

# Irondale Youth Hockey Association

## Handbook

2007-2008



## **INTRODUCTION**

Every coach and parent should recognize that players continue to participate in youth hockey because they are having FUN. Whether players have fun is basically up to 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.

## II. **PURPOSE**

This handbook is provided for the players, coaches, managers and parents / guardians as a ready reference for rules, regulations and guidelines for teams playing in the Irondale Youth Hockey Association (IYHA). This handbook is supplemental to the IYHA Bylaws found at the end of this handbook. In cases where other governing bodies such as USA Hockey, Minnesota Hockey and/or other international jurisdictions have regulations that supercede IYHA's Rules and Regulations, those rules will hold precedence.

## III. **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of IYHA is to provide an environment that is positive, fun, and competitive for our children. To compete at the highest levels, it is necessary that we need to teach and learn the fundamental skills of hockey. It is necessary 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 it's greatest potential.

## IV. **OVERVIEW OF PLAYER OPPORTUNITIES**

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

Initiation: For those players 8 and under who are in the process of developing their skills. Emphasis at this level is on the basic skills of skating, stickhandling, and having fun. Teams are formed by skill levels and play games in an intramural league with neighboring hockey associations.

Boy's Travel: For those players 9 years of age (Squirts) and older who desire to and have the skills necessary to play at the highest levels. Teams play league games under the jurisdiction of District 1 of Minnesota Hockey.

Girl's Travel: Any girls desiring to play on teams with the boys will be placed on teams in the above categories. For those girls desiring to play on all-girl's teams, IYHA will form teams with the same age categories as Minnesota Hockey (8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, etc.). If there are not enough girls to form a team at the age levels defined by Minnesota Hockey, every effort will be made to place them on teams in neighboring associations. Due to numbers of players at certain levels, there may be a co-opting necessary to fill out the specific teams.

## V. **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### A. 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](http://www.minnesotahockey.org)

For consideration to play at a higher level, the player and parent(s) / guardian(s) must submit a written petition to the IYHA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors must approve the petition before the player will be allowed to move to the next higher level. The exception is for the in house program where players will be placed at a comparable skill level. 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.

B. Residence

Players must play in the natural Irondale hockey community as defined by Minnesota Hockey (in Mounds View School District #621 within the Irondale High School boundaries or in the New Brighton-St. Anthony School District #282). Junior Gold (17, 18, 19 years of age on July 1 and attending a High School) may play if their parents reside there. If satisfactory roster sizes of Midget and Junior Gold teams only cannot be met or maintained with residents of the Irondale hockey community; only then will eligible players from outside the School District be permitted to participate after permission and any other necessary clearances.

IYHA determines residency to be the families "natural hockey community" and for families wishing to participate in IYHA programs to have the integrity and honesty to comply with IYHA's definition of what residency is by Minnesota Hockey standard. Each disputed case will be handled on an individual basis and may be, if deemed necessary, brought before the Board of Directors for a decision.

If a family rents, the rental unit must be the residence for primary living. The rental unit must not be used or appear to be used solely for the purpose of trying to show primary living quarters. IYHA considers the unit to be used or appearing to be used an artificial residence if the family has a homestead property outside of the Irondale school boundaries. The homestead property will be considered in the "natural hockey community", NOT the rental unit.

If a family owns property within the IYHA boundaries, however, lives outside the district, and the owned property is used as income producing property by way of rent or, whatever, the owned property is considered business property and is NOT able to be used to show primary residence within the IYHA district. IYHA considers the family to be living primarily outside the IYHA district and will not allow them to participate. The family has the intent to dwell in another district.

The IYHA definition of residing in the "natural hockey community" is:

To reside means to dwell for some time.

Natural means normal, not artificial, free from affectation (affectation is a mere show or appearance, artificial behavior).

Community means any group living in the same area or having interest, work, etc. in common.

