



Irondale Youth Hockey Association Handbook

Rev. 2016

INTRODUCTION

Every coach and parent/guardian should recognize that kids participate in youth hockey because they are having FUN. Whether players have fun is really up to the coaches and parents.

THEY WILL HAVE FUN IF THEY PLAY. Remember, winning is important but our objective is to win while using ALL players, not just the best ones.

THEY WILL HAVE FUN IF COACHES AND PARENTS ENCOURAGE THEM. To be yelled at does not encourage a hockey player.

THEY WILL HAVE FUN IF YOU ARE UNDERSTANDING. There will be times when the players perform to the very best of their ability but the other team is simply better.

I. PURPOSE

This Handbook is designed to provide Irondale Youth Hockey Association (IYHA) players, coaches, managers, volunteers and parents/guardians a ready reference to the rules, regulations, policies and guidelines applicable to players participating in Irondale youth hockey. This handbook is supplemental to the IYHA Bylaws and, unless otherwise directed by vote of the IYHA Board of Directors ("Board"), shall guide the Board in decisions affecting IYHA. In cases where other governing bodies' rules, such as those adopted by USA Hockey, Minnesota Hockey, District 10 or other applicable national or international jurisdictions, supersede the rules, regulations, policies and guidelines set forth in this Handbook, those rules will hold precedence.

II. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of IYHA is to provide an environment that is positive, fun, and competitive for our players. To compete at the highest levels, it is critical that our coaches teach, and our players learn, the fundamental skills of hockey. It is important that we strive to allow each individual the time to master these skills as he or she develops and matures. Each child deserves the same opportunity to reach their highest skill level possible.

In order to accomplish this mission, we need to educate, work with, and continuously train our coaches, our parents/guardians, and most importantly our kids.

This program must also teach coaches, parents/guardians, and kids integrity, pride, loyalty, dedication, and commitment to insure that the IRONDALE HOCKEY COMMUNITY reaches its greatest potential.

III. OVERVIEW OF PLAYER OPPORTUNITIES

IYHA offers boys and girls the following opportunities to play hockey:

Initiation: For those players 8 and under. Emphasis at this level is on developing the basic skills of skating and stickhandling, with added emphasis on having fun. Teams are formed by skill level and the season may include scrimmage games among IYHA teams or with associations within D10.

Youth "A", "B" and "C" Level Hockey: For those players 9 years of age (Squirts (boys)/10U (girls)) and older who desire and have the skills necessary to play at the highest levels. A and B level teams are selected following a tryout period, and all levels play league games under the jurisdiction of District 10 of Minnesota Hockey.

Any girls desiring to play youth hockey on a boys team will be permitted to try out at the appropriate level and, if selected, be placed on the applicable team.

For those girls desiring to play on all-girls teams, IYHA will form teams at the age categories defined by Minnesota Hockey (8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, etc.). If there are not enough girls within IYHA to form a team at a particular age level, every effort will be made to place the affected girls on teams in neighboring associations. Depending on the numbers of players at a particular level, IYHA may co-op with neighboring associations as necessary to fill out the specific teams.

IV. GENERAL RULES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

A. General Rules Applicable

USA Hockey rules, as modified by Minnesota Hockey rules and applicable District 10 rules, as well as the rules and guidelines adopted by the IYHA Board, shall apply to all levels of play, Initiation through Junior Gold.

B. Age

Players perform in categories established by USA Hockey as modified by Minnesota Hockey. Classifications and age brackets in effect in any given year are publicized at the time of registration and are consistent with Minnesota Hockey Rules and Regulations. For specific information, see the Minnesota Hockey website at www.minnesotahockey.org

Players may play at a grade appropriate level, so that players may play up a level so as to play with players in the same year of school.

For consideration to play at a higher level, the player must submit a written petition to the Board. The Board shall consider the petition and such other information as may be appropriate prior to deciding on the petition. Factors to be considered include the player's maturity, overall ability, and likelihood of development at the higher level. Then **the MVI Operating Board** must approve the petition before the player will be allowed to move to the next higher level.

At the Initiation level, players will be placed with other players of comparable skill level.

C. Participation Rule; Waivers

Minnesota Hockey is a community-based amateur hockey program. Players in good standing are required to participate on teams from their local association based on the residence of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) ("Association of Residence"). To participate on any other association's team, the player must obtain a waiver in accordance with Minnesota Hockey rules. A waiver shall be granted to any player who wishes to participate in an association whose boundaries incorporate the school in which the player is enrolled and is attending ("Association of School Attendance"). With respect to IYHA, Association of Residence is defined as residing within (i) the Irondale High School boundary of Mounds View School District #621, or (ii) the New Brighton-St. Anthony School District #282 (together, (i) and (ii) comprise the "School District"), while the Association of School Attendance is defined as school attendance within the School District. Junior Gold (17, 18, 19 years of age on July 1 and attending a High School) may play if their parents reside where stated above. If satisfactory roster sizes of Junior Gold teams cannot be met or maintained with residents of the Irondale hockey community, only then will eligible players be allowed to waive out of IYHA, or in to IYHA from outside the School District, as applicable.

Questions concerning a player's eligibility to participate in Irondale Youth Hockey will be handled on an individual basis and may be, if deemed necessary, brought before the Board for a decision.

