



ASSOCIATION RULES AND POLICIES

Kirkwood Youth Hockey Association, Inc. Association Rules and Policies		Approval Date: September 22, 2025	Activation Date: September 22, 2025
Approved by: KYHA Board of Directors	Linking to: 1. KYHA Bylaws 2. USA Hockey Official Rules of Play (2025-2029) 3. USA Hockey SafeSport Program Handbook (2024) 4. USA Hockey Insurance Handbook (2024-2025) 5. Missouri Hockey Youth Division Rules & Policies (updated 01/29/24)		Replacing Previous Version: N/A
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I. GENERAL

Kirkwood Youth Hockey Association, Inc. (“KYHA”) is a Missouri non-for-profit corporation founded in 1967. KYHA has implemented these Association Rules and Policies (each, a “Policy” or collectively, the “Policies”) to govern its operations and membership in furtherance of its mission: *to provide a safe, fun environment for children to learn and develop hockey skills while also building their character in a team setting*. KYHA strives to foster good, clean, sportsmanlike conduct and fair play in the teaching of ice hockey skills as well as in individual and team competition and to provide a fair share of attention, teaching, and ice time for all players in the program. To these ideals, KYHA pledges its energies by acting in consonance with the Youth Division of Missouri Hockey, Inc. (“MO Hockey”) and the Amateur Hockey Association of the United States (“USA Hockey”), and as such, these Policies follow the spirit of those enacted by MO Hockey and USA Hockey. The Policies are enforced by the KYHA Board of Directors (the “Board”) and subject to the decision-making authority granted to the Board by the KYHA Bylaws (the “Bylaws”). Copies of these Policies are made available to all persons bound by them, either directly or by posting of the Policies on the KYHA website.¹ From time to time, the Board may amend or supplement these Policies in its sole discretion, and all persons bound by the Policies shall be informed whenever significant changes are made.

II. KYHA MEMBERSHIP AND FEES

- A. **KYHA Members.** An active member of KYHA (each, a “KYHA Member”, or collectively, the “KYHA Members” or “KYHA Membership”) is a parent, step-parent, or legal guardian of any youth properly registered for and participating in KYHA programs, including the Knights Central States Development Hockey League (“Knights CSDHL”) program as a KYHA-districted player, during the then-current season (June 1-May 31) (each, a “Hockey Year”) and in good standing with KYHA (as defined in Section II(D) herein).
- B. **Membership Term.** The term of membership is the Hockey Year.
- C. **Registration Fees and Team Dues.**
- i. **Registration Fees.** KYHA Members will be responsible for registration fees as well as Team Dues (hereinafter defined) for their player(s). Registration fees will be paid according to the payment plan selected in the registration process.
 - ii. **Team Dues.** Each team’s coaches and manager will create a budget for the team to cover various costs that will be incurred throughout the season, including for example, costs for tournament registration, travel permits, referee fees, off-ice facility rental, etc., and that are funded by and split evenly among the team (collectively, “Team Dues”). Team Dues and their due date will be determined by the team’s coaches and manager but, in no event, shall be paid later than October 15 of the then-current Hockey Year.
 - iii. **Early Discount and Late Penalties.** See Section VII(A) herein for information regarding early registration discount offerings and late registration penalty assessments.
- D. **Good Standing.** A KYHA Member is in good standing if he/she is current in payment of his/her player’s registration fees and Team Dues and if neither the KYHA Member nor his/her player are currently the subject of any disciplinary action. Notwithstanding a preauthorized payment plan, a KYHA Member is not in good standing should he/she have any amount of fees or dues past due and outstanding for a

¹ www.kyha.org

period of 30 or more consecutive days in a Hockey Year. Removing or reinstating good standing of a KYHA Member is in the sole discretion of the Board.

- E. Failure to Maintain Good Standing / Delinquent Fees.** While a KYHA Member is not in good standing, the player shall not be allowed to register for and/or participate in any KYHA-sponsored team, clinic, or evaluation until all outstanding payments are received, nor shall the KYHA Member be allowed to vote in any General Meeting elections (as set forth in the Bylaws). Failure on the part of a KYHA Member to maintain good standing may also result in late charges, reduced ice time for the player, and/or dismissal of the KYHA Member and his/her player(s) from KYHA in the Board's sole discretion. Once the delinquent amount is paid in full, then a KYHA Member is once again in good standing for the Hockey Year for which said fees were due. Any KYHA Member not in good standing at the end of the Hockey Year shall not be permitted to register for the following season until he/she returns to good standing. Further, any KYHA Member with an outstanding balance from any prior season as of June 1 of the following Hockey Year will be reported to MO Hockey and placed on the MO Hockey "no pay" list.² Siblings of any players and/or other children for whom the delinquent KYHA Member is responsible are also affected and will not be allowed to register or participate in any KYHA programs while the KYHA Member is not in good standing.
- F. Financial Assistance / Scholarships.** At the Board's discretion, the Board may vote to provide a scholarship or partial financial assistance to a player. KYHA Members experiencing or anticipating financial hardship are encouraged to contact the KYHA Registrar at registrar@kyha.org.
- G. Refunds.**
- i. Board Discretion.** Refunds of registration fees shall only be issued upon request and are subject to the Board's sole approval and discretion. All decisions regarding refunds will be final.
 - ii. Refund May Be Available.** KYHA may issue a full or partial refund of registration fees, excluding applicable transaction fees (all age divisions) and Team Dues (10u and up only), in the following limited circumstances:
 - Prior to a player's attendance at or participation in any evaluation.
 - In the event that a player has attended or participated in an evaluation and KYHA cannot place the player on any age- and/or skill- appropriate team. Note that this does not reflect parental approval of team placement but only if there is not an appropriate placement available for the player.
 - If the Board deems, in its sole discretion, that the circumstances warrant a full or partial refund.
 - iii. Withdrawal.** Withdrawal from a team, including at the 6u or 8u level, after team selection or player placement shall be considered a voluntary decision that is not subject to a refund of registration fees or Team Dues. If a player withdraws from a KYHA program, the KYHA Member responsible for that player shall be responsible for all outstanding registration fees and Team Dues, if applicable, for said program. Failure to pay registration fees and Team Dues, if applicable, in full will result in the player's placement on the MO Hockey "no pay" list.
- H. Payment from Multiple Guardians.** It is the responsibility of the KYHA Member to ensure that payment for all of his/her players is made in full. Despite any custody or other financial support arrangements,

²MO Hockey's "no pay" list is also reported to Mid-States League, Central States and AAA, and will prohibit the player from registering for or being placed on another hockey team until payment to KYHA is made in full.

neither KYHA nor the team manager will seek to collect a player's registration fees or Team Dues from multiple parties.

- I. **Donations.** Contributing funds to KYHA as part of a fundraising activity does not entitle the contributor to the benefits of membership.

III. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

A. **Age Divisions.**

- 18 or under ("**18u**"): Youth ages 16-18.
- 16 or under ("**16u**"): Youth ages 15-17.
- 14 or under ("**14u**" or "**Bantam**"): Youth ages 13-15.
- 12 or under ("**12u**" or "**Pee Wee**"): Youth ages 11-13.
- 10 or under ("**10u**" or "**Squirt**"): Youth ages 9-11.
- 8 or under ("**8u**" or "**Mite**"): Youth ages 7-9.
- 6 or under ("**6u**" or "**Mini Mite**"): Youth ages 4-6.

- B. **Birth Year Determines Age Division.** Per USA Hockey, youth players are classified in age divisions by their birth year, each age division spanning 2 birth years. While the KYHA Hockey Year runs from June 1-May 31, there is no relevant cut-off date (apart from birth year) for purposes of determining a player's age division. Rather, all players with the same birth year will be classified in the same age division with players in either the preceding birth year or the following birth year.

