



# **BYAHA Handbook**

The Boise Youth Amateur Hockey Association (BYAHA) Handbook is a collection of BYAHA policies and information meant to be a guide for parents/guardians and players participating on a Junior Steelheads team. The Handbook is reviewed and revised on a regular basis by the BYAHA Board of Directors. The Boise Youth Amateur Hockey Association (BYAHA) is the parent organization of the Junior Steelheads.

Dear Parent/Guardian and Player:

Thank you for taking the time to review this reference guide. Whether you are new to the Junior Steelheads (BYAHA) program or have been involved for many years, we believe the information contained here will be valuable. The purpose of this document is to familiarize you with the policies, procedures, expectations, and guidelines of BYAHA. It is our hope that every youth participating will enjoy their hockey experience. Since you are an integral part of that experience, we want you to enjoy it as well. In order for that to happen, we want you to have as much information as possible regarding the framework and details of our program.

BYAHA is proud of the dedication and hard work that our volunteer board members, coaches, committee members, parents, and family members provide. We also know that we need input and suggestions for continuous improvement. Please feel free to contact a Board Member with your feedback regarding this handbook or any aspect of Junior Steelheads Hockey. Additional information about BYAHA and our governing body, the Board of Directors, can be found in our By-Laws, located on our website, [www.jrsteelheads.com](http://www.jrsteelheads.com).

Thank you for being a part of a growing Hockey tradition in the Treasure Valley!

Sincerely,

The Members of the Boise Youth Amateur Hockey Association Board

## **BYAHA MISSION**

BYAHA is the parent organization of the Junior Steelheads youth hockey teams and is a member of the Idaho Amateur Hockey Association and USA Hockey. BYAHA is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization. The Boise Youth Amateur Hockey Association is a competitive travel ice hockey program.

Our mission is to provide and implement a positive learning environment for young players to gain the maximum benefits of participating in a competitive sports program. We believe in challenging them to embrace school academics, demanding dedication to sportsmanship as individuals and teammates both on and off the ice, enhancing skill development, developing good work habits, helping them set goals and plans to reach those goals.

## **BYAHA VISION**

Competitive travel hockey is an exceptionally rewarding experience. The Junior Steelheads program gives some of our community's most talented and committed young men and women the exposure and opportunity to develop their skills while representing Idaho. Hockey teaches kids many valuable life lessons such as discipline, teamwork, leadership, and accountability. BYAHA is committed to developing the youth within the Junior Steelheads community and committed to developing their character on and off the ice.

In keeping with this philosophy, and consistent with its by-laws, BYAHA is organized to provide eligible players with many hours committed to:

- Sportsmanship - to learn a sense of fair play: to be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Integrity - encourage honesty and fair play beyond the rules and regulation of the game.
- Respect - treat others as you expect to be treated.
- Pursuit of excellence - each BYAHA member, player, coach and volunteer should perform each aspect of the game to the best of their ability.
- Teamwork - to value the strength of learning to play together as a team and not an individual.
- Enjoyment - it is important for the hockey experience to be fun and rewarding for all participants.

The goal of BYAHA will always be to create an environment where the principles of sportsmanship, teamwork, confidence, respect, and discipline thrive in hopes of preparing

our players not only for the game of hockey, but also to become well-rounded and contributing members of the community. While this philosophy is directed at our youth that play hockey, it must also be implemented and taught by the adults within the organization. Coaches, parents, and administrators must all do their part to ensure that this philosophy and the following policies and procedures are upheld.

### **What to Expect as a Hockey Parent/Guardian**

Your player's hockey experience will be influenced by many factors, but nothing will influence that experience more than you. As a parent, you are the most influential figure in your child's development, both as a hockey player and as a person. Embrace that opportunity

Remember:

