screened adult coach during all practices, clinics, tryouts and in the locker room.
3. May help at practices, clinics, tryouts only. (May not participate as a player in drills, scrimmages or games when acting as a STUDENT COACH).
4. May not act as a head coach or an assistant coach during practices or games.
5. May be on the bench during games with an adult. The STUDENT COACH will count as one of the maximum of four team officials allowed on the bench.
6. Must wear a helmet with full face shield, gloves and skates while on the ice. Must wear a helmet during games while on the bench.
7. May only work with players at least **two** full playing age levels down. (i.e. Bantam to Squirt, Peewee to 8U Mite).
8. All student coaches (18 years of age and under) are required to fill out a student coach Application found on the WYHA Coaches tab of the website.
9. Upon reaching the age of 18, the STUDENT COACH must comply with the USA Hockey Screening Program and meet the USA Hockey Coaching Education Program requirements which will qualify him/her to act as an assistant or head coach.
10. Student coaches need to be a positive addition to the practice environment; they are on the ice to help, not for extra ice time. Whether student coaches are welcome to help with practices, and the number of student coaches on the ice for practices, is the head coach's prerogative.

Appendix C - Codes of Conduct

Players, Parents & Spectators

Wildcat Youth Hockey supports the USA Hockey Zero Tolerance policy as it relates to conduct by coaches, players, parents, and fans in the sport of youth hockey. It is our hope that by enforcing this policy, everyone has a pleasant youth athletic experience.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

(To be reviewed and signed at the beginning of season team meeting by skaters and parents as a member of a WYHA team, participating in USA Hockey for the current season.)

1. No swearing or abusive language on the bench, in the rink, or at any team function.
2. No lashing out at any official no matter what the call is. The coaching staff will handle all matters pertaining to officiating.

3. Anyone who receives a penalty will skate directly to the penalty box.
4. Fighting will not be tolerated.
5. There will be no drinking, smoking, chewing of tobacco or use of illegal substances at any team function.
6. I will conduct myself in a befitting manner at all facilities (ice rink, hotel, restaurant, etc.) during all team functions.
7. There will be no horseplay in the locker rooms or any area of the rink. This includes throwing objects, fighting, pushing, wrestling, etc.
8. Show respect at all times:
 - No derogatory comments or hazing
 - No ethnic, racial, sexual comments or behavior.
 - No profanity or profane gestures.
 - Be ready on time for practice and games.
 - Listen to coaches and parents when addressed individually or as a group.
 - Keep areas clean — pick up trash in locker rooms and other areas.
 - Players will be held responsible for any destruction of property.
 - Do not take items that do not belong to you, give them to a coach or parent.
9. Don't linger in the locker rooms. The locker room is a place to get ready, to learn, or a place to get dressed.
10. No cell phone cameras, mp3 cameras, video or camera equipment of any kind in the locker room. Locker rooms are for changing — not taking pictures. Players who take pictures in the locker room are subject to suspension.
11. No weapons of any kind are permitted at any WYHA practice, game or event.
12. In the presence of members of the opposite sex, all undergarments need to be covered. If a skater needs to change to anything less than this, it must be done where no members of the opposite sex are present (i.e. bathroom).

Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary actions or sanctions that include, but are not limited to: verbal reprimands, written reprimands, games suspensions, season suspensions, and (in extreme cases) termination from the WYHA with no refund for season fees. Recommendations on any violations will come from the Head Coach. Individual appeals will be conducted following the WYHA Appeal Procedure

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

(To be reviewed and signed at the beginning of season team meeting by parents as a member of a WYHA team, participating in USA Hockey for the current season.)

1. Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
2. Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all its participants, your child will benefit.
3. Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the younger age levels.
4. Know and study the rules of hockey and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.
5. Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice. It is destructive. Work toward removing physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
6. Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.
7. If you enjoy the game, learn all you can and dedicate time as a volunteer!
8. When working as an off-ice official, parents and volunteers may not coach players from the scorer's bench or the penalty box.

SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials. 2. Act appropriately; do not taunt or disturb other fans. Enjoy the game together. 3. Cheer good plays of all participants, avoid booing opponents.
4. Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive.
5. Help provide a safe and fun environment; throwing objects on the ice surface can cause injury to players and officials.
6. Do not lean over and pound on the glass; the glass surrounding the ice surface is part of the playing area.
7. Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
8. Be responsible for your own safety and remain alert to help prevent accidents. 9. Respect locker rooms as private areas for players, coaches and officials.
10. Be supportive after the game, win or lose. Recognize good effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

(To be reviewed and signed at the beginning of season coaches meeting by coaches as a member of a WYHA, participating in USA Hockey for the current season.)