IYHA will enforce a "no waiver" policy. IYHA will not waive a player to another association unless there is not an appropriate level team opportunity for that skater at IYHA. This rule does not apply to true cooperative arrangements with other associations or schools, including independent cooperative arrangements for girls under District [10] policies. A formal protest will be filed against any Minnesota

Hockey team registering an IYHA area skater. IYHA will follow the District [10] policy on waiving-in players from other associations that do not field teams at the appropriate ability level of the player. IYHA reserves the right to refuse waive-in candidates. (See August 20, 2009, Board Minutes.)

Players seeking to waive into IYHA from associations which do not have an A team at a particular level will not be allowed to try out for IYHA's highest team at that level absent Board vote, on a case by case basis, to (i) accept such player's waiver, and (ii) allow such waived player to be considered for IYHA's highest team at that level. (See September 15, 2011, Board Minutes.) Prior to granting such waivers, the Board shall first consider the best interests of IYHA players and teams, including team size at the waived level and an assessment of the talent at the waived level, in order that all kids ultimately play at the most appropriate level based on their skill.

D. Identity; Dual Roster

Proper identification must be presented by a player at the time of player registration with IYHA. No player may be registered with two or more USA/MN Hockey teams at the same time regardless of league classification, except as otherwise permitted by USA/MN Hockey rules.

E. Mood Altering Chemicals

The use, consumption or possession of mood altering chemicals, regardless of quantity, is expressly prohibited during the entire playing season. Included are: (1) beverages containing alcohol, (2) tobacco (including chewing tobacco), (3) controlled substances defined by law as drugs (including marijuana), and (4) buying, selling or giving away controlled substances. It is not a violation for a player to possess a controlled substance specifically prescribed for the player's own use by the player's physician.

1. Penalties.

a. After confirmation of the first violation, the player shall be suspended for the next two consecutive games or two weeks of a season, whichever is greater.

b. After confirmation of the second violation, the player shall be suspended for the next six consecutive games. No exception is permitted for a player who participates in a treatment program.

c. After confirmation of the third or subsequent violations, the player shall be suspended for the next twelve consecutive games. No exception is permitted for a player who participates in a treatment program.

d. If after the third or subsequent violations the player on her/his own volition becomes a participant in a chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MH activities after a minimum period of six weeks. Such certification must be issued by the director or counselor of a chemical dependency treatment center.

2. Interpretation. "Game" in this rule means regular league or playoff contest. Practice games or scrimmage games cannot be counted in determining length of suspension.

F. Equipment; Jerseys

1. Each participant is personally responsible to wear an appropriate jersey and protective equipment for all games, warm-ups and practices.

2. All players must wear H.E.C.C. approved helmets with face masks, including goalies and injured players sitting in the bench area. IYHA requires all players, other than goalies, to wear a black helmet.

(See July 15, 2010, Board Minutes.) Second year bantams will not be penalized for wearing a helmet color which reflects the high school the bantam will be attending the following season. (See October 20, 2010, Board Minutes.)

3. Team jerseys (including required blaze orange “Stop Patch”) and socks (Squirt level and above) may be purchased by IYHA and provided to the players or, at the discretion of the Board, may be required to be purchased by individual team members. The cost of jerseys and socks may be included in player fees, or may represent a separate cost of a particular team. Team jerseys provided by IYHA must be returned within 10 days after the completion of the season, to be used in following seasons. Jerseys purchased by individual team members may be retained by such team members, for use in future seasons to the extent possible (no number overlap, for example).

4. All IYHA-supplied goalie equipment must be turned in to the IYHA Equipment Manager within 10 days after the completion of the season. Players not returning their equipment from the previous year will not be allowed to sign up for the current year until the equipment is returned or paid for. NOTE: Goalie equipment is available for use during the off season with permission from the Equipment Manager. The equipment must be signed for by the player’s parents with the Equipment Manager.

G. Activity Levels

1. Adequate player rest is important. IYHA policy is that a team should strive to have no more than five (5) activities per week (excluding tournaments). Deviation from this policy may be based on team level and classification. An “activity” is defined as the convening of the team or some of its members at the direction of the coach, manager or captain for the purpose of a game, scrimmage, practice or chalk talk.

2. IYHA recommends a 3:1 ratio of scrimmages/practices to games.

3. In accordance with Minnesota Hockey rules, a team may not participate in more than two on-ice activities per day, nor shall they participate in more than one tournament at a time (no overlapping days). There shall be a minimum of three hours between on-ice activities on the same day and ten hours between on-ice activities on consecutive days.

4. Squirts. Minnesota Hockey rules provide that at the Squirt level (i) no league standings will be kept, and (ii) teams are subject to a maximum of 35 games per season. Each scrimmage game, controlled scrimmage or tournament game shall count as one game.

H. Player/Coach Rules and Guidelines

1. IYHA subscribes to the player participation philosophy stated by USA Hockey. It is fundamental that all players on a team be given an appropriately equal amount of playing time. All players shall be given the chance to play in all situations including the power play, penalty killing, overtime periods and the closing minutes of close games. For the Bantam A (or top-level) and U14A (or top-level) teams, a policy of fair playing time will be used related to participation, attitude, and in the best interest of the team, but equal playing time is not guaranteed.

