

Burlington Hockey & Skating Association

Policies and Procedures

February 10, 2012

BURLINGTON HOCKEY & SKATING ASSOCIATION

PROGRAMS

Travel Teams:

BHSA sponsors traveling teams at all classifications, Mite through Bantam. The number of teams and total number of players depend upon the number of applicants year-to-year. The traveling teams are entered into the Dual State League and the Valley League. Dues for the travel programs are set each year to cover the expenses for practice ice, games and insurance. The costs for teams that collectively choose to enter tournaments are borne by the team parents. Each team is scheduled for 2 sessions of practice ice each week (except November through March when ice for High School is needed). Due to the number of teams and the minimal slots of ice time available, this is achieved by multiple team practices on the same ice surface, typically 2 teams per sheet. To the extent possible, ice time is equally distributed between all the teams.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

Hockey Clinic:

Program runs from September through February, approximately 22 weeks of ice time on Saturdays. A certified HECC hockey helmet with face cage is required; kneepads, elbow pads, gloves and pants are optional. Learn to skate registration is held on the first day of the clinic. Skaters learn the basic hockey skating skills of stopping, turning, skating backwards, stick handling and passing with a puck.

Termites:

Program runs from December through March, approximately 12 weeks of ice time. This is for clinic skaters who have passed the 2nd level of USA Hockey criteria. Termites also participate in the Papa Pierce Tournament held in Burlington.

Learn to Skate/Figure Skating:

Program runs from September through February, 22 weeks of ice time on Saturdays. A helmet is required for all beginners. This is a USFSA Sanctioned Merit Badge program, run by certified instructors. Ice Show practices begin after February. There is a separate charge to participate in the Ice Show.

Coaching:

BHSA Coaches and Assistant Coaches in every level are volunteers. Each one has been certified by USA Hockey, which means they have attended clinics and learned coaching techniques. These dedicated individuals are the backbone of our Hockey program. They devote an enormous amount of time venturing to impart knowledge of the game and teach skills to our children. They deserve our deepest appreciation and support.

All coaches must fill out a CORI form prior to coaching.

Coaches (both head and assistant) will be allowed on one roster only, unless there is a need elsewhere and pending board approval.

Parents:

As associate member's parents, please share in the pledge to encourage sportsmanship, teamwork and self-discipline in our children. The BHSA also needs your support and participation with fundraising to help reduce the cost of our programs.

Goalies and Equipment:

BHSA will provide equipment for Mite and Squirt teams without a full-time goalie. BHSA will provide a full-time goalie with the help of District 9 for any PeeWee, Bantam or Midget team that does not have a full-time goalie.

Drug and Alcohol Policy:

To be determined.

FINANCIAL POLICY GUIDELINES

- a) The payment schedule will begin in July and end by October.
- b) If a player is injured or sick for six (6) consecutive weeks, the Board will review prorating tuition.
- c) If a player leaves on their own account, they forfeit monies already paid.
- d) If a child/parent is in need of hardship (assistance with payment from the Board), the Board Treasurer must be notified in writing.
 - a. The Treasurer and President will determine the amount of hardship.
- e) If a player is suspended for fighting or kicked-out of the league for fighting, they will forfeit all tuition paid.
- f) The clinic, after Thanksgiving, is 1/3 of the original cost.
- g) The tryout fee will be a payment towards the next season.
- h) If a player involuntarily leaves:
 - a. Moves out of town
 - b. Injured for the entire seasonThey will receive a refund or credit based on the number of games played, plus fixed costs.

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIPS

USA HOCKEY INC.

USA Hockey Inc. is recognized as this country's national governing body for the sport of ice hockey under the Amateur Sports Act of 1978 as adopted by the 95th Congress (public law 95-606). Its mission is to promote the growth of ice hockey in America and to provide the best possible experience for all participants by encouraging, developing, advancing and administering the sport. USA Hockey is responsible for organizing and training teams for international competition including the Olympic Winter Games. It also conducts annual regional and national championship tournaments in various age categories. The attached core values of USA Hockey are adopted to guide the Association's members in its planning, programming and play, both now and in the future.

MASS HOCKEY

Mass Hockey is the state affiliate to USA Hockey. As an affiliate, it abides by all rules, regulations and by-laws of USA Hockey. It is divided into 10 Districts across the state and represents over 200 town programs. It conducts District Playdowns and State Tournaments to determine the Massachusetts representative to the USA Hockey Nationals. To qualify for the State Tournament, teams (Squirts through Midgets) enter the District Playdowns, which is a three-game single elimination tournament. The district winner continues to the State Tournament to play the winners from the other Districts. The tournament is composed of 16 teams. Each team plays a round-robin against 3 other teams. The winner advances to the Finals.