- Never verbally or physically abuse a player, official, parent, spectator or other coach.
- Care more about the child than winning the game--winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one.
- Be concerned with the overall development of your players. Stress good health habits and clean living.
- Give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence, and develop self-esteem.
- Adjust to each player's personal needs and challenges. Be a good listener.
- Encourage all your players to be team players
- Be a positive role model to your players, display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of your players.
- Be generous with your praise when deserved, be consistent, honest, fair and just. Never criticize players publicly.
- Maintain an open line of communication with your players and their parents. Reinforce the goals and objectives of WYHA.
- Teach the basics, continue to study and learn the game to become a better coach and communicator.
- Know the rules, techniques, and strategies of hockey.
- Organize ADM practices that are challenging and fun for your players.
- Encourage equal playing time for all skaters
- Follow all USA Hockey Coaching Requirements
- Follow the Wisconsin Concussion Law and WYHA guidelines.
- Never be under the influence of Drugs or Alcohol while coaching any game or practice.

As a coach, you will be held accountable for your actions both on and off the ice. As a member of Wildcat Youth Hockey, you represent our teams and association at practices, games, hotels,

restaurants, etc. WYHA expects you to conduct yourself in a sportsmanlike manner at all times and to observe the following coach's rules:

- Respect – You are to show respect at all times for coaches, officials, players, spectators and opponents. Do not argue with referees, linesmen, timekeepers, scorekeepers, spectators or coaches. Disrespect will not be tolerated and will result in appearing before the Discipline Committee.
- Profanity – ZERO TOLERANCE. Use of profanity is strictly prohibited on the ice, in locker rooms, hotels, restaurants while representing WYHA. The first violation of this policy will result in a verbal warning. A second violation will result in a one (1) game suspension. The WYHA Executive Board shall determine the penalty for repeated violations.
- Intentionally damaging WYHA equipment and or facilities will result in appearing before the Discipline Committee.
- Conduct on the ice – If a coach receives a misconduct or a game misconduct, the coach will be suspended for one (1) game immediately following a report to the WYHA Executive Board per USA/WAHA rules.
- Other inappropriate behavior – will be handled in accordance with the Grievance Procedures.

USA HOCKEY ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, the USA Hockey Youth, Junior, and Senior Councils have instructed the Officiating Program to adhere to certain points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship. This campaign is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, league officials and administrators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey sanctioned events. Thus, the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all on-ice referees and linesman:

Players

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
3. Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision. Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues with such action.

Coaches

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
3. Visually displays any signs of dissatisfaction with an official's decision including standing on the boards or standing in the bench doorway with the intent of inciting the officials, players, or spectators. Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

WYHA Extensions

The above constitutes the USA Hockey “Zero Tolerance” policy in its entirety. WYHA extends the policy to include parents and spectators at WYHA events. Should a parent or spectator violate the above standards, their team may be assessed a bench minor for unsportsmanlike conduct. Should the parent or spectator persist in such actions, the game may be halted until they can be removed from the rink. In

addition, WYHA will investigate all situations involving parent/fan violations of the "Zero Tolerance Policy". If the situation was found to be a violation of the policy, a warning letter will be issued from the Board of Directors to the offending person or persons. This letter will outline the offense and stipulate possible consequences for any further violations. These stipulations could include, but are not limited to, verbal reprimands, written reprimands, games suspensions, season suspensions, and (in extreme cases) termination from the WYHA with no refund for season fees. Individual appeals will be conducted following the WYHA Appeal Procedure.

Appendix D: WYHA SafeSport Travel Policy

WYHA has some teams that travel regularly to play individual games, two or three games at a time, or in tournaments, has some teams where travel is limited to only a few events per year, and some teams where there is no travel other than local travel to and from our own arena. WYHA has established policies to guide our travel, minimize one-on-one interactions, and reduce the risk of abuse or misconduct. Adherence to these travel guidelines will increase player safety and improve the player's experience while keeping travel a fun and enjoyable experience.

We distinguish between travel to training, practice and local games or practices ("local travel"), and team travel involving a coordinated overnight stay ("team travel").

Local Travel

Local travel occurs when WYHA or one of its teams does not sponsor, coordinate, or arrange for travel.