2. The head and all assistant coaches of all teams, Initiation through Jr. Gold, boys and girls, must be CEP (Coaches Education Program) certified as specified by USA Hockey, including the completion of age-specific modules for each level coached. It is mandatory that coaches attend all games and that if an emergency causes their absence that they have a competent assistant coach to supervise and control discipline of the team. Only rostered players and coaches are allowed on the players bench during Minnesota Hockey/USA Hockey sanctioned competition.

3. Any disputes are to be handled by the head coach with a minimum delay and in a fair manner.

4. Playing on an IYHA team is a privilege, not a right. Player conduct shall not reflect unfavorably on the team or the IYHA. The use of profanity and/or obscene gestures toward officials, players, spectators, coaches or any person or persons is prohibited. Involvement in any proven act or actions that may violate legal, community, or school standards regarding moral integrity will not be tolerated. Violation of this standard should be referred to the Program Coordinator and District 10 Representative. First violations may be cause for dismissal if so determined by the IYHA Board of Directors.

5. Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

a. Penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct may be applied to coaches, players and/or spectators.

b. Managers and coaches are assigned the responsibility of the conduct of the people watching the game. Upon request of the referee or other official, the coach will take whatever action is necessary to allow the game to continue.

c. Unreasonable or irrational conduct on the part of the coaches, players or parents will be considered grounds for suspension or dismissal by the IYHA Board of Directors.

6. Players are expected to attend all games and practices but should be excused for legitimate reasons, such as sickness or injury, church obligations, or mandatory school activities. Failure to attend practice sessions can, at the option of the coach or manager, make the player ineligible for the next game. Any player in this category must be notified of this status before the game is started.

Players unable to attend a practice or game MUST NOTIFY the coach in advance. Violation of this notification rule indicates a lack of concern for the team and it is expected that coaches will exercise proper sanctions including benching the player for as much as one game. Continued breach of this rule should be referred to the respective Program Coordinator.

7. Players and coaches must shake hands with the opponents in accordance with league rules.

8. Fighting before, during or after a game is not tolerated in any form and will result in the player or players being suspended from any further games until the case has been considered by D10 and, if deemed necessary by D10 or the applicable Program Coordinator, the IYHA Board of Directors. Violations will be handled in accordance with USA and Minnesota Hockey rules.

9. Game Misconduct; Match Penalties.

a. The receipt of a game misconduct penalty in any scrimmage, league game or tournament game shall result in the automatic suspension of the player for the next game. For the purpose of this regulation, the "next game" is defined as the next LEAGUE game or TOURNAMENT game, whichever occurs first.

b. The receipt of two major penalties by the same player in a game shall result in the automatic suspension of the player for the next TWO games.

c. The receipt of three game misconduct penalties by a player during a season shall result in an indefinite suspension until after an IYHA Board hearing has been held. The Board may, at its discretion, impose such punishment or further suspension up to, and including, dismissal of the player for the season.

d. Regarding game misconducts, it is the responsibility of the coach to insure that the above stated penalties are imposed. The coach shall submit a written report, within 24 hours, to the District 10 League Coordinator stating the circumstances under which the infraction occurred. Failure to comply with the above regulation shall constitute cause of dismissal for the coach.

e. Any player, coach, manager or anyone associated with a team that receives a match penalty shall immediately be suspended from all participation in practices, games and team activities until a hearing is held by District 10 to determine any further disciplinary action. District 10 and Minnesota Hockey rules apply. The hearing must be held within 30 days. A second occurrence of these penalties shall result in the suspension for the remainder of the current season, unless the individual is reinstated by a special hearing.

I. Postponement of Games

1. All games shall be played as scheduled, absent extraordinary circumstances. D10 rules and fees apply in all cases.

2. Indoor games are to be played as scheduled. In the event the weather is such that it might be hazardous to the health of the participants, the game may be officially postponed. The head coach wishing to postpone the game must contact the opposing head coach and the League Coordinator at least two and one half (2 1/2) hours prior to game time. In the event the League Coordinator cannot be reached in a reasonable amount of time, the head coach wishing to postpone the game should contact the Referee Scheduler and inform him of the postponement and then continue to try to contact the League Coordinator.

3. All D10 games must be rescheduled. The home team head coach is responsible for contacting the opposing team, the referees, and the League Coordinator concerning postponed games and rescheduling the makeup game.

J. Participation in Tournaments

1. Minnesota Hockey does not permit Mite tournaments. In addition, Mite teams cannot participate in out-of-state tournaments. Initiation teams may participate in "jamborees."

2. C-level teams may participate in C-level tournaments only.

3. Players cannot play at another level and cannot be "drafted" by another team to play in a tournament.

4. No All-Star Initiation teams will be formed.

5. C teams are limited to participating in a maximum of three tournaments with a limit of one out-of-town tournament. A and B level teams are limited to a maximum of five tournaments.

6. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE RULES WILL RESULT IN THE PLAYER, COACH OR MANAGER BEING DROPPED FROM THE TEAM AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE IRONDALE YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION.

K. Injuries. Notify the District 10 Representative or D10 Risk Manager when injuries occur. USA Hockey reporting forms must be filled out for any claims to be valid. Player injuries that result in less than 6 consecutive weeks absence, players are expected to pay for their share of team billings; if absent more than 6 weeks, work with Program Coordinator, team treasurer, and the association treasurer to review payment options. (See February 15, 2007, Board Minutes.)

