



## **2017-2018 UTAH JUNIOR GRIZZLIES INFORMATION PACKET**

Welcome to the Utah Junior Grizzlies. This packet contains information on the organization and what to expect if your player joins the Utah Junior Grizzlies for the 2017-2018 season.

### **I. ORGANIZATION**

USA Hockey is the national governing body for hockey in the United States. Although there are other sanctioning bodies, such as AAU and ISI, USA Hockey has been designated by Congress as the entity which oversees national teams, such as the U.S. Olympic hockey team. The Utah Amateur Hockey Association (UAHA) is an affiliate of USA Hockey and oversees Utah hockey. We are the Wasatch Mountain Amateur Hockey Association and a sub-affiliate of Utah Amateur Hockey and USA Hockey. The Utah Junior Grizzlies is our trade name. Although we fully support the Utah Grizzlies and are indebted to them for their support of our organization, we are separate and responsible for our own operations. The organization is run by a Board of Directors consisting of seven members. The current board members and the date each term expires are as follows:

Robyn Long Term expires in May 2018

Andrea VanLeeuwen Term expires in May 2018

Anthony Filidore Term expires in May 2019

Lori Jensen Term expires in May 2019

Open Position Term expires in May 2019

Misty Herbstritt expires in May 2020

Devin Grim Term expires in May 2020

Joe Minnock, Ex-Officio Board Member

Nate Hill, Ex-Officio Board Member

Rick Kay Ex-Officio Board Member

These are volunteer positions and serve without any credit towards dues. Board members usually spend between eight and ten hours weekly performing board related duties and planning. Board members' players are also not guaranteed positions on a particular team or any team. The organization acts pursuant to both corporate bylaws and policies and procedures. Many of the policies and procedures are discussed in this information packet, but the full documents may be obtained at:

<http://www.utahjuniorgrizzlies.com/page/show/102805-board-documents>.

## **II. ELECTIONS**

Beginning in the 2017-2018 season, Board elections will be held at the annual meeting in May. The team manager for each team solicits information on the candidates and votes among those nominated. The President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary are elected by the Board for one year terms during the annual meeting. Information for those interested in serving on the board will be posted at Utahjuniorgrizzlies.com on March 1. Those choosing to run for election must declare their candidacy at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

## **III. TEAM MANAGERS**

Each team has a team manager selected by the head coach. The team manager's duties include all "off ice" non-financial administrative functions necessary to the operation of the team. This includes scheduling games, applying for tournaments, managing professional skills coaching sessions, updating SportEngine, and serving as the liaison of the team to the board and between the parents and the coaches. Team managers also manage their ice costs and tournament costs with the assistance of the bookkeeper and treasurer. We encourage parents with questions or concerns regarding the operation of the team or organization to first address the matter with the team manager.

## **IV. COACHES**

The Utah Junior Grizzlies selects coaches later in the preceding season. The board uses surveys to obtain input from parents on returning coaches and also seeks guidance from other coaches and parents. USA Hockey requires that all head and assistant coaches obtain training through the national organization. Coaches progress from Level 1 in their first year to Level 4 in the fourth year. Some coaches obtain Level 5 through training which is offered less frequently. Coaches are also required to complete modules through USA Hockey which focus on the skills necessary for the age group being coached.

## **V. TEAMS (Tier, Travel/Select, Youth/Elite)**

There are only two kinds of teams recognized by USA Hockey: Tier and House. Tier teams are those vying for the national championship tournaments. Within the "Tier" system there are "Tier I" and "Tier II" teams. Tier teams are tightly regulated both as to maintenance of their roster and the number of games each team must play against certain levels of competition. The Utah Junior Grizzlies offers a Tier II team at the 14U level. USA Hockey does not offer tier teams below 14U. All other teams are considered "house" teams by USA Hockey.