- Players and/or their parents/guardians are responsible for making all arrangements for local travel. The team and its coaches, managers or administrators should avoid responsibility for arranging or coordinating local travel. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to ensure the person transporting the minor player maintains the proper safety and legal requirements, including, but not limited to, a valid driver's license, automobile liability insurance, a vehicle in safe working order, and compliance with applicable state laws.
- The employees, coaches, and/or volunteers of WYHA or one of its teams, who are not also acting as a parent, should not drive alone with an unrelated minor player and should only drive with at least two players or another adult at all times, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the minor player's parent.
- Where an employee, coach and/or volunteer is involved in an unrelated minor player's local travel, efforts should be made to ensure that the adult personnel are not alone with the unrelated player, by, e.g., picking up or dropping off the players in groups. In any case where an employee, coach, and/or volunteer is involved in the player's local travel, a parental release should be obtained in advance.
- Employees, coaches, and volunteers who are also a player's parent or guardian may provide shared transportation for any player(s) if they pick up their player first and drop off their player last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.
- It is recognized that in some limited instances it will be unavoidable for an employee, coach, or volunteer of WYHA or one of its teams to drive alone with an unrelated minor player. However, efforts should be made to minimize these occurrences and to mitigate any circumstances that could lead to allegations of abuse or misconduct.

Team Travel

Team travel is overnight travel that occurs when WYHA or one of its teams sponsors, coordinates or arranges for travel so that our teams can compete locally, regionally, nationally, or internationally. Because of the greater distances, coaches, staff, volunteers, and chaperones will often travel with the players. Whenever possible, WYHA strongly encourages teams traveling to adhere to all local travel policies.

- When possible, WYHA will provide reasonable advance notice before team travel. Travel notice will also include designated team hotels for overnight stays as well as a contact person within WYHA or the team. This individual will be the point of contact to confirm your intention to travel and to help with travel details.
- WYHA will post specific travel itineraries when they become available. These will include a more detailed schedule as well as contact information for team travel chaperones. WYHA will make efforts to provide adequate supervision through coaches and other adult chaperones. WYHA will make efforts so that there is at least one coach or adult chaperone for each five to eight players. If a team is composed of both male and female players, then we will attempt to arrange chaperones of both genders. However, we rely on parents to serve as chaperones and may be limited in providing this match.
- Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a minor player (unless the coach is the parent, guardian or sibling of the player).
- Because of the greater distances, coaches, staff, volunteers, and chaperones will often travel with the players. No employee, coach, or volunteer will engage in team travel without the proper safety requirements in place and on record, including valid drivers' licenses, automobile liability insurance as required by applicable state law, a vehicle in safe working order, and compliance with all state laws. All chaperones shall have been screened in compliance with the USA Hockey Screening Policy and all team drivers shall have been screened and the screen shall include a check of appropriate Department of Motor Vehicle records. A parent that has not been screened may participate in team activities and assist with supervision/monitoring of the players, but will not be permitted to have any one-on-one interactions with players.
- Players should share rooms with other players of the same gender, with the appropriate number of players assigned per room depending on accommodations.
- Prior to travel, the coach will establish a curfew by when all players must be in their hotel rooms or in a supervised location. Regular monitoring and curfew checks will be made of each room by at least two properly screened adults.
- The team personnel shall ask hotels to block adult pay-per-view channels.
- Individual meetings between a player and coach may not occur in hotel sleeping rooms and must be held in public settings with an additional coach or adult within viewing distance or with additional adults present.
- All players will be permitted to make regular check-in phone calls to parents. Team personnel shall allow for any unscheduled check in phone calls initiated by either the player or parents.
- Family members who wish to stay in the team hotel are permitted and encouraged to do so.
- The team will make every effort to accommodate reasonable parental requests when a child is away from home without a parent. If any special arrangements are necessary for your child, please contact the team personnel who can either make or assist with making those arrangements.
- Meetings do not occur in hotel rooms, but the team may reserve a separate space for adults and athletes to socialize.
- If disciplinary action against a player is required while the player is traveling without his/her parents, then except where immediate action is necessary, parents will be notified before any action is taken or immediately after the action.
- No coach or chaperone shall at any time be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing their coaching and/or chaperoning duties.

- In all cases involving travel, parents have the right to transport their minor player and have the minor player stay in their hotel room.
- During team travel, coaches, team personnel, and chaperones will help players, fellow coaches, and team personnel adhere to policy guidelines, including, without limitation, the Travel Policy, Locker Room Policy and Reporting Policy.
- Prior to any travel, coaches will endeavor to make players and parents aware of all expectations and rules. Coaches will also support chaperones and/or participate in the monitoring of the players for adherence to curfew restrictions and other travel rules.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

WYHA prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook. Participants, employees or volunteers in WYHA may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of the Travel Policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse or that violates the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies.

