

GREENSBORO YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION STANDARD OPERATING RULES

These rules guide the operations of the Greensboro Youth Hockey Association ("GYHA"). The rules are established by the GYHA Board of Directors ("Board") operating within the By-Laws of the organization. These rules may be amended at anytime by a majority vote of the Board.

Adopted on October 13, 2000 Revised 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010

A. TEAM FORMATION

1. Teams

GYHA intends to form at least one ice hockey team based on available players to compete at the Travel, House Select, and House levels for Mite, Squirt, PeeWee, Bantam, and Midget divisions where appropriate. Second teams and/or B teams at the travel level will require a Board decision. The GYHA Board may approve two teams in a division if the following exists:

- There are an adequate number of players at tryouts (see "Team Size"), and
- Coaches exist for a second team, and
- Adequate ice time is available for practices and games.

2. Team size

A team will consist of a minimum of 12 players plus at least 1 goalie or a maximum of 18 players and 2 goalies. If there are less than 13 registered players in a division available for a prospective team, then the GYHA Board reserves the right to approve solicitation of additional registrants and will hold additional tryouts. The GYHA Board also reserves the right to approve teams of less than 13 players under special circumstances, or to mandate an increase above the 13-player minimum. The GYHA Board reserves the right to approve a team up to 18 players and 2 goalies in accordance with USA Hockey guidelines. If there are not a sufficient number of qualified players available at a given age group to field, in the opinion of the Head Coach, tryout evaluators and ultimately the GYHA Board, a minimally competitive team, the GYHA Board reserves the right not to field a team at the age group for that season and in a tryout situation, will declare the tryout over and refund any money collected for tryout fees less ice cost.

3. Eligible prospects

Any player can tryout for the USA Hockey Division that coincides with his/her age level. Players must be registered with USA Hockey prior to the tryout (see "Players that Miss Tryouts") and not have any outstanding balances with GYHA (see "Fees").

4. Tryouts

Travel and House Select Team tryouts will be held before any player selections are made. USA Hockey Certified Coaches will conduct a series of skill drills and/or scrimmage, as defined by the Board or Board-appointed player evaluators. The GYHA Board will appoint a team of three qualified observers for each age level. GYHA will collect a fee to cover the cost of tryouts. Each player will be scored individually by the observers on each skill and/or scrimmage. The scores will be averaged and the players will be ranked according to their average score.

5. Players that Miss Tryouts

Any player that does not attend the official tryout sessions is still eligible to join an **established or forming GYHA Travel or House Select Team** if all of the following circumstances apply:

- The team has less than 18 skaters, **and**

- The player could not attend due to illness or injury (doctor certificate required), due to a death in the family, or for some other Board approved absence, **and**

- The player remains within his/her age division (no moving up), **and**

- If the player is transferring from another organization, a letter is provided stating the players previous level of play and status with the organization, **and**

- The player receives the approval of the team Head Coach and the GYHA Board of Directors.

If these circumstances are met, the player will be granted a separate or supplemental tryout session. A tryout fee will be required prior to the session.

If a player is deemed ineligible by the GYHA Board, that decision is binding throughout that GYHA season.

6. Moving up

Players shall tryout and play in their respective divisions based on birth year and USA Hockey age classifications. The GYHA board may consider player movement between age divisions from time to time on the basis of player numbers required for team formation.

7. Team Selections

The five players with the highest scores are automatically on the team, along with the highest scoring goaltender. The Head Coach can then choose additional skaters and a second goaltender from the remaining tryout pool. The ACE Coordinator, Player Evaluators, and the GYHA Board of Directors can serve as consultants to the Head Coach in this process. Prospective assistant coaches that have players trying out should not participate in the selection process. At any "B" team tryout, if offered, held subsequent to the "A" team tryout, the "B" team Head Coach will follow the Team Selection Rules in rostering the "B" team.

8. Rostering

A coach may add players to the team roster before the 12/31 USA Hockey deadline based on above guidelines. Any player transfer between formed GYHA teams will require GYHA board approval. Player transfers between GYHA and teams outside of GYHA are to meet the requirements of CAHA and USA Hockey.

B. SCHEDULE

1. Season

GYHA will hold Travel and House Select Team tryouts at the end of each season. Travel and House Select Team practices will begin in September and conclude late February or early March and generally coincide with the CHL season. House Team practices generally begin in September and conclude late February or early March.

2. Practice

Team practice frequency and duration are determined prior to the start of the season and are generally set based on USA Hockey guidelines for player development and ice availability. On ice practice will be held at the home ice rink. Off ice training may be held at various locations determined by the coach.