The family must have the intent to dwell for some time (IYHA considers this to be meant to be permanent living unit) in a home, or rental unit, as their natural living unit with the IYHA community. The retaining of a homestead in another community and renting within the Irondale school boundary gives IYHA the impression of living in the home, or rental unit, for the sole benefit of playing hockey in IYHA programs. This is not considered a natural behavior and will NOT be acceptable to IYHA.

If a family has a disagreement with the policy, they may bring their disagreement to the IYHA Board of Directors meeting. Each case will be handled on an individual basis.

If a player desires to play on a team outside of the player's natural hockey community, the player must obtain written permission from the President of the governing body of both the releasing and receiving organization and receive the approval of the District 1 Director. See District 1 website for waiver policy.

The Minnesota Department of Education's Open Enrollment program does not affect this rule.

A request for a waiver will also be considered if a player anticipates moving to a different association or district in the near future.

Players from other associations will not be eligible to play on an "A" traveling team. They may play on a "B" traveling team only if there are insufficient players from the IYHA hockey community to fill out a roster of 15 skaters and 2 goaltenders maximum.

Players from Edison Youth Hockey are eligible to play on an "A" traveling team for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 hockey seasons. (motion IYHA Board of Directors minutes dated June 2007).

C. Identity

Birth certificates must be presented by a player at the time of player registration. Use of an assumed name or falsification of age will result in expulsion from the IYHA program for the remainder of the season.

 If an ineligible player in a scheduled hockey game or practice is not allowed.  The team will automatically forfeit all games in which the ineligible player participated.

D. Dual Roster

No player may be registered with two or more Minnesota Hockey / USA Hockey teams at the same time regardless of league classification. One exception to this rule is the Substitute Goalie Policy (Minnesota Hockey).

E. Mood Altering Chemicals

1. Philosophy and Purpose:

Minnesota Hockey, District 1, and the IYHA Board of Directors recognize that the use of alcohol or drugs as a significant health problem for many children and adolescents with resulting negative effects on behavior, learning and total development of each individual. The use of many drugs and alcohol for children and adolescents affects extracurricular participation and development of related skills. Others are affected by the misuse and abuse by family, team members and / or significant persons in their lives.

The close contact in IYHA activities of Board members and coaches provides them with a unique opportunity to observe, assist and confront young people. IYHA therefore supports education and awareness training in child and adolescent chemical use problems, special issues affecting IYHA activities for administrators, coaches, participants and their families.

2. Substance Abuse / Use (Minnesota Hockey Policy):

The use of mood-altering chemicals, i.e. alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and marijuana is expressly prohibited. During the playing season, regardless of the quantity, a player shall not (1) use a beverage containing alcohol, (2) use tobacco (including chewing tobaccos) or, (3) use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away any controlled substance defined by law as a drug. This rule applies to the entire season. It is not a violation for a player to be in possession of a legally defined over the counter drug, or a specifically prescribed drug for a player's use by their doctor.

3. Penalties:

First Violation: After confirmation of the first violation, the player shall lose eligibility for the next two (2) consecutive games or two (2) weeks of the season, whichever is greater. This includes practices also. No exception is permitted for a player who becomes a participant in a treatment program.

Second Violation: After confirmation of the second violation, the player shall lose eligibility for the next six (6) consecutive games including the practice time between games. No exception is permitted for a player who becomes a participant in a treatment program.

Third Violation: After confirmation of the third or subsequent violations, the player shall lose eligibility for the next twelve (12) games and the practice time in between. 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 Minnesota Hockey activities after a minimum period of six (6) weeks. Such certification must be issued by the director or counselor of a chemical dependency treatment center.