Reports of any actual or suspected violations, you may email USA Hockey at Safesport@usahockey.org or call 1-800-888-4656.

Appendix E - Policy for Playing Up and Double Rostering of Skaters

From time to time, it may be appropriate for a team or for a player's development to include players on its roster from a lower-level team. In general, this is done in order to address a specific team need (goalie shortage is a primary need for double rostering) or a player's development and is not intended to give the opportunity for a player to "double-up" on ice time by attending practices and/or games of multiple teams. All roster decisions must be in compliance with WAHA rules. Decisions to double roster a player should conform to USA Hockey guidelines and must be approved by the parents, coaches, tryout committee, and impacted ALDs.

Skaters and Goalies playing up a level for a season:

Squirt, Peewee, Bantam playing up

WYHA does not allow skaters to play up (and thus no longer play for their age level team for the season) at levels above their current age group except for special cases where skaters are needed to complete a higher-level team or a players development as determined by the tryout committee and impacted ALDs. The criteria for a skater moving up are stringent and include:

- Must be in the second year of the current level.
- Must announce intention in writing to Hockey Director prior to start of tryouts
- Must have a tryout score in the top 5% of skaters at the skating up level
- A skater may only move up to satisfy specific team needs (e.g., consistent and detrimental low roster number or goalie coverage) or player development needs.
- All roster decisions must be in compliance with WAHA rules. Decisions to play up a level should conform to USA Hockey guidelines.
- Must be approved by the parents, coaches, tryout committee, and impacted

ALDs

- **8U playing up**

WYHA does not allow first-year 8U skaters to play up (and thus no longer play for their age level

team for the season). Second-year 8U skaters will be considered but they must conform to the requirements listed on WAHA's "8U Player Request to Move Up to 10U" form and be approved by WAHA to be listed on a USA Hockey roster.

Definitions

1. Age-appropriate team – the lowest level team that a player is qualified to play for based on their age and birth date.
2. Critical shortage – having fewer than 10 skaters and/or 1 goalie available for a game.
3. Designee – an individual selected by the head coach to act in his/her stead.
4. Skate up – a player playing a game for a team above his/her age-appropriate level. This can be a skater or a goalie.

Rules and Guidelines

1. A player may be double rostered on a team at a level immediately above their age-appropriate level. For example, a child at the age-appropriate level of Squirt could potentially qualify to be double rostered on one Peewee team.
2. A player may not be double rostered on more than one team at any age level. For example a player may not be rostered on a Squirt A and Squirt B team.
3. If the need for double-rostered players is identified for a given team, the players to be included will be determined as follows:
 - a. The head coach, or designee, from the team in need of double-rostered players will meet with the head coach, or designee, of the lower age-level team to identify which players are eligible for double rostering. Both must agree that a particular skater is an appropriate choice, and may seek input from other appropriate sources, such as the Hockey Director or previous coaches. Safety, skill, maturity, and size should always be considered, especially when double rostering to a level permitting checking from one that does not.
 - b. After the players are identified, the coaches or designees will meet with the parents of the skaters to review this policy and to seek the parent's consent.
 - c. Upon obtaining parental consent, the coaches or designees will submit the players' names to the Hockey Director for approval. If approved, the Hockey Director will notify the registrar to add the names to the roster.
4. Rosters, including double-rostered players, must be finalized by the WAHA deadline. After this deadline, a player is not permitted to participate on a given team unless he/she is on that team's roster, or unless a special dispensation is granted by WAHA.
5. A player must play at least five games with a team between Dec. 15 and the first playdown game, to be eligible to play for that team in the playdowns and/or at the state tournament. For example, an age-appropriate Squirt that is double rostered on a Peewee team must play at least five games with the Peewee team between Dec. 15 and the first playdown game to be eligible to play for that team in the playdowns and/or at the state tournament.
6. The double-rostered player's primary obligation should be to their age-appropriate team. Such a player should not compete for the higher-level team if it will adversely affect their age-appropriate team, unless agreed to by the coaches of both affected teams.
7. The intent of the double roster is not to give a player additional ice time on a permanent basis, but to assist teams with a critical shortage of skaters. Therefore, a double-rostered player should routinely practice with their age-appropriate team. They should not routinely practice for teams for which they are double rostered.
8. Skating up as a double-rostered skater
 - a. The need for a player to skate up must be determined based on team needs (such as a critical shortage), player development needs or on the need to have the skater play five games for the team in order to qualify for playdowns and/or the state tournament (NOTE: five games must be

played between Dec. 15 and playdowns). Double rostering will be strictly reviewed by the Tryout Committee and impacted ALDs. The case/need for it must be clearly presented and should follow USA Hockey guidelines.

b. Permission to skate up must be obtained through consensus agreement of coaches/designees of the affected teams and the parent of the player.

c. Every effort should be made to provide a reasonable amount of lead time when requesting a double rostered player to skate up. This will allow time for the player to attend a maximum of one practice with their double-rostered team the week before the game for which they will skate up.

d. If more than one player is double rostered for a given team, every effort should be made to provide equal opportunity for them to skate up, such as establishment of a rotation.