- Let kids be kids. Fun should be paramount.
- Be supportive.
- Be disciplined. Manage your emotions and set a good example that teaches your child to do the same.
- Be positive, and when adversity comes, be constructive not destructive. If you must be critical, don't get personal. Direct your comments at the action, not the person.
- Be proactive. Getting involved as a volunteer or coach in your association can give you an even greater influence on your child's hockey experience. As a parent, being a proactive communicator with coaches and administrators can help avoid frustration and conflict.
- Be respectful, especially in situations of disagreement or conflict.
- Don't bully or harass. Speak out if you see bullying or harassing behavior from others.
- Focus on the process, not the outcome, and teach your child to do the same.
- Kids learn best by doing. Praise your child's effort more often than their performance. Studies show it helps them develop the confidence to meet new challenges and overcome obstacles.
- Keep hockey in perspective. Maintain a healthy balance of hockey and non-hockey activities. Encourage your child to be well-rounded.
- Enjoy the youth hockey experience with your child. Life moves fast and time passes quickly. Soon your child will be grown, and you'll wish you could return to these days, if just for a moment. So savor these seasons, don't rush them. Make the experience one that you'll remember fondly together years from now.

## **Team Assessments and Team Placement**

### **Assessments**

The Jr. Steelheads is a competitive travel hockey program. Tryouts will be held to determine team placement. Our goal is to field the most competitive teams possible in each age group from the Boise metropolitan area. Every attempt will be made to place a child on a team, however, due to team roster limits and players individual skill levels, some players may be ineligible to participate in the program. All participants are required to attend tryouts. If the participant is unable to attend a tryout session, they must communicate that with the Hockey Director and the coach of the top team in that particular age division.

Because we are a competitive travel hockey program, players will not be added to teams after tryouts and team selections without the direct coordination between the Hockey Director and the head coach of the level of the player being added. Generally, incoming players will be added to the lower-level team, however a skill/ability evaluation should be completed and a decision made by the Hockey Director with the input of the coach from each team at that age level.

### **Registration**

Registration typically opens in the Spring or early Summer for try-outs for the following season (watch the website and email). Once your player has been selected and placed on a team, please visit our website at <http://www.jrsteelheads.com/Registration/> and register your child to the team that they will participate on. You will need to have a current USA Hockey membership to complete our registration and participate in tryouts. USA Hockey memberships can be purchased at [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com).

### **Season Fees**

Season Fees payable to BYAHA represent the players practice ice and other fixed costs of the Junior Steelheads program. These fees do not include team fees, travel expenses, jerseys, tracksuits, or equipment.

Season Fees depend on many variables such as the number of practices a team has during the season, whether the practices are half or full, and the number of players on each team.

All registered players are expected to pay an initial fee payment of \$500 as invoiced by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Players then pay any remaining fees by October 31st. If your organization fees are not paid within 14 days of the payment date, your player will not be allowed to skate or practice with the team until your account is in good standing.

In addition to the Season Fees, each team will also have its own team fees based on such items as the number of tournaments it attends, costs associated with non-tournament games, and additional practice ice. Team fees are divided by the number of players on each team and are separate from Season Fees. Team fees are paid directly to the Team Treasurer.

Scheduling games can be difficult for many reasons including the limited locally available ice, the distance to travel to find competition, not knowing the skill level of the team, and other factors outside the control of anyone. The Head Coach coordinates with the Team Manager and Hockey Director in scheduling travel and tournament locations at the beginning of the season. Any changes to the initially established schedule for tournaments require the Head Coach's approval followed by communication to the whole team with as much notice as possible. All players are expected to attend all tournaments. However, if a player is unable to attend a tournament for any reason; the Head Coach, Team Manager and Team Treasurer should collectively use their discretion in determining the player's responsibility for tournament fees.

You can make payments of Season Fees via the QuickBooks invoice sent to your email, or you can write a check payable to BYAHA and mail to the following address:

BYAHA  
PO Box 190844  
Boise, ID 83719-0844

### **Beginning Credit Balances**

Some players may have credit balances from prior seasons remaining in their account. Please contact the BYAHA Treasurer to confirm the amounts.

### **Past Due Balances**

Any Season Fee payment which becomes past due more than 14 days from the scheduled due date of the payment will result in the player being suspended from practicing or playing in any tournaments for the Junior Steelheads, until such time as the past due balance is fully paid. The organization will impose a \$50.00 late fee on late payments unless prior coordination is made with the BYAHA Treasurer.

### **Returned Checks**

A penalty of \$35 will be assessed on all "returned checks." Failure to reimburse BYAHA for the check amounts plus the penalty fee will result in player becoming ineligible for registration with any USA Hockey association until paid in full.