F. Equipment

1. Each participant is personally responsible to wear protective equipment for all games, warm-ups and practices. Such equipment should include shin pads, shoulder pads, elbow pads, hip pads or padded hockey pants (breezers), protective cup / pelvic protector, gloves, and tendon pads.
2. All players must wear H.E.C.C. approved helmets and face masks in accord with USA Hockey rules.
3. All Goalie equipment must be constructed for the sole purpose of protecting the head or body. Goaltenders must wear goalie pads, protective cup / pelvic protector, chest protector, blocker, catching glove, elbow pads, and cage-type mask and helmet.
4. An internal colored (non-clear) mouthguard, covering all the teeth in the upper jaw, is mandatory for all players including goalkeepers in all age classifications. The penalty for District 1 games and all Minnesota Hockey games is a misconduct (10 minutes). In addition, any player given a misconduct for not wearing a mouthguard shall not play the remainder of the game and the following game. Penalties imposed by IYHA double for each subsequent infraction.
5. Jewelry shall not be worn by any player. Religious or medical medals must be taped to the body so as to remain covered by the uniform at all times.
6. Team jerseys and socks (Squirt level and above) are purchased by IYHA and are paid for by the teams. This equipment belongs to the players at the completion of the season with the exception of the traveling team jerseys. These jerseys are of the highest quality and must be returned within 10 days after the final game to be used in following seasons.
7. All goalie equipment and jerseys must be turned in to the IYHA Equipment Manager within 10 days after the final game. 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.

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G. Activity Levels

A team shall have no more than five (5) activities per week (excluding tournaments). The recommended ratio of practices to games shall be 3:1. See the Section on Traveling Hockey for further clarifications.

H. Playing/Game Rules

1. USA Hockey rules shall apply except as specifically amended herein.
2. 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 and U14A teams, a policy of fair playing time will be used related to participation, attitude, and in the best interest of the team.
3. 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.
4. Any disputes are to be handled by the head coach with a minimum delay and in a fair manner.
5. 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 District 1 Representative. First violations may be cause for dismissal if so determined by the IYHA Board of Directors.
6. Unsportsmanlike conduct: The District 1 Zero Tolerance Rule applies.
  - 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 players or parents will be considered grounds for suspension or dismissal by the IYHA Board of Directors.
7. 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 (Boys, Girls, or Initiation).
8. Players and coaches must shake hands with the opponents in accordance with league rules.
9. 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 IYHA Board of Directors. Violations will be handled according to the USA Hockey Rule Book.
10. Teams are to dress inside the locker rooms. Players should remain in their respective locker rooms until notified that they may take the ice.

I. Postponement of Games

1. All games shall be played as scheduled.
2. Outdoor games will be postponed if the temperature one hour before the game is -10 F or -25 F wind chill.
3. Either coach may postpone an outdoor game because of weather or rink conditions.
4. Indoor games are to be played as scheduled. Games will not be played only if the arena is closed due to the weather. Call the arena directly to see if the arena is open. If a team does not show for a game, the team present shall use the ice for practice. Under no conditions, except the closure of the arena, shall the indoor ice not be used.
5. The coach/team postponing the game, or one of the team coaches if postponement was by mutual consent, is responsible for rescheduling the makeup game. Makeup games may be either 1 or 1 1/2 hours duration at mutual agreement of both coaches. District 1 Rules must be followed for traveling games.
6. All games must be rescheduled.
7. The team/coach postponing the game shall notify the referees of any cancellations and rescheduling. District 1 Rules apply to traveling teams.

J. Participation in Tournaments

1. Initiation team participation in any tournament is not allowed by Minnesota Hockey. Minnesota Hockey does not sanction Mite tournaments.
2. C-level teams may participate in C-level tournaments only. They are not allowed to play, by Minnesota Hockey rules, in A, B, B1, or B2 tournaments. Failure to comply with this policy puts the entire IYHA program in jeopardy of not being

sanctioned by Minnesota Hockey and USA Hockey. Any coach or manager who violates this policy will be suspended for the remainder of the season and their children (if any) in the program face the possibility of being suspended also pending a decision of the Board of Directors.

3. Players cannot play at another level and cannot be "drafted" by another team to play in a tournament. This will also result in a possible suspension of the IYHA program. The penalties for violating this policy are the same as B. above.
4. No All Star In-house or Initiation teams will be formed. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ALL OF 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.**
5. C teams are limited to participating in a maximum of three tournaments with a limit of one out-of-town tournament trip. A or B traveling teams and Bantam Teams are limited to a maximum of five tournaments.

