

2016-2017 YOUTH STORM HANDBOOK

Mission Statement

To provide girls from Everest, Mosinee and Marathon County youth hockey associations the opportunity to play hockey on an all girls hockey team. The long-term goal is to grow and develop the program to succeed at the next level.

I. Handbook

- A. This Handbook will be handed out to all participating girls families at the first parents meeting. Also included will be a copy of the complaint form. The Youth Storm Committee must report to all home associations for all approvals, votes and changes to this handbook.

II. Selection of Coaches

- A. Each year, by the time registration is completed at all three associations, anyone who is interested in coaching should make their interest known to the Youth Storm Committee. They should be clear about which levels of play and coaching position they would consider.
- B. All coaching candidates will submit to a background check prior to coach selection in accordance with policies set down by USA Hockey and Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association (WAHA). Background checks will be done by the home association of the coach candidate.
- C. All coaches are required to complete the required age appropriate USA Hockey coaching level clinic for the age group they are applying for.
- D. After teams have been formed the Youth Storm Committee will match coaches to teams based upon:
 - a. Knowledge of hockey.
 - b. Teaching skills.
 - c. Character, ethics and motivation.
 - d. Previous coaching experience.
 - e. Interview process will be set with Youth Storm Committee.
- E. Each coach must read and agree, by signature, to the Youth Storm Coach Code of Conduct.
- F. All WAHA and USA Hockey rules and regulations governing coaching shall apply to all coaches.
- G. Assistant coach and manager selection will be done by the head coach and approved by the Youth Storm Committee.

III. Double Rostering

- A. Team size for all teams will be determined by the Youth Storm Committee at the beginning of the current season based on registered skaters at each age level. Double rostering for any game will only be allowed to the point where it meets a minimum of 11 players.
- B. Players of the younger age classification and appropriate skill level based on consensus of both coaches will be eligible to be double rostered. Example: When skill level is comparable final year U-12 players will be double rostered to the U-14 team ahead of first year U-12's. Double rostering of a player must be approved by the double rostered girls home association board prior to double rostering that player.
- C. If needed, player evaluations will be done on a rotating basis with each association providing the service one year out of three based on their standard try-out procedures. (Evaluation should be done in conjunction with try-outs of registering association.) Results of the evaluation and coaches input will be considered by the Youth Storm Committee in selecting the players to be double rostered. The Youth Storm Committee will make the final recommendation on number of girls and which girls will be double rostered. Youth Storm Committee members with children under consideration will not be allowed to participate in any decision involving their player. The double rostered girls home association board must give final approval to her being double rostered prior to double rostering that player.
- D. Team priority of double rostered players will be set by the Youth Storm Committee. As a general rule the player's priority will be with the age appropriate team and they will only be allowed to play up when no conflict occurs and with both coaches consent.
- E. When a team is participating in a tournament, players will be allowed to play in no more than 3 games per day with the priority going to the age appropriate team.
- F. For each team there will be a parent and Youth Storm Committee meeting within 1 week after team selection for the purpose of discussing plans and expectations in respect to double rostered players.
- G. Players and or their parents can refuse to play at a higher level team at any point with no repercussions.

IV. Additional Player Usage

- A. If a team has 9 skaters or less due to illness or other approved absence, and if the Coach feels an additional player is needed, the coach may contact another girls team, if any from the original coop, or a boys team. There shall not be more than 10 skaters, not including the goalie, on the team, after the selection is made. This must be approved by both team coaches, the board of the additional players home association, and the opposing team. Additional players will be determined by assessments or evaluations and will be rotated game by game. These additional players will not be on the Official USA Hockey Roster.

V. Equipment/Jerseys

- A. Jerseys must be washed regularly in cold water on gentle cycle, do not bleach, and hang to dry.

VI. Team Skill Assessments

- A. Try-outs are not necessary for youth Storm Teams. If enough girls are available for multiple teams every effort should be made to divide the team based on association boundaries, not player ability.
- B. If there is a team large enough for an A & B game schedule, we would have a player assessment to determine which games each girl would skate. This could change throughout the season, depending on player development. The coach is responsible for determining the player rotation, each girl receives equal ice time throughout the season and each girl is allowed to skate against all levels of competition.

VII. Play Time

- A. The goal of equal playing time is to ensure that all skaters learn the game of hockey in a positive and supportive fashion, and that all skaters mature in their skill levels by equally sharing in the competition of game settings. Each coach will set positions/lines based on the quantity of players assigned to the team - equally - to support overall equal playing time and team play. Although equal playing time cannot be defined in a rigid manner, the following requirements and directives shall be followed by all coaches in meeting the requirement of equal playing time:
 - a. All skaters are required to skate and deserve equal playing time during regular season play. Coaches will have the options of playing certain players in areas of special play during regular season play, home and away tournaments including State Playdowns, State Tournament, Short-handed situations (killing penalties), last minutes of periods and overtimes, power play, and 6th skater options.
 - b. Coaches will have the option of reducing play time in a progressive manner and for specific reasons (i.e. missing practice time, disruptive behavior, conduct against team, or parent's wishes) during regular season play, home and away tournaments including State Playdowns and State Tournament.
- B. Let's play to have fun, learn the game and skills of hockey and make an enjoyable experience for all.

VIII. Financial and Volunteer Obligation

- A. Players and parents will have financial obligations to their home association. Parents will be expected to fulfill all volunteer requirements of their home association and will be required to fulfill the following volunteer obligation during the girls' games.
- a. All parents will be expected to volunteer to run the time clock, keep score and run the penalty box during girls home games.
 - b. Parents will be expected to volunteer their time during home tournaments in the same way as regular home games. They may also be asked to run raffle tables, sell chuck a pucks, decorate the rink or any other volunteer activities associated with the tournament. The hosting association will reap all financial benefits of hosting a home tournament and will incur all associated costs.
- B. All financial obligations and volunteer hours must be completed or paid in full or the skater cannot register the following season. All home association financial obligations and volunteer rules apply.