L. Locker Rooms. IYHA strictly prohibits the use of any type of photographic device in the locker room. Any use of these devices in the locker room could result in the player(s), coach(s), parent(s) or person(s) removed from all further team functions. It would be best to leave such devices in the vehicle you came to the arena in or leave such device with a responsible party before entering the locker room. Two adult supervisors who have completed the background screening process must be present in the locker room with the team at all times.

M. Player Payment Policy. Participation in youth hockey is relatively expensive, and as a result it is important that every player maintain a current account with IYHA. IYHA strives to keep participant costs low through a variety of fundraising activities and the near exclusive use of volunteers to perform association activities. In all cases, it is required that each player pay his/her full cost of participation.

Each team has a volunteer treasurer whose assignment includes ensuring that all players on the team remain current with their monthly fees. The association also has a volunteer treasurer who is responsible for collecting funds from the teams and paying association bills. All association fees are payable online through the IYHA website.

If payment from any player is late the team treasurer will contact the responsible party for payment. If the team treasurer is unable to collect within two weeks of the due date, the team treasurer will contact the association treasurer with a description of the situation. The association treasurer will then initiate contact with the responsible party, explain the association policy for player payments, and attempt to collect payment.

If the association treasurer is unable to collect within one month of the due date, the treasurer and the rest of the IYHA Board Executive Committee will evaluate the situation, decide if other financial aid can be applied, and decide whether the player will be allowed to continue participation. If the player's payments are brought up to date, or an acceptable payment arrangement is established, the IYHA Board Executive Committee may allow continued participation.

Families who are experiencing financial hardship may seek financial assistance through Lake Region's Willard Fund, and/or by application for assistance submitted to the Board Executive Committee. The Willard Fund is available on a one-time basis to assist players and their families with funding a portion of the cost of hockey on a reimbursement basis if they are able to demonstrate need. Further information regarding these two options can be obtained on IYHA's website.

There is no refund for funds collected for registration; players who leave the association will be reimbursed for funds collected in excess of estimated expenses incurred to-date. (See February 15, 2007, Board Minutes.)

Each elected Board Member will receive a \$300 account credit. This credit is in addition to the volunteer requirement exemption.

N. Volunteer Policy.

1. A \$200.00 per family volunteer deposit **is required at registration.** Skaters will not be allowed on the ice until this deposit is received. This deposit is a separate check, undated and made payable to "IYHA." The deposit will be held by the IYHA Treasurer (and not cashed) and returned to you (or securely destroyed) at the end of the season, provided you fulfill your volunteer requirements and all ice fees are paid in full.

3. Volunteer hours will be submitted and tracked online via the IYHA website.

4. Multiple player families are asked to distribute volunteer hours between their teams.

5. Please keep in mind the goal of the IYHA Volunteer Policy is to distribute the huge workload of a hockey season among all IYHA families, for the benefit of our players.

6. **It is your responsibility to seek volunteer opportunities.**

Levels of Players Requiring Deposit	Number of Tournament &/or Non-Tournament Hours Required
-------------------------------------	---

Returning Players, Mites/U8 & Above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For families with 1 skater - a minimum of 8 tournament hours & a minimum of 4 additional non-tournament hours • For families with 2 or more skaters - a minimum of 10 tournament hours & a minimum of 6 additional non-tournament hours
-------------------------------------	--

The following is a partial list of volunteer opportunities**:

Let's Play Hockey Day	Assist Registration	Assist with Warm-ups and Tryouts
Assist Equipment Manager	Fundraising Committee	IYHA Pancake Breakfast
Tournament Committee	Assist Ice Commissioner	First Assistant Coach
Parade Coordinator	Parade Participation	Team Manager
Team Treasurer	Team Picture Coordinator	IYHA Tournaments
Knights Trail 5k Run	Chuck-a-Puck	Be Opportunistic! See Below

** Individual teams will require additional volunteer assistance (e.g., scorebook, timekeeper, & penalty box) which DO NOT count towards fulfilling your volunteer hours.

The following are exempt from the Volunteer Policy requirements (but are strongly encouraged to volunteer):

Head Coach	First Assistant Coach	First Time IYHA Families	Board Members
------------	-----------------------	--------------------------	---------------

Places to find volunteer opportunities:

IYHA Website	Team Representatives	Board Members
--------------	----------------------	---------------

Additional volunteer opportunities will be considered at the discretion of the Vice President and IYHA Board. Please contact prior to opportunity as past volunteering may not be considered.

O. Association Sponsored Training

In accordance with IYHA's mission, the Board has tasked the Director of Player and Coach Development to coordinate and conduct training sessions with all IYHA teams, goalies and coaches. It is the policy of IYHA that all teams, players and coaches participate in such training events, absent conflict with scheduled games or excused absence. (See October 20, 2011, Board Minutes.)

V. INITIATION HOCKEY

A. Overview

The most important part of the IYHA philosophy is to make the player's first contact with hockey a safe and positive experience. The Initiation program is designed to introduce beginners to the game's basic skills. It enables participants to become contributing members of a team effort; to develop self-confidence; and to experience a sense of personal achievement. These goals are achieved in an atmosphere of

cooperation and fun. Players are placed at the appropriate level based on ability. Initiation teams shall strive to have 11-15 players on the roster.

