



**STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY  
2024-2025 HANDBOOK**

# **STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY HANDBOOK**

## **STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY**

STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY, INC. ("Stowe Youth Hockey" or "SYH") is a non-profit organization, governed by a board of directors (the "Board") elected by the members pursuant to a formal set of by-laws. Membership is open to all with an interest in youth hockey. The organization is a member of the Vermont State Amateur Hockey Association ("VSAHA"), which, in turn, is a member of USA Hockey, and conducts a hockey program based on USA Hockey guidelines and rules of play. The Board endeavors to administer the SYH program according to the following guidelines, which may be amended in the Board's discretion as conditions warrant.

## **STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide a safe, supervised atmosphere for hockey instruction and games.  
To teach and practice good skating skills and hockey fundamentals in all age groups.  
To foster an atmosphere that encourages enjoyment and fun while playing competitive hockey.  
To provide competitive hockey games with other programs having similar levels.  
To encourage good sportsmanship and fair play.  
To the extent possible, provide the opportunity to play hockey to all children who wish to play, at an affordable cost.

## **STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY PHILOSOPHY & CORE VALUES**

Enjoyment and recreational benefits are the major focus of USA Hockey's recommended guidelines. Mastery of the fundamental skills and the fun of playing are essential to the development of a life-long interest in hockey. The following core values of USA Hockey, and Stowe Youth Hockey, have been adopted to guide our planning, programming, coaching and play, both now and in the future.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP:**

Foremost of all values is a sense of fair play. Be humble in victory, gracious in defeat. Foster friendship with teammates and opponents alike.

### **RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL:**

Treat all others as you expect to be treated.

**INTEGRITY:**

We work to foster honesty and fair play beyond mere strict interpretation of the rules and regulations of the game.

**PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE AT THE INDIVIDUAL, TEAM AND ORGANIZATIONAL LEVELS:**

Each member of the organization-whether player, volunteer, or staff-should seek to perform each aspect of the game to the highest level of his, or her, ability.

**ENJOYMENT:**

It is important for the hockey experience to be fun, satisfying, and rewarding for the participant.

**LOYALTY:**

We aspire to teach loyalty to the ideals and fellow members of the sport of hockey.

**TEAMWORK:**

We value the strengths of learning to work together.

The use of teamwork is reinforced and rewarded by success in the hockey experience

**ELIGIBILITY**

All children, who are at least four years of age as of December 31st of the registering year, are eligible to participate. Children who have participated in other formal hockey programs may be required to obtain a release form from that program before they are eligible to enroll here, in accordance with the State Annual Guide regarding player transfers.

**PROGRAMS AVAILABLE**

Stowe Youth Hockey offers a variety of teams each season, including Bruins Academy, Learn to Skate, Learn to Play/House 6U & 8U, one or more teams at the 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U levels (formerly referred to as Mites, Squirts, Pee Wees, and Bantams). The number of teams, coed and girls, per age category will be based on the number of registered players. A birth certificate will be required as proof of age at the time of a

participant's first registration. For the 2024-2025 season, Stowe Youth Hockey is proud to partner again with the Boston Bruins in the Bruins Academy Learn to Play 4-week program.

See the Annual Addendum at the back of the handbook for specific details.

### **Bruins Academy**

Bruins Academy Learn to Play is a program that provides an opportunity for families to join the hockey community and for participants to develop fundamental skills. Created jointly by the NHL and National Hockey League Players' Association, the goal is to encourage kids to try hockey (and have fun!!!) and make hockey accessible to more families by offering a full set of hockey gear and 4 lessons at a low cost in the hopes that kids enjoy the sport and continue playing with their local organization. Stowe Youth Hockey coaches teach the Bruins Academy program at Stowe Arena. Children should be able to skate without support devices.

### **Learn to Skate**

The Learn to Skate Program follows the well-received format utilized in previous years. We coordinate this program with the Stowe Parks and Recreation Department/ Town of Stowe. Stowe Youth Hockey teaches this program focusing on skating skills with a huge emphasis on fun. This is for kids new to the ice. Stowe Rec provides free skate rentals for Learn to Skate participants. There are two sessions – participants sign up for either or both. Participation is open to those who will be 4 years old by December 31st, up to about 9 years old. This is open to participants from Stowe and nearby communities in Washington and Lamoille counties. Older players who are beginning skaters may participate in the Initiation program until their skills warrant moving up to play on the appropriate team for their age level. Hockey gear not required for Learn to Skate.

### **Learn to Play Hockey/ 6U & 8U House**

Learn to Play is for the skater who can navigate the ice without props and is excited to dress for hockey and learn the foundations. Our teaching and lessons are based on USA Hockey's American Development Model (ADM). For the 24-25 Season, This program will be run with our full season 6U & 8U House Mite program. Participants will need hockey gear; we often have extra gear to loan or distribute however this is subject to availability.

### **Youth Teams (i.e. "Youth Travel Teams")**

SYH offers youth teams in the following age classifications (based on calendar birth years):

- 8U ages 8 and younger (coed and girls teams when numbers permit)
- 10U ages 9 & 10 (coed and girls when numbers permit)
- 12U ages 11 & 12 (coed and girls when numbers permit)
- 14U ages 13 & 14 (coed and girls when numbers permit)

See the Annual Addendum at the back of the handbook for specific details on exact birth year eligibility. These are competitive level teams. Players on these teams, and their parents, are expected to make a commitment to faithful attendance at practices and games. Scores are not kept during 6U and 8U games to encourage fun, fair play, equal ice time. There is an expectation for players to participate throughout the season.