K. Injuries

1. Notify the District 1 Representative or Risk Manager when injuries occur. USA Hockey reporting forms must be filled out for any claims to be valid.

VI. **INITIATION HOCKEY**

A. Overview

The most important part of the IYHA philosophy is to make the youngster'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 have 11-15 players on the roster.

B. Objectives

The program objectives are:

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

C. Initiation Playing Rules

All teams will abide by the latest edition of the USA Hockey rule book. This handbook will supersede the rule book as follows:

1. To promote balanced play: if a player has scored 3 goals in a game, that player shall be moved to defense for the remainder of that game and is to be encouraged to pass the puck forward to a team member as much as reasonable.
2. No body checking.
3. No slap shots allowed or raising of hockey sticks above the waist.
4. Coaches for each team will be allowed on the ice during games.
5. No player shall skate 2 successive line changes within a period unless the team has less than 10 players. If less than 10 players, no player may skate 3 successive line changes. A minor penalty will be assessed a team which does not comply with the changing of players.
6. The home team shall supply timekeepers who will control the line change whistle, game time, and penalty time.
7. Tie game: There will be no sudden death overtime periods when the game is played indoors. Games shall be played until the completion of the ice time regardless of score. Outdoors, the coaches shall determine whether the tie will be broken.
8. Penalties:
  - a. Penalty time shall begin with the ensuing face-off.
  - b. Minor Penalty: 1 1/2 running time minutes for a 1 hour game. 2 running time minutes for 1 1/2 hour game.
  - c. Major Penalty: 5 running time minutes for 1 or 1 1/2 hour games.
9. Game time: Outdoor games will be scheduled for 1 1/2 hours. Indoor games will be scheduled for 1 hour. For Indoor games only, when the allotted scheduled time is over, the game is over, regardless of the time left in the period. Makeup games can be either 1 or 1 1/2 hours.
  - a. 1 1/2 hour outdoor games  
Periods will consist of nine 2-minute line changes, with each shift beginning with a face-off.
  - b. 1 hour indoor games  
Periods will consist of 9 1 1/2 minute line changes, with each shift beginning with ensuing face-off. The game is over when the hour time limit has expired.  
 On outdoor rinks only, the teams may switch ends after 5 line changes of the third period. It is mandatory if requested by either coach.
10. Mini-mite rules only

- a. A goalie with a goalie stick and his normal equipment as defined above shall be used.
- b. Half ice shall be utilized for all indoor games while full ice may be used outdoors.
- c. Coaches shall perform the dual role of coach and referee with the intent of allowing the players to play shinny and have fun. Coaches should teach and enforce the rules. The coach is not to interfere with the playing of the game.
- d. Penalties are not to be called. Coaches shall explain the penalties to the offending players.

VII. **C-LEAGUE HOCKEY**

A. Overview

C-Level teams participate in District 1. This league is competitive for the player who is developing his/her skills to play in the traveling program in subsequent years and also for the player who is interested in recreational hockey. The C-Level is almost identical to the traveling program except it is not as intense. Players are, however, required to follow the same rules as traveling hockey and those given in this handbook.

B. Rules

1. C Level teams shall have no more than 20 players on the roster.
2. The playing rules for the C-Level are the same as for the traveling program. Refer to the traveling section for additional information.
3. Squirts, Peewees, and Bantams will change on the fly. League games shall be 1 hour for Squirts, Peewees, and Bantams and will consist of a 5 minute warmup, two 15 minute periods of running time, and a 12 minute third period of stop time, or until the allotted ice time is up, whichever comes first.

VIII. **TRAVELING 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 traveling teams are created for the player desiring a more advanced level of competition.