C. **Eligible Districts and Transfer Requests.**

- i. **KYHA Zip Codes.** KYHA accepts players from the following district zip codes for the Regular Season (hereinafter defined):
 - 63122
 - 63021
 - 63088
 - 63011
 - 63131
- ii. **Home District Minimum Requirement.** MO Hockey requires all KYHA-districted players to start their hockey career with KYHA and to be registered with KYHA for a minimum of 1 year.
- iii. **"Open" Districts.** KYHA also accepts players from "open" zip codes or areas outside all districts established by MO Hockey. Per MO Hockey, once KYHA has accepted a player from an "open" district, that player becomes districted to KYHA as if he/she resided within KYHA geographical boundaries.
- iv. **Relocation Transfer.** KYHA may also accept requests to transfer to KYHA if the player's physical residence has been relocated to a KYHA zip code.
- v. **One Time Transfer.** KYHA may also accept 12u and 14u players who request to transfer to KYHA using the One Time Transfer ("**OOT**" or "**One Choice**") rule. Note that a player may not back out of the request once it has been accepted. KYHA may also accept a former-KYHA player who has transferred to and played for a different organization but has subsequently made a request for a reverse transfer back to KYHA.
- vi. **"Cut" or Refused Registration by Home District Organization.** KYHA may also accept players who have been refused registration by, "cut" from, or denied access to their district organization.

- vii. **Spring and Summer Leagues.** Per MO Hockey, spring and summer leagues are not subject to districting rules, and so KYHA may accept or reject players from any and all districts.
 - viii. **Board Discretion.** All decisions to accept or reject players requesting a transfer shall be made by the Board in its sole discretion.
- D. USA Hockey Membership.** All players must have an active USA Hockey membership and confirmation number for each Hockey Year in order to participate in KYHA games, practices, and/or club-related activities. USA Hockey confirmation numbers are only valid for the then-current season and expire prior to the start of the following season on August 31. It is the KYHA Member's responsibility to obtain and maintain an active USA Hockey membership for his/her player, and to pay all fees associated therewith. KYHA will not issue any reimbursements for USA Hockey memberships for players.
- E. Proof of Age or Residency.** Should the player's age and/or residency be questioned by KYHA or via a valid challenge submitted with MO Hockey, it is the KYHA Member's responsibility to provide the player's birth certificate and proof of residency to KYHA within 24 hours of the request for proof. Failure to do so within the allotted time will automatically imply that the player's registration record has been falsified. Accordingly, the player and/or the KYHA Member may be subject to disciplinary action. If applicable, the Board may choose to suspend the player pending the provision of proof and confirmation of the player's age.
- F. Amateur Status.** Per MO Hockey, all KYHA players must maintain "amateur status," meaning that they "may not receive a salary or other compensation for playing hockey." Note that this excludes athletic scholarships from an academic institution.
- G. Good Standing at School.** Players must be in good standing at school in order to participate in or resume any KYHA activity, including practices and games. School suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary action may result in disciplinary action by KYHA as determined by the Board in its sole discretion.
- H. Illegal Behavior.** Players arrested for, charged with, and/or convicted of crimes will be subject to disciplinary action by KYHA as determined by the Board in its sole discretion, including without limitation, dismissal from KYHA.
- I. Participation While Ineligible.** If the Board identifies a player who is ineligible to play and/or participate based on a violation of these Policies, the player is automatically placed under indefinite suspension, subject to the Board's sole discretion, and remains ineligible until the suspension is lifted by the Board. A determination of ineligibility may be made at any time during the course of the season, and any conduct leading to the player's ineligibility may be subject to a disciplinary action by the Board.
- J. Playing Up.** KYHA Members may submit a request with the Board that their player be placed in a higher age division for the then-current Hockey Year. Such a request must be made no later than August 1st of the then-current Hockey Year and should set forth in detail all reasons why the move is necessary. In making the determination to allow a player to "play up," the Board, in consultation with the Coaches' Committee (hereinafter defined) and other relevant personnel as deemed necessary by the Board, will consider, among other things, factors such as player size and safety, previous experience, and the emotional maturity of the requesting player. Board approval granting a request to allow a player to "play up" is only valid for the then-current Hockey Year and terminates at the end of said Hockey Year. The decision to allow a player to "play up" will be made in the Board's sole discretion and is final.

IV. COACH ELIGIBILITY AND EXPECTATIONS

A. Coach Eligibility.

- i. **USA Hockey Membership.** All coaches must be registered as a coach / on-ice assistant with USA Hockey and have an active confirmation number for each Hockey Year in which they wish to coach.
- ii. **Background Screening.** All coaches are required to complete a background screening through USA Hockey's preferred vendor. Background screenings are valid for 2 Hockey Years. For example, a background check that is completed after April 1, 2025 for the 2025-2026 Hockey Year will be valid for the 2026-2027 Hockey Year as well, and a new background check will not need to be completed until the 2027-2028 Hockey Year. For all Hockey Years in which a new screening is required, the background screening must be submitted to USA Hockey's preferred vendor on or before **September 1** of that Hockey Year to give the vendor adequate time to process and complete the screen. The process to re-certify a background screen is the same as the original application. USA Hockey recommends beginning the re-screening at least 4-6 weeks prior to the expiration of the original screening.
- iii. **USA Hockey Safe Sport Training.** Each Hockey Year, all coaches must complete training through USA Hockey's Safe Sport program. Training is free of charge and valid for 1 year from the date of completion. Coaches may not participate in team activities or be added to a roster until this training has been completed.
- iv. **USA Hockey Coaching Modules.** All coaches must first complete the USA Hockey's Foundations of Player Development module and then complete the age-specific module(s) for the age level(s) they will be coaching. Coaches may not participate in team activities or be added to a roster until these modules have been completed.
- v. **USA Hockey Coaching Education Program Certification Clinics.** All coaches must complete the specific USA Hockey clinic(s) for the age level(s) they will be coaching on or before December 31 of the then-current Hockey Year.
- vi. **Reimbursement and Deadline.** All costs associated with coaching eligibility and compliance will be reimbursed by KYHA provided that the reimbursement request is properly submitted to the KYHA Treasurer at treasurer@kyha.org on or before January 1 of the then-current Hockey Year. Reimbursement requests must include the requestor's full name and mailing address and a copy of each payment receipt, all combined in a single email.

B. Coaches' Committee and Division Representatives.

Each Hockey Year, the Board, in its sole discretion, may establish and/or select the following:

- i. **Coaches' Committee.** A committee of coaches and other personnel to serve as a resource for the KYHA network of coaches, to support the continued development of KYHA coaches, and to liaise with the Board on coaching-related matters requiring Board attention (the "**Coaches' Committee**").
- ii. **Division Representatives.** 1-2 coaches to serve as the coaching representatives for each age division (1 per birth year) and to liaise with the parents in their age division, the Coaches' Committee, and the Director of Hockey Operations (each, a "**Division Representative**").

C. Illegal Behavior.

Coaches arrested for, charged with, and/or convicted of crimes subsequent to the completion of a background check may be subject to disciplinary action by KYHA as determined by the Board in its sole discretion, including without limitation, dismissal from KYHA.