### **Girls' Teams**

For the 2024-25 season, SYH will offer competitive level 8U, 10U and 12U girls teams. Players on these teams, and their parents, are expected to make a commitment to attend practices and games. Weekly practices will be a mix of girls-only and coed. SYH team schedulers will make the best effort to build a competitive season playing other girls teams but this is subject to the total number of girls teams in Vermont and nearby areas.

### **Preseason Program**

SYH will offer a 4-week Preseason program for an additional fee consisting of 1x weekly practice & skills session. This may also include a scrimmage or casual game.

### **High School**

All High School rostered players who intend to step on the ice, at any time, with SYH teams MUST register with SYH for insurance purposes which also includes USA Hockey; non-registered players will NOT be permitted on SYH ice. High School players may NOT participate in preseason SYH unless registered and paid in advance. This is monitored by VSAHA.

### **PAYMENT & FEES**

The financial responsibilities of program participants include the registration fees set annually by the Board. Financial responsibilities also include volunteering and fundraising.

Payment for “teams” is due in accordance with the payment schedule established upon registration unless prior arrangements for an alternate payment plan have been made in advance with the Registrar and subject to approval. There is a late fee of \$100 per player if payment is not made on time.

### **Family Discount**

Stowe Youth Hockey provides a family discount of \$50 off the annual registration fee for the second player in a family, and each additional player in the same family. The family discount does not apply to players registering for Initiation or Preseason programs.

### **Scholarships**

It is the philosophy of the SYH Board that no child should be denied the opportunity to participate due to costs. Money should not be an obstacle to playing hockey.

Scholarships, both partial and full, and equipment are available if a family is truly in need. Contact the SYH Registrar or President with any scholarship requests. This process is confidential. Players' families who receive scholarships are still required to fulfill volunteer requirements as we cannot run our organization without the help of every single member.

### **Insurance**

A portion of the registration fee covers the cost of the insurance that USA Hockey requires to be obtained for a participant before that participant may be allowed on the ice. Because of liability insurance considerations, no child will be permitted on the ice without first completing a registration form, paying the registration fee, and completing a required Information/Consent to Treat and Waiver Form.

### **Refunds**

If a player is unable to participate in the program for which he or she registered due to circumstances beyond his or her control (e.g., illness, injury, making the High School team), the player can petition the Board for a full or partial refund, as the Board deems appropriate.

## **VOLUNTEERING AND FUNDRAISING**

We are able to keep our registration fees stable only through our commitment to fundraising. As always, fundraising is an ESSENTIAL part of our program-without a

successful effort, fees would be almost double! Therefore, all parents of SYH players (except those who ONLY have players in Initiation programs) are REQUIRED to participate in these activities. Each family is expected to volunteer at fundraising events. This is in addition to the jobs that must be done, on a rotating basis, by the team parents for each home game. Volunteering at your player's home games is a fun way to be part of the action. At any point, practice, game day, more seasoned volunteers are happy to teach new volunteers how to run the clock, keep official score sheets, and open/shut the penalty box doors. Our kids love seeing their names in the newspaper; volunteering to write the weekly game wrap up and send it to the Stowe Reporter is another fantastic way to contribute.

Team Managers coordinate the volunteer efforts of their team parents. When volunteers are needed for a particular fundraising event, coaches and managers will contact their team parents, encourage them to make a commitment and to fulfill their minimum volunteer requirements, and report back to the person coordinating the event.

Volunteering is a requirement. Thank you for your support!

Our fundraising efforts this year are a mix of old and new. This year, SYH offers several options to fulfill your volunteering and fund-raising responsibilities:

#### **Golf Tournament and Barbecue 2024**

The 5th Annual "Hackers for Hockey" golf tournament is the second largest fundraiser for Stowe Youth Hockey. This year it takes place at Ryder Brook Golf Course in Morrisville, Vermont. Over 80 individuals of all abilities register for the annual event. Funds for the event are raised through registration fees, raffle tickets for donated prizes, "mulligans" that entrants can purchase as well as cash donations. A dinner is included with the price of registration for all entrants.

#### **Vertical Raise**

Vertical Raise is a discount digital card and proceeds from every card sold supports Stowe Youth Hockey.

#### **Stick Season Showdown**

Stick Season Tournament takes place November 15-17, 2024 at Stowe Arena only and includes 16 teams with 4 divisions: 10U coed, 10U girls, 12U coed, 12U girls at the Tier 4 level.

#### **Winter Carnival Tournament- December 13-15, 2024 (31 year anniversary!)**

This is our biggest fundraising event, and requires a substantial number of volunteers. We invite teams from throughout the Northeast for a weekend of youth hockey in Stowe. It generates significant revenue in our community. For the 2024-2025 season, this sold-out tournament includes 6 10U, 6 12U, 6 14U coed teams utilizing ice at Stowe Arena AND the Ice Center in Waterbury. We will need volunteer timekeepers, scorers, hosts, clean-up helpers, raffle room volunteers, greeters and more. You will be asked to work at more than just the games your child is playing in, so please be prepared for this all hands on deck weekend event!

### **Gear Swap**

Prior to the season starting, we host a gear swap in which good condition quality pre-owned gear is donated to SYH and resold at a very LOW price. Families enjoy participating & shopping while it also raises money for Stowe Youth Hockey. Unsold gear is either absorbed into our loaner gear or brought to a resale shop for credit to be used for new goalie equipment.

### **Merch Sales**

SYH generates revenue via commissions for merchandise sold via Sports Engine or pop-up stores. Thank you for your support; we love to see kids and their families wearing SYH gear all year long!

