

# NORTH VALLEY HOCKEY – 2013/2014 TRAVEL PROGRAM POLICIES, GUIDELINES AND GOALS

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PURPOSE: The purpose of these Policies, Guidelines and Goals is to establish a basic, consistent framework for the success and growth of players, teams and North Valley Hockey's travel program as a whole. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Contact any Board member (See website).

DEFINITIONS:

Policy: Required conduct, activity or course of action. Modification requires Board action.

Guideline: Strongly suggested conduct, activity or course of action. Coaches, Team Managers, the Travel Coordinator or the Travel Committee are expected to adhere to the spirit of a Guideline when specific circumstances require adjustments.

Goal: The desired end result.

AGE GROUP POLICY: A player's first commitment shall be to his or her Age Group. It will be the coach's decision, in consultation with the player's parents, the Travel Coordinator and other affected coaches, as to the appropriate Age Group placement(s) of all players for the well-being of the travel program as a whole.

TEAM FORMATION POLICY: Each team shall be structured as follows:

- Tournament Squad: Comprised of those players selected by the coach to play in tournaments.
- Practice Squad: Comprised of those players selected by the coach to practice with the Tournament Squad.

The coach can move players between the Tournament Squad and the Practice Squad or remove them from the team altogether but must notify the player, the players parents and the Travel Coordinator when he does so.

TRYOUT GUIDELINE: All players selected for the team must participate in the Tryouts. A coach may initially select a Practice Squad and defer selection of the Tournament Squad. A player may try out for the team during the course of the season but must participate in at least 4 practices to be eligible to be placed on the team or to replace a player on the Tournament Squad.

A player must participate in two out of town tournaments for the Chico Firebirds to qualify to play in home tournaments. In the event that Chico hosts the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> tournament and a player does not subsequently participate in two out of town tournaments, the player's Fee Deposit is at risk and may not be refunded.

"OUTSIDE" PLAYER POLICY: Players can be recruited from other programs only when there are not enough Chico players to form a team and the other program has no team in that

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Age Group. A Chico “Practice Squad” player may play on another program’s tournament team but must notify their Chico coach when they do so.

COACHING GOAL: To develop a multi-season travel program that can compete at a highly competitive level, is educational in the sport of roller hockey and is fun for the participants. It is the league’s desire to develop multi-season travel program coaches with reduced reliance on parent/coaches.

PLAY TIME: A player’s playtime in games is solely at the coach’s discretion, due to the high level of play in the travel program.

TEAM MANAGER GUIDELINE: Each team shall have a Team Manager/Parent Representative, preferably not the coach’s spouse, that is responsible for team functions, including but not limited to: team notifications of practice/tournament schedules, fee collecting, parent/coach communications.

TRAVEL COMMITTEE POLICY: The Travel Coordinator shall “chair” the Travel Committee, consisting of the coach and the Team Manager of each travel team. The Committee shall meet periodically at times determined by the Travel Coordinator for the purpose of coordinating travel activities and resolving travel related issues. The Travel Coordinator shall report to the Board on any actions taken by the Committee.

JERSEY/TEAM NAME GUIDELINE: North Valley Hockey’s Age Group Travel Teams should remain “Firebirds” and keep the current jerseys until such time as there is a significant desire among players, parents and coaches to change. When that desire materializes, “this year’s” players, parents and coaches should work with the Travel Committee to come up with “next year’s” new jersey/team name. Board approval is required.

Exception: If a team finds a sponsor, that sponsor’s policies, team name and jersey requirements are not ruled out but Board approval is required.

Exception: Overall, the long term statewide goal of the Varsity and Jr. Varsity program is to promote adoption of inline hockey as a sanctioned high school sport. These high school teams may compete in either Firebirds or Non-Firebirds jerseys, depending on factors in effect at the time the decision is made.

Exception: An Age Group team may, with Board approval, purchase jerseys with a team name other than “Firebirds” and in colors other than the current blue/black/white provided that the jerseys identify the team as representing “Chico”. The team shall notify the Travel Coordinator of its intent to prevent “over-ordering” of new Firebirds jerseys from the supplier.

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Player Names: Player's names may be added to Firebirds jerseys at the player's expense but only with the coach's approval. All jerseys on a team shall either have player names or not have player names. We recommend that a name be "appliquéd" so that it may be removed if a player "ages up" to a team with a "no-name" policy. North Valley Hockey will only "buy back" used jerseys (at a reduced price from "new") if it has no name.

SPONSORSHIP POLICY: Sponsorship of an individual player by someone outside of their family is acceptable but the fact that a player has a sponsor shall not affect any coach's prerogatives.

Sponsorship of a team by an outside entity requires Board approval.

DONATION POLICY: The allocation of any general donation to the travel program "as a whole" is solely a Board decision.  
A donation may be "earmarked" by the donor for the benefit of a single team for a single season. Disposition of any end-of season donation balance shall be a Board decision.

