

FWAHA HOCKEY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

(As amended and approved February 2023)

ARTICLE I. OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE

Mission. The mission of FWAHA is to provide all local hockey players, families, and coaches with a premier development experience.

Vision. The vision of FWAHA is to develop the whole athlete and allow players to showcase their skills at all levels of competitive hockey.

Objectives. Teams shall be organized to allow interested and qualified players an opportunity to play hockey in a more competitive regional environment than that available through house league play. This program will provide players with the opportunity to develop their hockey talent, physical skills, and social skills. The primary objectives of FWAHA's teams are as follows:

- Ice hockey is a team sport! The play, training, coaching, and education should be emphasized as such.
- Individual player records should be de-emphasized at all levels, while true emphasis should be placed upon individual effort, team play, sportsmanship, intensity, determination, and player development.
- The mutual development of the individual participant as both a team player and as an individual person is to be stressed.
- The development of both the physical and the mental skills necessary in ice hockey are to be pursued throughout the season through game situations, on practice ice, in educational sessions, and in dryland training.
- Sportsmanship and fair play are to be emphasized.
- Travel hockey requires a commitment and a level of intensity not generally found in other noncompetitive environments. As such, this level of play should encourage youth to develop and exhibit control over the higher levels of intensity required in reaching their fullest potential.
- While Travel hockey is not guaranteed to provide equal ice time for all players, through the course of the season, coaches will make every effort to allow all players an equitable amount of playing time.

ARTICLE II. TEAMS

It is the intent of the Association to annually organize teams within the 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U age divisions, as defined by USA Hockey, which apply to FWAHA Travel teams. All teams are subject to recommendation from the Travel Commissioner

and the Coaching/Player Development Chairperson for approval by the FWAHA Board. Factors to be considered in the determination of teams at each level shall include the availability of players, the talent level of players, the availability of ice times, and the availability of qualified coaches.

ARTICLE III. COACHES

Head Coaching applications will be made available online and are to be completed and submitted by the published due date. The Hockey Director will conduct interviews with all applicants, as required, and will recommend Head Coaches for each team, which must be approved by the FWAHA Board. Assistant Coaches for each team are to be nominated by the Head Coach after the teams have been selected and confirmed by the Hockey Director and FWAHA President.

Coaches desiring consideration for any coaching positions must be certified, at a minimum, to the Associate Level of the USA Hockey coaching education program. Consistent with USA Hockey Registered Coaches Education Guidelines, Head Coaches are to be certified at the applicable levels based upon the age-level coached.

Coaches shall be evaluated and selected for positions based upon several factors, including their ability to teach team and individual skills; their ability to teach and demonstrate appropriate sportsmanship and citizenship; their ability to relate to and work effectively with youth, parents, and other coaches; their ability to represent and uphold the mission/vision of the Association; and their ability to abide by the following Code of Conduct:

- Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one. Care more about the child than winning the game. Remember that players are involved 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, honest, fair, and just. Learn to be a more effective communicator and coach.
- Adjust to personal needs and problems of players, be a good listener, and never verbally or physically abuse a player or official. Build confidence and develop self-esteem, while concentrating on teaching the basics.
- Organize practices that are fun and challenging for your players. Familiarize yourself with the rules, techniques, and strategies of hockey, encouraging all your players to be team players.
- Maintain an open line of communication with your players' parents. Explain the goals and objectives of the Association and of your team.
- 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.

- Attend all required Coaches Meetings.
- Comply with all program requirements as determined by the Hockey Director and the FWAHA Board.

The Hockey Director will schedule meetings with Head Coaches during the season. The Head Coaches will be required to attend these meetings. Failure to do so could result in removal from duties.

A signed letter of intent should be returned to the Hockey Director by each coach stating that he/she has read, understands, and will abide by the Code of Conduct above.

Coaches are expected to remain in control of both their staff and team members in the playing area. If necessary, appropriate disciplinary action of players is at the discretion of the Head Coach.

Serious rules or behavior infractions requiring further disciplinary actions are to be handled by the Discipline Committee of the Association, or by USA Hockey, Inc. officials, as appropriate. Disciplinary actions involving coaches are to be reviewed and acted upon by the Hockey Director, then referred to the Discipline Committee, the FWAHA Board, or USA Hockey, Inc. officials, as may be appropriate under the specific circumstances for necessary actions.

ARTICLE IV. TEAM FORMATION

Tryouts. The Travel Commissioner will secure ice times from the Arena Manager for the scheduling of tryouts for their respective Divisions. The Travel Commissioner, in conjunction with the Coaching Director, will secure on ice helpers for each session. Adequate pucks, cones, jerseys, and referees, if necessary, will be arranged prior to each session. Proper preparation should be verified by the Coaching Director.