9. No 7-year-olds are allowed to skate at squirt level (WAHA rule).

10. Squirt teams cannot have greater than or equal to 50% players that are 8U age level (WAHA rule).

Addressing Issues and Interpretation of this Policy

1. Disagreements or issues regarding this policy should be brought to the attention of the Hockey Director for resolution.
2. The Hockey Director in conjunction with the Board reserves the right to interpret or modify this policy based on the majority vote of the board.

Appendix F - WYHA's Locker Room Policy

In addition to the development of our hockey players and enjoyment of the sport of hockey, the safety and protection of our participants is central to WYHA's goals. WYHA adheres to USA Hockey's SafeSport Program as a means to help protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse, and other types of misconduct, including emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, and hazing. To help prevent abuse or misconduct from occurring in our locker rooms, WYHA has adopted the following locker room policy. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms.

At the area rinks we use regularly to practice, there are locker rooms available for our program's use. Each of the locker rooms has a restroom and shower area. Some teams in our program may also occasionally or regularly travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, restrooms, and shower facilities will vary from location to location. WYHA team organizers will attempt to provide information on the locker room facilities in advance of games away from our home arena. At arenas for which you are unfamiliar, parents should plan to have extra time and some flexibility in making arrangements for their child to dress, undress, and shower if desired.

Locker Room Monitoring

WYHA has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., generally 30-45 minutes before and following practices and games). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this would likely make some players uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion.

We conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive, and if the coaches are not inside the locker rooms, either a coach or voluntary locker room monitors will be posted directly outside of the locker rooms and changing areas during periods of use, and leave the doors open only when adequate privacy is still possible, so that only participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room.

WYHA team managers will assign two monitors per locker room for each game and or practice. The monitors may be coaches when possible, but may also be any other adult who has completed and is current with the latest SafeSport training. Monitors are responsible for observing activity in locker rooms. At a minimum, a locker room monitor must be within an arm-length of the locker room door and regularly and frequently enter the locker room to monitor activity inside. If monitors are inside the locker room, there should be two monitors present. The monitors should report all concerns or possible infractions to Zero Tolerance and Player Code of Conduct to the team manager and Age Level Director. If further action is needed, the ALD will contact the club SafeSport Coordinator (WYHA Vice President).

Team personnel will make reasonable attempts to secure the locker room appropriately during times when the team is on the ice.

Parents in Locker Rooms

Except for players at the younger age groups (LTS, 6U, 8U, and 10U), we discourage parents from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a player needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear, if the player is or may be injured, or a player's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that parents let the coach know beforehand that he or she will be helping the player. Naturally, with our youngest age groups it is necessary for parents to assist the players getting dressed. We encourage parents to teach their players as young as possible how to get dressed so that players will learn as early as possible how to get dressed independently. In circumstances where parents are permitted in the locker room, coaches are permitted to ask that the parents leave for a short time before the game and for a short time after the game so that the coaches may address the players. As players get older, the coach may, in his or her discretion, prohibit parents from a locker room.

Mixed Gender Teams

Some of our teams consist of both male and female players. It is important that the privacy rights of all of our players are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. Where possible, WYHA will have the male and female players dress/undress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single locker room before the game or team meeting. The referee rooms at The Ice Pond may be used when possible to help with locker room separation of mixed gender teams. Once the game or practice is finished, the players may come to one locker room for a team meeting and then the male and female players proceed to their separate locker rooms to undress and shower, if available. If separate locker rooms are not available, then the players will take turns using the locker room to change. We understand that these arrangements may require that players arrive earlier or leave later to dress, but believe that this is the most reasonable way to accommodate and respect all of our players.

Cell Phones and Other Mobile Recording Devices

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, are not permitted to be used in the locker rooms. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room. A coach or team manager may choose to collect cell phones if it becomes a problem.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

WYHA prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook. Participants, employees, or volunteers in WYHA may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these locker room policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse or that violates the USA Hockey SafeSport

Policies. Reports of any actual or suspected violations, you may email USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or call 1-800-888-4656.