### **Supporting non-SYH Tournaments**

We are often asked to help out the local Hyde Cup and the Don Post Memorial tournaments whether it's taping sticks, refereeing games, handling time clock and scoring, etc. in exchange for the tournament making a donation to SYH. These are important events within our community and a great way for us to help one another. Last year, our supporting these events covered the majority of our scholarships.

Stay tuned for other new and exciting fundraising and sponsorship ideas that arise during the season!

## **EQUIPMENT**

### **Practice Jerseys**

SYH utilizes color-coordinated practice jerseys which are distributed at the beginning of the season. They **MUST BE RETURNED** at the end of the season or players will be charged prior to registration for the following year.

### **Game Jerseys & Socks**

Game jerseys: Game jerseys, both home and away, are provided by SYH once. The second set will be paid for by the parents or guardians (this includes lost or ruined jerseys).

- Game jerseys will not be worn at practice.
- To wash game jerseys:
  - wash inside out and separately
  - do not put in dryer
  - do not use bleach

We have a limited supply of loaner Game jerseys which can be loaned out only with consent by SYH board members or equipment room manager. Loaner jerseys must be returned at the end of the season or a replacement fee of \$50 per jersey must be paid.

Game socks: one pair (away and home) are provided by SYH. All additional socks will be paid for by parents or guardians subject to the current manufacturing price.

Anyone damaging a jersey due to neglect, or carelessness will be responsible for replacing the jersey. The approximate cost for replacement is \$100 per jersey. Contact the SYH Equipment Coordinator before removing any jerseys from the SYH locker at Stowe Arena.

### **Equipment to be Provided by Players**

No child will be permitted on the ice without the proper equipment, as follows:

Skates

Helmet with facemask/cage

Protective cup for boys/pelvic protector for girls

Shin pads

Hockey socks

Jock Shorts, Garter belt or hockey girdle

Hockey pants

Elbow pads

Shoulder/chest protector

Hockey gloves

Hockey stick(s)-older levels should always have a spare

Neck guard

Mouth guard

### **GOALIE POLICY**

## **8U and 10U**

SYH wants to encourage children to try all positions, including goalie, at the younger levels. During the season, coaches will encourage as many players as are interested to try the goalie position.

## **12U and 14U**

SYH will endeavor to have a minimum of two players whose primary position is goalie assigned to the 12U and 14U teams. When not playing in goal, these players will be allowed to "skate out" if they desire to do so and if the coach deems it appropriate.

## **Stowe Youth Hockey Evaluation Policy**

The purpose of the Stowe Youth Hockey Evaluation Policy is to ensure a fair and consistent process for evaluating players during tryouts, to foster a positive environment, and to promote the development of all players.

Stowe Youth Hockey (SYH) is committed to providing an inclusive and transparent evaluation process for all participants. This policy outlines the evaluation criteria, procedures, and guidelines to ensure fairness and clarity.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Evaluators will assess players based on the following criteria:

- Skill Level: Includes skating ability, puck handling, passing, shooting, and defensive skills.
- Game Awareness: Understanding of positioning, strategy, and ability to make quick decisions.
- Teamwork: Ability to collaborate with teammates, communicate effectively, and contribute to team dynamics.
- Attitude and Sportsmanship: Demonstrating a positive attitude, respect for coaches, teammates, and opponents.
- Work Ethic: Level of effort and commitment shown during practices and games.

### **Evaluation Process**

- Pre-Evaluation Communication: Information about the evaluation process, including dates, times, and what to expect, will be communicated to all players and parents in advance.

- On Ice Sessions: Evaluations will occur over multiple sessions to allow players to showcase their skills in various drills and scrimmages.
  - Evaluation Forms: Each evaluator will use standardized forms to record observations and scores for each player based on the criteria above.
  - Evaluator Composition: Evaluators may consist of SYH coaches, independent evaluators, and, when applicable, former players who have experience and knowledge of youth hockey.
- Any player missing evaluations for reasons other than illness will be automatically placed by the Committee.
- Any player may elect not to attend tryout and will be placed on the lower tier team. Players must notify the SYH Coaching Committee if they elect not to attend. All communication must be in writing to [coaching@stoweyouthhockey.com](mailto:coaching@stoweyouthhockey.com).

SYH Coaching Committee consisting of the president, vice president and coaching director will take the evaluators feedback and comments into consideration when making the final determination for team placements.

### **Communication of Results**

Players and parents will be informed of team placements via email or official communication channels within a week of the final evaluation session.

Stowe Youth Hockey aims to create a supportive and equitable environment for all players. By adhering to VSAHA Standards, USAH guidelines and this Evaluation Policy, we can ensure that every player is given a fair opportunity to demonstrate their skills and contribute to the team's success. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to the spirit of the game!

### **PETITIONS TO "PLAY UP"**

Occasionally, players and their parents feel strongly that the player ought to play on an older-level team. "Petitioning up" to an older level is not encouraged and happens only in rare individual cases. USA Hockey has structured the team levels and highly recommends that all organizations follow their guidelines;

SYH follows their recommendations. If, however, this is something you wish to pursue, you must file a petition at registration. Please review the USA Hockey and VSAHA guidelines and DEADLINES BEFORE petitioning the board. Feel free to discuss with the coaching director or SYH board member. If more than 1 player in an age group wants to play up, there will be a try out as Vermont Youth Hockey (VSAHA) only permits 1 player to move up within that age group per season. Please see the Coaching Committee for details.