BHSA/USA HOCKEY

CORE VALUES

- 1) **SPORTSMANSHIP/FAIR PLAY:** Foremost of all values is to learn a sense of fair play. Become humble in victory and gracious in defeat. We will foster friendship with teammates and opponents alike.
- 2) **RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL:** Treat all others as you expect to be treated.
- 3) **INTEGRITY:** We seek to foster honesty and fair play beyond the strict interpretation of the rules and regulations of the game.
- 4) **ENJOYMENT:** It is important for the hockey experience to be fun, satisfying and rewarding for all participants.
- 5) **LOYALTY:** We aspire to teach loyalty to the ideals and fellow members of the sport of hockey.
- 6) **TEAMWORK:** We value the strength of learning to work together. The use of teamwork is reinforced and rewarded by success in the hockey experience.

USA HOCKEY GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH HOCKEY PROGRAMS

- A safe and healthy environment for all.
- An opportunity for all new players who wish to play hockey.
- An opportunity for those who wish to advance in a more competitive environment to do so.
- A philosophy which attempts to reduce the number that become disenchanted and leave the program.
- Qualify adult leadership.
- Scoring records should be de-emphasized at age of 11 and under.
- Awards should be inexpensive and based on significant achievement.
- A primary emphasis be placed on the formal education of players, and a de-emphasis on excessive competition and a win-at-all-costs attitude.
- Sportsmanship at ALL times should be emphasized.

BHSA/USA HOCKEY

PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

- Do not force your child to participate in sports, but support their desire to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it FUN!
- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember that children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays on both teams.
- Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all its participants, your child will benefit.
- Emphasize skill development in practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- Know and study the rules of the game and support officials both on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of officials only hurt the game.
- Applaud a good effort in victory as well as defeat and enforce positive points of the game. Never yell at or physically abuse your child after a game or practice, it is destructive. Work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.
- If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about the game and volunteer!
- **Observe and Honor the ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

BHSA/USA

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- Play for fun.
- Work hard to improve your skills.
- Be a team player; get along with your teammates.
- Learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline.
- Be on time for practices and games.
- Learn the rules and play by them.
- Always be a good sport.
- Respect your coach, teammates, your parents, opponents and officials.
- Never argue with an official's decision!

PLAYER CONDUCT

1. Every player shall conduct himself/herself at all times with due regard for the safety of others. Any player, while engaged in a BHSА-sanctioned activity, who acts in excess of legitimate body contact and consciously, intentionally, deliberately or voluntarily disregards the safety of others shall (at the discretion of the coach) be:
 - a. Prohibited from further participation in the activity in which said conduct is displayed or,
 - b. Suspended for one (1) game or,
 - c. Both of the above.
2. Any player while engaged in a BHSА-sanctioned activity, who acts in excess of legitimate body contact and consciously, intentionally, deliberately or voluntarily disregards the safety of others or is plainly indifferent to the safety of others, and said conduct results in the injury to another party, shall be suspended by the Board of Directors from participating in BHSА activities. The severity of the incident along with the discretion of the Board will determine the length of suspension. The Board reserves the right to suspend a player for the remainder of any given season that the incident occurred in.
3. Those provisions of sections 1 and 2 shall not apply in those instances where league discipline is imposed.
4. Dues shall not be prorated or refunded for the period of any suspensions.
5. When a suspension is issued, the player will remain inactive in any other league's games until the suspension has been satisfied and served toward the league that it was issued by.

Ex: If the Valley League gives a one-game suspension to a player, the player cannot play a Dual State game until the Valley League game's suspension has been served. This may result in a player missing more than one game. Policy stands for a multiple game suspension.

COACHES CONDUCT

The coach is responsible for players when the first player arrives at the rink until the last player leaves the rink.

