



Sanilac County Hockey Association

Youth Hockey Handbook
Updated for 25-26 season

SCHA Mission Statement

It is the goal of the Sanilac County Hockey Association to foster the development of ice skating and ice hockey. We will accomplish this through supporting, organizing, and maintaining a quality ice skating facility designed to enrich the lives of our youth, while providing recreation opportunities for people of all ages.

Coaches/Volunteers

The Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) requires that all coaches be certified with the proper Coaching Education Program (CEP) for each division they will be coaching. The CEP also applies to assistant coaches or anyone else who will be on the ice or on the bench for practices and games. Coaches also need to have the required age-specific module(s) completed. No uncertified adults may be in the locker rooms, on the ice for practices or in the bench area during games.

All coaches and volunteers must wear a helmet during practices. Face mask is optional. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players both on the ice and in the locker room and ensuring players are properly equipped.

Coaches must be present at all practices and games whenever possible. Substitute coaches must be certified at the proper level. If a certified coach is not present for practice, practice will be canceled.

All coaches and volunteers must have a background check on file as per USA Hockey guidelines and have Safe Sport certification.

Refer to www.usahockey.com for the latest coaching guidelines.

SCHA Student Coaches Policy

The SCHA encourages youth players to get involved with helping younger skaters progress by becoming student coaches. To be a student coach, a player must be at least 13 years of age and attend a USA Hockey Level 1 coaching clinic or locally offered coaching class. Once a player can verify his/her attendance at the clinic, they may apply to be a student coach within the SCHA. The head coach they are assigned to will be responsible for the conduct of their student coach during practices and games.

Practice Time

Only rostered players are allowed on the ice during their team's scheduled practice time. Players are not allowed to join another team's scheduled practice. Having others on the ice invalidates the USA Hockey insurance and puts the head coach at risk for disciplinary action and a potential lawsuit should a player be injured. This rule applies to player siblings, a coach's other children, friends, and those rostered on other SCHA teams. Any coach allowing a

non-team member on the ice during their scheduled practice will be subject to further discipline from the SCHA Board of Directors.

Game Configuration

All games will follow the rules and procedures outlined by USA Hockey. Each team is permitted a single one-minute time-out per game.

Period lengths for each division will be as follows:

8 & under: 8-10 minutes (running clock)

10U: 12 minutes

12U: 12 minutes

14U: 13 minutes

16U: 15 minutes

10U-14U teams will compete in the B-League:

<https://www.saginawbayicearena.com/page/show/7498163-b-league>

*period lengths listed above apply to home games only.

16U team will compete in the Adray Metro Prep League (blue division):

<https://www.adrayhockey.org/west-prep/metro-prep/>

SCHA Scrimmage Policy

The SCHA supports its teams participating in games outside of the normal schedule, but in order to ensure fairness and compliance with USA Hockey guidelines, the following rules must be followed.

- Each team will be given a 'bank' of 3 block ice hours to use during the season. These hours can be used to schedule additional practices, play an exhibition game, or hold a team party.
- ALL exhibition games MUST be set up through the SCHA scheduler. Coaches cannot set up games independently.
- Only registered players from each team may participate in exhibition games. Teams are not permitted to 'borrow' another team's players for such a game. Doing so is a violation under USA Hockey rules and can result in serious consequences to any coach, player or official who is involved in that contest.
- Teams invited to participate in an exhibition game may be contacted by the association's coaching director or another member of the Board of Directors to ensure their compliance with USA Hockey roster guidelines.
- Teams traveling to the Colleen J. Howe Arena for an exhibition game are responsible for paying the cost of officials for the game (no ice fees.)

Please note that all USA Hockey rules apply to exhibition games as well. Penalties/suspensions carry over to regularly scheduled SCHA games. If a player is currently serving a suspension,

he/she cannot participate in an exhibition game and the game DOES NOT count towards fulfilling the obligations of the suspension.

SCHA Tournament Participation Policy (House)

The SCHA encourages its member teams to seek tournament participation opportunities. If a team finds a tournament they are interested in playing in, the team's coach(es) should make a formal request to the Board of Directors to approve their participation. Tournament games cannot interfere with association games or the request will be denied. Additionally, if the committee does not feel the tournament to be beneficial to the players or if the cost is too high, the request will be denied. If possible, the Board will seek to assist with tournament fees. The amount of SCHA contribution will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Please note that there is no guarantee that the association will be able to pay any portion of tournament fees.

SCHA Early Promotion Policy

Each registered player will be placed in the division based upon their birth year. The Sanilac County Hockey Association and USA Hockey believe that players are physically and emotionally better suited to playing in their own age group. Unless a player demonstrates a much higher skill level than the remainder of the players in his/her league, advancing to the next level should not be a consideration.

Individual requests for moving up may be made only under the following criteria:

- A request by the player's parent/legal guardian must be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors prior to the October board meeting.
- Along with the parent request must be a letter from at least one certified USA Hockey coach (Level 3 or higher) supporting the move.
- The player in question must demonstrate such a high degree of skill within their division that the ability of teammates and opponents to touch the puck or make normal hockey plays would be significantly hindered.

The SCHA Board of Directors will discuss and rule on the request prior to the start of the hockey season. There is no appeal process - the decision of the committee is final. Please note that due to potential roster size, the board may elect to waive one or more of the above requirements.

Photography, Video, and Audio Policy

Individual spectators are authorized, from their seating area or other designated space, to personally take still photographs, film and/or audiotape for their personal use. Any such photography or recording shall not interfere with the game.

The SCHA may make available designated photography and/or filming areas away from the general seating area. Permission to utilize such locations must be attained in advance from the Youth Hockey Committee or its designated representative. Persons granted such permission may not interact with the players, coaches, or the on or off-ice officials in any matter. This

includes directing comments, whether positive or negative, to any individual involved in the contest. Those wishing to “cheer on” a team need to do so from the standard spectator area. Anyone granted permission to photograph or record in these areas does so at their own risk.