The IYHA Program is considered to be a "Feeder program" for the High School teams, for the players that desire to attend, and who have the ability to play hockey on the High School level. This consideration DOES NOT restrict the participation of any public or private school individual who meets the "Rules and Regulations" of this handbook; 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. Director of Player and Coach Development

The Director of Player Development, elected pursuant to the Bylaws, shall arrange the tryout sessions for players seeking places on traveling teams. The Player Development Director shall arrange drills and set scrimmages. It is the responsibility of the Director of Player Development to assure that evaluations are conducted as fairly and efficiently as possible.

The Director of Player Development is also responsible for the overall training program for IYHA. This includes but is not limited to the training of the coaches, assisting at team practices when requested, and establishing the IYHA hockey philosophy.

C. Player and Coach Development Committee

The Player Development Committee is a standing committee comprised of four individuals from the hockey community, one a standing member of the IYHA Board of Directors. The committee is chartered by the IYHA Board of Directors to oversee the hockey 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.



The committee is responsible for handling administrative work to support the Director of Player and Coach Development. Most duties fall under USA Hockey's ACE Coordinator role. One member of this committee will be listed as ACE Coordinator but the duties will be shared by the group. The Director of Player and Coach Development will work with this committee to ensure all players and coaches within IYHA receive the highest quality training an association can provide.

D. Requirements for Traveling Hockey

The following factors should be taken into account by parents and players considering involvement on a traveling team:

**Emotional Make-Up:**

**The high level of competition demands a great deal of enthusiasm, effort and time.**

**Commitment:**

**The commitment to hockey must take a secondary role only to family, church and school obligations.**

**Financial:**

**The cost of traveling team participation cannot be accurately predicted at the beginning of the season but one should expectt a minimum outlay of approximately \$150.00 - \$200.00 per month excluding tournaments. Money is needed to purchase ice, pay league fees, and other purchases including jerseys, pucks, goalie sticks etc. Also to be considered is the cost of transporting the player to and from games and practices.**

E. Coach Selection

1. Selection Committee:

When 2 or more applicants apply for a coaching role, the IYHA Board of Directors shall convene a Coaches Selection Committee (five (5) persons minimum), consisting of the following: Program Coordinator, IYHA President, Player Development Director, 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. No relative of an applicant may participate in the selection or voting for or against his relative.

2. Publicity:

At least one notice shall be published in the IYHA Newsletter by the first week of May inviting coaches to apply to the District 1 Representative. 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. Other considerations:

1) Coach of a team for the previous year.

2) Experience as a Traveling Team Coach in IYHA.

3) Experience as an Assistant Traveling 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.

d. All coaches must be certified at the appropriate level of play (See USA Hockey website.)

4. Method:

Applicants are invited to meet in person with the Committee after which selection will be made by a majority vote.

5. Timing:

IYHA recommends that 'A' Team Head Coaches be selected before final team selection and all other coaches after try-outs. The coaches' selection committee will determine the date on which coach selections will be announced in the IYHA Newsletter. This date should be made available to the candidates as early as possible.

F. Warm-Ups

Prior to the first tryout sessions, 4-6 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.

G. Tryouts

1. Evaluations:

Four to eight evaluators will be at each session of each phase of tryouts. Evaluators are selected by the respective program coordinator on the basis they are able to provide an accountable and unbiased evaluation of tryout sessions. Placement of players on the traveling teams will be by unanimous vote of the evaluators. Goalies, as well as skaters, shall be selected by a vote of all evaluators.

A team head coaches have the opportunity to select the last two or three players to complete their roster. The coach is provided the pertinent results of tryouts.

Please see Irondale Youth Hockey Tryout Process for more details on the tryout process.

2. Attendance:  
Unless specifically excused in advance by the respective program coordinator, a player MUST ATTEND ALL evaluation sessions. Evaluators will determine the status of anyone not able to attend all try out sessions. Players may be excused from the skills training sessions if requested prior to the session.