- D. Coaching Education Program Numbers.** All coaches are required to provide their USA Hockey Coaching Education Program (“CEP”) numbers for 10u and up games.
- E. Coach Selection.** Serving as a coach for a KYHA team is a privilege, not a right. Head coaches will be determined by the Director of Hockey Operations, in consultation with the Coaches’ Committee, the Board, and other relevant personnel as needed. Assistant coaches will be determined by the head coach, in consultation with the Director of Hockey Operations, the Coaches’ Committee, and other relevant personnel as needed.
- F. Maximum Number of Coaches.** Each team may have a maximum number of 4 rostered coaches total and no more than 4 coaches on the bench during a game.
- G. Player Ineligibility or Improper Rostering.** If a coach discovers that a player is ineligible to play or is improperly rostered under MO Hockey Rules & Policies at any time during the Hockey Year, the coach must immediately inform the Board and ensure that the player does not participate in any games or practices until his/her ineligibility is resolved.
- H. Locker Room Policy.** See Section XIV(F) herein for the responsibility of each coach as it pertains to maintaining a safe locker room for KYHA players.
- I. First Aid Kits, Player Injury, and Insurance.**
- i. First Aid Kits.** Per Mo Hockey, coaches are responsible for ensuring that a first aid kit containing at least 12 bandages of all shapes and sizes, at least 1 roll of medical tape, scissors, at least 3 cold packs, at least 1 roll or at least 10 individual packets of gauze, and at least 1 pair of medical gloves is available and in close proximity to the bench at the start of each game. KYHA will provide each team with 1 full first aid kit per Hockey Year.
 - ii. Player Injury.** In the event of a player injury (especially a suspected concussion) at a USA Hockey-sanctioned/approved event (e.g., all team practices and games), a coach will immediately remove the player from play (whether training, practice, or game) and inform the player’s parent, step-parent, or legal guardian. The coach should refer the player to a qualified healthcare professional.
 - iii. Insurance.** USA Hockey provides accident insurance coverage to registered members participating in all USA Hockey registered ice hockey teams.³ Covered medical and dental expenses are payable, secondary to any valid and collectible insurance the registered member has in force at the time of the accident.

V. MANAGER ELIGIBILITY AND EXPECTATIONS

- A. General.** Agreeing to serve as a team manager is a large commitment and responsibility. The best team managers are incredibly organized, strong multi-taskers, reliable leaders, great communicators, steadfast ambassadors of KYHA, and if needed, willing to address conflict. Coaches, players, and parents depend on managers a considerable amount because they play a critical role in the overall success of a season. Accepting the role and duties of a manager is a decision that should not be made hastily or

³ USA Hockey - [Insurance Handbook 2024-2025](#).

without consideration to the commitment. More information regarding the responsibilities of a manager can be found on the [Manager Resources](#) page of the KYHA website.

- B. Age Divisions.** A manager is required for each team, starting at 10u and up. While having a manager for 6u and 8u teams is strongly recommended, it is not a requirement.
- C. Manager Selection.** After teams have been officially formed and announced, coaches will ask for volunteers to assume the role of team manager, particularly among those who have indicated their willingness to manage the team on the player's registration form. Any and all candidates who are confident in their abilities to successfully manage the team should inform their player's head coach of their desire / willingness to take on the role. The selection of the team manager shall be the decision of the head coach, in consultation with the Board and other applicable personnel as deemed necessary by the head coach and/or Board.
- D. Manager Eligibility.**
 - i. KYHA Membership.** All managers must be a current KYHA Member in good standing during the Hockey Year in which they wish to manage.
 - ii. USA Hockey Membership.** All managers must be registered as a manager / volunteer with USA Hockey and have an active confirmation number for each Hockey Year in which they wish to manage. While a manager / volunteer membership with USA Hockey is free of charge, it does not allow on-ice participation. It is the manager's responsibility to obtain and maintain an active USA Hockey membership.
 - iii. Background Screening.** All managers are required to complete a background screening through USA Hockey's preferred vendor. Background screenings are valid for 2 Hockey Years. For example, a background check that is completed after April 1, 2025 for the 2025-2026 Hockey Year will be valid for the 2026-2027 Hockey Year as well, and a new background check will not need to be completed until the 2027-2028 Hockey Year. For all Hockey Years in which a new screening is required, the background screening must be submitted to USA Hockey's preferred vendor on or before **September 1** of that Hockey Year to give the vendor adequate time to process and complete the screen prior to September 15. The process to re-certify a background screen is the same as the original application. USA Hockey recommends beginning the re-screening at least 4-6 weeks prior to the expiration of the original screening.
 - iv. USA Hockey Safe Sport Training.** Each Hockey Year, all managers must complete training through USA Hockey's Safe Sport program. Training is free of charge and valid for 1 year from the date of completion.
 - v. Reimbursement and Deadline.** Obtaining a current USA Hockey confirmation number and completing the background screening and Safe Sport training must be completed on or before September 15 of the then-current Hockey Year. All costs associated with the background screening will be reimbursed by KYHA provided that the reimbursement request is properly submitted to the KYHA Treasurer on or before November 1 of the then-current Hockey Year. Reimbursement requests must include the requestor's full name and mailing address and a copy of the payment receipt, all combined in a single email.
- E. Illegal Behavior.** Managers arrested for, charged with, and/or convicted of crimes subsequent to the completion of a background check may be subject to disciplinary action by KYHA as determined by the Board in its sole discretion, including without limitation, dismissal from KYHA.

F. Team Communication. Each manager will coordinate with his/her team's coaches to establish a team group message (e.g., via GroupMe, What's App, etc.) and will relay the expectation to all parents, step-parents, and legal guardians that all team-related communications run through that chain in order to maximize efficiency, consistency, and transparency and to mitigate confusion.

G. Practice Jersey Lettering. Each manager will coordinate the lettering of practice jerseys for those players who need it.

H. Tournaments.

i. Registration and Hotels. Each manager will work with his/her team's coaches to identify tournaments (usually 2-4 per Hockey Year, both local and out-of-town) in which the team will play and will also research and coordinate the booking of tournament hotels, if applicable.

ii. Notifying KYHA. Upon registering the team for a tournament, the manager must notify KYHA⁴ as soon as possible so that any ice time may be redistributed. The manager must adhere to the following notification schedule:

- For October tournaments, notification must be submitted no later than September 20 of the then-current Hockey Year.
- For November or December tournaments, notification must be submitted no later than October 1 of the then-current Hockey Year.
- For January or February tournaments, notification must be submitted no later than November 5 of the then-current Hockey Year.

Additionally, the manager must notify the team of tournament game times and locations. See Section X for more tournament guidelines.

iii. Local Tournaments. It is the manager's responsibility to obtain assurances from the tournament host that any local tournament for which the team registers is sanctioned by and played in accordance with USA Hockey.

iv. Travel Permits. It is the manager's responsibility to obtain a travel permit from MO Hockey for any games played outside of the immediate St. Louis area⁵ (whether tournament games, practice games or friendlies). Notwithstanding, a travel permit is not required for practice games or friendlies that are played outside of the immediate St. Louis area against another MO Hockey-registered team. The request for a travel permit must be received no later than 3 weeks prior to leaving town. If a team is fined by MO Hockey or USA Hockey for playing without a valid travel permit, the fines will come out of the Team Dues.

I. Team Finances.

i. Budget and Team Dues. Each manager will work with his/her team's coaches to create a budget for the Team Dues. KYHA recommends that the manager finalize the budget for the Team Dues by the first team meeting so that parents, step-parents, and/or legal guardians can be notified at that time of their share due, the preferred form for making payment and the deadline by which Team Dues must be paid (but in no event later than October 15 of the then-current Hockey Year). The manager may consider, in his/her discretion, allowing for Team Dues to be paid in installments. If Team Dues are not paid by the deadline, the manager must alert the head coach,

⁴KYHA should be notified by submitting the applicable form as provided by KYHA.

⁵MO Hockey defines the "immediate St Louis Area shall" as the Missouri counties of St. Charles, St. Louis and the City of St. Louis, Illinois counties of Madison and St. Clair. Games played in Springfield, Illinois do not require a travel permit.

and the delinquent KYHA Member may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Section XIV herein.