Many organizations identify their teams as "AAA," "AA," "A" or "B". These designations are not recognized by USA Hockey. However, these labels are helpful in identifying the level of competition being offered. For instance, a "B" team will look for other "B" teams against which to compete. Tournaments offer different divisions such as "B" or "A" to identify the proper level of play for teams. Teams can and do shift within groups. For instance, a "B" team may play in some "B" tournaments and some "A" tournaments depending on the other teams entered. For this reason, the Utah Junior Grizzlies identifies its top team at each age level as "Travel/Select" and its second team as "Youth/Elite." The Utah Junior Grizzlies teams are as follows for 2017-2018:

### **10U YOUTH/ELITE (2007-2008 birth years) (\$1,800.00 in dues):**

This team will be coached by Brandon Swenson and is designed for young players who are looking for more than what recreational hockey has to offer. The team normally plays at the "B" level. This team may travel no more than two times per year to contiguous states and is encouraged to compete in all appropriate local tournaments. The team will practice three times a week, most likely 2 shared and one full ice. The team will have dryland on Saturdays and will play approximately 25-35 games. The main focus of our elite teams is to develop players so they have a better chance of earning spots on select teams in the future.

### **10U TRAVEL/SELECT (2007-2008 birth years): (\$2,400 in dues)**

This team will be coached by Greg Leeb and is designed for players with more advanced skill sets and a greater understanding of positioning. Not only will the focus be on improving the skills and knowledge of the game with this team on the ice, there will also be an equal focus on guiding players on how to be solid individuals off the ice. The same qualities and characteristics that the game of hockey and its coaches can introduce can be the foundation for each player's growth and life skills development. This team will practice three times weekly, twice shared with another team and once with full ice and hold dryland twice a week. This team will travel to 5-6 tournaments in the neighboring states and will plan to hold 2-3 local games between each tournament.

**12U YOUTH/ELITE (2005-2006 birth years) (\$2,500 in dues)**

This team will be coached by Barry Waugaman and is designed for development of players. The team will generally play at either the “B” or “A” level depending upon the progress of the team and the competition entering the desired tournaments. This team will practice three times weekly, twice shared with another team and once with full ice. This team may travel no more than two times per year to contiguous states and is encouraged to compete in all appropriate local tournaments

**12U TRAVEL/SELECTS (2005-2006 birth years)(\$2,750 in dues)**

This team will be coached by John Anderson. The team will compete at the “A” or “AA” level depending on the makeup of the team and how it progresses during the season. This team is designed for advanced players with higher skills levels. This team may travel four or five teams as necessary to provide adequate competition within the neighboring states with 2-3 games between each tournament. This team will practice three times weekly twice with full ice and once shared with the 12U Elite team. Dryland will be every Saturday and prior to each game.

**14U TRAVEL/SELECTS (2003-2004 birth years)(\$2,800 in dues)**

This team will be coached by Kevan Guy and can be expected to compete regularly at the “A” level and to travel three to four times annually. This team will practice three times weekly, once shared with another team and twice with full ice. This team will participate in most local tournaments at the discretion of the coach.

**14U TIER II (2003-2004 birth years)(\$3,750 in dues)**

This team is coached by Davis Mulholland and will play at the AA/AAA level during the season. This team is Tier II and will compete for the state and national titles. This team may travel five to seven times during the season. This team is designed for very advanced players. The step from 12U AA to 14U AA is considerable and more difficult than stepping from 10U A to 12U AA due to the introduction of checking and the speed at which the game is played. This team imposes heavy travel demands and commitment from players and their families. This team will practice three times weekly with at least two full ice and have dryland at each practice. Intent is to have a tournament each month (so 5-6 most likely), with 2-3 local games in between. Travel will be within the region (Idaho, Colorado, Nevada, Arizona, and California).

### **16U YOUTH/ELITE (2001-2002 birth years) (\$3,500 in dues)**

This team will be coached by Jamen Porter and is designed for continued development of players. The team will generally play at either the “B” or “A” level depending upon the progress of the team and the competition entering the desired tournaments. This team will practice three times weekly, twice shared with another team and once with full ice. This team may travel no more than two times per year to contiguous states and is encouraged to compete in all appropriate local tournaments.

### **16U TRAVEL/SELECTS (2001-2002 birth years)(\$3,500 in dues)**

This team will be coached by Ryan Flink. The team will compete at the “A” or “AA” level depending on the makeup of the team and how it progresses during the season. This team is designed for advanced players with higher skills levels. This team may travel four or five teams as necessary to provide adequate competition. This team will practice three times weekly twice with full ice and once shared with the 16U Elite team.