IX. Concerns and Complaints

- A. Concerns and complaints will be handled in the following manner with emphasis on resolving the conflict at the lowest possible step:
- Step #1: At the coach level, a private discussion with all concerned parties present. (Ex. Coach, manager and skater OR coach, manager, parent and skater OR coach, manager and parent.) This step does not need to, nor should it, involve other players or parents not directly involved with the situation. A 24 hour cooling off period is required prior to this discussion.
- Step #2: At the Youth Storm Committee (Chair/Co-Chairs) level, a private discussion with all concerned parties present. Coach, skater (may or may not attend), parents and a Chair/Co-Chairs. This meeting must be scheduled and resolution of any complaint must be communicated to all committee members within 48 hours by email or direct communication.
- Step #3: At the Youth Storm Committee level, if a solution is not found at the step 2 level, the skater and or parent will fill out the Concern/Complaint Form, found in this handbook. The form will be turned into the Youth Storm Committee for review at the next scheduled meeting or sooner if warranted. In some cases an emergency meeting will be called. The form should be turned in to a member of the committee from the home association of the skater/parent with the complaint.
- Step #4 If the Youth Storm Committee feels the complaint requires disciplinary action it will be forwarded to the player's home association.
- B. Under no circumstance should any concern or complaint be emailed to the entire team.

YOUTH STORM HOCKEY PARENT/GUARDIAN COMPLAINT FORM

Please complete the form below to file a written complaint. Return the completed form to a Youth Storm Committee Member from your home association for review at the next scheduled meeting. If needed an emergency meeting will be called.

Players Name: _____ **Team:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

Name of person(s) about the complaint: _____

Details of the complaint (attach any appropriate supporting documents):

Name of individuals with information about the circumstances of the complaint:

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Details of the attempt to informally resolve the complaint:

Parent Statement of Specific Desired Remedy:

I declare that I have made true, correct and complete answers and statements on this complaint form and/or any attachment to this complaint.

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Received By: _____ **Date:** _____

YOUTH STORM CO-OP GUIDELINES

Who makes up the Co-op?

The Co-op is made up of players from the Everest, Mosinee and Marathon County youth hockey associations.

How long is the Co-op good for?

The Co-op is approved on an annual basis. The Youth Storm Committee must file a Co-op Request Form each year and receive approval from WAHA for the Co-op. The request form is signed by all 3 association presidents. (The Co-op Request Form can be found on the WAHA website under Forms.)

How are the costs of the Co-op handled?

Each of the 3 associations splits the team registration cost, and any state playoff fees equally on an annual basis. Each association is expected to provide one ice slot per week for the youth Storm team, and to provide an equal number of home games for the team as well.

Which association is responsible for registering the Co-op?

The three associations will take turns registering the teams. The host school will be responsible for the team registration for Playdowns, paying any state tournament fees, and scheduling games for the youth Storm teams. (The host association will not need to schedule games for the youth Storm teams if a parent from the team agrees to do it.) The two other associations will reimburse the host cost for one-third the cost. The Youth Storm Committee will keep track of the rotation.

What is the Youth Storm Committee and who makes up the committee?

The Youth Storm Committee is comprised of 6 members. Each of the 3 associations has 2 representatives on the Youth Storm Committee. The committee members then determine a Chair or Co-Chair for that season. This committee will govern the youth Storm team for that year. If the Youth Storm Committee cannot reach a majority vote at any time, the matter will be taken to the 3 association presidents to break the tie.

How often does the Youth Storm Committee meet?

The Youth Storm Committee will meet several times a year. They will meet in late summer to discuss the upcoming season, determine the number of teams that will be needed, conduct coach interviews, make head coach selection, and handle any other preseason matters. The committee will meet at the end of the season to review the Youth Storm Handbook and make any necessary recommendations for changes. At this time they will take a preliminary look at the potential numbers for next season. The committee will meet as many times as needed during the season to handle any team related issues. Any recommendations for change to the program must be approved by all 3 associations.

How are Referees scheduled and their fees paid?

Referees for games will be scheduled and paid by the association hosting the games. The team will schedule and pay for referees for Playdown games. Scheduling of the referee for Playdowns should be coordinated through the team manager. The team manager will collect from the players' families or team kitty to pay for the referee.

Storm Youth Hockey

Coach Code of Conduct

Storm expects the following code of conduct from its coaches:

1. Coaches must remember that winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one.
2. Coaches must recognize that each player is an individual with different abilities. Coaches will treat those players as an individual within the team.
3. Coaches must adjust to personal needs and problems of players, be a good listener, and never verbally or physically abusive to a player or official. Coaches must give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem.
4. Coaches will design practice plans that work to challenge all the players on the team, regardless of their abilities.
5. Coaches must be a positive role model to their players, display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of all players.
6. Coaches must use respectful language and tone when speaking with players. Coaches will not say or act in a way that hurts or insults any player.
7. Coaches must be generous with praise when it is deserved, and fair if discipline is required. Coaches must be consistent and honest.
8. Coaches must maintain an open line of communication with the players and the parents. Explain the goals and objectives for the season and your coaching style.

By signing this you agree to abide by the code of conduct. Any violation will require coach to meet with Storm Committee for explanation of incident. Storm Committee will then determine what disciplinary action is required.

Coaches Name Printed: _____

Coaches Signature: _____

Date: _____