## **CROSS-ROSTERING POLICY**

SYH submits official rosters for all of our State Tournament bound teams to the VSAHA. The team roster form has room for twenty names. We rarely have twenty players on a team due to membership numbers. Crossrostering, placing a player on two rosters, allows us to add players from other teams who are age-eligible. This ability to cross-roster players helps us, at times, field teams for games when we are short of players or create alternative rosters that are balanced depending on the opponent, etc. Our intention is for this to be a fair and positive tool for coaches and players.. Under SYH's guidelines, what is considered "short" is fewer than eleven players including a goalie at the non checking levels and fewer than fourteen players including a goalie at the checking levels (14U).

- It is not intended for the purpose of making a team more competitive for any given game, nor is it for the purpose of giving particular players extra ice time.
- All players listed on a game sheet for any given game must be listed on the official team roster submitted by our registrar for that team. This must be done in ADVANCE (i.e. registrar must get approval by VSAHA prior to game). If all players are not listed on both, the game will not count towards the minimum number of games needed to qualify for the State Tournament for that season.

Decisions about cross-rostering will be made by the SYH Coach after consulting with the Coaching Committee.

## **NUMBER OF GAMES**

### **Regular Season**

The Board follows USA Hockey recommended guidelines regarding the number of games to be played by each team during the regular season (exclusive of the State Tournaments). These are guidelines only, and the number of games actually played may depend upon a number of factors, e.g., adverse weather or driving conditions, the

availability of appropriate competition, etc. A travel team usually plays 20-30 games prior to the state tournaments.

### **State Tournament Requirements**

All players on any 10U, 12U, 14U team must be rostered for at least ten games to be eligible to play in the State Tournament for that team, and the team as a whole must play 20 official games. All players on any Girls' team must be rostered for at least ten games to be eligible to play in the State Tournament for that team, and the Girls' team as a whole must play a minimum of 14 games. We encourage all team managers and coaches to carefully review VSAHA tournament rules in advance.

## **SCHEDULING**

### **Practice Schedules**

Practice schedules are set and distributed at the beginning of the season. Please check the SYH Website or a Team Manager will contact you with changes.

### **Game Schedules**

Game schedules will be produced and maintained by the individual team schedulers and copies provided to each coach and posted on the SYH Website and SportsEngine App. In the case of a last-minute change, the Head Coach or Team Manager will notify his or her team. If a Head Coach must cancel a game, the coach will notify the scheduler as soon as possible. It will be the responsibility of the scheduler to fill a home ice slot or re-schedule an away game. Game schedules are subject to change.

### **Adverse Weather**

In case of schedule changes due to adverse weather or driving conditions, the Head Coach (with the assistance of the Team Manager) will notify his or her team prior to the game or practice.

## **PLAYER PARTICIPATION POLICY**

While the objective of the Stowe Youth Hockey Program is for the players to have fun while learning and playing the game of hockey, all players also have a responsibility to support their respective teams through participation, attendance, and enthusiasm.

***Punctual attendance at all games and practice sessions is essential.*** Players are expected to arrive at least one-half hour before games. Players are expected to be dressed and ready to take the ice five (5) minutes prior to practice. Players are also required to leave the ice as soon as their scheduled practice or game is over.

In regular season games, scrimmages and tournaments, it is expected that the coaches will provide equitable on-ice participation for all players to the extent possible.

***It is important to note that equitable does not mean equal.***

Coaches have the discretion to determine a child's playing time from shift to shift, period to period, and game to game. However, ***over the course of a season, each child should receive a substantially similar amount of playing time.***

***Valid reasons*** to vary playing time include, but are not limited to: unsportsmanlike conduct, disruptive behavior, avoidable non-attendance or tardiness at scheduled practices, discipline, 'time of occurrence' instruction, and lack of motivation.

***Invalid reasons*** to vary playing time include, but are not limited to, child favoritism, power play lines, and a focus on winning.

**CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD'S PLAYING TIME SHOULD, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, BE RAISED WITH THE COACH.**

If a suitable resolution is not reached, these concerns should be brought to the attention of the Coaching Committee who will then consult with the Board if necessary.

## **TOURNAMENTS**

In addition to the State Tournament, Stowe Youth Hockey will make every effort to schedule at least one tournament for each team, per season. Usually this is through our Stowe Winter Carnival and Stick Season Tournaments.

Away tournaments, if any, will be chosen and scheduled by the Head Coach and Team Manager. Head Coaches and team managers will have the flexibility to schedule tournaments for their team throughout the season; however, they must convey their tournament interest and cost to the Board before making their final commitment. The SYH Board has set aside funds to use towards tournaments subject to SYH board approval. Players' families may be responsible for additional tournament costs that fall outside approved team allotment. If a player's portion of the entry fee is not paid prior to the tournament, that player will not be allowed to participate in that tournament.

## **SUMMER PROGRAM**

The objective of the Summer Program is to allow SYH players to stay on the ice over the summer months through a mix of power skating, skills based drills and fun game play.

## **TEAM STAFF**

All Head Coaches will be approved each year by the Board. Head Coaches will select assistant coaches with Board assistance and final approval. The staff of each team will consist of:

### **Head Coach**

The Head Coach has full responsibility for the conduct of the hockey program during all practice sessions and games, including the conduct of practices, supervision of instruction, proper handling of accidents, enforcement of safety requirements, and control over player behavior. Each Head Coach must be certified in accordance with USA Hockey coaching guidelines.

### **Assistant Coach(es)**

The Assistant Coaches assist the Head Coach at practices and games, and may occasionally act as coach in the Head Coach's absence. It is our objective to have at least two Assistant Coaches per team, though this is not always possible. All Assistant Coaches must be certified in accordance with USA Hockey coaching guidelines.