### **18U TRAVEL/SELECTS (1999-2000 birth years) (\$2,750 in dues)**

This team will be coached by Kyle McInnis. Most of the players on this team will also play high school hockey and, consequently, this team will practice only twice weekly so as to not interfere with high school play. We make every effort to coordinate the practices so as to not interfere with high school events. However, often high school is tardy in alerting the organizations of when the high school games will be played. This can make it difficult to insure no overlap. The team will travel three or four times during the season and will also compete in local tournaments.

## **VI. TRYOUTS**

Tryouts are held annually at all age groups. When each player arrives for tryouts, he or she will be issued a penny with a number on it to be placed over any practice jersey. Please keep the penny until the teams are selected and then return it to the registration table. This number allows the coaches to identify the players on the ice. Starting 72 hours before the first tryout session, parents and players must refrain from contacting coaches and this prohibition extends until tryouts are complete. During the tryouts, please do not coach your player from the stands or loudly cheer for players. The two head coaches for each age group will evaluate all the players during three or four tryout sessions. All players should be measured for soft goods during tryouts. This is true even if your player is not immediately named to a team. If listed as an alternate, it is important that we have the player’s measurements to order jerseys, warmups, polos, etc.

If new to the Grizzlies, your player will be asked to select three potential jersey numbers. To insure that two players do not have identical numbers, players with odd birth years (2001,2003, etc) will be assigned odd jersey numbers and those with even birth years (2002, 2004, etc) will be assigned even jersey numbers. This jersey number will be used by the player throughout their Grizzlies career. Typically, the lower numbers (1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10) through 30 are already assigned to returning players. Therefore, please pick at least one number above 30.

If your player is selected to play for the Utah Junior Grizzlies, the contract will be ready at the end of the final tryout session. While the coach *may* hold spots for a short period, we would like all contracts signed within one week of tryouts. This allows us to order soft goods such as jerseys with the expectation they will be present prior to the season. The contract is available from any board member at the registration desk if you would like to examine it.

## **VII. DOCUMENTS**

During minicamp or earlier, your team manager will ask you and your player to complete five documents. He or she will keep these during the season if the need arises:

1. IMR Number. The team manager will need a copy of the USA Hockey Registration number or form.
2. WMAHA Code of Conduct. This form identifies the code of conduct expected of all parents, players, coaches, and spectators.
3. USA Hockey Code of Conduct. This is USA Hockey's expectations of all participants.
4. Consent to Treat. This form grants the team manager or coaches the authority to consent to treatment if your player suffers injuries on the ice and you are not available to discuss treatment before critical decisions are to be made. It also informs the team manager of any medical conditions, such as allergies, that may require treatment under certain circumstances.
5. Concussion policy. This form outlines the Utah state law with respect to concussions.

## **VIII. PLAYING UP**

In the past, players have requested an opportunity to "play up," meaning playing at an age level above their USA Hockey specified age group. USA Hockey discourages such a practice as detrimental to the player's development. The Utah Junior Grizzlies will enforce our current policies and procedures on this practice from this point forward. The policies and procedures require a player seeking to play up to submit a formal application to the board 15 days in advance of tryouts. The hockey committee, consisting of all head coaches and the Hockey

Development Director, must determine that the player is among the top 10% of the top team at the target age group.

## **IX. DUAL ASSOCIATION**

We understand players have ample opportunities to play hockey in Utah and given the dearth of players many players are approached to play on more than one team. We believe that growing as a player involves not only development of the player's physical skills, but also learning to be a good teammate and being committed to one's team. Therefore, the Grizzlies require board approval before a player may play for teams other than Utah Junior Grizzlies teams. (The exception is high school which all players must be allowed to play). If your player desires to play on more than one team, please discuss the issue with a board member.

## **X. DUES**

Dues for each team are calculated based upon that particular team's outlook. We assume that each team will be "full," which is defined as 15 skaters and two goalies. If the team takes more players, the cost per player goes down at the end of the season. If fewer players are on the team, the cost per player either goes up or the team must operate within the established revenues.

Dues covers all ice for practices and games, all tournament fees, all soft goods such as jerseys and warmups, tickets for the player and one guest to the end of season banquet, all general expenses and all skills coaches. We try to include all foreseeable costs in the initial budget.