#### H. Rosters

1. Size  
IYHA traveling teams may have 12 - 18 skaters and two goalies (if possible) on the roster until the date that Minnesota Hockey rosters cannot be changed. Prior to that date, roster openings may be filled. Currently, this date is December 31.
2. Changes  
Once having been selected to an IYHA Traveling Team, a player should be removed only for extreme reasons. In those cases where movement of a player is inevitable, the following conditions MUST BE MET:
  - a. Move Up  
The respective program coordinator, the coaches of the teams involved, the player's parent(s), and the player must all agree to the move. The player(s) to be selected for a move up to the "B" team from C Level team status will be selected by the program coordinator, the C league Coordinator, and the "B" team coach.
  - b. Move Down  
The program coordinator, both coaches involved, and IYHA President must all agree to the move. If any member of this group is a parent of the player involved, he or she is not eligible to participate in this decision.
  - c. Minnesota Hockey Rules (To Be Met):
    - 1) An annual date after which no player can be moved.
    - 2) Approval of the Minnesota Hockey District 1 Director.

#### I. Rules of Conduct

1. The receipt of a game misconduct in any controlled scrimmage, 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.
2. The receipt of a second game misconduct by a player during the same game or season shall result in the automatic suspension of the player for the next TWO games.
3. The receipt of a third game misconduct by a player during a game or season shall result in an indefinite suspension until the case is reviewed by the IYHA Board of Directors. The Board may, at its discretion, reinstate the player or impose an additional suspension up to, and including, dismissal of the player for the season.
4. 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 7 calendar days, to the District 1 Representative and program coordinator stating the circumstances under which the infraction occurred. Failure to comply with the above regulation shall constitute cause of dismissal for the coach. The Board shall hold its review within 14 calendar days from the date of the infraction.
5. For "gross misconduct" and "match misconduct" penalties, the player(s) shall be suspended from all participation in practices and games until a hearing is held by the proper authorities (District 1) to determine any further disciplinary action. District 1 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.
6. If the stated rules differ from existing Minnesota Hockey rules, Minnesota Hockey rules shall apply.

#### J. Activity Levels

1. Except for tournaments or rescheduled league games, a team should have NO MORE THAN SIX (6) activities per week. 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. ENFORCEMENT: FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THIS RULE SHALL BE CAUSE FOR DISMISSAL OF THE COACH, MANAGER OR BOTH. Agreement of parents to support more activities is NOT sufficient reason to waive this rule.
2. The ratio of controlled scrimmages and practices to games is recommended to be 3:1. A controlled scrimmage is two teams sharing the same ice with three (3) or more coaches conducting a practice session with both teams. No officials are required, no clock is used, a score book is not maintained and two coaches from each team must be on the ice at all times.

3. Squirt traveling teams shall abide by Minnesota Hockey policy which is as follows:
  - a. No league standings will be kept.
  - b. Limit games to a maximum of 35 per season. Each scrimmage or tournament game shall count as one game.
  - c. The A, B, and C classifications will be maintained.
  - d. Squirts will participate in no more than three tournaments.
  - e. A three-to-one practice to game ratio shall be supported by all teams.
  - f. "A and B" Squirts must be allocated an equal quality and number of ice hours.
  - g. All policies shall be monitored by IYHA and District 1. Failure to comply may bar the association from post-season play at all levels.

IX. **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

A. Coaches:

1. Pledge the time and commitment necessary to discharge the responsibilities of the 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 1 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 traveling 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. Conduct a second parent-coach meeting, mid-season, to discuss progress and any team problems.
7. Win as many games as possible within the framework of the program and its philosophy.
8. Cooperate with the Player Development Director and the District 1 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.

X. **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 spring and summer 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 traveling) 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 District 2 Representative.
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.