B. Objectives

1. To learn the basic skills of skating, puck-handling, passing and shooting required to play the game of hockey
2. To develop the understanding of basic teamwork through participation in a variety of activities and game situations
3. To have fun while playing hockey and engaging in physical activity
4. To create and refine basic motor patterns
5. To be introduced to the concepts of cooperation and team play

C. Initiation Playing Rules

1. USA Hockey rules, as modified by Minnesota Hockey rules and applicable District 10 rules, as well as the rules, policies and guidelines adopted by the IYHA Board, shall apply.
2. Mite teams shall participate within their district only, except the District Director may, for convenience or to maintain continuity, permit a team to play outside the district. The District Director's decision is final.
3. Cross-ice, ½ ice and small area games are recommended for Mites to increase ice time, puck touches and skill development, using the ADM model as a guideline. In accordance with Minnesota Hockey and D10 rules, IYHA Initiation teams may not participate in more than 15 full-ice games. "A" and "B" Mites and Girls 8U teams shall not play games prior to December 4; "C" or "D" Mite teams shall not play games before December 15. "D" level Mites shall play cross-ice games only. Failure to comply will result in sanctions against IYHA as determined by Minnesota Hockey and D10. No league standings shall be kept.
4. To promote the development of all IYHA Initiation-level players, coaches are encouraged to promote balanced play. For example, coaches should consider requiring more skilled players to make a certain number of passes before taking a shot on goal, etc.
5. Coaches for each team will be allowed on the ice during games.
6. The home team shall supply timekeepers who will control the line change horn, game time and penalty time, as applicable.

VI. "A", "B" AND "C" LEVEL COMPETITIVE HOCKEY

A. Overview

An important part of the IYHA philosophy is that every player be allowed to develop to the extent allowed by his or her physical abilities and interest. The A and B level teams are created for the player desiring a more advanced level of competition. The C Level is almost identical to the A and B level program except it is not as intense, and there shall be no regional or state tournaments. The C level league is competitive for the player who is developing his/her skills until they are ready to advance to the next competitive level.

The IYHA program is considered to be a "feeder program" for high school hockey teams, principally Irondale High School, for the players that desire to attend, and who have the ability to play hockey at the

high school level. This consideration DOES NOT restrict the participation of any public or private school individual who meets the eligibility requirements established by USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey; and/or does not intend to play hockey at the high school level.

IYHA believes that winning is important but only when it can be achieved in harmony with the welfare and development of the individual player. It is possible to have a winning team while emphasizing the development of each player. The program is designed for the player. All rules, regulations, restrictions and guidelines are based on that principle.

B. Requirements for A and B Level Hockey

The following factors should be taken into account by parents and players considering involvement on an A or B level team: (i) Emotional Make-Up -- the high level of competition demands a great deal of enthusiasm, effort and time; (ii) Commitment -- the commitment to hockey must take a secondary role only to family, church and school obligations; and (iii) Financial -- the cost of A and B level team participation cannot be accurately predicted at the beginning of the season but one should expect a minimum outlay of approximately \$150.00 - \$200.00 per month excluding tournaments (also to be considered is the time and cost of transporting the player to and from games and practices, as well as replacing equipment due to wear and breakage).

C. Coach Selection

1. Selection Committee. When 2 or more applicants apply for a coaching role, the applicable Program Coordinator shall convene a Coaches Selection Committee (three (3) persons minimum), consisting of the following: applicable Program Coordinator, Director of Player and Coach Development, other members of the Board of Directors, and other persons determined to be beneficial. No person applying to coach may be a member of the Committee, except where the applicant is also a Program Coordinator. No relative of a coaching applicant may participate in that coach's selection process.

2. Publicity. Well in advance of the start of the season, the applicable Program Coordinator shall send at least one email notice to IYHA Members seeking interested coaches. In addition, the applicable Program Coordinator may seek to obtain non-parent coaches through more general advertising. In addition, the Selection Committee shall attempt to enlist other qualified candidates.

3. Criteria. The Committee should first consider the applicants on the following criteria:

- a. General coaching philosophy and willingness to perform within IYHA guidelines.
- b. Willingness to put in 350 hours or more during the season.
- c. For "A" or top-level teams, preference shall be given to qualified, non-parent head coaches.
- d. Other considerations:
 - 1) Coach of a team for the previous year.
 - 2) Experience as an A or B team coach in IYHA.
 - 3) Experience as an assistant A or B team coach in IYHA.
 - 4) Experience as an Initiation coach in IYHA.
 - 5) Experience as a coach in OTHER youth hockey programs.
 - 6) Coaching certifications from USA Hockey.

4. Method. Applicants are invited to be interviewed in person by the Committee after which selection will be made by a majority vote.

5. Timing. IYHA recommends that 'A' (or top-level) team head coaches be selected before tryouts and all other coaches after try-outs. The applicable Program Coordinator will determine when coach selections will be announced. This date should be made available to the candidates as early as possible.

6. Assistant Coaches. Assistant coaches are selected and retained solely at the discretion of a team's head coach.

D. Warm-Ups

Prior to the first tryout sessions, several hours of warm-up sessions will be available for all players in IYHA at the Squirt level and above. These warm up sessions will emphasize fundamentals only. Sign up and payment of fees for these sessions will be held at registration.