### **End of year Refunds**

At the end of the season if your player's account has a positive balance, you are able request a refund up to the value you paid into the account. Fundraised money, due to the non-profit rules and regulations cannot be paid out but they can be transferred between your team account and your BYAHA account to pay off balances or held over for the next season.

### **Jerseys, Socks, and Track Suits**

Jersey numbers are assigned to players at the beginning of the season. Players returning from last season can retain their jersey numbers from the previous season. Every attempt will be made to ensure that players have a number that they desire, however, no guarantees can be made.

All players will be required to purchase Jr. Steelheads jerseys, game socks and track suits. For current prices please contact the BYAHA Equipment Manager, Team Manager, or the Organization Treasurer.

Jerseys and track suits sizing will occur during tryout weekends in the main foyer area of Idaho Ice World. Please ask at the registration/payment table if you are not able to locate the sizing racks.

### **Equipment**

Participants of BYAHA programs must wear the minimum protective gear required by USA Hockey (HEEC approved). It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to ensure that their child is furnished with and wears to all practices and games, the following equipment:

- Helmet with Cage (Black Helmet)
- Hockey Gloves (Black and White preferred)
- Shoulder Pads
- Elbow Pads
- Shin Guards
- Hockey Pants (Black)
- Athletic Supporter with Cup (Males) or Jill Pad (Females)
- Mouth Guard
- Neck Guard Hockey Skates
- Hockey Stick (Back up stick recommended)
- Game Jerseys (Games Only)
- Practice Jersey (Practices Only)
- Game Hockey Socks (Games Only)
- Practice Hockey Socks (Practices Only)
- Track Suit (Worn when determined by Coach)

### **Age Verification**

New players will be required provide BYAHA a copy of their birth certificate for age verification purposes.

### **Health Conditions**

Any health or physical impairment which will affect performance in any way must be noted on the registration form. (Examples: asthma, epilepsy, visual or auditory impairment mental or psychological disorders)

## **Insurance**

BYAHA carries a secondary insurance policy with USA Hockey that will assist you when all other policies have been exhausted. Only injuries sustained during BYAHA functions will be considered. Injuries must be reported to the Coach immediately.

## **Pictures**

Team pictures will be taken after the teams are established, rosters are set, and jerseys arrive.

## **Team Travel**

As we are a competitive travel hockey program, our teams will participate in games out of state. Coaches will determine the destinations of travel. "B" level teams will, for the most part, travel within our state but can travel outside of Idaho. "A" and "AA" teams will generally travel to other states.

## **Volunteers**

The BYAHA is operated by Volunteers who donate many hours of time. Your active support is needed, and any help is greatly appreciated and expected. Contact your team manager to learn how to help. Each team will have specific volunteers with assigned duties. Team volunteers include:

## **Team Manager**

The job of the team manager is to support the coach in managing the team and covering administrative tasks. Their specific tasks are to notify parents of the practice and game schedule, any schedule changes, make phone calls when needed, field questions, and otherwise make the coach's job easier. The team manager will be your main contact person and will work as a liaison between the parents, the coach, and the BYAHA Board of Directors. The Team Managers are invited to attend monthly BYAHA Board Meetings and will report directly to the BYAHA Board of Directors.

Team managers are responsible for notifying the BYAHA Hockey Director of any incident that has taken place by the team which would be perceived as embarrassing to BYAHA or which could result in action by the discipline committee.

It is imperative that there is open communication between the team manager, coach, and parents to ensure that everyone has the same shared understanding of the season. As changes occur, the Team Manager or the Coach will contact the parents to inform them of the changes. Shared understanding is the key to a successful year for the players.

## **Team Treasurer**

The job of the Team Treasurer is to manage and oversee the team account. The Team Treasurer

will work with the Coaches and Team Manager to establish a budget for the season, invoice players, collect fees, issue payments, and balance accounts.

### **Team Fundraiser**

The job of the Team Fundraiser is to oversee all team fundraising activities. Team Fundraiser will work with the BYAHA Fundraising Director to establish fundraising possibilities for the team.

### **Coaches**

The Head coach will oversee all aspects of their team. The head coach will determine travel and tournament locations, player lineups, player positions and playing times. The Jr. Steelheads coaches are all USA Hockey certified.