3. Games

The schedule and game-length rules for Travel and House Select Teams are set by the CHL. The schedule varies based on league annual rules and the number of teams in a division. House Teams schedule and game length vary.

4. Tournament Play

Teams are encouraged to participate in additional tournaments for more competition. GYHA does not limit the number of tournaments or the distance traveled. Individual participation is voluntary, except as required by league the team is participating in. Expenses for tournament fees, travel, lodging, and meals are the responsibility of the players.

5. Ice Time Travel Hockey at all levels including House Select is competitive. Players and parents should **NOT** expect equal ice time for all players. However, coaches are expected to recognize that all players are playing for fun and skill development and will be given adequate opportunity to participate. The house program is less competitive and more focused on providing equal ice time for the fun of the game.

C. FEES

The GYHA Board will establish fees and a payment schedule before the first regular season practice. Fees are set to accurately reflect the costs of USA Hockey fees, league fees, practice time, game time, referee expenses, and miscellaneous costs. These parameters may vary from one age division to another and the differences will be reflected in the fees.

Players will not be allowed to practice or play once fees are past due.

A surcharge of \$25.00 will be applied to each check returned Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF).

Members that repeatedly write NSF checks may be required to make payments by cash or certified check, and the entire season fee may be required before the season begins.

D. EQUIPMENT

1. Required Equipment

The following protective equipment is **required** for all GYHA players and coaches in accordance with USA Hockey guidelines:

Skaters

HECC/CSA Approved Helmet and full-face shield (metal cage or plastic). Helmets must always be worn when on the ice or bench. Red Helmet for all teams Mite House Select and up.

Mouth Guard – Internal, colored (not white or clear). The guard must be mounted to the helmet mask with a proper strap. Mouth Guard is optional for Mites and Squirts unless required by the facility. Officials will insist the player wear the mouth guard if they have one on their mask.

Throat Protector/Neck Guard – Highly recommended for all GYHA Players, while playing or practicing, at home or away

Shoulder Pads

Elbow Pads

Hockey Gloves- Predominantly Red for all teams Mite House Select teams and above

Supporter with Cup (boys) or Pelvic Protector (Girls)

Hockey pants with pads – Red for all teams Mite House Select and above

Shin/Knee Guards

Skates

Hockey Stick - must have the butt-end covered properly with tape or a rubber end cap

Goalies

HECC/CSA Approved Face Mask with Throat Protector

Glove & Blocker

Chest Protector

Shoulder Pads

Hockey Pants

Leg Pads

Coaches

- HECC/CSA Approved Helmet

2. Purchasing Uniforms

All players must purchase a GYHA uniforms (home and away) from GYHA. Payment is due in advance.

3. Wearing Uniforms

Players are only permitted to wear their GYHA uniform when representing GYHA in any USA Hockey Sanctioned Ice Hockey event, including league games, exhibition games, and tournaments.

4. Selecting Jersey Numbers

Numbers are assigned with the intent to avoid overlap – so players do not have to change numbers (and uniforms) from one year to the next:

An existing GYHA Travel uniform from last year takes precedence over all else.

A number cannot be selected if it is used by players on the same team, same division, or IN ADJACENT YEARS, or two years adjacent to a Midget. The GYHA Board will designate someone to define the set of available numbers for each team.

From the available numbers, the oldest player on Midget A selects first followed by the remainder of the team. Midget B selects next, oldest player first, following through the age divisions. In the selection of new numbers, we will avoid use of a number on both the A and B team to avoid conflicts in the following year(s).

If two players on the same team somehow have the same number on an existing jersey, or want the same number, the older player gets first choice. Players ordering a new uniform (e.g. for a larger size) surrender the right to the number if someone else on the team has the same number on a uniform they are keeping.

GYHA will only cover the cost of a new uniform if it is clearly demonstrated that the conflict was created by GYHA allowing players to choose potentially conflicting numbers. While a player may not select a new number because it conflicts with someone playing in an adjacent year (as described in the second bullet above); only if it conflicts with a number on the

same team.

E. COACHES

1. Coach Selection

Coaches will be selected annually by the GYHA Board for all GYHA teams being formed that year. The GYHA Board will review, confirm the selection process, and vote on all coaches.

2. Selection Criteria

The GYHA Board will be taking a broad view to find the best all-around candidate for each team. The best coaches are those that can fulfill the goals of GYHA to provide a fun environment in which players develop their character and their hockey skills. The GYHA Board will seek a coach for each team that has the following attributes:

Hockey Skills

A good knowledge of the game.

Experience coaching and/or playing (incumbent is not guaranteed the position).

Ability to Teach

Committed to the time required to lead games and practices.

Trained (all coaches must be certified at the level required by USA Hockey).