### **Team Manager**

Every team MUST have a Team Manager in place before distribution of coach's supplies and team jerseys and before the first weekend of games. The SYH Board strongly encourages as many different families as possible to fill leadership positions and efforts should be made for team managers to be unrelated to Head Coach or Assistant Coach. The Team Manager assists the Head Coach with organizational issues, serves as a liaison among parents, the Board, and the team's coaches, attends Board of Directors' meetings when requested by the Board, and assists in communicating necessary information. The team manager takes over the scheduling responsibilities once the season is underway and is responsible for making sure parents fill weekly & tournament volunteer jobs.

### **Tournament Team Representative**

Each team manager will also be the Stick Season Showdown & Winter Carnival Team Rep (unless another team parent volunteers), reporting into the Tournament Director.

This person will be responsible for coordinating and organizing the team's raffle donations and making sure that all volunteer shifts are covered during the tournament.

### **Stowe Youth Hockey Code of Conduct**

Stowe Youth Hockey (SYH) is dedicated to providing a positive, respectful, and enjoyable environment for all players, coaches, parents, and volunteers. Our Code of Conduct outlines expectations and standards to ensure that everyone involved upholds the values and principles of USA Hockey, the Vermont State Amateur Hockey Association (VSAHA) and SafeSport.

#### **Core Values**

**Respect:** Treat all individuals with respect, including teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, and parents.

**Integrity:** Display honesty and uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics.

**Responsibility:** Take responsibility for your actions and contribute positively to the team and community.

#### **Player Conduct**

**Respect for Others:** Always respect teammates, coaches, opponents, and officials. Any form of harassment, discrimination, or abuse will not be tolerated.

**Sportsmanship:** Exhibit good sportsmanship on and off the ice. Celebrate victories graciously and handle defeats with dignity.

**Effort and Attitude:** Demonstrate a positive attitude and put forth your best effort at practices and games. Follow the instructions of coaches and participate actively.

**Compliance:** Adhere to all SafeSport, USA Hockey, VSAHA and team rules, including those regarding equipment, attendance, and behavior.

#### **Coach Conduct**

**Positive Role Modeling:** Coaches should model respectful behavior and uphold high standards of conduct both on and off the ice.

**Communication:** Maintain open, honest, and constructive communication with players, parents, and officials.

**Training and Development:** Commit to continuous improvement and education to better serve the players and the sport.

**Player Welfare:** Prioritize the safety and well-being of all players, ensuring a supportive and inclusive environment.

#### **Parent/Guardian Conduct**

**Supportive Attitude:** Support your child and the team by promoting a positive atmosphere. Avoid criticism of players, coaches, or officials.

**Respect for Officials:** Respect the decisions made by referees and officials, and address any concerns through appropriate channels.

**Involvement:** Be actively involved in supporting the team while respecting the boundaries set by coaches and team management.

**Encouragement:** Encourage effort, teamwork, and personal growth rather than focusing solely on winning or individual achievements.

## **Volunteer Conduct**

**Commitment:** Volunteers are expected to be reliable and committed to their roles, contributing positively to the organization.

**Respect:** Treat everyone associated with Stowe Youth Hockey with respect and maintain a professional demeanor.

**Support:** Support the team, coaches, and players by fostering a positive environment and assisting with team activities and events.

## **Compliance and Enforcement**

**Reporting Issues:** Any concerns or violations of this Code of Conduct should be reported to the SYH Disciplinary Committee ([dc@stoweyouthhockey.com](mailto:dc@stoweyouthhockey.com)). The Disciplinary Committee is composed of SYH Board members, one of which is the SafeSport representative. SYH will follow all policies and guidelines put forth by USAH and VSAHA regarding disciplinary issues.

## **Commitment to Safety**

**Safe Environment:** Ensure that all activities and environments adhere to safety standards and that appropriate measures are in place to protect all participants by adhering to the SafeSport Standards.

## **Acknowledgment**

By participating in Stowe Youth Hockey, you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. Your commitment to these standards helps ensure a positive and successful hockey experience for everyone involved.

## **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, the USA Hockey Youth, Junior, and Adult Councils have instructed the Officiating Program to adhere to certain points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship.

This campaign is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, team officials and administrators and parents/spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey-sanctioned games.

The following points of emphasis must be implemented by all On-Ice Referees and Linesmen:

### **Players**

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be assessed whenever a player:

- Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- Uses obscene or vulgar 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.

Anytime a player persists in any of these actions, he or she shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.

### **Coaches**

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be assessed whenever a coach:

- Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Visually demonstrates 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 or she shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

### **Officials**

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, 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.

### **Parents and Spectators**

The game will be stopped by on-ice officials when parents or spectators display inappropriate and disruptive behavior that interferes with other spectators or the game. The on-ice officials will identify the violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing the violators 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 can include, but is not limited to:

- Use of obscene or vulgar 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, player's bench, penalty box or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

If the behavior of a Stowe Youth Hockey player or parent at an SYH game (home or away), practice or anytime a player is representing SYH results in that person's removal from the arena by the on-ice officials or team coach, the Board will hold a hearing to investigate and determine the appropriate disciplinary action. The Board reserves the right to require all concerned parties to appear before the Board during this open investigation.

## **PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

Parents are encouraged to participate in Stowe Youth Hockey in any capacity possible. Volunteers may contact any member of the Board or Team Manager for information on volunteer opportunities.

Parents are responsible for their children's behavior both on and off the ice.