### **Player and Parent Agreement**

Please read and review the current season [Player and Parent Agreement](#) for details on expectations, both for participation and financially. This document must be read and signed before the season begins.

### **Team Travel**

As we are a competitive travel hockey program, our teams will participate in games out of state. Coaches will determine the destinations of travel. "B" level teams will, for the most part, travel within our state but can travel outside of Idaho. "A" and "AA" teams will generally travel to other states.

## 2024-2025 Player and Parent Agreement

Player's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

USA Hockey Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please read and initial each box to indicate consent to the 2024-2025 BYAHA Player and Parent Agreement**

**Overview:** This document is meant to help outline and set the expectations for all members who choose to commit to playing for the Jr. Steelheads (BYAHA) organization. Playing competitive hockey at youth level is a great opportunity to achieve personal goals, team goals, and have fun. We must also remember that in order for the program to be successful, there are specific requirements that must be followed. These requirements exist to maintain the integrity of our program and teams, and to ensure we have a successful season.

**FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:** Each player will have two accounts- a BYAHA ACCOUNT, which pays for all ice time, and a TEAM ACCOUNT, that pays for all tournaments and team fees. Any fundraising monies earned will go to your BYAHA account. For further questions on the accounts, please reach out to the Jr. Steelheads Treasurer or your team treasurer.

\_\_\_\_\_ **FINANCIAL AGREEMENT:** By completing this registration, as the parent/legal guardian of the above named child, I agree to pay the Jr. Steelheads BYAHA and team fees associated with my child's respective hockey program for the 2024-2025 season.

\_\_\_\_\_ **BYAHA ACCOUNT:** By completing this registration, as the parent/legal guardian of the above named child on a U10-U18 Jr. Steelheads team, I agree to pay the amount of \$500 by July 31st as invoiced and the second installment prior to November 1st (amount to be determined based off of practice time determined by coach). I agree to pay any additional amounts required based on scheduled and used ice time. *\*HS/U19 Girls team BYAHA account amounts to be determined.*

\_\_\_\_\_ **TEAM ACCOUNT:** By completing this registration, as the parent/legal guardian of the above named child, I agree that I am responsible for paying my child's share of any team fees including, but not limited to, tournament entry fee costs

(regardless of player will be attending/playing), travel costs, team events, and end of season activities. Team fees are paid directly to the player's team account which is managed by the player's Team Treasurer. Initial fees due will be determined by your Team Manager/Treasurer.

\_\_\_\_\_ **PAST DUE BALANCES:** By completing this registration, as the parent/legal guardian of the above named child, I agree that if my child's BYAHA fee and/or team fee accounts are past due, he/she will not be allowed to attend practices or play in any team game/events (including travel) until the accounts are made current. If a payment transaction is declined due to insufficient funds, a service fee may be charged.

\_\_\_\_\_ **REFUNDS:** By completing this registration, as parent/legal guardian of the above named child, I understand that BYAHA has a NO REFUND policy. Any exception to this policy requires the submission of a written request to the BYAHA board. Refund requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and will be considered for a partial club fee refund.

## **PLAYER ATTENDANCE POLICY**

\_\_\_\_\_ **COMMITMENT TO THE TEAM:** By completing this registration, as the parent/legal guardian of the above named child, I agree to have my player present at all practices. Consistent attendance is crucial for both individual development and team cohesion.

\_\_\_\_\_ **NOTICE OF ABSENCE:** By completing this registration, as the parent/legal guardian of the above named child on a U10-U18 Jr. Steelheads team, I agree to notify the coach at least 24 hours in advance if my player is unable to attend practice; except in the cases of emergency or illness.

\_\_\_\_\_ **PUNCTUALITY:** By completing this registration, as the parent/legal guardian of the above named child, I agree that my athlete is expected to arrive on time and be prepared for the start of practice. Consistent lateness may also result in consequences similar to unexcused absences.

\_\_\_\_\_ **EXCUSED ABSENCES:** By completing this registration, as the parent/legal guardian of the above named child, I agree that excused absences may include illness, family emergencies, academic commitments, and previously scheduled medical appointments. Absences for other reasons must be discussed with and approved by the coach in advance.