TRAVEL FEES: For the 2013/2014 season, travel program fees are:

Registration/Tryout Fee: \$25 per player payable at Tryouts. Fee covers the cost of the Tryouts, practices prior to team selection and administrative fees. Any unexpended amounts will be credited back to the player only if:

- The player indicates in advance that they and their family wish to use the Tryouts to assess their readiness for Travel Hockey.
- A team is not formed in the player's age group and the player doesn't elect to "play up" an age group or the coach determines that the player is not yet ready to "play up" an age group.

Skills/Conditioning: \$5 per player per one hour session.

Deposit: \$200 per player. Payable upon selection to team. The Deposit's purpose is to maintain an amount in the player's account sufficient to cover the (estimated) most expensive 4 to 6 weeks remaining in the season. The NVHSC Treasurer may, therefore, at his/her discretion; release a portion of the Deposit during the course of the season for use against monthly fees. Any unspent portion of the Deposit will remain on the books as a credit in the player's account.

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<u>Monthly Fees:</u>	<p>\$75 to \$150 per player per month, depending on the team's chosen tournament and practice schedule. Calculated at the end of each month based upon a Team's Actual Cost for the month just ended. Due and payable 15 days after receipt of invoice.</p> <p><u>Non-Payment Penalty:</u> Tournament Squad players whose monthly fees are not "paid up" will be relegated to the Practice Squad and are not eligible to play in tournaments. Practice Squad players whose fees are not "paid up" are ineligible to participate in practices. Relegated players, per above, must therefore have paid fees sufficient to cover their Practice Squad fees.</p>
<u>Tournament Costs:</u>	<p>Historically, \$375 per team (Sierra Inline tournaments) to \$1100 per team (NARCh/Jr. Olympics).</p>
<u>AAU Fees:</u>	<p>All Travel players must have an AAU membership with "Added Benefits" (\$14 + \$2). NVHSC purchases these memberships administratively, based upon a player's Travel Registration, billing the player for the cost. In addition, some tournament hosts may require "Weekend Warrior" insurance from other Sanctioning Bodies.</p> <p>All Coaches, Team Managers and the Travel Coordinator must purchase their own AAU membership with "Added Benefits" (\$16 + \$2). In addition, some tournament hosts may require "Weekend Warrior" insurance from other Sanctioning Bodies. These fees are reimbursable by NVHSC (funded by player's travel fees).</p>
<u>"Old Style" Jerseys:</u>	<p>Purchase for \$60 per Home/Away set. Rent for \$5 per tournament. (Cost will be adjusted when and if supplier adjusts price).</p>
<u>"New Style" Jerseys:</u>	<p>Purchase for \$120 per Home/Away set. Rent for \$10 per tournament (Cost will be adjusted when and if supplier adjusts price).</p>
<u>Insufficient Funds:</u>	<p>A check is considered non-sufficient funds/returned when the check has been returned from the bank for non-sufficient funds. (1) A \$25.00 non-sufficient funds/returned fee will be charged. (2) Replacement funds, including the fee noted above, are due immediately. Said funds must be in the form of cash,</p>

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cashier's check or PayPal payment payable to NVHSC. (3) If funds are not paid within two business days, the player for whom the funds were paid will be suspended from all travel activity involving NVHSC until such time as the funds are paid in full. (4) In the event of two non-sufficient funds/returned checks within a season; a "cash only" policy will be enforced.

## Refund Protocol:

These fees are set at a level projected to cover all anticipated costs. At the end of the season, excess fees paid will be refunded or credited to the player's account for future use. Players who withdraw from the team without "good cause" are at risk of forfeiting any excess fees paid and all or a portion of their Deposit.

## Full Fees Due:

Full fees for the season shall be due and payable whether or not the player withdraws prematurely for any reason; including without limitation: (1) election to move another team, (2) suspension for behavioral reasons or for failure to make payments when due, (3) lack of ice time, and/or (4) any other reasons not specified in a mutual written agreement between the parties waiving some or all of remaining fees due.

## Fee Adjustments:

All player's fees shall be paid in full when due. Adjustments to fees for "good cause" will be accomplished by application of a credit to the player's account after fees are paid. "Good cause" includes:

- Injury or illness.
- Multiple goalies at a tournament treated as a single goalie for fee calculation purposes.
- Non participation in a tournament approved by the coach in consultation with the Travel Coordinator.

## Fee Payment Holiday:

The Travel Coordinator, in consultation with the NVHSC Treasurer, may declare a "Fee Payment Holiday" for an entire team when collected fees are sufficient to carry the team through the anticipated remainder of the scheduled season. Fee payments will be re-activated if season schedules are revised after declaration of a "Holiday".

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Coach Expenses:

All coaches shall be reimbursed for the cost of their AAU membership.

A coach without a participating player in the travel organization may be reimbursed for extraordinary expenses; such as transportation, mileage, lodging, meals, etc. associated with tournaments or other coaching activities. Reimbursement requests shall be submitted to the Travel Coordinator and, if warranted, the Board.

The cost of approved expenses will be distributed equally to all players participating in the activity associated with the expense.