

HANDBOOK REAPERS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

THE REAPERS: The Reapers Hockey Association (REAPERS) is striving to be the pre-eminent Tier 1 youth hockey programs in the state of Illinois, empowered by a dedicated Board of Directors and Hockey Professionals.

PHILOSOPHY: The REAPERS believes children develop a passion for hockey if they are having fun, making lifelong friends, are guided by positive role models, taught by inspirational mentors and achieve both personal and team success.

REAPERS OPERATIONS: The REAPERS is a not-for-profit corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois. The by-laws of the Association are available to all Reapers members.

PROFESSIONAL HOCKEY STAFF: [Hockey Professionals Contact List](#)

HOCKEY PROGRAMS: The REAPERS offer hockey programs for elite youth hockey players, from U10 through U18.

HOCKEY SEASON: The REAPERS hockey programs are divided into two hockey seasons: Regular Hockey Season and Spring Hockey Season. The spring season is optional participation and has no bearing on the following regular season.

TIER I HOCKEY: The REAPERS offers fun, highly competitive travel hockey at all the Tier 1 (AAA) level of play. The program focuses on achieving a high degree of competitive success by developing the skill of its players at least four days per week to include intensive on-ice practice, off-ice conditioning and weekly games. The teams are coached by Hockey Professionals and paid Assistant Coaches

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE: The program's objective is to compete successfully at each age group. Committed players will reach their fullest potential, on and off the ice, with emphasis on teamwork, leadership skills and sportsmanship.

PRE-SEASON CLINICS: The REAPERS Hockey Professionals conduct optional pre-season conditioning clinics prior to tryouts.

TRYOUTS AND TEAM SELECTION: The REAPERS Hockey Professionals conduct a series of on-ice evaluations. Parents are welcome to observe the tryout sessions, but are prohibited from discussing the selection process with the REAPERS Hockey Professionals once tryouts begin. Efforts will be made to ensure all players selected are placed on teams based on their skill level, athleticism and maturity. Please respect the decisions of our qualified Staff. Parents are encouraged to support

the players and Hockey Professionals in a positive, sportsmanlike manner regardless of the outcome at tryouts.

LEAGUE: Our teams shall participate in _____ league.

TEAM COMMITMENT: The coaches, parents and players alike must be fully committed to the program in order for teams to function properly and remain competitive in their respective divisions. The guidelines are as followings:

Attendance: Players are required to attend all practices, games & tournaments. If a player is absent from a practice or game, the child will sit the bench at the next game (one period per infraction). There are four exceptions:

- a. Illness
- b. Bereavement
- c. Religious Commitment
- d. Academics

PROGRAM POLICY:

1. All players represent the REAPERS on and off the ice. Players are expected to exhibit proper behavior at all times.
2. Tournament play is mandatory for all players. All individual family expenses, to include travel, food and lodging at out-of-town tournaments, are the responsibility of each family.

PLAYER PACKAGE POLICY: All players are obligated to purchase a full set of team game and practice uniforms, dry-land attire, team warm-ups, team shell(s), team bag, team helmet and team gloves. This package shall be purchased from a designated vendor. The Reapers shall make neither profit nor commission on this player package.

ATTIRE POLICY: Players represent the REAPERS both on and off the ice. Your game day attire will be determined by your Head Coach

CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION: Each team is assigned a Team Manager. If you have a question, problem or concern regarding your team, please contact the Team Manager.

SPRING HOCKEY: At the conclusion of the regular season, the REAPERS offers an optional spring program.

FEES: The REAPERS is a not-for-profit association, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and paid Hockey Professionals and Support Staff. League fees are derived from the projected budget of the upcoming year. Every effort is made to raise additional money to cover the REAPERS expenses through corporate/family sponsors, fund-raising events and a volunteer base of members to keep fees as low as possible. All players must pay their fees according to the schedule outlined in the registration information to be eligible to play.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: The REAPERS is committed to allow any player, regardless of financial means, to enjoy the great game of hockey. The Reapers use a third party, "FACTS", to determine need. Based upon the determination by FACTS financial assistance is granted and/or denied. Information on FACTS can be found at: <https://factsmgmt.com/>.

GENERAL REAPERS POLICIES: The REAPERS is striving to become one of the most respected youth hockey programs in the country. We will achieve this goal by the wiliness and dedication of our coaches, parents, players to adhere to the REAPERS Code of Conduct and Behavioral Policies.

REAPERS PARENTS AND PLAYER BEHAVIORAL POLICIES: The REAPERS members are encouraged to take an active role in their child's hockey experience. A positive attitude is the first step towards a successful hockey experience at any level of play. To ensure youth hockey success for our program, it is imperative the coaches, players and parents work constructively with the REAPERS Board of Directors throughout the season to address problems, concerns and issues as the season unfolds. If something develops that you would like assistance with, please follow the proper channels of communication to ensure that each situation is addressed accordingly. Please allow ample time for the Team Manager to address each situation. Helpful, constructive participation bring positive results - heated exchanges and negative attitudes have no place in a youth hockey program. Thank you in advance for your time and patience regarding these matters.

CODE OF CONDUCT: REAPERS follows the AHAI and USA Hockey Code of Conduct as stated and signed during registration. You may contact the Registrar for a copy. Additionally REAPERS demands the following from its families:

1. Parents & Players will conduct themselves in a manner which will exemplify good sportsmanship and fair play.
2. Parents & Players will be supportive of all players and coaches both on and off the ice.
3. Parents & Players will refrain from negative or derogatory comments about players, coaches and officials.
4. Parents & Players will be responsible to see that their child attends practices and games on time.
5. Parents & Players will be aware that their conduct at games and off-ice is a reflection on the REAPERS. As such, they will strive to ensure it is a positive reflection.

While the Reapers Hockey Association makes every effort to clearly and completely state the policy of the organization in this handbook, it is merely meant to be used as a guide and source of information for the parents of our skaters. The Board of Directors and the Executive Board expressly retain the right to change policy in accordance with the By-Laws, and in no event shall any Board Member or parent be held personally responsible for a decision of the Association.