\_\_\_\_\_ **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:** By completing this registration, as the parent/legal guardian of the above named child, I agree that unexcused absences may result in reduced playing time or other consequences as deemed appropriate by the coaching staff. I also agree that repeated unexcused absences can affect an athlete's standing on the team.

## **PLAYER AND PARENT BEHAVIOR**

\_\_\_\_\_ **CODE OF CONDUCT:** By completing this registration, as the parent/legal

guardian of the above named child, I agree to follow and abide by applicable USA Hockey, IAHA and BYAHA rules and regulations. BYAHA has a zero tolerance of abuse for all club representatives, members and participants. Abuse includes, but is not limited to: verbal, physical, mental, sexual, and all forms of neglect. All violations of this code of conduct will be subject to investigation by BYAHA and ultimately may result in suspension or dismissal of the offending member; parent and/or player.

\_\_\_\_\_ **SAFE SPORT TRAINING:** If you plan to volunteer, coach or are a player born in 2005 or earlier, you **MUST** complete SAFE SPORT certification prior to being allowed to attend or participate in any/all BYAHA organized events, games or training. ***Volunteers that plan to work on ice, supervise locker rooms, or work in the penalty box must complete a background check (good for two years) in addition to the Safe Sport certification.***

\_\_\_\_\_ **CONCUSSION INFORMATION:** I, as the parent/legal guardian of the above named child, hereby acknowledge the receipt of the concussion information provided as an appendix to this agreement (Information provided below).

I have read the above paragraphs and fully understand the terms contained herein. I understand that I am agreeing to assume certain responsibilities and commitments to release BYAHA from certain possible future liabilities. I understand that I will give electronic agreement and consent to the above paragraphs. By typing your name below you are consenting to submit this as your legal signature and agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

**Boise Youth Amateur Hockey Association  
Player Play Up Policy**

Boise Youth Amateur Hockey Association (BYAHA), the parent organization of the Junior Steelheads, strongly recommends players play at their appropriate age level, but has a policy for exceptions. Ultimately the Board of Directors will determine if a player play up is in the best interest of the player and BYAHA.

BYAHA requires players to play at their level as determined under the age brackets set forth by USA Hockey. Our belief in adhering to USA Hockey's age bracket is in part that youth hockey, especially at the younger levels (Mite/8U & Squirt/10U), is developmental and coincides with the BYAHA Mission: to provide and implement a positive learning environment for young players to gain the maximum benefits of participating in a competitive sports program. The BYAHA goal is to develop great people as well as players - setting and achieving goals, not just scoring them.

Determinations for play ups must fulfill either a roster/goaltending need or elite player determination as defined below:

**ROSTER NEED**

Based on the number of eligible players, the Player Coach Development Committee (PCDC) may determine that a need exists to move a player(s) up from the next lower level in order to fill out rosters.

In the event the PCDC makes such a determination that move ups are necessary to fulfill "roster needs" to the Squirt/10U level, players will be moved up, based upon the Mite Evaluation sessions at the beginning of the season, need for goalie, as well as birth year. These players will not go through the tryout process and will be assigned to the lowest configured team.

**GOALTENDING NEED**

In the event desired team configurations present a need for additional goaltenders, which will be determined PRIOR to tryouts beginning for such level of play, a move up spot will first be filled by a qualified goalie, as determined by the PCDC. In the event one or more such goalies exist, priority will be given to the player in the highest grade first, then birth date. There will not be any goalie move ups to place 2 goalies on any team at any level unless there are a sufficient number of qualified goalies at the level below to ensure one goalie per team.

**ELITE PLAYER REQUEST**

### **Move Up to Squirt/10U**

Player must score in the top 3 players of the “A” Squirt or 10U team through the association’s formal tryout process. For Example, if the PCDC determines the Squirt “A” team to have 13 skaters (excluding goalies) the player would need to rank number 1-3 in the final tryout evaluation.