E. Tryouts

1. Evaluations.

a. At least three evaluators will be at each session of each phase of tryouts. Evaluators are selected by the respective Program Coordinator on the basis of (i) experience with teaching, coaching or playing hockey, and (ii) being able to provide an accountable and unbiased evaluation of tryout sessions.

b. Evaluators shall be tasked with identifying the best "hockey players" within the tryout group, and will consider, among other things, each player's (i) hockey skills, (ii) competitiveness in tryout scrimmages, and (iii) such other intangibles that each particular evaluator may find important. Placement of players on A and B level teams will be by vote of the evaluators, with players receiving the most votes over the course of the tryout process being selected for the particular team.

c. "A" (or top-level) team head coaches shall have the opportunity to select the last two or three players to complete their roster (at the election of the head coach). These coach's picks shall be limited to a list of no more than six "bubble" kids compiled by the Program Coordinator and comprised of the next highest evaluator-ranked players not already placed on the particular team. The head coach of the top-level team may select any of the bubble kids to complete his roster, and is not limited to the evaluator rankings of the bubble kids.

d. Prior to the start of tryouts, the applicable Program Coordinator and Tryout Director may elect to publish additional details surrounding the tryout process, to be available on the IYHA website

2. Attendance.

a. Unless specifically excused in advance by the respective Program Coordinator and/or Tryout Director, a player MUST ATTEND ALL tryout evaluation sessions. Evaluators will base their decisions on the tryout sessions a player attends. Failure to attend all tryout sessions, due to an unexcused absence, may result in that player being assigned to a lower level team by the applicable Program Coordinator. The applicable Program Coordinator, after consulting with that level's "A" (or top-level) head coach as the Program Coordinator sees fit, shall have the final decision relative to the team placement of absent players.

b. In the event a player is injured or otherwise cannot attend tryouts due to an excused absence, that player will be evaluated by the applicable Program Coordinator and the head coaches at the relevant level against the top-ranked player by position on the team immediately below a level's top team. The evaluation process may include the player's participation in practices and games at the lower

level for a period of time, along with other considerations including the best interests of the evaluated player and other affected players as well as the affected teams, the player's prior experience playing with and against players of the level being tried out for, as well as upon the consideration of that player's prior coaches. At the Program Coordinator's discretion, player slot(s) may be saved on the top-level team until the injured player has been evaluated, to provide room for (i) such injured player, or (ii) a move-up of the top-rated player at the level immediately below the top level, based on the results of the injured player's evaluation.

Based on the results of this evaluation, the applicable Program Coordinator shall make the final determination of the team the injured player will be assigned to. A parent /guardian of the injured player may request Board review of the final determination of the Program Coordinator, but absent extraordinary circumstances, the Board shall defer to the applicable Program Coordinator's decision.

F. Rosters

1. Size:

IYHA shall seek to have A and B level teams with no more than 15 skaters and 2 goalies. Actual team sizes may vary from year to year at the applicable Program Coordinator's discretion based on the number of players available and number of teams declared. No more than 4 coaches may be listed on a team's roster. Team rosters are not required to be set until the date specified by Minnesota Hockey (currently, this date is December 31).

2. Changes:

Prior to the roster lock-date referenced above, an IYHA player, having been selected for an A or B level team, should be moved only for extraordinary reasons. In those cases where movement of a player is necessary, the following conditions MUST BE MET:

a. Move Up.

The respective Program Coordinator, the head coaches of the teams involved, the player's parent(s), and the player must all agree to a player move-up to a level's next highest team.

b. Move Down.

The applicable Program Coordinator, both head coaches involved, and the IYHA President must all agree to a move-down. If any member of this group is a parent of the player involved, he or she is not eligible to participate in this decision.

3. Goalies:

Goalies who try out and make a level's top team as a goalie, should expect to play goalie full time, at the discretion of the team's head coach. (See October 20, 2011, Board Minutes.)

VII. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Coaches:

1. Pledge the time and commitment necessary to discharge the responsibilities of leading team hockey activities and implement the IYHA philosophy as directed by the Handbook.

2. Maintain team discipline and develop harmony and respect consistent with the highest principles and values of youth sports. It is expected that the coach has the responsibility for team discipline and that he has the right to invoke reasonable measures in the interest of the team. In regard to benching of

players, however, any offense serious enough to require a player to miss more than one game must be referred to the District 10 Representative.

When a player is disciplined, the coach must fully inform the player of the reasons for the punishment before leaving the arena. If at all possible, the matter should be discussed in private.

The coach shall retain the right to request a review of a player's right to participate on any team if he/she feels conditions so warrant even though the conduct of the player does not fall under the above regulation.

3. Develop each player as much as possible within the limits of his/her physical and mental abilities.
4. Be accessible to player and parents on a reasonable basis to discuss the player's progress or lack of it or to clear up misunderstandings.
5. Conduct a parent-coach meeting at the start of the season to familiarize all parties with the handbook and prepare the groundwork for the season.
6. Win as many games as possible within the framework of the program and its philosophy.
7. Cooperate with the Director of Player and Coach Development and the District 10 Representative and support their duties and responsibilities.