- ii. **Budget Limits.** The maximum total amount of Team Dues per player in each age division is as follows:
 - **Bantam:** \$700 per player (excluding costs for Third Jerseys as defined in Section XI herein)
 - **Peewee:** \$600 per player
 - **Squirt:** \$500 per player
- iii. **Extraneous Expenses and Undue Pressure.** Any additional fees not outlined above, including without limitation costs associated with team meals, parties, social events, coach gifts, etc., are not mandatory and are subject to the individual discretion of the KYHA Member and his/her player. As a reminder, KYHA fosters an environment of inclusivity and strongly recommends against any team activities that require excessive and/or unreasonable expenses. KYHA expects all managers and KYHA Members to use best judgment in organizing events that maximize team participation without undue financial burden or pressure.
- iv. **Bank Account.** Each manager must establish a bank account for the team finances that is separate from his/her personal or other business accounts. The manager may not use “Kirkwood” or “KYHA” in the title of the bank account (KYHA recommends “Hockey” or something similar to denote it as separate from the manager’s normal accounts).
- v. **Track Expenses.** Each manager is expected to pay out and track the team’s expenses and to maintain proper records with supporting documentation (e.g., copies of receipts, etc.).
- vi. **End-of-Season Balance Statement and Reimbursement.** Each manager must provide a balance statement and/or record of expenses to the parents, step-parents and/or legal guardians of the players and to the KYHA Director of Hockey Operations at the end of the season (but no later than March 31 of the then-current Hockey Year). If any funds are leftover in the team’s budget at the end of the season, the manager and coaches will confer to create an end-of-season plan for such funds (e.g., end-of-season party, team t-shirts, refunding the remaining funds, etc.). The manager will then execute this plan to ensure that the team’s final balance is \$0.00 by or before April 30 of the then-current Hockey Year.

J. Scheduling.

- i. **CrossBar.** Each manager is responsible for entering and reconciling all games in CrossBar (website platform provided by MO Hockey).
- ii. **Declaration Season.** Each manager is required to attend the MO Hockey Scheduling and Information call for the team’s age division (date of the call varies each year) and will then be responsible for scheduling the prescribed number of games (as determined by MO Hockey) for Phase One of the Declaration Season. MO Hockey will schedule all games for Phase Two and, if applicable, Phase Three of Declaration Season, but the manager is responsible for communicating these dates to the team and ensuring their accuracy in CrossBar as it is critical for all players to participate in each game. Note that the manager is not responsible for scheduling any referees for Declaration Season games. The dates for “Phase One”, “Phase Two”, “Phase Three” and “Declaration Season” are all defined by MO Hockey every Hockey Year.
- iii. **Regular Season.** Similar to Phase One of the Declaration Season, each manager is required to attend the MO Hockey Scheduling call for the team’s age division (date of the call varies each year but will be set upon the conclusion of the Declaration Season and the finalization of team placements) for the Regular Season (as defined by MO Hockey each Hockey Year). Following this call, the manager will be responsible for scheduling all Regular Season games for the team (using the ice times provided by KYHA) and ensuring their accuracy in CrossBar. Note that the

manager is not responsible for scheduling any referees for Regular Season games. No more than half of the team's Regular Season games should be home games. After all Regular Season games are scheduled (as prescribed by MO Hockey), the manager will ensure that any extra ice time is returned to KYHA.

- iv. **Practice Games.** At the manager's and coaches' discretion, practice games can be scheduled when the team has solo ice or at the invitation of another team. The manager will coordinate with the other team's manager on the scheduling and payment of referees. While the details of the practice game do not need to be recorded in CrossBar, the manager must provide the details to KYHA so that they can be updated in SportsEngine.
- vii. **Practices and Ice Trades.** Managers may make ice trades with other managers for Regular Season games only. Practices, including solo sheets, and Declaration Games should not be traded. However, if a team is unable to make a practice or elects not to attend, the manager must notify KYHA as soon as possible⁶, and if less than 7 days from the date, send an email detailing the change to scheduling@kyha.org, president@kyha.org, and secretary@kyha.org. Teams that consistently fail to use their designated practice ice will not receive substitute ice and may be invoiced for the cost of any unused ice in the Board's sole discretion.
- viii. **Rescheduling Home Games.** If a home game is cancelled due to weather, rink closure, or other uncontrollable conditions, KYHA will prioritize the need to reschedule the game, even at the expense of cancelling the practice of another team(s) in order to use the ice time. Managers are expected to work with other KYHA managers (e.g., trade or relinquish ice time) to ensure that all such cancelled home games are rescheduled, regardless of whether they receive ice time in return. In the event of a conflict, managers should notify the Director of Rink Operations at scheduling@kyha.org to prioritize the game rescheduling.

K. Game-Day and Other Volunteer Coordination.

- i. **Volunteer Hours and Opt-Out.** Each manager is responsible for tracking all team volunteer hours (as outlined in Section IX herein) and will provide this information to the KYHA Director of Administration at admin@kyha.org at the end of the season. The manager will also confirm with the KYHA Registrar at registrar@kyha.org whether any KYHA Members on the team have paid to opt out of volunteer hours. If so, the manager will work with the KYHA Treasurer to ensure that those opt-out fees are allocated to the team. Additionally, if KYHA Members have already completed any club volunteer hours earlier in the season (e.g., by helping with evaluations, etc.), the manager will ensure that the KYHA Member receives credit for those hours. If a KYHA Member is unwilling to volunteer and has not opted out of his/her volunteer hours, the manager should escalate the matter to the KYHA Director of Administration.
- ii. **Volunteer Coordination.** The manager is responsible for assigning volunteers to various positions for all games and practices. For home games, volunteers are needed to run the clock, keep the scoresheet, monitor the penalty box, and monitor the locker room. For away games and tournament games, a penalty box monitor and locker room monitors are the only volunteer positions needed. For practices, only locker room monitors are needed.
- iii. **Scoresheets.** Each manager is responsible for ensuring that the scoresheet is properly completed, legible, signed by a coach from each team, all referees, and the scorekeeper, and collected after each game and that the appropriate copy is provided to the manager of the opposing team.

⁶KYHA should be notified by submitting the applicable form as provided by KYHA.

- L. **Award Patches.** MO Hockey provides award patches for individual achievements (e.g., Hat Trick Award, Playmaker Award, and Zero Club Award). Each manager is responsible for tracking player statistics, verifying qualifications, and applying for any applicable awards achieved by players on the team throughout the season.

VI. PLAYER PLACEMENT AND TEAM FORMATION

A. Evaluations.

- i. **Ages.** While Mites and Mini Mites will have several exploratory practice sessions at the beginning of the season for purposes of grouping players by skill level, they will not be subject to formal evaluations. Only age divisions 10u and up will be subject to formal evaluations.
- ii. **Timing.** All evaluations for levels 10u and up will take place in early to mid-August with the goal of finalizing team placements by the last week of August.
- iii. **Practice Jerseys and Evaluation Numbers.** KYHA evaluations are blind. Blank practice jerseys will be provided to each player along with pinny numbers that have been assigned at random specifically for the evaluation. Players are asked to remove or cover up any identifying markers from their gear (e.g., remove names or numbers from helmets). Evaluators are not provided with a master list that matches evaluation numbers to player names.
- iv. **Details.** Depending on the number of players, each age division may need to be split into 4-8 groups. While most players will be expected to attend 4 evaluation sessions in total, some players may be asked to attend additional sessions. Each session ranges from 45 minutes to an hour, may include drills and/or scrimmaging, and may vary depending on the age division. The first evaluation sessions may be grouped by last name or by pinny number, but KYHA will post first session assignments in advance of the date.
- v. **Parental Assistance.** Parents, step-parents, and legal guardians are allowed to help their players get ready for each evaluation session, but they may not stay in the building to watch any evaluations.

- B. **Levels of Play.** Per MO Hockey, all teams in age divisions 10u and up will be declared at varying “levels of play,” including A1, A2, B1, B2, and so on. Levels of play may be added to or deleted from each age division as determined by KYHA.

- C. **Roster Moves.** On rare occasions or in the case of season-ending injury, KYHA may opt to submit a request with MO Hockey to place a player on a new roster in accordance with MO Hockey Youth Division Rules and Policies.

- D. **Mite Placement.** The Mite season begins with exploratory sessions to identify skill levels. These sessions culminate with team placements made by the Director of Hockey Operations with the assistance and input of all 10u coaches and the Coaches’ Committee. Per MO Hockey, all Mite teams are broken into 3 levels of play according to skill level: Red, White, and Blue. If a team does not have a designated goalie (i.e., a player who has committed to playing goalie for the entire season), then the team will operate under a “pass the bag” model, and each member of the team will rotate taking turns playing goalie during games using the goalie equipment provided by KYHA (unless an individual player opts to use his/her own goalie gear).