Parents should be concerned with the overall development of their child. Stress good nutrition, fitness, and health habits.

Parents have the responsibility to notify Stowe Youth Hockey of any child's disabilities that merit special attention. This provision alerts coaches to the need for suitable accommodations and could, in some cases, prevent personal injury. Such disclosure should be made at registration on the Consent to Treat Form.

If a child has a known medical condition that may require medical intervention during the course of practices or games, (e.g., asthma requiring use of an inhalator, diabetes, etc.), then his/her parent or legal guardian must be present as is necessary during the practice or game. ***Any required medication must be carried and administered by the parent or legal guardian.*** Coaches and Team Managers will not be allowed to carry or administer any medication for any child other than their own.

## **Code of Conduct Violation Policy**

### **Reporting Violations:**

- Any individual witnessing or experiencing a violation of the Stowe Youth Hockey Code of Conduct should promptly report it to a designated member of the Disciplinary Committee at [dc@stoweyouthhockey.com](mailto:dc@stoweyouthhockey.com)
- 24-25 Season Disciplinary Committee: John Flint, Kelvey Wilson, Darren Orr, Holly Ryan,

### **Investigation Process:**

- Upon receipt of a report, the Disciplinary Committee will conduct a thorough investigation. This may include gathering statements from witnesses, reviewing relevant documents or footage, and meeting with involved parties.

### **Determination of Violation:**

- After the investigation, the Disciplinary Committee will determine whether a violation of the Code of Conduct has occurred based on the preponderance of evidence standard.

### **Consequences:**

- Depending on the severity and nature of the violation, consequences may include:
- Verbal or written warning
- Suspension from participation in games or practice
- Expulsion from Stowe Youth Hockey
- Other appropriate disciplinary actions as deemed necessary by the Disciplinary Committee and in accordance with USAH, VSAHA and SafeSport guidelines.

### **Appeal Process:**

- Individuals found in violation of the Code of Conduct have the right to appeal the decision. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Disciplinary Committee within a specified timeframe after receiving notice of the decision.

### **Confidentiality:**

- Throughout the investigation and disciplinary process, confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible, respecting the privacy of all parties involved.

### **Compliance and Review:**

- All members, including players, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators, are expected to comply with the decisions made by the Board of Directors regarding Code of Conduct violations.
- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors to ensure its effectiveness and relevance to Stowe Youth Hockey's mission and values.

### **Acknowledgment:**

- By participating in Stowe Youth Hockey activities, individuals acknowledge their understanding of this Code of Conduct Violation Policy and agree to abide by its terms.

### **CELL PHONE POLICY**

USA Hockey, VSAHA and SYH have adopted a policy regarding cell phones to address privacy concerns. ***Cell phones are not permitted in locker rooms, either home or away, and will be immediately confiscated by the coaches.*** Players and parents should be informed of this policy at the first team meeting.

### **STOWE ARENA RINK RULES**

The following are the rules of Stowe Arena, established by the Stowe Recreation Commission:

- No eating, drinking or chewing gum on the ice.
- No alcoholic beverages on or off the ice.
- No hockey sticks or pucks on the ice except during scheduled games, practices, or stick time.
- School hockey players must wear helmets and face masks.
- Only skates may be worn on the ice.
- No running, street hockey or other disruptive activity will be permitted in or around the arena.
- No one is allowed on the ice or on the boards when the Zamboni is in operation.
- Locker rooms must be left clean and picked up after every group use. Home Teams are responsible for the condition of both locker rooms.
- Cancellations of scheduled ice time must be made two weeks in advance. Users must pay for scheduled time canceled less than two weeks in advance unless the rink management is able to rent the time to someone else.
- Programs renting ice time are responsible for the conduct of their members and guests during scheduled times and for any damage to rink facilities.

Failure to follow these rules may result in forfeiture of ice privileges by the individual or program responsible. Similar rules apply when at other rinks.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COMMITMENT**

We are lucky to be able to offer our kids the opportunity to play ice hockey, but a youth hockey program doesn't just happen by itself. Pulling off "The Miracle on Ice" that is every hockey season requires enormous commitment from the members of SYH, which must not go unacknowledged. But despite the eternal quest for perfection, every season there are things that are not done as well as they could be. Please bring your complaints, concerns, suggestions, and ideas for improvement to the attention of the Board, but your willingness to jump in and help with the solution would also be greatly appreciated.

**2024-2025 STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY ADDENDUM**

**2024-2025 PROGRAMS**

FOR THIS SEASON, WE ANTICIPATE HAVING MULTIPLE TEAMS IN SOME AGE CATEGORIES.



**2024-25 SEASON  
AGE CLASSIFICATIONS**

USA Hockey Playing Season: September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025

**YOUTH TEAMS**

DATE OF BIRTH	AGE CATEGORY	AGE DIVISION
2006	18 Years	18 & Under
2007	17 Years	18 & Under
2008	16 Years	16 & Under
2009	15 Years	16 & Under
2010	14 Years	14 & Under
2011	13 Years	14 & Under
2012	12 Years	12 & Under
2013	11 Years	12 & Under
2014	10 Years	10 & Under
2015	9 Years	10 & Under
2016	8 Years	8 & Under
2017	7 Years	8 & Under
2018	6 Years	6 & Under

**GIRLS TEAMS**

DATE OF BIRTH	AGE CATEGORY	AGE DIVISION
2006	19 Years	19 & Under
2006	18 Years	19 & Under
2007	17 Years	19 & Under
2008	16 Years	16 & Under
2009	15 Years	16 & Under
2010	14 Years	14 & Under
2011	13 Years	14 & Under
2012	12 Years	12 & Under
2013	11 Years	12 & Under
2014	10 Years	10 & Under
2015	9 Years	10 & Under
2016	8 Years	8 & Under
2017	7 Years	8 & Under
2018	6 Years	6 & Under