### **Move Up to PeeWee/12U or Higher Level**

Any family wishing to request a play up to a higher level must submit a request to the BYAHA Board of Director President before Tryouts of the upcoming season or as allowed by the Board Executive Committee for extenuating circumstances including but not limited to, new to association, injury/medical, etc. These requests will be evaluated on an as-needed basis. The player must include their previous coach’s recommendation with their request. The Board Executive Committee will review the request and determine the eligibility of such request and move the application to the PCDC for further determination. The Executive Board of Directors Committee and PCDC will work together to determine the eligibility of request using the following criteria:

1. Team sizes at both age levels.
2. Determination of eligibility will be based off of previous coach’s recommendations and may possibly require an on ice dynamic skating and skills session.
3. Player move up is only allowed to move up one birth year. For example, a first year Squirt would not be allowed to move up to Peewees.
4. Player must register at their appropriate age level and tryout level per the BYAHA Tryout Policy. For registration fees or refunds please refer to the BYAHA Player and Parent Agreement.
5. Player must score in the top 3 players of the “A” Team of the requested level. For example, if the PCDC determines the “A” team to have 13 skaters (excluding goalies) the player would need to rank number 1-3 in the final Tryout evaluation.

After consulting with the previous year’s coach and the applicable PCDC which may include current age level coaches and coaching coordinator(s), the Tryout Committee will determine team placement at the conclusion of tryouts. A player placed on a team pursuant to this provision will not displace a tryout player ranking in the top 75% of that team’s initial roster based on evaluations, but may displace a player ranking in the bottom 25% of that team’s initial roster based on evaluations (e.g., in the example set forth in 8 above, with a roster of 13 skaters, it is possible that a player placed pursuant to this provision may displace a player that initially ranked between positions 11-16 after the on-ice evaluation process, but shall not

displace a player ranked 1-10).

**Idaho Amateur Hockey Association (IAHA) Play-Up Request Form**

In addition to a formal request to the BYAHA Board of Directors, an Idaho Amateur Hockey Association (IAHA) Play-up Request Form must also be completed and submitted to IAHA Registrar

**The final decision is at the sole discretion of the BYAHA Board of Directors and the decision will be final. There is no appeal process.**

## **Jr Steelheads Locker Room Policy**

In addition to the development of our hockey players and enjoyment of the sport of hockey, the safety and protection of our participants is central to the JR Steelheads goals. The JR Steelheads adheres to USA Hockey's SafeSport Program to help protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse, and other types of misconduct, including emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, and hazing.

To help prevent abuse or misconduct from occurring in our locker rooms, the Jr Steelheads has adopted the following locker room policy. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms.

At Idaho Ice World or Idaho Central Arena there are 2 locker rooms available for our program's use. Each of the locker rooms has its own restroom, and shower area. Some teams in our program may also occasionally or regularly travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, rest rooms, and shower facilities will vary from location to location. The Jr Steelheads team organizers will attempt to provide information on the locker room facilities in advance of games away from our home arena. At arenas for which you are unfamiliar, parents should plan to have extra time and some flexibility in planning for their child to dress, undress and shower if desired.

### **Locker Room Monitoring**

Jr Steelheads has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., generally 30-45 minutes before and following practices and games). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this would likely make some players uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion. We conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive, and if the coaches are not inside the locker rooms, either a coach or voluntary locker room monitors (each of which has been screened) will be posted directly outside of the locker rooms and changing areas during periods of use, and leave the doors open only when adequate privacy is still possible, so that only participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room. Team personnel will also secure the locker room appropriately during times when the team is on the ice.

### **Parents in Locker Rooms**

Except for players at the younger age groups, we discourage parents from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a player needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear, if the player is or may be injured, or a player's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that

parents let the coach know beforehand that he or she will be helping the player. Naturally, with our youngest age groups it is necessary for parents to assist the players getting dressed. We encourage parents to teach their players as young as possible how to get dressed so that players will learn as early as possible how to get dressed independently. In circumstances where parents are permitted in the locker room, coaches are permitted to ask that the parents leave for a short time before the game and for a short time after the game so that the coaches may address the players. As players get older, the coach may in his or her discretion prohibit parents from a locker room.

### **Mixed Gender Teams**

Some of our teams consist of both male and female players. It is important that the privacy rights of all our players are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. Where possible, the Jr Steelheads will have the male and female players dress/undress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single locker room before the game or team meeting. Once the game or practice is finished, the players may come to one locker room for a team meeting and then the male and female players proceed to their separate locker rooms to undress and shower, if available. If separate locker rooms are not available, then the players will take turns using the locker room to change. We understand that these arrangements may require that players arrive earlier or leave later to dress but believe that this is the most reasonable way to accommodate and respect all our players.