Communicates with players.

Teaches skills effectively.

Maintains a well-disciplined team environment.

Good Character

Creates a positive and fun environment for the players.

Treats all players fairly and positively so they have the best experience possible.

Communicates with parents and handles disagreements in a positive way.

Balances winning and player development in a manner appropriate to the age and division.

Sets a good example by demonstrating disciplined and ethical behavior at all times.

3. Member Feedback

The GYHA Board will survey all members immediately after the season to obtain feedback on their coach the past season. This will serve as just one source of information when making selections for the upcoming season. Forms must be signed or the comments will be discarded. To protect confidentiality, the forms will be mailed or emailed to the GYHA President to check for a signature/name that corresponds to the parents of players on the team. Then the signature will be removed to protect confidentiality (unless the sender requests their name be included), before sending the comments on to the GYHA Board.

4. Coaching Applications

All those interested in a Head Coaching position will provide a written coaching application to the GYHA President. A candidate that prefers to coach a "B" team can complete an application and indicate an interest in being the "B" team Head Coach if a B team is offered.

6. Final Coach Approvals

The GYHA Board will vote to approve a Head Coach for all GYHA Travel, House Select, and House Teams.

7. Assistant Coaches and Managers

The Head Coach may select up to three assistant coaches and one manager. The GYHA Board reserves the right to approve all assistant coaches and managers.

8. Mandatory Requirements for ALL Coaches

Anyone that coaches or assists on the ice or on the bench must comply with the following requirements:

All coaches must be registered with USA Hockey.

Coaches must be certified at the level required for their age division, as stipulated by USA Hockey and CAHA. GYHA will reimburse the coaches for the cost of USA Hockey Coaching certification.

Coaches must comply with mandatory or random background checks, including fingerprinting for checking criminal

records, as may be required by GYHA, CAHA, and USA Hockey. In the case of a GYHA-initiated background check, strict confidentiality will be maintained.

F. CODES OF CONDUCT

GYHA CODE OF CONDUCT OVERVIEW

GYHA consists of players, parents, coaches, administrators, off ice officials, volunteers, and spectators. Good conduct of all is expected within this organization on and off the ice. By attending a GYHA event every participant accepts responsibility of his or her actions and adopts the GYHA Code of Conduct.

GYHA ZERO TOLLERANCE POLICY

There will be a 24-hour cooling off period after every game or practice.

I will refrain from discussing game situations with coaches, on/off ice officials, and GYHA board members for 24hours after every game.

I will not attend any GYHA event under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Fighting will not be tolerated and will result in suspension.

Racial slurs will not be tolerated at anytime and will result in suspension.

I will serve GYHA in my elected or appointed capacity with respect to the organization.

I will be a GYHA team player because teamwork is the heart and soul of this organization.

GYHA ENDORSES USA HOCKEY ZERO TOLERANCE RULES.

1. USA HOCKEY Zero Tolerance Rules

GYHA supports the Zero Tolerance Rules of USA Hockey. In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, GYHA supports on-ice officials enforcing the Zero Tolerance Policy. This policy is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, team officials, administrators, and parents/spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during, and after all USA Hockey-sanctioned games.

Players

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

Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.

Uses obscene, vulgar, or racially directed language at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.

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:

Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.

Uses obscene, vulgar, or racially directed language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.

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, he/she shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

Officials

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a professional, 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.

Off-Ice Officials

Off-Ice officials are the responsibility of GYHA and sometimes have a child or children playing in the game. These officials are an intricate part of the game and therefore are required to conduct themselves in a professional manner.

One must refrain from using obscene, vulgar, or racially directed language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.

Visual displays of dissatisfaction with an official's decision, a player or coach's actions including standing on the boards or standing in the bench doorway with the intent of inciting the officials, players, or spectators will be considered an infraction to the code.

Parents/Spectators

On-Ice officials will stop the game when the 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 local governing body. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

Use of obscene, vulgar, or racially directed language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.

Taunting of players, coaches, officials, or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.

Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, players' bench, penalty box or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

2. Coaches Code of Conduct

The Coaches play a critical role in the personal as well as athletic development of their athletes. They must understand and respect the inherent power imbalance that exists in this relationship and must be extremely careful not to abuse it. The following Code of Conduct has been developed to aid coaches in achieving a level of behavior that will allow their athletes in becoming well-rounded, self-confident, and productive human beings. Although this code is directed toward coaching conduct, it equally applies to other members of the team (managers, trainers, and equipment personnel).

In addition to the following, GYHA expects all coaches to follow the "USA Hockey Coaching Ethics Code" (found in the USA Hockey Rulebook).