XI. **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:

**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.

**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.

**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.

XII. **I.Y.H.A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	Tom Lucarelli
Vice President	Cheryl Mason
Secretary	Jean Aukee
Treasurer	Tom O'Keefe
Boys Program Coordinator	Mark Mohar
Girls Program Coordinator	Mike Nundahl
Initiation Program Coordinator	Bob Gabler
Ice Commissioner	Jackie Rog
Equipment Manager	Tom Johnson
Registration Coordinator	Jeanne Falconer
District 1 Representative	Chris Drews
Non-Board Position: Director of Player and Coach Development	Tadd Tuomie

XIII. **IYHA Board of Directors Responsibilities:**

**Board of Directors Officers (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. Coordinate the construction and distribution of the monthly newsletter.
5. Pick up mail on a regular basis.
6. Responsible for all official notification to board members from Board related activities and the public.
7. 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 positions (term of office and year of election):**

**Minnesota Hockey District Representative (3 year; 2007, 2010, 2013)**

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

**Boys Program Coordinator (3 year; 2008, 2011, 2014)**

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; 2008, 2011, 2014)**

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; 2009, 2012, 2015)**

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.

**Ice Commissioner (3 year; 2007, 2010, 2013)**

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.

**Registration Coordinator (3 year; 2009, 2010, 2013)**

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

**Equipment Manager (3 year; 2007, 2010, 2013)**

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. Insure equipment meets the safety needs / standards set by the District and the Association.

**By-Laws of Irondale Youth Hockey Association (Adopted November 20, 2003)**  
**IRONDALE YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**  
**(Hereafter IYHA)**

**Article 1: Membership**

**Section 1: Qualification**

Any person who is a resident of that area of Independent School District Number 621 whom shall attend Irondale High School (herein after referred as the "Irondale" area) and such other persons as shall be designated from time to time as members by the board of Directors shall be eligible for membership.

**Section 2: Number**

The number of members shall be unlimited.

**Section 3: Membership**

Each person 18 years of age or older, meeting qualifications (above), shall be a member of the Irondale Youth Hockey Association (subsequently referred to as "IYHA") if he/she has made a contribution to this association during the immediate preceding twelve month period. A contribution is defined as:

- a. Having a child in the IYHA program.
- b. Being recognized by the board as having contributed financially to the IYHA.
- c. Being recognized by the board as having contributed services to the IYHA

**Section 4: Rights**

Each member of the association shall be entitled to one vote on general membership issues and elections.

**Article 2: Board of Directors**

**Section 1: Powers**

The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the IYHA. It shall approve the budgets and programs of the association in order to effectively and efficiently perform the business of the association.

**Section 2: Officers and Members**

The Board of Directors shall have the following officers:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

The Board of Directors shall have seven additional members:

- Minnesota Hockey District Representative
- Initiation Program Coordinator
- Girls Program Coordinator
- Boys Program Coordinator
- Ice Commissioner
- Registration Coordinator

Equipment Manager

**Section 3: Elected Terms**

The Officers shall have two-year terms. The election of the officers will be staggered in such a way that the President and Secretary will be elected one year and the Vice President and Treasurer will be elected in the subsequent year. Terms of office shall be from the April election meeting until the April election meeting of the year in which their term expires.

The additional members of the board shall be elected to three-year terms. The Equipment Manager and Registration Coordinator will be elected one year, the Minnesota Hockey District Representative, Initiation Coordinator and Ice Commissioner will be elected the second year, and the Boys Program Coordinator and the Girls Program Coordinator will be elected the third year. Terms of office shall be from the April election meeting until the April election meeting of the year in which their term expires.

**Section 4: Position Duties and Key Responsibilities**

The IYHA Board shall adopt position descriptions for each Board position, which shall be maintained on file by the Secretary of the IYHA.

**Section 5: Vacancies / Removal Board of Directors**

**A. Voluntary Vacancies**

- A voluntary vacancy can result: by the death, written resignation, or the incapacity of an elected member of the board of directors.
- A voluntary vacancy must be documented by the secretary and distributed to members of the board prior to the next regular monthly board meeting.
- The voluntary vacancy will be voted upon at the soonest meeting after notification. A simple majority of board members present is needed for acceptance.