- Bruins Academy
- L2S
- L2P/House 6U & 8U
- 8U girls and coed
- 10U girls and coed
- 12U girls and coed
- 14U coed
- Preseason
- Summer 3v3

**2024-2025 MASTER CALENDAR**

- Registration
- Pre-Season Skate Begins

- Bruins Academy Begins
- Regular Season Begins
- 6U/LTP/LTS Begins

Stick Season Showdown	
Stowe Winter Carnival Tournament	July 15- Aug 15, 2024
State Tournament Playdown*	September 8, 2024
State Championship Weekend	October 6, 2024
Regionals	October 14, 2024
	Oct 23, 2024
	November 15-17, 2024
	December 13-15, 2024
	February 14-16, 2024 and Feb 21-23, 2025
	Feb 28 - March 2, 2025
	TBD - Varies by Division

**2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS (9)**

John Flint  
Lindsey Lamb  
Jessica Lawrence  
Brett Loomis  
Holly Ryan  
Kelly Shaw  
Kelvey Wilson  
Darren Orr

**2024-2025 OFFICERS**

President	Vice President	Registrar	Treasurer
Holly Ryan	Kelvey Wilson	Lindsey Lamb	Jessica Lawrence
Secretary- TBD			

**2024-2025 BOARD MEETINGS**

The SYH Board holds regular monthly meetings on the first Monday or Tuesday evening of each month at Stowe Arena. Meetings are open to all SYH members and the public.

**2024-2025 Board Meeting Dates:**

June 10 5:30  
July 9 6pm  
Aug 6 6pm  
Sept 3 6pm  
Oct 1 6pm  
Nov 12 6pm  
Dec 3 6pm  
Jan 7 6pm  
Feb 4 6pm  
Mar 11 6pm

**2024-2025 COORDINATOR, CHAIRS, VOLUNTEERS**

SYH Hockey Director*	Ian Smith*
Referee Scheduler	Jennifer Crum
VSAHA Representative	Michael Perpall
Head Scheduler	Kelly Shaw
Girls Coordinator	Holly Ryan/Kelvey Wilson
8U/Grow the Game Coordinator	John Flint
Tournament Director	Andrew Kneale
Equipment Coordinator	Kelly Shaw
Fundraising Coordinator	Jessica Lawrence
Communications/Social Media/Website	TBD
Team Managers:	
6U	TBD
8U	Nifer Hoen
8UG	Kelly Fimlaid
10UT4	Erica Bornemann
10UG	Rebecca Leipert
12UG	Cara McLaughlin
12UT3	TBD
12UT4	TBD
14U	Kelley Ruane/Sarah Boes

\*Hockey Director position is an annual [paid] position. Ian Smith has acted in this role since the 2021-22 season with a multi-faceted role that includes but is not limited to attending board meetings, assisting coaches during practices & games, teaching Wednesday skills sessions, attending monthly meetings, and working in tandem with fundraising director on all our fundraising events.

## **BYLAWS OF STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY, INC.**

### **ARTICLE 1 - NAME, PURPOSE AND AFFILIATION**

#### **1.1 Name**

The name of the organization is Stowe Youth Hockey, Inc. ("SYH").

#### **1.2 Purpose**

SYH is a volunteer-run, non-profit corporation, the purpose of which is to promote the sport of ice hockey and to provide opportunities for youth in the Stowe and immediate surrounding areas to participate in the sport of ice hockey. SYH emphasizes education, participation, sportsmanship, teamwork, fitness, and skills development, in an enjoyable and competitive atmosphere.

#### **1.3 Affiliation**

SYH is affiliated with the Vermont State Amateur Hockey Association ("VSAHA") and the USA Hockey, Inc. ("USAHockey").

### **ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP**

#### **2.1 Membership in SYH**

There shall be four classes of membership in SYH: player members; full members; contributing members; and honorary members.

#### **2.2 Player Members**

Any youth who is eligible to play for SYH under USAHockey and VSAHA rules and regulations, and who registers with SYH, is a player member. In particular, SYH welcomes and encourages the participation of player members who are residents of any town in Lamoille and Washington counties, Vermont. Player members are non-voting members.

### **2.3 Full Members**

All parents or guardians of player members, all SYH registered coaches, and all current and former SYH Board members and Officers are full members. Full members are voting members.

### **2.4 Contributing Members**

Any person who is a former full member, any person who has contributed something of value, including volunteer services, to SYH, and any person who has a sincere interest in the purposes of the organization, may be a contributing member. Contributing membership is granted at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Contributing members are voting members.

### **2.5 Honorary Members**

Any person who has a sincere interest in the purposes of the organization may be an honorary member. Honorary membership is granted at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Honorary members are non-voting members.

## **ARTICLE 3 - MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **3.1 Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors (the "Board") shall conduct the affairs of SYH and shall be responsible for general management of and authority over the property, funds, and operations of SYH. The Board shall consist of nine elected Directors and the immediate past President of SYH, provided however that if the immediate past President is elected a current Director, then the President serving prior to him or her shall serve on the Board. The nine elected Directors shall be elected by a majority vote of the voting members present at the Annual Meeting. Each of the nine elected Directors shall serve a two-year term, with four Directors elected the first year, five Directors elected in the following year, and alternating in subsequent years.