BHSA

Team Selection and Tryout Policy

1. The tryout fee will be a non-refundable payment towards the next season.
2. No player may tryout unless all of the following requirements have been satisfied:
 - a. A parent signed registration form is on file;
 - b. A submitted USA Hockey insurance form (IMR) is completed and on file;
 - c. His/her dues, as well as dues for all other family members, are current or a payment plan, approved by the Board of Director's Treasurer, has been documented on file. (Revised March 2004)
 - d. Has paid the tryout fee.
3. No skater is excused from tryouts except for sickness, injury or with the approval of the Tryout Director (policy attached):
 - a. Skaters who do not attend tryouts will not be placed on an "A" or #1 team for the new season. This rule does not apply to a player who missed tryouts with an excused absence, was a level 1 player the previous year and is returning to that same age classification. Ex: If a last year's Squirt #1 is a returning (2nd year) Squirt and has an excused tryout absence, that player will remain on the Level 1 team, regardless, without demotion.
 - b. A BHSA player who chooses not to attend tryouts and later decides to come back into the program will be placed on the lowest team within the lowest Mass Hockey tier, and may be evaluated and moved no higher than the highest team within the lowest Mass Hockey tier, if there is room available.
4. There are 3 Tryout sessions. Session one and two, the skaters perform specific skating drills and their skating skills are measured and scored. Session three is designed as a scrimmage scenario, where the skater's real-time game and playing skills are measured and scored. Exception: PeeWee and Bantam, Session one is skills, Session two and three are designed as a scrimmage scenario. Midgets, all three sessions are scrimmage scenarios.
5. After the scores are tabulated, the players are listed in order of scores; highest score being 1st. The amount of players per team will be determined by the total amount of players in each age classification.
 - a. A combination of the player's tryout scores and the ranking and evaluations from the previous year's coach will assist placement determination.
 - b. Team breaks are made depending on how many players are required for each team.
 - c. No team will have more than 15 skaters, unless otherwise determined by the Board.
 - d. Board will have the final approval of selection process.
6. Should a parent have any questions regarding the placement of their child, they will have until June 1 to bring their concerns to the Board of Directors. No movement will be made after this time, unless attrition occurs.

BHSA

Team Members Playing for Non-BHSA Teams and Other Sports

BHSA Team members may be allowed to play for non-BHSA teams as well as other sports provided the following rules are followed:

BHSA TEAM MEMBER PLAYING FOR NON-BHSA HOCKEY TEAMS (page 44, Section 5 of Mass Hockey):

- If both teams have a game on the same day, the player's priority is to attend the select team game.
- If the BHSA team has a game and the other team has a practice on the same day, the player **MUST** attend the BHSA game.
- If both teams have practices on the same day, the player will attend the practices of each team on an alternating basis as it occurs.
- If BHSA has a practice and the other team has a game, the player may attend the game of the other team.
- Player development (PeeWee and up) takes priority over any other game.

BHSA TEAM MEMBER PLAYING OTHER SPORTS:

- If both teams have a game on the same day, the player will attend the games of each team on an alternating basis as it occurs.
- If the BHSA team has a game and the other team has a practice on the same day, the player **MUST** attend the BHSA game.
- If both teams have practices on the same day, the player will attend the practices of each team on an alternating basis as it occurs.
- If BHSA has a practice and the other team has a game, the player may attend the game of the other team.

If these rules are violated, the BHSA coach may take disciplinary action. If continued violations occur or are anticipated, the BHSA coach must bring the matter to the attention of the Board.

Burlington Hockey & Skating Association

Tryout Policies & Procedures

I. Admission to the BHSA program from another town

- i. A child moves into Burlington after the tryout process has been completed:
 - a. The child will be placed on the lowest team at their level (determined by age).
 - b. The child will then be evaluated by the level directors, the coach of his/her team and the coach of team above.
 - c. If level directors and coaches believe the child has the skills to move up to the next team, they may advance that child. Otherwise the child will stay on current team.

- ii. A child living in a town other than Burlington wants to participate in BHSA:
 - a. If child began in the BHSA program, and has continuously participated, they may continue to play for the town of Burlington.
 - b. If the child has formerly participated in another town's program, but wants to move to the Burlington program:
 - They will be allowed to do so if space permits, AND
 - Permission is granted by their current town's hockey Board of Directors and by the BHSA Board of Directors.

II. Re-admission to BHSA program

- i. A former BHSA skater who left the program to participate in another (i.e. Select/Metro) program for one or more years:
 - a. This skater will be allowed to participate (and must participate) in the BHSA tryout process to re-enter the program.
 - b. If the skater did not participate in the tryout process and the timeframe supports, the player will be evaluated and placed on a team at an appropriate level no higher than tier 2. The player must play a minimum of five games before being eligible for any potential movement.

III. Late Fee

- i. If a skater does not participate in the tryout process and decides to enter the program after the teams are chosen, there will be a \$100 late fee.

- ii. If a skater does not participate in the tryout process and decides to enter the program after the rosters are completed and finalized, there will be a \$100 late fee plus any additional roster change fees.