Tryouts will generally be held from the youngest birth year to the oldest to allow for play-up consideration; however, exceptions may be allowed due to circumstances such as ice availability, etc. The Play-Up Policy shall still apply.

A minimum of two, one-hour sessions will be scheduled for each Blue team and one, one hour session scheduled for each Green Team (including 8U), as ice times are available. Sessions are to be balanced to allow evaluations of individual skills, team skills, and overall game awareness. Cuts may be made after the first session. Each age division will hold birth year tryouts separately, provided there are enough players to form two teams. If additional tryout times are deemed necessary for final selections by the Head Coach and the Coaching and/or Hockey Director, the Travel Commissioner will secure such additional ice times as available to be paid for by the players trying out for that team.

Players should attend all scheduled sessions to be eligible for selection, unless specific prior acceptable arrangements have been made through the Travel Commissioner and/or Coaching/Hockey Director, on a reasonable exception basis. Exceptions to this rule for specific excused absences should be granted on a very limited basis. Requests for

exceptions must be made in writing prior to the tryout session. Any unexpected emergencies that would prevent a player from attending a tryout must be communicated to the Travel Commissioner and/or Coaching/Hockey Director as soon as possible. A player who does not attend tryouts or receive approval to miss tryouts for a given team will not be rostered by that team at any time during the season without prior approval of the FWAHA Board of Directors.

Tryout Registration and Fees. An online registration is required to be completed prior to the tryout. The registration will be made available on the Fort Wayne Amateur Hockey Association website at www.fwaha.org. All players must register with USA Hockey for the upcoming season prior to completing the online registration. Required player documentation will be available as part of the registration process. Deadlines for registration will be made available on the website. The Travel Commissioner shall determine the tryout fees, based upon ice rental expense and the approximate number of players anticipated to tryout. A tryout fee will be assessed, and that fee will be due at the time of registration. The price is the same regardless of the number of tryouts attended.

Supplemental Tryouts. If there is roster space available following the initial tryouts, supplemental tryouts may be deemed appropriate by the Head Coach, Travel Commissioner and/or the Coaching/Hockey Director. The Travel Commissioner shall secure ice and reasonable notification shall be made via website or other prior to the tryout date. If positions remain available following a formal supplemental tryout, then future supplemental tryouts may be conducted using a practice session. Any player trying out at a supplemental tryout must register using the current season online registration process and will be subject to the tryout fee. Players who previously registered will not be required to register again.

Commitment Fees. The Travel Commissioner shall organize a meeting of each teams' parents to reiterate the time and financial commitment of hockey. Once a player is selected to a team, the parents or guardian of each player must make a financial commitment as determined annually by the FWAHA Board. Commitment fees must be paid within 72 hours of receiving request for payment.

Mixed Birth Year Teams. It is the intent of the Association to annually organize birth year teams at the 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U & 18U age divisions. If it is determined by the consensus of the evaluators, coaches, and/or Coaching/Hockey Director that there are not enough qualified players to field a team in any age division, the Travel Commissioner and the Coaching/Hockey Director may form a team or teams appropriate to the talent level present at the tryout, including mixed birth year teams.

Team Selection. Players electing to try out for a Travel team are obligated to play for that team if selected. Any player deciding not to honor this obligation can still play in the House Division, including Green Teams, so long as any financial obligation to the team has been met. Players must tryout in their birth year. Players wishing to play up a division must first tryout in their birth year to be considered for play-up. Note: Due to their limited

numbers, goalie placement may require special considerations to allow team formation and provide player placement.

Managers Meeting. Following the selection of Team Managers, the Travel Commissioner will schedule a meeting of all Team Managers. New Team Managers will be instructed on organizational and tournament procedures, scheduling coordination, league play, and other related issues, to insure uniformity among all teams. Following the organizational meeting, each team is to be managed thereon by each respective Team Manager. The Travel Commissioner will communicate with each Team Manager on a regular basis throughout the year to address the various issues and questions that may arise.

Team Schedule. Each Head Coach, in consultation with their Team Manager, shall review and select all tournaments in which teams may participate. However, if deemed for the betterment of the organization, the FWAHA Board may choose to require all teams to participate in specific tournaments (e.g., Silver Stick, Indiana State Tournament, etc.). Considerations such as cost and travel will be considered before any decisions are made and will be communicated on an annual basis. Travel teams are expected to register as Tier II, unless otherwise approved by the FWAHA Board.

Number of Players Per Team. When the number of players electing to tryout in conjunction with player abilities makes it obvious that the recommended minimum number of players would adversely impact the mission of FWAHA, the Travel and/or the Coaching/Hockey Director have the discretion to direct the Head Coach to increase/decrease the number of players selected. The maximum number of players per team shall be 20 (18 skaters and two goalies), or as set forth by USA Hockey regulations. The exact number of players selected for each team will be determined by the Head Coach, in consultation with the evaluators.