B. Team Manager:

The parents of the players on each IYHA team will appoint a Team Manager. The team manager will serve with all the authority to function as the link between the team, parents, and coach to the IYHA Board of Directors. The team manager's duties include: (a) attending the parents meeting to explain the Handbook, financial responsibilities, and general philosophy of IYHA; (b) maintain a close relationship with the team through the season so as to bring to the attention of the respective program coordinator any and all matters that necessitate attention.

The Managers Duties and Responsibilities include:

1. Maintain Minnesota Hockey registration and team roster with names, addresses, and phone numbers for each team member.
2. Schedule activities, secure tournament participation, and arrange purchase of ice.
3. Prepare and distribute activity schedules to team members and respective program coordinator
4. Act as liaison with team sponsor(s).
5. Distribute, maintain and collect all equipment as required.
6. Act as liaison between coach and parents.
7. Manager must be a parent of a rostered player.
8. Manager cannot act as both head coach and manager.
9. Each team is encouraged to have a separate person designated as team treasurer. The treasurer will be responsible for the team's financial affairs, handle the team's finances and prepare a report for the parents program coordinator and association treasurer at end of season or as deemed necessary.

VIII. CODES OF CONDUCT

A. Players Code of Conduct

1. Play for FUN.
2. Work hard to improve your skills.
3. Be a team player - get along with your teammates.
4. Learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline.
5. Be on time for practices and games. Attend all scheduled team activities except when properly excused
6. Learn the rules and play by them. Play hard, but fair. Always be a good sport. Be gracious and courteous in victory and defeat.
7. Respect your coach, your teammates, your parents, opponents and officials. Give credit to your teammates and do not criticize your fellow players or coaches. Follow the directions of your coach and be willing to accept criticism of your shortcomings.
8. Never argue with an official's decision. Treat officials with respect, accept their decisions calmly.

NOTE: Players in off-season hockey leagues must abide by IYHA Code of Conduct.

B. Parents Code of Conduct

1. Do not force your child to participate in sports, but support their desires to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it FUN.
2. Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
3. Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches, or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit. Praise, don't criticize.
4. Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in lower age groups.
5. Know and study the rules of the game, 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.
6. Applaud a good effort in victory and in defeat. 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 the physical and verbal abuse in youth sports. Accept disappointment gracefully, don't pass it along to the player or team members. The welfare of the player and team is paramount.
7. Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them. Discuss your problems or the progress of your player with him at the proper time. The proper time is never right after a difficult defeat or in the company of other players and parents.

8. Appreciate the fact that the coach has the responsibility of an entire team in the locker room and on the ice. Activity and behavior of the player at all other times is the sole responsibility of his or her parents.

9. Know the requirements of team participation and see that your player lives up to them.

10. Realize that skill levels in team competition (especially at the A and B level) are very high and stardom is limited to a very few.

11. Don't be a chronic complainer. If you are convinced something is wrong on your player's team, contact that team manager or applicable Program Coordinator.

12. Meet team financial obligations, promptly. Repeated breaches of obligations will be subject to review and action by the IYHA Board.

13. If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about the game, and volunteer!

C. Coaches Code of Conduct

1. Winning is a consideration, but not the only one and not the most important one. Care more about the child than winning the game. Remember, players are involved in hockey for fun and enjoyment.

2. Be a positive role model to your players, display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of players.

3. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved; be consistent, honest; be fair and just; do not criticize players publicly; learn to be a more effective communicator and coach; don't yell at players.

4. Adjust to personal needs and problems of players, be a good listener, never verbally or physically abuse a player or official; give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem; teach them the basics.

5. Organize practices that are fun and challenging for your players. Familiarize yourself with the rules, techniques and strategies of hockey; encourage all your players to be team players.

6. Maintain an open line of communication with your players' parents. Explain the goals and objectives of your association.

7. Be concerned with the overall development of your players. Stress good health habits and clean living.

8. To play the game is great; to love the game is greater.

D. Spectators 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 any items on the ice surface can cause injury to players and officials.

6. Do not lean over or 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 - be alert to prevent accidents from flying pucks and other avoidable situations.

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.

IX. ZERO TOLERANCE RULE FOR VERBAL ABUSE

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, team officials, and administrators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey-sanctioned games.

Thus, the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all On-Ice Referees and Linesmen:

A. 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 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 such action.

B. 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 sign 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.

C. OFFICIALS

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited

On-ice officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

D. SPECTATORS

The game will be stopped by On-Ice Officials when parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The On-Ice Officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the IYHA Board and D10.

X. IYHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES:

See IYHA website for names of current Board members.

Board of Directors Officers **voting positions (term of office and year of election):**

President (2 year, odd year)

1. Preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors.
2. Insure all administrative and program activities meet the goals and needs of IYHA
3. Direct and / or delegate powers and duties to Board Members as needed to insure the goals and needs of the IYHA are met.
4. Insure the continuation of IYHA legal status as an organization.

Vice President (2 year, even year)

1. In the absence of the President, assume presidential duties as outlined above.
2. Secure IYHA sponsors as necessary.
3. Direct and / or delegate powers for fund raising efforts.
4. Direct and / or delegate powers for liaison activities between the IYHA and external businesses (i.e. team photographs, marketing companies, companies making donations, etc.)
5. Primary conduit for communication between the IYHA and teams via team managers.