- E. Mini Mite Placement.** Similar to the Mite season, the Mini Mite season also begins with exploratory practice sessions, but unlike the Mites, Mini Mites are placed on teams through a coaches' draft. Placements are carefully made so that all teams are as balanced as possible, the goal being to maximize the fun for the players in their introductory years. Upon the completion of the draft, Mini Mite players are celebrated at their very own draft party where their teams are formally announced, and uniforms are revealed. Goalies are not typically assigned or designated permanently at the Mini Mite level; rather, the goalie position is rotated during each shift of a game. Goalie equipment is not typically worn unless a coach permits a particular player to play the position for an entire game.

VII. SEASON INFORMATION (REGISTRATION, PRACTICE AND GAMES)

- A. Registration Timing and Late Fees.** Registration for each Hockey Year typically opens by the second week of July. Additional fees for registration in levels 10u and up after the first 14 days of registration opening may be assessed. Registration timing and late fees are subject to change in the Board's sole discretion.
- B. Season.** The season for all age divisions typically begins in August of the then-current Hockey Year and culminates with the Blue Note Cup Festival that is usually held the first weekend in March. For age divisions 10u and up, Declaration Season typically takes place from September through the end of October. The Regular Season typically begins near the start of November and runs through the beginning of February. Playoffs games are typically held in February, and the season culminates with the Blue Note Cup finals, usually held in the first weekend of March.
- C. Practices.** Practices will typically be held at any of the following locations:
- i. **Kirkwood Ice Arena.** 111 S. Geyer Rd., Kirkwood, MO 63122
 - ii. **Queeny Park (Greensfelder Recreation Complex).** 550 Weidman Rd., Ballwin, MO 63011
 - iii. **KYHA Off-Ice Training Facility.** 1840 Fenpark Dr., Fenton, MO 63026
 - iv. **Centene Community Ice Center.** 750 Casino Center Dr., Maryland Heights, MO 63043
 - v. **Pacific Ice Rink.** 460 Indian Warpath Dr., Pacific, MO 63069
 - vi. **Maryville University Hockey Center.** 18383 Chesterfield Airport Rd., Chesterfield, MO 63005
 - vii. **Ice Zone.** 5555 Saint Louis Mills Blvd., Hazelwood, MO 63042
 - viii. **Chicken N Pickle.** 1500 S. Main St., St. Charles, MO 63303
- D. Scheduling and Frequency.**
- i. **Mites and Mini Mites.** Mites and Mini Mites will receive their schedules via regular emails. Mini Mites should expect to have ice time 1-2 times per weekend. Once teams are formed, Mini Mites typically practice on Saturdays and play games on Sundays. Mites should also expect to have ice time 1-2 times per weekend as well as a weeknight practice at least once per month. Mite ice times will be a mixture of practices, in-house scrimmages, and league games (played both at Kirkwood and at other club facilities).
 - ii. **All Other Age Levels (10u and Up).** The schedules for all practices and games will be loaded into and can be accessed on SportsEngine. Players 10u and up should expect to have ice time 2-5 times per week, split between on-ice practice, off-ice practice, in-house scrimmages, and league games.

- iii. **Rostered Players Only.** Coaches are responsible for ensuring that only rostered players are on the ice during team practices unless the coach has specifically authorized the assistance of an older KYHA player during that ice time. To maximize player safety, younger players from other KYHA teams (e.g., younger siblings) should not be on the ice during other team practices.

E. Game Formats

- i. **MO Hockey Youth Division Rules & Policies.** All games follow the format provided for by the MO Hockey Youth Division Rules & Policies.⁷
- ii. **Mini Mites.** With the exception of the Blue Note Cup, all Mini Mite games are in-house, meaning that Mini Mites will not play games against other clubs. Games will be ¼ to ½ ice and will run for approximately 12 minutes in length. Mini Mites will typically play 3-4 full games per ice time. Shifts will be 90 seconds long and will be designated by a buzzer sound at which time players will switch. Coaches will decide whether to play 3-on-3 or 4-on-4 outskaters with a goalie. Unless in the rare circumstance where a player has been designated a team goalie, the position of goalie will rotate with every shift change, and all players will take turns playing the position.
- iii. **Mites.** Mites will play both in-house games and league games against other clubs. Games will be ½ ice and will be approximately 24-27 minutes total in length. Mites will typically play 2 full games per ice time. Each team will have 4 outskaters plus a goalie. Shifts will be 90 seconds long and will be designated by a buzzer sound at which time players will switch. Unless a player has been designated as a team goalie, the position of goalie will rotate every game, and all players will take turns playing the position. While the games may be supervised by an on-ice official (for purposes of facilitating faceoffs, game stoppages for injuries, etc.), the games will not be formally officiated or scored. Penalties may be levied at the discretion of the offending player's coach. There are no league standings for Mites.
- iv. **All Other Age Levels (10u and Up).** Unless designated as a practice game, all league games will be played against other clubs or another KYHA team(s) in the same age level and division. League games will be full ice and will consist of 3 periods. Periods for 10u and 12u will run for 12 minutes in length while periods for 14u and up will run for 15 minutes in length. Games will be officiated by MO Hockey referees, and the official score will be kept.

VIII. UNIFORMS

- A. **Responsibility for Uniforms and Equipment.** With the exception of jerseys and socks distributed to Mini Mites and Mites and practice jerseys distributed to all other age levels prior to evaluations, KYHA Members will be personally responsible for all costs associated with and for supplying equipment, game jerseys, game socks, and practice socks, and for lettering of practice jerseys for their players. For any questions regarding equipment eligibility and/or fitting, KYHA adopts all applicable USA Hockey rules.⁸

B. Jerseys and Socks.

- i. **Mites and Mini Mites.** While they do not have separate practice uniforms and game uniforms, Mites and Mini Mites may only wear the jerseys and socks distributed to them after team

⁷ Mo Hockey Youth Division – [Rules & Policies](#)

⁸USA Hockey Rulebook – [Section Three - Equipment](#).

placement. Prior to receiving their uniforms, players are asked to wear KYHA uniforms from prior seasons or programs (e.g., Future Stars). In the event that a player does not have such a uniform, KYHA Members are asked to use best judgment in dressing their players, but in no event should players be dressed in equipment bearing the indicia of other clubs (see Section VIII(G) herein).

ii. All Other Age Levels (10u and Up).

- **Practice Jerseys.** Players may only wear the practice jerseys distributed by KYHA prior to evaluations.
- **Practice Socks, Game Jerseys, and Game Socks.** Players may only wear the practice socks, game jerseys, and game socks available for purchase in August / September through KYHA's approved vendor. While waiting for these items to arrive, players are asked to wear their practice jerseys and either socks from their 8u uniform or solid red socks until the standard uniform items have arrived.

C. Jersey Lettering / Numbering.

- Mite and Mini Mites.** All Mite and Mini Mite jerseys are distributed with a number already included on the jersey. For purposes of adding player names to the jerseys, lettering for all Mites and Mini Mites will be coordinated through team managers and/or coaches.
- All Other Age Levels (10u and Up).** Practice jerseys are distributed to players prior to evaluations without names or numbers, and jersey lettering and numbering for practice jerseys will be coordinated through team managers and/or coaches. Jersey lettering and numbering for game jerseys is handled by KYHA's uniform vendor at the time of purchase such that the jerseys will be delivered to players with names and numbers. To minimize conflict and to accommodate the growth of the organization, KYHA assigns player numbers at random as opposed to taking individual requests. The intent is for all players to keep their numbers for the duration of their time at KYHA, but if a change is needed in a future season, KYHA will work with the player(s) to identify a solution.

D. Player Numbers. Player numbers for Mite and Mini Mites are predetermined at random, and KYHA cannot accommodate number requests. Player numbers for age divisions 10u and up are designated on a first-come, first-served basis. On the rare occurrence of a numbering conflict between 2 or more members on the same team, coaches will work with the KYHA Member and player to identify an equitable solution.