ARTICLE V. PLAYER SELECTION

Timing. Players are to be selected for each team within forty-eight (48) hours after the final session of the tryout. The selection process shall involve the Head Coach (if known), the Coaching/Hockey Director, and the evaluators assisting in the tryout evaluation process. The Head Coach will contact each player who tried out regardless of whether they are selected or not.

Selection Process. Player selections are to be made through open tryouts, which are to be conducted by independent evaluators appointed by the Coaching/Hockey Director, in conjunction with the Head Coach. A minimum of two independent, non-ice evaluators, also as appointed by the Coaching/Hockey Director, shall be present at each tryout session to assist in the player evaluations. Selection of players deemed by evaluators to be of inadequate skill levels for competitive hockey simply to reduce the overall team cost per player is prohibited. A standard evaluation form should be used for each player to assist in the selection process.

Factors considered in the selection process should include physical skating and hockey skill levels, attitude, motivation and effort levels, teamwork concepts, overall mental awareness of position play, past performance and experience results, and input from prior coaches, as applicable.

ARTICLE VI. PLAYER ELEGIBILITY

Notice. A notice will be posted 21 days in advance of tryouts providing the dates, times, locations, costs, and guidelines for tryouts. The notice will be posted on FWAHA's website and social media accounts.

Eligibility Requirements.

- Players must be registered by FWAHA and USA Hockey to be eligible.
- Any outstanding financial obligations to FWAHA must be fully satisfied in order for that player to take part in tryouts or to be selected.
- Although strongly discouraged by FWAHA and by USA Hockey, players may tryout for teams that are one age division above their actual playing age. Players wishing to move up an age division must follow the procedures outlined in the FWAHA Player Play-Up Policy. Goalies are considered special cases. See note in Article IV above.
- Under certain circumstances a Minor Team Player may be dual rostered on a Major Team roster.
- Any player moving into the area after tryouts, or any subsequent supplemental tryout and team formation, may be considered for a travel team after a thorough evaluation and upon a recommendation to the FWAHA Board from the Travel Commissioner and Head Coach. No further formal tryout process will be required in these instances. No existing player may be removed from the team to make room for a move-in player.
- Players may be added to the team roster until December 31 of each year in accordance with tryout procedures. Generally, no addition to team rosters should be considered after team selections are completed, unless to permanently replace an injured player or a player who has left the team, or to cure short rosters. All roster replacements must be approved by the Coaching/Hockey Director, the Travel Commissioner, and the FWAHA Board. Temporary or part-time replacements are generally not favored on any team and will only be considered by the FWAHA President or Coaching/Hockey Director in unordinary circumstances.
- Any outstanding disciplinary problems or suspensions from the prior season must be cleared through the Travel Commissioner and/or the Discipline Committee, as appropriate, prior to any such player being eligible to tryout.
- If any dual-rostered player becomes ineligible to play for one FWAHA team for any reason, he/she is automatically ineligible to play for all other FWAHA teams until eligibility is re-established. Further participation once eligibility is re-established is dependent upon roster availability, Head Coach recommendation, and ultimately, FWAHA Board approval.

- Any eligibility requirements for participation on a high school team are specifically incorporated herein.

ARTICLE VII. TEAM MANAGER

Team Manager Responsibilities. The Team Manager will oversee all scheduling matters of the team, in conjunction with any guidelines and directives established by the Travel Commissioner and FWAHA Board. It is strongly recommended that a spouse, partner, or close family member of a Head Coach does not act as manager of the same team. Responsibilities of the Team Manager will generally include the following functions:

- Scheduling of games and tournaments for the season, within the guidelines established for eligible opponents, locations, and number of games.
- Providing current information to all parents regarding commitments, responsibilities, and financial obligations involved with their respective team.
- Informing all parents of the responsibilities for appropriate behavior.
- Making all necessary arrangements for hotel accommodations for out-of-town games and providing similar information to visiting teams traveling to Fort Wayne.
- Assisting the Treasurer with maintaining accurate and current team and financial records.
- Securing all officials for home games.
- Reporting any major penalties to the Hockey Director and Discipline Committee Chairperson promptly following the game in which the penalty was incurred.
- Attending manager meetings.

ARTICLE VIII. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

FWAHA teams will comply with USA Hockey rules, regulations, and guidelines regarding equipment usage and playing rules. The FWAHA Board will make all decisions regarding the names of any teams. All teams must wear common jerseys that are designed and approved by the FWAHA Board. Jerseys, as well as all other apparel (jackets, hats, pullovers, shirts, sweats, bags, uniforms, etc.) must be purchased by the player and comply with FWAHA marketing standards, policies, and guidelines.