Secretary (2 year, odd year)

1. Take, transcribe, duplicate, distribute, and maintain files of all Board of Directors and general membership meetings.
2. Distribute agendas, minutes, directives, schedules, membership lists, etc., as required.
3. Maintain an official document file, including but not limited to the Articles of Incorporation, by-laws, and Board of Directors membership list.
4. Pick up mail on a regular basis.
5. Responsible for all official notification to board members from Board related activities and the public.
6. Be a co-signer on all IYHA accounts.

Treasurer (2 year, even year)

1. Collect and maintain all data on expenses and income for the Association. This will be used for budgeting and planning.

2. Report in writing, on a monthly basis, to the Board of Directors, the financial position of the organization.
3. Have custody of all funds of the Association and keep accurate records of receipts and expenditures.
4. Issue checks on IYHA accounts as directed by the Board.
5. Prepare and distribute monthly bills to all teams (via team treasurers).
6. Be primary conduit to team treasurers on all billing / expense matters.
7. Provide information to auditor for annual report.
8. Provide all information to the auditor for tax preparation.
9. Represent IYHA on the Lake Region Hockey Board of Directors.

Additional Board of Directors voting positions (term of office and year of election):

Minnesota Hockey District Representative (3 year; 2016, 2019, 2022)

1. Represent the IYHA and its interests at all District 10 meetings.
2. Be primary conduit to the Association from District 10. Insure all District 10 rules/regulations have been communicated and are being met by the Association.

Boys Program Coordinator (3 year; 2014, 2017, 2020)

1. Facilitate team selection for the Boys Program.
2. Insure games, scrimmages, and practices are set up for each team within the Boys Program.
3. Facilitate and participate in the coach selection process.
4. Facilitate and participate setting up support structures within each team in the Program.
5. Be primary conduit between the Board of Directors and the Program.
6. Facilitate and participate in player development for the Boys Program.
7. Facilitate and participate in coach development for the Boys Program.
8. Assist in assignment of all ice times across all teams and levels within the IYHA.
9. Insure team placement for all registered players within the Boys Program.

Girls Program Coordinator (3 year; 2014, 2017, 2020)

1. Facilitate team selection for the Girls Program.
2. Insure games, scrimmages, and practices are set up for each team within the Girls Program.
3. Facilitate and participate in the coach selection process.
4. Facilitate and participate setting up support structures within each team in the Program.
5. Be primary conduit between the Board of Directors and the Program.
6. Facilitate and participate in player development for the Girls Program.
7. Facilitate and participate in coach development for the Girls Program.
8. Assist in assignment of all ice times across all teams and levels within the IYHA.
9. Insure team placement for all registered players within the Girls Program.

Initiation Program Coordinator (3 year; 2015, 2018, 2021)

1. Facilitate team selection for the Initiation Program.
2. Insure games, scrimmages, and practices are set up for each team within the Initiation Program.
3. Facilitate and participate in the coach selection process.
4. Facilitate and participate setting up support structures within each team in the Program.
5. Be primary conduit between the Board of Directors and the Program.
6. Facilitate and participate in player development for the Initiation Program.
7. Facilitate and participate in coach development for the Initiation Program.
8. Assist in assignment of all ice times across all teams and levels within the IYHA.
9. Insure team placement for all registered players within the Initiation Program.

Registration Coordinator (3 year: 2016, 2019, 2022)

1. Set up and execute the fall registration for the IYHA.
2. Register and insure all players with the appropriate organizations (District 10).
3. Construct and distribute team rosters and booklets to all appropriate parties.

Equipment Manager (3 year: 2016, 2019, 2022)

1. Maintain appropriate numbers of equipment / jerseys for the entire Association (including goalie equipment) as directed by the Board.
2. Repair or replace unusable equipment as directed by the Board.
3. Ensure equipment meets the safety needs / standards set by the District and the Association.

Tryout Director (3 year: 2016, 2019, 2022)

1. Facilitate tryout process along with Program Coordinator
2. Ensure all tryouts are scheduled, communicated and executed.
3. Be primary conduit between the Board of Directors and the parents/players regarding the tryout process.
4. Assist in assignment of all ice times across all teams and levels for the tryout process.
5. Assist with team placement for all registered players within the Program.

Girls High School Coach

Boys High School Coach

Non-voting Board Positions:

Ice Commissioner - paid position (3 year: 2016, 2019, 2022)

1. Acquire the ice team for all teams within the Association.
2. Facilitate with the Program Coordinators the equitable assignment of all ice teams across all teams and levels of the Association.
3. Schedule warm-up and try-out ice.
4. Will provide a master ice schedule to the Treasurer in a timely manner to facilitate team billing.

Positions with 2 year terms

Webmater, ACE Coordinator, Promotion and Retention Coordinator, and S.K.A.T.E. Coordinator

Recognized Committees:

Player and Coach Development Committee

The Player and Coach Development Committee is a standing committee comprised of six individuals from the IYHA hockey community as follows: the Director of Player and Coach Development, each of the three Program Coordinators, and two standing members of IYHA. The committee is chartered by the IYHA Board of Directors to oversee the player and coach development process within IYHA. This committee will provide a report to the Board during each month of the hockey season and periodic updates during the summer months.

Fundraising Committee

Potential Partnership Committee