E. Helmets, Pants, and Gloves.

- Mini Mites.** Mini Mites are not required to wear specific colors for helmets, pants, or gloves.
- Mites.** While not required to have red helmets, pants or gloves, Mites are strongly encouraged to switch to red helmets, pants, and gloves when sizing up since the red color is required for these items beginning in 10u.
- All Other Age Levels (10u and Up).** Players are expected to wear red helmets, pants, and gloves. In lieu of red pants, red pant shells are acceptable.

F. Neck Guards. USA Hockey mandates that all players wear a neck laceration protector, and KYHA recommends selecting a design that covers as much of the neck area as possible. Neck guards may only be red or black.

G. Mouth Guards. MO Hockey mandates that all players 8u and 10u wear an internal mouthpiece.

- H. **Sticks.** KYHA recommends that all players 10u and up bring at least 2 sticks to all games and practices.
- I. **Goaltenders.** If goaltenders are not able to wear red helmets, pants, gloves, or pads, this equipment must be either white or black.
- J. **Non-KYHA Uniforms.** KYHA prohibits the use of equipment bearing the indicia of other clubs, and any players wearing or using such equipment may be asked to leave the ice or training facility in the coach's sole discretion.
- K. **Third Jerseys.** See Section XI herein.

IX. VOLUNTEER HOURS

Each family of a KYHA Member is required to complete 4 volunteer hours for the club as well as 6 hours per team on which the KYHA Member has a player. Club hours may be fulfilled by activities such as assisting with the Icebreaker Picnic or other organization-wide events. Team hours may be fulfilled by activities such as running the time clock or completing the scoresheet during home games. If a team manager delegates certain tasks to another KYHA Member on the team, any time spent completing that task may count towards team hours. During the registration process, each KYHA Member is afforded the opportunity to opt out of fulfilling their volunteer hours by paying an additional fee per player. A portion of these fees will be allocated to the player's team. The Director of Administration will notify managers during the season of any KYHA Members who have not yet completed their club hours so that the managers can relay the information to the KYHA Members as needed.

X. TOURNAMENTS

- A. **Number of Tournaments Per Season.** Each team may register for no more than 4 tournaments total per season: 2 in-town and 2 out-of-town.
- B. **USA Hockey-Sanctioned.** KYHA teams may only register for tournaments that are sanctioned by USA Hockey.
- C. **Distance for Travel Tournaments.** KYHA teams may only register for out-of-town tournaments that are no more than an 8-hour drive.
- D. **Air Travel.** Air travel will only be permitted for Bantam teams comprised of a majority of major / second-year players provided that the decision to register for a tournament requiring air travel is approved unanimously by an anonymous vote of all KYHA Members of the team. All other teams / levels are prohibited from registering for tournaments requiring air travel.

- E. **Travel Permits.** MO Hockey requires travel permits for all tournaments played outside of the immediate St. Louis area⁹.
- F. **Tournament Selection.** Ultimately, selection of the tournaments and tournament locations will be at the discretion of the head coach and manager. However, any KYHA Members feeling undue pressure and/or financial burden due to the tournament selection (e.g., trip is unreasonably expensive) are encouraged to contact the Board.

XI. THIRD JERSEYS

- A. **General.** Players in their final seasons of the KYHA program often desire to obtain a third jersey with a design other than the official club jersey for use in tournaments. In rare instances, the Board may approve the use of third jerseys (“**Third Jerseys**”) as set forth herein.
- B. **Bantam Teams Only.** The ability to request the use of Third Jerseys is reserved for Bantam teams only.
- C. **Colors.** Third Jersey colors are limited to red, white, black, and grey.
- D. **Board Request.** Approval requests for the use of Third Jerseys must be received by the Board no later than 14 days after the Ice Breaker Picnic in the then-current Hockey Year. No jersey orders should be placed, or payments made, until the Board provides approval in writing.
 - i. **Illustrations of Proposed Designs.** Requests should include illustrations of the proposed jersey design with all logo and color placements, showing at least 1 front view and 1 back view. Submissions should also include proposals for the coordinating socks.
 - ii. **Cost.** The team’s KYHA Members will bear all costs associated with Third Jerseys. As such, a breakdown of cost per player must be submitted with the request for approval with the Board.
 - iii. **Unanimous Consent or Full Funding.** The request for approval of Third Jerseys may only be submitted if the team has achieved unanimous approval of the team’s KYHA Members through an anonymous vote to purchase the additional uniform. The results of the team poll confirming unanimous consent must be submitted to the Board with the request for approval. Alternatively, in lieu of unanimous approval of the team’s KYHA Members and a breakdown of costs, a request for approval of Third Jerseys may be submitted with proof that the team has received an offer (e.g., from an outside third party, from a single KYHA Member, etc.) to fully fund the cost of all Third Jerseys requested for the team.
 - iv. **Full Compliance Required.** Only requests that include the above-referenced supporting information and are fully compliant will be considered. The Board will vote to approve or deny the request during the first Board meeting following the submission of a complete request. No orders should be placed until Board approval is provided in writing.
 - v. **No Third-Party Intellectual Property.** The proposed Third Jerseys may not bear any trademarks, copyrights, brand indicia, or other proprietary rights of a third party other than KYHA.

⁹MO Hockey defines the “immediate St Louis Area shall” as the Missouri counties of St. Charles and St. Louis, the City of St. Louis, and the Illinois counties of Madison and St. Clair. Games played in Springfield, Illinois do not require a travel permit.

- vi. **Non-Conforming Products.** If the manufactured Third Jersey does not fully conform to the proposed design submitted to the Board, the Board may, in its sole discretion, prohibit the team from wearing such non-conforming Third Jerseys.
- E. **Limited License to Use KYHA Name and Logos.** Upon the Board's approval of a request for Third Jerseys, the team is granted a limited, revocable, royalty-free license to use KYHA Name and Logos (as defined herein) for the exclusive purpose of the Third Jerseys only. KYHA retains all ownership rights in its Name and Logos, and any team's approved use thereof for purposes of Third Jerseys shall inure to the benefit of KYHA.
- F. **Tournament and Non-League Play Only.** Third Jerseys may only be worn in non-divisional competitions such as tournaments and friendly scrimmages.

XII. TEAM FUNDRAISERS

The prescribed amounts for Team Dues have been thoroughly researched and carefully selected by the Board to confidently represent and capture all necessary expenses that a team may incur during a season. As such, because there should not be a need to exceed the maximum Team Dues set forth herein, KYHA strictly prohibits any type of team fundraising activity.

XIII. USE OF KYHA TRADEMARKS

KYHA has spent significant time and resources to develop certain logos, designs, artwork, brands, and trademarks (collectively, the "**Logos**") and to build equity in and promote the Kirkwood Stars/Kirkwood Youth Hockey Association/KYHA name (such names, together with any variations thereof, are hereinafter referred to as the "**Name**"). Except as set forth herein, KYHA strictly prohibits any person, including but not limited to, any KYHA Member, parent, relative of any member, coach, retailer, vendor, or player from using and/or authorizing the use of the Logos and/or the Name to create marketing material and/or to produce and sell spirit wear/clothing, merchandise, equipment, and/or any other items. The Logos and Name shall not be reproduced, used, printed, or placed on any item and offered for sale without prior written Board approval. All Board-approved merchandise will be available via KYHA and other approved vendors identified on the KYHA website. Such list of approved vendors is subject to change at any time at the sole discretion of the Board.

XIV. CODES OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

A. KYHA Values.

- i. **Person Over Player.** We care more about developing great kids than great players.
- ii. **Developing Potential Over Wins.** We nurture teams' skill acquisition and improvement; winning is a by-product.
- iii. **Creativity Over Conformity.** We inspire players to own the game, allowing them to learn from "mistakes."
- iv. **Respect and Character Above All.** For teammates, opponents, coaches, officials and volunteers, there is no game without them.