The Board may designate and appoint one or more committees, as needed from time to time and at the pleasure of the Board, to assist the Board in its duties, but said designation and appointment shall not operate to relieve the Board of any responsibility imposed upon it by law or under these bylaws.

### **3.2 Officers**

The Board shall elect the following Officers from among its members: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of a quorum of the Directors. Job descriptions for the Officers are attached and made a part hereto.

### **3.3 Vacancies and Removal**

Any vacancy occurring in the Board or the Officers by reason of death, resignation, cause or otherwise shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by a majority vote of a quorum of the remaining Directors at any regular meeting of the Board or a special meeting of the Board called for that purpose.

Any Director or Officer may resign at any time by giving written notice thereof to the Board. Unless otherwise specified in such written notice, the resignation shall take effect upon receipt thereof by the Board.

Any Director or Officer may be removed from the Board for good cause. Removal shall be effected only by a majority vote of a quorum of the Directors, acting at a special meeting of the Board called for that purpose, with adequate notice to the subject Director or Officer.

## **ARTICLE 4 - ANNUAL MEETING**

### **4.1 Annual Meeting of the Members**

An annual meeting of the members (the "Annual Meeting") shall be held during the spring of each year, and at such other times as may be determined to be necessary by the Board. The purpose shall be to conduct any necessary business of SYH, including but not limited to: election of Board members; amendments to the Bylaws; and long-range planning and policy decisions. Each voting member shall be notified of the time, place, and agenda for the Annual Meeting at least fourteen days in advance of each such meeting.

Those voting members present at the Annual Meeting shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote of those present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be necessary for approval of any questions before the meeting, with the exception of amendments to the Bylaws.

Members present will vote for new board members for each seat open for election. If there are 4 openings, members can submit a person's name one time. Multiple votes by the same member for the same person will only count as one vote. Therefore members should be voting for a different person for each open seat.

## **ARTICLE 5 - MEETINGS OF THE BOARD**

### **5.1 Meetings of the Board**

An annual meeting of the Board shall be held immediately following the Annual Meeting of the members. The purpose shall be to conduct any business that may properly come before the Board, including but not limited to the election of Officers. Notice of the annual meeting need not be given.

The Board shall meet regularly, on a schedule to be determined by the Board. Notice of regular meetings need not be given.

Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President at any time and the President shall, upon the written request of any two Directors, call a special meeting of the Board to be held not more than ten business days after the date of such request. Notice of special meetings must be given not less than three business days prior to the meeting.

### **5.2 Quorum and Voting**

A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. The action of a majority of the Board members present at any meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board. Each Director shall have one vote, provided however that the immediate past President shall be a non-voting member of the Board.

Directors may participate by phone or any other available medium that allows them to hear other Directors and be heard by them. The Board may act without a meeting upon the consent of all Board members.

## **ARTICLE 6 - NOTICE**

## **6.1 Notice**

Whenever notice is required under these Bylaws, such notice may be given by regular mail, by electronic mail, by publication in area newspapers, or by any combination of such methods that the Board shall determine to be appropriate.

## **ARTICLE 7 - CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE**

### **7.1 Standards of Conduct**

The Board has the authority to take whatever steps it deems appropriate to encourage and enforce good sportsmanship, fair play, and adherence to the standards of conduct mandated by USAHockey from all SYH members.

### **7.2 Discipline**

The Board may, by a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum of Directors, for good cause and consistent with due process, admonish, suspend or terminate the membership of any SYH member for violation of these standards of conduct. This authority extends beyond any disciplinary actions taken or not taken by game officials.

## **ARTICLE 8 - ENACTMENT AND AMENDMENTS**

### **8.1 Enactment**

These Bylaws shall become effective upon a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the Annual Meeting.

### **8.2 Amendment**

These Bylaws may be amended or repealed, or new Bylaws enacted, by the Board at any time upon a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the Annual Meeting.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary of Stowe Youth Hockey, Inc., hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Bylaws adopted by vote of the members at a meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm in Stowe, Vermont.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

## **Descriptions of Officers' Job Duties**

### **President**

The President shall have primary responsibility and authority to conduct all business of SYH, within the framework of the Bylaws and the guiding principle that the desire to win will not be pursued to the detriment of sportsmanship, fair play, participation, or the general philosophy of SYH. The President shall preside at all Board meetings and meetings of the members. With the approval of the Board, the President shall appoint all coaches, all program coordinators, and such committees as may be deemed necessary to coordinate program delivery to players, coaches, and referees.

### **Vice President**

The Vice President shall assist the President in completion of his/her duties and shall preside over regularly scheduled Board meetings if the President is unable to attend.

### **Secretary**

The Secretary shall take minutes of all regularly scheduled and special Board meetings. Such minutes will summarize important issues and results of any votes taken. The Secretary shall make sufficient copies of minutes and provide to each Board member a copy before the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. The Secretary shall maintain the corporate records of SYH.

### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall: keep accurate financial and accounting records and ensure payment of all bills incurred; provide an accounting of all funds received and disbursed whenever requested by the President; deposit all funds in SYH bank account in a timely manner; open the books for an audit whenever requested by the President; assist the President in producing a budget of financial requirements for the coming year; prescribe procedures for collecting registration fees and other income; and shall prepare and submit financial reports.

### **Registrar**

The Registrar shall: administer the registration of eligible players including the coordination of registration information to VSAHA and USAHockey; conduct individual late registration when necessary; acquire sufficient volunteers for the registration process and will ensure that copies of registration forms are properly disseminated; and confirm birth dates and other information as necessary and compile statistical data on players to assist the Board in team balancing.