**B. Board Directed Vacancies**

- Board Member Misses Meetings:
  - If a board member misses four meetings within a twelve-month period, the board may choose to remove the offending member.
- Board Member No Longer Qualifies as a Member of the IYHA:
  - If a board member moves away from the IYHA area, or no longer provides personal or financial service, or no longer has a child in the program, the board may choose to remove the offending member.
- Board Member Service Becomes Detrimental to the Welfare of the IYHA.
  - If a board member, through action, deed, or verbal occurrence inhibits the association from carrying out its business in an effective or efficient manner, the board may choose to remove the offending member.

**C. Board Directed Process**

- Any board member may initiate a board directed vacancy by documenting the case and distributing the letter to all board members prior to regularly scheduled meeting.
- The case will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting after the documented case has been distributed.
- The board directed vacancy under consideration will be voted on at the second meeting after the documented case has been distributed.
- Acceptance of the board directed vacancy must pass by two-thirds (eight or more) votes of the current board members.

**Article 3: Meetings**

**Section 1: Meeting Parameters**

A. Quorum

- For all meetings a majority of all the Directors shall constitute a sufficient quorum to transact business. Under the current structure, a minimum of six board members must be present.

B. Voting

- Each member of the Board of Directors shall have only one vote in matters which come before the board at meetings.
- The President shall not exercise his / her vote except in the event of a tie.

C. Parliamentary authority

- Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority on all matters covered by the by-laws of this association.

**Section 2: Meetings**

A. Standing Board Meetings

- The Board of Directors must meet at least monthly on a regular basis.
- The announcement of the next board meeting must be published in the Newsletter prior to the board meeting.
- Minutes from the meetings must be published in the monthly newsletter.

B. Annual meetings

- There will be an annual meeting each April.
- The notice for the annual meeting will be in the March newsletter.
- The annual election for board positions with expiring terms shall take place at this meeting.

C. Special Meetings

- A special meeting of the board may be called by any officer of the board.
- Notification of a special meeting must be given in writing to the board members at least one week prior to the meeting.
- Notification of a special meeting must be communicated to the members at large at least one week prior to the meeting via publication in at least one newspaper serving the area serviced by the IYHA.

**Article 4: Elections / Vacancies**

**Section 1: General Elections**

A. Calling the General Election

- There will be a general election each April to elect board members into positions with expiring terms.
- Notification of the annual election meeting will be sent to the members at large in the March Newsletter prior to the annual meeting.

B. Nomination process

- A Nominating Committee will be established. The committee will consist of five members. One member will be an officer of the board (appointed by the board). The other four members can be any member within the association.
- The Nominating Committee will acquire candidates for all expiring board positions.
- Candidates will: 1) write a paragraph for the Newsletter indicating interest and qualifications. 2) will address the membership at large at the annual election meeting.

C. Procedures for Election

- Elections will be done one position at a time.
- Elections will be by closed ballot. Candidates on the ballot will be listed in alphabetic order. The ballot may be by-passed if only one candidate exists for the position up for election.
- There shall be no nominations from the floor.
- The results of the election for a position will be announced prior to proceeding to the election for the next position.

- Candidate will be deemed elected having acquired a simple majority of ballots tallied.

Section 2: Filling Vacancies

- The board shall solicit the members at large for a viable candidate for the vacant position. This shall be done by notification in the Newsletter.
- The board shall consider all interested parties.
- The vacancy will be filled by a majority vote of board members present.
- The newly appointed board member shall serve out the remainder of the vacant position's term.

**Article 5: Amendments**

Section 1: Amendments of by-laws

- These by-laws may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the board members in attendance. Proposed amendments to the by-laws shall be presented at any meeting of the Board of Directors, tabled, and voted on at the next subsequent meeting. A copy of the amendments shall be sent to each board member prior to the voting meeting.

**Article VI: Suspension of the By-Laws**

Section 1: Suspension of the By-Laws

- These by-laws may be suspended, in case of emergency, by unanimous vote of all present board members at a meeting in which there is a quorum.