- v. **Positive Coaching Over Pressure.** Our coaches will support and encourage rather than demand and criticize. Our coaches will make it fun, or our players will be done.
- vi. **Continuous Learning Over Convention.** Our coaches will learn and evolve to best support our teams. “That’s the way I was taught” is not good enough for our players.
- vii. **Multi-Sport Generalists Over Specialists.** The best athletes become the best hockey players; avoid early specialization.

B. Expectation of Sportsmanship. Through its commitment to creating a safe and fair environment for all participants, KYHA boasts a high expectation of behavioral standards for all who represent or support the KYHA program and name. To that end, KYHA adopts and enforces the Codes of Conduct enacted by USA Hockey¹⁰ (as set forth herein). It is the responsibility of every KYHA Member, player, coach, administrator, volunteer, and spectator (on behalf of themselves and their guests) to adhere to these behavioral guidelines, to uphold KYHA values, and to ensure that all KYHA players have a positive experience.

C. Individual Codes of Conduct.

i. Player’s Code of Conduct.

- Exhibit good sportsmanship and conduct while representing KYHA at any function.
- Develop a deep sense of respect for all (opponents and officials) while endeavoring to enjoy the sport and improve their playing ability.
- Use proper skill and technique when engaging in any type of physical contact.
- Play for fun.
- Work hard to improve your skills.
- Be a team player – get along with your teammates.
- Learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline.
- Be on time.
- Learn the rules and play by them. Always be a good sport.
- Respect your coach, your teammates, your parents, opponents, and officials.
- Never argue with an official’s decision.

ii. Parent’s Code of Conduct.

- Support your players and teams while showing respect for all players, coaches, officials, and other spectators.
- Do not force your child to participate in sports, but support their desires to play their chosen sports. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
- Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches, or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit.
- Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- Know and study the rules of the game and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.

¹⁰USA Hockey Codes of Conduct – [2025-29 USAH Playing Rules.pdf](#).

- Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat, and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice – it is destructive. Work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them. Respect the 24-hour rule of contacting the coaching staff after a game. If there is a concern which you are unable to resolve with the head coach, after observing the 24-hour period, contact the Director of Hockey Operations and/or the applicable Division Representative.
- Recognize that all Board members and team managers are volunteers. If any concerns arise, they should be handled with respect and courtesy.
- Respect locker rooms as private areas for players, coaches, and officials. The areas behind the players' benches are to be free of spectators during games. No parent or spectator may go out on the ice surface during a game, under any circumstance, including injury to his/her own child, without the specific permission of one of the game officials. No parent is allowed on the bench or in the bench area unless they are a KYHA approved coach in good standing.
- If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about hockey – and volunteer.

iii. Coach's Code of Conduct.

- Instruct players to play the sport in a safe and responsible manner.
- Teach only those skills necessary to allow for proper and legal competitive contact.
- Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one. Care more about the child than winning the game. Remember, players are involved in hockey for fun and enjoyment.
- Be a positive role model to your players. Display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of players.
- Be generous with your praise when it is deserved; be consistent and honest; be fair and just; do not criticize players publicly; learn to be a more effective communicator and coach; don't yell at players.
- Adjust to personal needs and problems of players; be a good listener; never verbally or physically abuse a player or official; give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem; teach players the basics.
- Organize practices that are fun and challenging for your players. Familiarize yourself with the rules, techniques and strategies of hockey; encourage all your players to be team players.
- Maintain an open line of communication with your players' parents. Explain the goals and objectives of your association.
- Be concerned with the overall development of your players. Stress good health habits and clean living.
- To play the game is great, to love the game is greater.

iv. Spectator's Code of Conduct.

- Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials.
- Act appropriately. Do not taunt or disturb other fans. Enjoy the game together.
- Cheer good plays of all participants; avoid booing opponents.
- Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play. Profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive.
- Help provide a safe and fun environment. Throwing any items on the ice surface can cause injury to players and officials.

- Do not lean over or pound on the glass. The glass surrounding the ice surface is part of the playing area.
- Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
- Be responsible for your own safety – be alert to prevent accidents from flying pucks and other avoidable situations.
- Respect locker rooms as private areas for players, coaches and officials.
- Be supportive after the game – win or lose. Recognize good effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.

D. Zero Tolerance. Participation in and/or affiliation with KYHA is subject to adherence to these Policies. KYHA maintains zero tolerance for any conduct by KYHA Members, players, coaches, representatives, volunteers, and/or spectators found to be detrimental to the welfare of KYHA, including without limitation, all types of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, hazing, abuse of process, and other misconduct as set forth in the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program Handbook¹¹. Such conduct may result in the removal of the individual from participation, whether temporarily or permanently, in all KYHA games, practices, team activities or affiliated events. The decision to remove an individual found to be in violation of these Policies will be made by the Board in its sole discretion. Reports of any actual or suspected violations can be made to USA Hockey at safesport@usahockey.org.

E. Unauthorized Behavior. Note that all conduct infractions set forth herein are minimum guidelines and are by no means an exhaustive list of behavior that may be subject to disciplinary action by KYHA:

- i. Use and/or possession of alcohol or illegal drugs by any player.
- ii. Any conduct and/or language that is objectionable, offensive, hostile, threatening, harassing, and/or unsportsmanlike, including using electronic communication to engage in such behavior (e.g., cyberbullying).
- iii. Disruption of practices, learning sessions, locker room discussions and team meetings (e.g., with horseplay, rudeness or disrespect to coaches or teammates, talking back, constant interruption, failure to follow instructions, chronic tardiness, excessive absences, etc.).
- iv. Acts of violence, including without limitation, possession, brandishing, and/or use of a firearm or weapon, within the rink area or on the premises where KYHA games are played or KYHA players and/or supporters are gathering.
- v. Careless and/or dangerous behavior that jeopardizes or disregards the safety of teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, or bystanders (e.g., roughhousing, stick and puck play where prohibited, trespassing in unauthorized areas, climbing on glass, netting, stacked pads, Zamboni, etc.).
- vi. Destruction of the rink area, premises, locker rooms, hotels, restaurants, or other property where KYHA games are played or KYHA players and/or supporters are gathering.
- vii. Verbal abuse directed at the players, coaches, officials, or spectators.
- viii. Arrest of a player by police or security officers.
- ix. Shoplifting from the rink, premises, hotel, or store where KYHA games are played or KYHA players and/or supporters are gathering.
- x. Breaking of a coach's curfew by a player.
- xi. Suspension or expulsion from school by a player.
- xii. Receipt of excessive penalties.

¹¹USA Hockey Safe Sport Program Handbook – [SafeSport Handbook 12-31-2024](#).

- xiii. Hazing or similar conduct designed to humiliate, isolate, or establish dominance over other players.
- xiv. Posting, sending, distributing, displaying, or sharing literature or material containing harassment, libel, threats or depictions of violence, injury, or harm against, or obscene, vulgar or lewd pictures of players, supporters, opponents, coaches, or officials.
- xv. Allowing a player registered with another organization to participate in any KYHA game, practice, training, scrimmage, etc. without the prior written approval of MO Hockey.
- xvi. Enticing a player registered with another organization to leave their current organization and join a KYHA team at any time (with the exception of advertising for evaluations).
- xvii. Gathering and/or convening directly behind either team's goal and/or bench during games.
- xviii. Use of any noisemakers, including without limitation, whistles, horns, bells/cowbells, megaphones, or clappers.