### **Cell Phones and Other Mobile Recording Devices**

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, **are not permitted** to be used in the locker rooms. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room.

### **Prohibited Conduct and Reporting**

The Jr Steelheads prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook. Participants, employees, or volunteers in the JR Steelheads may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these locker room policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse or that violates the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies. Reports of any actual or suspected violations, you may email USA Hockey at [SafeSport@usahockey.org](mailto:SafeSport@usahockey.org) or may call 1-800-888-465.

## Jr. Steelheads Scholarship Information

### GENERAL INFORMATION

The Jr. Steelheads Scholarship Program is available to allow players who need financial assistance to play youth hockey. Scholarships are available for those who qualify based on the criteria below. Levels of assistance will vary from year to year and be based on funds available. Scholarships often do not cover all expenses each year. All scholarship awards will be applied as credit to the players Boise Youth Amateur Hockey Association (BYAHA) account and not in cash. Players are required to make payments to both ice and team accounts until scholarships are awarded. Awards are at the full discretion of the Jr. Steelheads Board and Jr. Steelheads Scholarship Committee.

### APPLICATION CRITERIA

- Applicants must meet the following criteria:
- Applicant must be in good standing with all accounts (Jr. Steelheads (JS) and BYAHA)
- Applicant must participate in JS fundraising activities during the season played
- Current USA Hockey Registration

### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

#### Requirements:

- Completed application form (form below)
- Applicant's personal statement
- A copy of the applicant's report cards from the past two years
- A copy of the custodial parent(s)/guardian(s)' most recent Federal and State Tax Returns.

Complete application package must be received on or before August 18, 2024.

Send completed application packages via email to: [president@jrsteelheads.com](mailto:president@jrsteelheads.com) or hand deliver to a board member. Click here for the current application:

### NOTIFICATION

The Jr. Steelheads Scholarship Committee will make a final selection by September. All applicants will receive notification by email. All selections are final. All applications and attachments become the property of the Jr. Steelheads. All application forms and information submitted will be kept confidential.

## USA Hockey SafeSport

The safety of its participants is of paramount importance to USA Hockey. USA Hockey SafeSport is the organization's program related to off-ice safety.

USA Hockey has long had systems in place to protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse and other types of abuse and misconduct that can be harmful to youth hockey players and other participants. These include without limitation Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Screening, Locker Room Supervision and Hazing Policies, in addition to Codes of Conduct applicable to administrators, coaches, officials, parents, players, and spectators. The USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook is intended to update and collect USA Hockey's various policies to protect its participants from all types of misconduct and abuse.

**USA Hockey has ZERO TOLERANCE for abuse and misconduct.**

This SafeSport Handbook includes the various Policies that apply to all USA Hockey Member Programs. Those Policies address:

- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Bullying, Threats and Harassment
- Hazing

The Policies also address areas where misconduct can occur and are intended to reduce the risk of potential abuse, including:

- Locker Room Policy
- Electronic Communications Policy
- Travel Policy
- Billeting Policy

In addition to Policies, the SafeSport Handbook includes information about the available and required Training of USA Hockey and its Member Programs employees, volunteers, administrators, coaches, parents and players on recognizing and reducing circumstances for potential abuse to occur; information on USA Hockey's Screening and Background Check Program; the availability and procedures for any person to Report suspected abuse or misconduct (including protections from any retaliation or repercussions for such reporting); the procedures and means by which USA Hockey and its Member Programs should respond to allegations of abuse and misconduct; and how USA Hockey and its Member Programs will

Monitor and Supervise the SafeSport Program to help ensure its effectiveness.

By combining all of these elements into a comprehensive SafeSport Program, USA Hockey intends to create the safest possible environment for participation in hockey.