ARTICLE IX. FEES

Teams are intended to be financially self-supporting, without any specific financial support from the Association. Each player will pay an annual membership fee to FWAHA, which will then be allocated to the general fund of the Association. This fee will be established each year by the FWAHA Board prior to the commencement of the season. All team payments will follow the FWAHA payments schedule. The FWAHA

Board and USA Hockey have the authority to suspend any player from on-ice activities upon unresolved delinquent payment problems. Each player selected to a team will be responsible for a non-refundable Commitment Fee (amount to be determined by the FWAHA Board on an annual basis), which will be collected within 72 hours of payment being requested. Following payment of the Commitment Fee, the schedule for payment of fees is generally as follows:

- Twenty-five percent of team budget or cap (25%) due on August 1;
- Fifteen percent (15%) due on September 1;
- Fifteen percent (15%) due on October 1;
- Fifteen percent (15%) due on November 1;
- Fifteen percent (15%) due on December 1;
- Balance of fees or final Fifteen percent (15%) due on January 1.

The payment schedule for 8U may differ given later tryout dates.

ARTICLE X. FUNDRAISING

Individual teams may conduct fundraising activities. Proceeds shall be used exclusively for the reduction of team costs and expenses per the approved team budget. Certain fundraising activities will be coordinated throughout the Association through the Fundraising Committee. The Travel Commissioner and Fundraising Committee will ensure the cooperation of each team fundraising representative within fundraising programs and efforts that may be generated.

ARTICLE XI. SPONSORSHIPS

Each team may solicit sponsors to assist in the reduction of costs and expenses. All Sponsorships should be reported to the FWAHA Treasurer for review and approval. Contributions by any sponsor do not entitle that sponsor to dictate or direct the operations or activities of that team. Sponsors that directly represent tobacco or alcohol products are not permitted to advertise with any FWAHA program. All sponsorships should be consistent and appropriate with the nature of youth programming. Any potential sponsor that is a direct competitor of the title sponsor will require approval of the FWAHA President.

ARTICLE XII. PARENTAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Parental grievances should first be brought to the attention of the Head Coach and Team Manager for appropriate resolution. Any situations that are not satisfactorily resolved through meeting with the Head Coach and/or Team Manager should then be addressed to the Travel Commissioner and the Hockey Director for review and decision. If the grievance is still unresolved, the parental issue should be put in writing and directed to the FWAHA President. A full review by the FWAHA Board will then be conducted,

consistent with the FWAHA grievance guidelines. The Travel Commissioner will be responsible for the communication and delivery of the results of the review to the parties involved.

ARTICLE XIII. DISCIPLINE

Parents, players, managers, and coaches will be held to a high standard of conduct, as representatives of FWAHA and of the Fort Wayne community within regional competitive play. The FWAHA Board has the responsibility and authority to impose disciplinary actions for any behavioral problems deemed to be detrimental to the Association and its programs, consistent with the Disciplinary Policy. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager and the Travel Commissioner to report any major penalties, misconducts, or other incidents to the Discipline Committee Chairperson promptly following the game in which the penalty was incurred. Any player or coach receiving a penalty for physical contact with an official is subject to an immediate hearing with USA Hockey Mid-Am officials. It is recommended that the Travel Commissioner and Coaching/Hockey Director be present at any such hearing involving players, managers, or coaches to properly document and record the discussions and the actions taken for reporting to the FWAHA Board.

ARTICLE XIV. CONDUCT AND DRESS CODE

Conduct and dress codes have been deemed to be an essential element of the FWAHA Program. Team conduct and appearance is a direct reflection upon the players, the Association, and the Fort Wayne community. Conduct expectations will be established by each Team Manager and Head Coach for all group activities on and off the ice. A reasonable curfew is to be in effect for all players while participating in games requiring overnight stays. The responsibility for maintaining conduct and dress codes is ultimately the responsibility of all players and their parents/guardians. All teams within the program are expected to remain consistent with the established codes throughout the season. The FWAHA Board maintains the authority to terminate or suspend any player, parent, manager, coach, or team whose conduct intentionally violates or impacts the spirit of these regulations and procedures or the FWAHA bylaws.

ARTICLE XV. GAMES AND PRACTICES

Practice Location. All home games and practices are to be held at FWAHA approved facilities unless otherwise approved in advance by the FWAHA Board.

Game Count. FWAHA recommends that the maximum number of games played during the season be approximately 50 games, which includes House Division games, where relevant. The maximum number of games should not exceed USA hockey guidelines.

Season Dates. In compliance with USA Hockey and Mid-Am District policies, Travel teams are sanctioned to play games within the specifically designated season unless extended due to national playdown tournaments, as follows:

- Travel Regular Season: September 1 to April 1

The FWAHA Board will also consider spring teams. Such teams will adhere to polices set, as determined, by the FWAHA Board.

ARTICLE XVI. GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS

Tryout and other guidelines may change year to year as approved by the FWAHA Board. Any guideline dated after these regulations will take precedence until the regulations are updated and approved.