F. Locker Rooms.

- i. **Ages.** There can be no more than 4 years of age between players who are sharing a locker room.
- ii. **Recording Devices and Video Calls.** Recording of any kind, whether audio, video, or still photography, is strictly prohibited in the locker rooms. While audio calls may be permitted (depending on each individual coach's rules), video calls or messaging are never permitted in the locker rooms. Coaches and/or managers are permitted to collect player cell phones or other mobile devices with recording capabilities and to implement additional rules for their teams pertaining to the use of recording / mobile devices in the locker room and/or during practice, games, scrimmages, meetings, etc. in their sole discretion.
- iii. **Music.** Music is allowed in the locker rooms, but only the clean version / radio edit of songs may be played. Songs with obscenities, racial slurs, or sexual innuendo are not permitted.
- iv. **Valuables.** Players should not bring valuables to the rink. KYHA is not responsible for any damage or theft of belongings left in the locker room.
- v. **Monitors.** Per USA Hockey, teams should have at least 2 responsible adults not from the same family ("**Monitors**") monitoring the locker room during all team events to supervise locker room conduct and to ensure that only screened team personnel or family members are permitted to enter. If coaches do not remain inside of or must leave the locker room, a Monitor should be posted directly outside of the room during periods of use. If there are 2 or more Monitors available (not from the same family), they may monitor from directly inside the locker room with the coaches' permission. To avoid distraction or detracting from coach instruction, Monitors are strongly discouraged from addressing their player (i.e., coaching, critiquing, etc.) while serving as a Monitor. While rostered coaches and team managers may serve as Monitors, all Monitors must complete no less than the same eligibility requirements outlined for managers in Section V herein (namely, Safe Sport certification and background screening).
- vi. **Two+ Adults.** Teams should strive to have at least 2 adults (whether coaches, managers, approved parents or Monitors) in the locker room at all times when players are present. If only 1 adult is present, the locker room door should be propped open and/or the adult should wait outside of the locker room until another adult arrives.
- vii. **Doors.** Locker room doors should be left open but only when adequate privacy is still possible.
- viii. **Parents in Locker Rooms.** KYHA strongly discourages parents of players 12u and up from entering locker rooms unless it is absolutely necessary. If a player needs assistance with equipment, if a player is injured, or if a player's disability warrants assistance, parents should inform coaches as soon as possible that they will be assisting the player. In circumstances

where parents are allowed in the locker room, coaches are permitted to ask parents to leave for a short time before or after the game so that the players may be addressed. Coaches in the older age divisions may also prohibit parents from the locker room in their sole discretion.

- ix. **Mixed Gender Teams.** For 6u and 8u teams that typically have co-ed locker rooms, players should arrive at the rink wearing their hockey base layers or other non-underwear layers under their street clothes. All members of the team must have this minimum attire before entering a co-ed locker room so that no player will be seen in a state of undress. For age divisions 10u and up, players will be given the option to dress/undress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single locker room before the game or team meeting. If separate locker rooms are not available, then the players will take turns using the locker room. KYHA views the locker room as an inclusive, team environment with the goal of limiting player separation as much as possible.

G. Player Safety. There should be no prohibited one-on-one interactions between a coach, manager, KYHA Member, or Monitor and a minor player (as defined by SafeSport¹²) at any time or in any setting. Any meetings with a minor player and a coach, manager, or other KYHA personnel shall require an additional responsible adult or parent in attendance. Additionally, KYHA Members, coaches, managers, parents or family members should not travel alone with an unrelated minor player and should only always travel with at least 2 players or another adult. Coaches and KYHA Members may provide shared transportation for any player if they pick up their player first and drop off their player last in any such travel arrangement. Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a minor player (unless the coach is the parent, step-parent, legal guardian, or sibling of the player).

H. Disciplinary Actions.

- i. **Coaches' Discretion.** Coaches have the authority to set individual team rules of conduct for their team and may impose disciplinary actions immediately (in a reasonable and non-abusive manner) for conduct in violation of such rules, including without limitation, benching, extra conditioning drills, written homework assignments and mandatory parental/guardian attendance at team events. Coaches should report all disciplinary issues to the player's parent/guardian as soon as possible. In cases of chronic misconduct or extreme violation of the KYHA Bylaws and/or these Policies, coaches should escalate the matter to the Division Representative, Board, and/or Disciplinary Committee (as defined herein) for further support.
- ii. **Removal from Premises.** Per MO Hockey, KYHA is responsible for the behavior of players, parents, and spectators, on or away from rink areas and organization premises. As such, KYHA is tasked with removing all individuals whose conduct is found to be in violation of the Bylaws and/or these Policies. Per MO Hockey, any spectators removed from the rink or premises are automatically suspended for the next game or until further notice from the Board and/or Disciplinary Committee.
- iii. **Board's Authority for Disciplinary Action.** The Board is authorized by MO Hockey to impose disciplinary actions on KYHA Members, players, coaches, parents, or spectators found to be in violation of the KYHA Bylaws and/or these Policies, including without limitation, suspension of players, coaches, parents, or spectators from attending games, practices, or other organizational or team events, expulsion of KYHA Members and/or players from the program, monetary fines, or other consequences as the Board deems necessary and appropriate in its sole discretion. The Board also has the discretion to call a hearing to review certain conduct

¹²One-on-One Interactions Policy – [SafeSport Handbook 12-31-2024](#).

suspected of violating the KYHA Bylaws and/or these Policies. All of the Board's decisions regarding disciplinary actions are final.

- iv. **Disciplinary Committee.** The Board may establish a special committee for purposes of investigating disciplinary issues brought forward to the Board and proposing recommended disciplinary measures ("**Disciplinary Committee**"). The Disciplinary Committee may be established for the duration of a Hockey Year and may address all disciplinary matters brought to the Board within that Hockey Year, or the Board may stand up a temporary Disciplinary Committee at any time for purposes of addressing a specific incident. The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of the Director of Hockey Operations, at least 2 sitting Board Directors, at least 2 coaches (if assembled for a specific incident, coaches should not be selected from the age division that is the subject of the incident), and other personnel as deemed necessary by the Board. The Board is not obligated to adopt the disciplinary measures recommended by the Disciplinary Committee and may opt for alternative resolution in its sole discretion.

XV. PHOTO AND VIDEO RELEASES

By registering for any KYHA program and/or attending a KYHA event, KYHA Members, on behalf of themselves and any minor players or other minor children for whom they are a legal guardian, authorize KYHA and/or its representatives and subcontractors to photograph or video record the KYHA Member, player, and/or other minor children. KYHA is permitted to use said photographs or video recordings, as well as names, likenesses, and biographical information of those appearing therein, in whole or in part, or any reproduction made thereof, in perpetuity for purposes of, including without limitation, marketing, advertising, social media, news, education or any similar, lawful purpose whatsoever and without further consideration except where legally prohibited. There is no time or geographic limitation on the permissions granted to KYHA herein.

XVI. LIABILITY WAIVER AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

By, and in consideration of, registering for any KYHA program and/or attending a KYHA event, KYHA Members, on behalf of themselves, any minor players or other minor children for whom they are a legal guardian, and each of them, their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns (collectively, the "**Releasors**"), waive, release, relinquish and hold harmless KYHA, KYHA teams, event hosts, other participants, coaches, managers, officials, and each of them, their officers, directors, agents, and employees (collectively, the "**Releasees**") from any and all claims for liability and cause(s) of action, including without limitation, for personal injury, property damage, wrongful death, and possible exposure to and illness from infectious diseases, arising out of participation in KYHA events, member team activities, the sport of ice hockey, and/or activities incidental thereto, including if caused by negligence, including the negligence caused by the Releasees, whenever or however they occur and for such period said activities may continue.

While particular rules and personal discipline may reduce the risk, KYHA Members, on behalf of all Releasors, acknowledge and understand the existence of risks and dangers related to the sport of ice hockey and participation in any KYHA team activities, including bodily injury, partial or total disability, serious illness, paralysis, and death, even if caused by the negligence of others (including the Releasees). KYHA Members, on behalf of all Releasors, knowingly and freely assume all such risks, including but not limited to those caused by the negligence of the Releasees and those arising from participating in activities with bigger, faster, and stronger participants. KYHA Members understand and acknowledge that these risks and dangers

will increase as the player advances into higher age levels, that there may be risks and dangers not known to them or reasonably foreseeable at any given time, and that all risks and dangers as described in this Section XVI are included within the waiver and release executed upon registration and described herein. KYHA Members, on behalf of all Releasors, agree to abide by and be bound by these Policies, including the KYHA Bylaws as currently published.