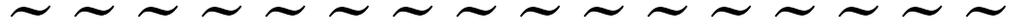




# RIVER CITY HOCKEY TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

## PLAYER AND PARENT HANDBOOK

(Updated June 25, 2016)



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This handbook is meant to provide a historical reference to the San Antonio Junior Rampage as well as practical up to date information regarding expectations of all players and parents that choose to participate in and become members of River City Hockey Travel Association, LLC dba San Antonio Youth Hockey Association, a 501(c3) non-profit.



## **ASSOCIATION HISTORY**

River City Hockey Travel Association, LLC (RCTHA) was created in 1999 to provide an opportunity for the youth of San Antonio to participate in competitive travel hockey. While many people played an important part in the creation of the new association, Bill Levine and Bob Banks were the driving forces behind the creation of the Association that has become home of the San Antonio Jr. Rampage.

Our first teams played as the San Antonio Thunder and participated in the North Texas Hockey League (NTXHL) while our mites and development teams played in the South Texas Youth Hockey League (STYHL). STYHL was dissolved when USA Hockey (USAH) amended their travel rules for mites. While competing in these leagues our teams participated in programs from Mite to Midget.

Beginning with the 2010-2011 season, RCTHA and the San Antonio Rampage (AHL) joined together to raise the profile of youth hockey in San Antonio. Through this alliance, the San Antonio Thunder would transform into the San Antonio Jr. Rampage. The Jr. Rampage continued to compete in the NTXHL through the 2011-12 season, when the NTXHL was disbanded. During our time in the NTXHL and STYHL, RCTHA teams achieved success winning 6 championships over 9 year.

Beginning in 2012-2013, the Dallas Stars of the NHL decided to invest in developing hockey in Texas and helped to form the Dallas Stars Travel League (DSTHL). RCTHA (teams and parents) having proven our ability to compete and exhibit outstanding sportsmanship was well positioned to accept an invitation to this new league. Under the guidance of the Dallas Stars, the DSTHL has become the premiere travel hockey league in Texas and the Southwest. During our time in the DSTHL, Jr. Rampage teams have been consistently competitive with larger, better funded teams and have earned the right to hang multiple banners in our home rink, Northwoods Ice and Golf Center. Jr. Rampage teams have won 12 championships over the 4 years we have been in the DSTHL.

As a partner with Northwoods Ice Center, we share the responsibility to find, recruit, train and develop hockey players in the San Antonio area. In 2010, we created [www.sanantonioyouthhockey.com](http://www.sanantonioyouthhockey.com), a website to aid in those recruitment efforts. This web address has made it easier for families interested in hockey or moving into the area to more easily identify hockey opportunities. It has also created some confusion about the identity of our program and our partnership with Northwoods.



As a competitive travel association participating in the DSTHL, River City Hockey Travel Association must be associated with USA Hockey (USAH) and are subject to the rules and regulations of USAH and Texas Amateur Hockey Association (TAHA). Due to the structure of USAH/TAHA/DSTHL and the size of the San Antonio Youth Hockey market, Northwoods plays an important role by being an independent rink that can provide developmental opportunities to kids of all ages with flexibility that traditional travel and USAH programs cannot. Together, River City Hockey Travel Association and Northwoods Ice Center form the partnership that make up San Antonio Youth Hockey.

## **PLAYER EXPECTATIONS**

In addition to working to develop quality young hockey players, the San Antonio Jr. Rampage are also committed to developing quality young men and women. This goes well beyond what happens on the ice. In addition to adhering to the USAH and Jr. Rampage Player Codes of Conduct as outlined in the Player Contract, expectations are that Jr. Rampage players are representatives of the Association at all times, on and off the ice, in and out of the rink and anytime they are wearing Rampage or Jr. Rampage logoed items.

Our players are seen at many different times and in many different environments. It is very important that they act in a manner to bring honor and respect to themselves, their families and the Association.

## **PARENT EXPECTATIONS**

Likewise, our parents are Ambassadors of not only their respective team, but also the Association, our Rink and our City. Many times, our parents are more visible than our teams when we travel to other rinks for games/tournaments or when other teams come to our building. As parents, we spend a lot of time in and around the public areas of the rink while our kids are in the locker rooms, on the ice or doing dryland. During that time, parents have a tremendous opportunity to influence the opinion of



those around us. Our behavior, attitudes and language all impact how others see us as individuals and representatives of our Association. Because of this, Parents also are required to sign and abide by a Parent Code of Conduct.

Like our children, we must be good stewards of the game of hockey in and out of the rink and at all times when wearing Rampage or Jr. Rampage logoed items.

## **NEW MEMBER INTEGRATION**

As a growing and changing city, as well as a strong military town, RCTHA and the Jr. Rampage are fortunate to have the opportunity to see new faces come into our organization on a regular basis. In addition to the new families and players coming into our organization from the house/rec program, these additions are critical to the future of our Association and we welcome new people, new ideas and new energy.

At the same time, San Antonio is a unique city when it comes to hockey and how our Association works with Northwoods, the Rampage, DSTHL and TAHA and it is important that new members take the time to learn about our program and integrate into the community.

New members that want to contribute to the Association are encouraged to participate in as many Association activities as possible during their first year with RCTHA to learn about the Association and to allow members of the Association to learn about you. Please volunteer for whatever committees fit your desire and skill set, but understand that members that have been in the Association in previous years will typically hold positions as Team Coaches (Head and Assistant), Team Managers and Committee Chairperson.



## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

We all like to take pictures and video of our kids and post them for relatives and friends around the country to see. Mobile phones, iPads and other electronic devices make it easy and quick to do. Unfortunately, sometimes it's too easy or too quick and we realize only after we post something that it would have been better off not said or seen. Unfortunately, once it is out there, it is out there forever.

As a member of the San Antonio Jr. Rampage, it is important that you use social media responsibly.

To guide you in ensuring the use of social media does not cause problems for you, the Jr. Rampage, the San Antonio Rampage, DSTHL, TAHA or USAH, we ask that you follow these basic guidelines regarding social media:

- 1) Please wait 24 hours before posting any picture or video involving ANYONE wearing Jr. Rampage/Rampage logoed items (jerseys/jackets/hats/etc.) or participating in any Jr. Rampage/Rampage event.
- 2) Please refrain from adding comments to any posts that may be perceived as inflammatory or negative with regard to any Jr. Rampage/Rampage/DSTHL player or representative.
- 3) If you are asked by any board member or team representative (coach/team manager), to remove a post, please do so immediately. If you wish to discuss the request, this can be done through proper channels AFTER the post has been removed.
- 4) Phones and recording devices of ANY type are NOT ALLOWED in the locker rooms of Northwoods Ice and Golf Center or any facility where our teams are playing or practicing. Please ensure all phones are left outside of the locker room at all times. Any photos/video found to have been taken inside the locker room is grounds for immediate removal from your team(s).
- 5) If at any time, you see a post that you believe violates any of the above guidelines, please contact a Board member or Team Representative and allow them to address the issue.
- 6) NEVER address a post by a competing team/player directly!!



## MEMBER PARTICIPATION

Every Member of RCTHA is encouraged to positively participate in all Jr. Rampage activities. Supporting your player and team are your #1 job, but there are many ways in which you can show your support for the Jr. Rampage.

- Come out to Northwoods and support a Jr. Rampage team on which your child doesn't play.
- Allow your older player to participate with the younger ones at house and learn to skate programs.
- Be a volunteer for your specific team
  - Coach/Team Manager
  - Scorekeeper/Scoreboard Operator
  - Locker Room Attendant
  - Dry land coach
- Volunteer for Committees where your talents can help the Association
  - Fundraising
  - Banquet Planning
  - Hospitality
  - Travel

Remember, we are an ALL VOLUNTEER association. While we can't all be on the ice, we can all do something to positively impact our Association. If you have had a positive experience with any part of our Association, please pass that along and encourage other people to have similarly positive experiences. If you have had negative experiences, please contact a Board Member to discuss the experience and find a positive solution.



## COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

As in all walks of life, accurate and appropriate communication is the key to having a positive and successful relationship. RCTHA is committed to having open clear communication with our members and our members are asked to do the same.

RCTHA, through the [www.sanantonioyouthhockey.com](http://www.sanantonioyouthhockey.com) website, will communicate information regarding Association and Team activities utilizing the webpage and, when appropriate, the email(s) provided for each members SportNgin account. If there are any concerns or issue with the website or email communication, please get with the Association Secretary at [secretary@sanantonioyouthhockey.com](mailto:secretary@sanantonioyouthhockey.com).

Members are encouraged to interact with their coaches, team managers and RCTHA Board Members as often as possible and/or necessary. We do ask, however, that you observe some basic courtesies when communicating with Team or Association representatives.

- 1) We all love positive feedback. Please do not hesitate to share your positive experiences with as many people as possible. We may ask you if we can share your story on the website!!
- 2) If you have a concern about an incident that is not urgent (i.e. no injury), please observe the 24 hour rule. This means that please wait 24 hours after the event that raised the concern (or in the case of a game weekend, 24 hours after the final game) to contact the individual.
- 3) If the matter is urgent, please ask a Team or Association representative that is not directly connected to the concern to be a part of the discussion and allow them to help determine if the communication needs to move forward immediately or can wait the 24 hours.
- 4) If possible/appropriate, please speak with the Team Representative involved in the issue to be discussed so that any concerns can be resolved directly. Should that not be possible or appropriate, please contact a Board Member to assist.
  - a. For team related issues, please contact one of the Commissioners
  - b. For Association related issues, please contact the Vice President



- 5) Any concern regarding Team or Association matters MUST be addressed through the Association first. RCTHA will do our very best to address any all concerns in an understanding and professional manner.
- 6) If RCTHA is unable to resolve the matter to your satisfaction, we will assist you to contact the proper person and organization for you to address your concern.
- 7) RCTHA commits to being respectful and open to any and all feedback.

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

For the 2016-17 Season, the River City Travel Hockey Association Board Members are:

President -	Dustin McArthur	<a href="mailto:president@sanantonioyouthhockey.com">president@sanantonioyouthhockey.com</a>
Vice-President	Ken Larvins	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@sanantonioyouthhockey.com">vicepresident@sanantonioyouthhockey.com</a>
Secretary	Bobby May	<a href="mailto:secretary@sanantonioyouthhockey.com">secretary@sanantonioyouthhockey.com</a>
Treasurer	Kim Weber	<a href="mailto:treasurer@sanantonioyouthhockey.com">treasurer@sanantonioyouthhockey.com</a>
Commissioner	Ed Ferris	<a href="mailto:commissioner@sanantonioyouthhockey.com">commissioner@sanantonioyouthhockey.com</a>
Asst. Commissioner	Billy Kaye	<a href="mailto:asstcommissioner@sanantonioyouthhockey.com">asstcommissioner@sanantonioyouthhockey.com</a>

Thank you for your interest in the Jr. Rampage and please contact us with any questions or suggestions for improvement.