### **Parent Conduct and Responsibilities**

1. Be good ambassadors of our program, city and state.
2. Parents/spectators will promote the BYAHA philosophy of good sportsmanship in accordance with USA Hockey's Zero Tolerance policy. The challenge to all parents is to remember that enthusiastic encouragement of a positive nature will strengthen their child's character as well as his/her hockey skills. Negative actions can promote undesirable emotional stress, poor sportsmanship, and possibly, ugly physical confrontations.
3. 24 Hour Rule: Always allow 24 hours to pass after a game or practice before approaching the Head Coach about any issues that may have occurred.
4. Parents must recognize that their child's Coaches are responsible for developing team play, as well as individual player skills. If you have a concern about ice time, discipline, or personal problems, please discuss it in private and spare the team, yourself, and your child the problem of divided loyalties. Any serious or unresolved problems should be brought to the attention of the BYAHA Hockey Director.
5. In the event you disagree with any decision or policy issued by the BYAHA Board of Directors or our Coaches, please contact the person you disagree with and discuss it in private. Please spare your team and the program the troubles caused by unnecessary gossip and negativity.
6. No parent is permitted on the ice at any time, unless a medical emergency exists, **and they are summoned by an official**. Parents are not allowed on the bench during games or practices.
7. In the event of vocal or physical provocation of referees, coaches, players or other spectators the individual will be asked to leave the arena and the matter will be referred to the BYAHA Board of Directors.
8. Players are expected to attend all games and practices. If your player is unable to attend, you must give reasonable notice to one of the Coaches. Coaches at all levels of play will establish time guidelines for when players are expected to arrive for games (home and away) and practices and when they should be ready to play. Players who do not adhere to time guidelines for games and practices will risk curtailed ice time, benching, or other sanctions at the Coaches discretion. Players will be held financially responsible for any practices or games that are missed.
9. Parents are responsible for the custody and transportation of their children. They are also expected to supervise them appropriately to ensure the rules of the rink, BYAHA

and hotels and restaurants are observed.

10. BYAHA reserves the right to ban offending parents from future games and practices. Failure to comply with this ban will result in suspension or termination of the player.

### **Player Conduct and Responsibilities**

1. At no time, on or off the ice, shall a player use disrespectful, abusive, or obscene language to coaches, parents, officials or teammates. Unsportsmanlike conduct in the form of gestures, slapping boards with sticks, or other dramatic displays of individual anger are prohibited.
2. Players will conduct themselves respectfully while at Idaho Ice World or any other facility they visit while playing for the Jr. Steelheads. Floor hockey, running around and rough housing are not permitted while inside any rink (Appropriate Dry Land training is permitted).
3. Players will conduct themselves respectfully while staying in hotels. Players are not allowed to run the hallways or disrupt other hotel guests. Remember that you represent the Jr. Steelheads and our reputation is very important to us.
4. The use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs is absolutely forbidden while participating in any BYAHA related activity.
5. Each player shall respect the property of others at all times.
6. Cell phones are forbidden in the locker room
7. All players are responsible for their jerseys and must maintain them in clean and good condition. Jerseys should always be stored in a garment bag on a hanger and should never be placed in a hockey bag or on the floor.
8. Coaches shall have the authority to bench any player for any part of the game, or any part of a future game, for open personal criticism of teammates, abusive or obscene language, or unsportsmanlike conduct, regardless of any action or lack of action by game officials, both home and away. Discipline problems shall be referred to the Board for action.
9. Any player who intentionally damages a rink, locker room or other personal or public property while participating in any BYAHA related activity, will be automatically suspended until restitution is made.

### **Grievance Policy and Procedure**

BYAHA expects Board Members, Coaches, Referees, and parents to conduct themselves in an ethical and responsible manner that is consistent with USA Hockey regulations and that reflects well on BYAHA. It is BYAHA's purpose to provide an effective means for all volunteers to bring problems or complaints concerning the program to the attention of the BYAHA Board of Directors without fear of recrimination. Any complaints/concerns must be reported to the

BYAHA Board of Directors in writing no later than one week after its occurrence. Every effort should be made to resolve complaints at a team level before coming to the Board.

### **Questions**

We are pleased to answer any questions you may have. Please refer to the list below for the most appropriate party to assist you.

Team Questions – Contact your Team Manager

On Ice Question – Contact the Head Coach or the BYAHA Hockey Director

General Questions – Contact the BYAHA Secretary or President

Program Financial Questions – Contact the BYAHA Treasurer

Team Financial Questions – Contact the Team Treasurer