Each coach has the responsibility to:

Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one. Care more about the child than winning the game. Remember, players are involved in hockey for fun and enjoyment.

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

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

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.

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.

Maintain an open line of communication with your players' parents.

Explain the goals and objectives of your association.

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

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

Treat everyone fairly within the context of his or her activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, color, sexual orientation, religion, political belief, or economic status.

Direct comments or criticism at the performance rather than the athlete.

Consistently display high personal standards and project a favorable image of their sport and coaching.

Refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches, athletes, officials, and volunteers.

Abstain from the use of tobacco or alcohol products while in the presence of her/his athletes.

Discourage the use of alcohol in conjunction with athletic events or victory celebrations at the playing site.

Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing, or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of his/her duties.

Ensure that the activity being undertaken is suitable for the age, experience, ability, and fitness level of the athletes and educate athletes as to their responsibilities in contributing to a safe environment.

Communicate and co-operate with registered medical practitioners in the diagnoses, treatment, and management of their athletes' medical and psychological problems. Consider the athletes' future health and well being as foremost when making decisions regarding injured athletes' ability to continue playing or training.

Regularly seek ways of increasing personal development and self-awareness.

Treat opponents and officials with due respect both in victory and encourage athletes to act accordingly. Actively encourage athletes to uphold the rules of their sport and the spirit of such rules.

Communicate and co-operate with the athletes' parents or legal guardians, involving them in decisions pertaining to their child's development.

Be aware of the many pressures placed on athletes as they strive to balance the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of their lives and conduct practices and games in a manner so as to allow optimum success.

Be prepared for practices and games beforehand. Keep in mind the goals and philosophy that you established at the beginning.

Be consistent, honest, fair, and just.

Do not yell at your players. Encourage and teach them.

Do not abuse officials, players, coaches, and parents. This will not be tolerated and will be dealt with accordingly.

To have fun and enjoy what you are doing!!!

COACH: If you have a child on the team, he/she should be treated equally to the other players. People should not be able to distinguish who your child is. You are here to coach not to promote your own personal agenda.

Coaches must:

Communicate to their parents and players in a positive and constructive manner.

Ensure the safety of the athletes with whom they work. At no time become intimately and/or sexually involved with their athletes. This includes requests for sexual favors or threat or reprisal for the rejection of such requests.

Respect the athletes' dignity; verbal or physical behaviors that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable.

Never advocate or condone the use of drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances.

Never provide under age athletes with alcohol; never encourage its use.

3. Parents Code of Conduct

Three words of praise before one constructive criticism.

Do not force your child/children 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.

Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.

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.

Emphasize skill development and 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 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.

Applaud a good effort in victory and in defeat and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice – it is destructive. Work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.

Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are very 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!!!

4. GYHA Board of Directors Code of Conduct

In addition to being subject to the codes of conduct for parents and coaches, GYHA board members will:

Communicate with parents by holding parent/player orientation meetings as well as by being available to answer questions and address problems throughout the season.

Recruit volunteers, including coaches, who demonstrate qualities conducive to being role models to the youth in our sport.

Support the GYHA organization and avoid activities that the board deems as contrary to the good of the organization.

Follow and enforce GYHA Policies, Operating Rules, and Board Decisions.

Board members will maintain confidentiality where warranted, respecting the rights of individuals while recognizing that all board meetings are open to all members of GYHA.

The GYHA Board may initiate action to remove a board member that fails to comply with these codes, as stipulated in the By-Laws.

5. 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, your teammates, your parents, opponents, and officials.

6. Spectators Code of Conduct

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

ON-ICE NON-GAME DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

As you know, we have a very limited amount of time to accomplish our many goals. As a result, our first line of defense against behavioral disturbances is prevention. GYHA simply cannot allow behavioral misconduct to interfere with practices or games. The coaches are aware that a certain amount of silliness and an abundance of energy are naturally expected at the younger levels. Therefore, each will make every effort to be sensitive to the needs of his age division, and will set realistic expectations accordingly. However, if a player's behavior reaches a point where it interferes with the development of another player or the team as a whole, the coaching staff reserves the right to discipline the player as needed which may include removing the player from the ice or suspension.

PLEASE NOTE: There are certain instances in which warnings will not be given. We will **NOT** tolerate dangerous play of any kind, specifically: misusing the stick or checking from behind. If a player is jeopardizing his/her safety or the safety of another player, he/she will immediately be removed from the ice and further discipline if necessary.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

In accordance with Article XIV of the GYHA By-Laws, GYHA will establish a Dispute Resolution process in accordance with the guidelines outlined by USA Hockey By-Law Section 10 and CAHA By-Law Section 25.

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