**NO TEAM'S OR PLAYER'S DUES ARE USED TO SUBSIDIZE OR SUPPORT ANY OTHER TEAM WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION. EACH TEAM IS ACCOUNTED FOR AS AN INDIVIDUAL UNIT.**

At the end of the season, all expenses are allocated to the teams and the final accounting is performed. If the team is under budget, the excess is refunded to the parents on a pro-rata basis. This is a unique feature of the Utah Junior Grizzlies and insures that you are paying solely for expenses allocated to your player.

Under the terms of the contract, if the team goes over budget, the members would be responsible for the excess. However, in the past five years, only three teams out of more than 40 went over budget, and those teams were over by less than 1.0%. During January of each season, the treasurer and bookkeeper advise each team of their remaining budget and, where appropriate, operations are curtailed to meet the budget requirements.

Most members of the Utah Junior Grizzlies take advantage of the payment plan which divides the payments into a deposit of \$500 and then six equal payments over six months. Payments can be given to board members or made online at:

<http://www.utahjuniorgrizzlies.com/page/show/903516-make-a-payment>

It is essential that parents and players remain current on dues. The policies and procedures require the team to suspend a player if the dues are overdue by a certain period. Additionally, failure to pay dues may result in a player being added to the state “no play” list which prevents a player from playing from any other organization. If you have problems with dues, please see your team manager or a board member to discuss the issue.

## **XI. SCHOLARSHIPS**

Each year, the Utah Junior Grizzlies awards a certain amount in scholarships. These scholarships are awarded based solely on financial need rather than hockey skill or merit. During the 2016-2017 season, all applicants were awarded financial assistance from the organization. The committee attempts to provide assistance to as many applicants as possible and, therefore, the amount of each award varies by year and by team. Information regarding the scholarship program can be found at:

<http://www.utahjuniorgrizzlies.com/page/show/211964-scholarship-information>

## **XII. MINICAMP**

The Utah Junior Grizzlies begin our season with a minicamp each year the weekend before Labor Day Weekend. The 2018-2019 season minicamp will be held the weekend of August 24-26 at the Salt Lake City Sports Complex (Steiner). Each team has four ice sessions (one Thursday, one Friday, two Saturday) and off-ice activities so the teammates may bond and the coach may begin training and implementation of systems. There will also be a parents meeting with each team during the weekend and learn the coach’s plan for the season in more detail.

## **XIII. PRACTICES**

The rinks generally do not provide our ice schedule until July of each year. However, based on past experience, we expect the 10Us and 12Us will practice on Thursday nights at Cottonwood and Saturday afternoon at Steiner. The third practice will either be on Monday at Cottonwood or Wednesday at County. For the older teams, it is difficult to predict when practices will occur before receipt of the ice schedule.

We attempt to avoid or limit the use of ice on Sunday. However, as ice demands grow, Sunday ice becomes the only way we can ensure our teams have adequate practice weekly. The identity of the teams with Sunday practices will not be known until August. Coaches may add off-ice “dryland” training before or after any practice slot. Moreover, some practice times may be used by the coach for scrimmage games.

All members are reminded to be patient in September. The rinks generally maintain a summer schedule through September which often results in cancellations. Ice may need to be reallocated between teams due to early tournaments or other needs. However, by October 1, the schedule will settle down for the rest of the year.

We expect all parents, players and family members to treat all rinks with utmost respect. This is nothing more than the rinks deserve. Moreover, we practice at the pleasure of these rinks and there is suitable demand that no rink would suffer hardship by excluding us from their facility. The loss of a rink would inevitably result in reducing the number of teams we are able to field.

#### **VX. SKILLS TRAINING**

The Utah Junior Grizzlies has retained three skills coaches to assist with development during the year. Greg Leeb is the professional skating coach and will visit each team twice each month from September through March. Most of Coach Leeb’s drills are designed to help players develop and hone their skating stride. Occasionally, at the request of coaches, Coach Leeb will incorporate drills on stickhandling, shooting, and other aspects of the game.

Todd Brereton is a well-respected hockey coach from Missouri. Coach Brereton will attend the Utah Junior Grizzlies practices during mini-camp and then occasionally through the season. Unlike Coach Leeb, Coach Brereton focuses largely on stickhandling and shooting.

Jeff Levy is the retained goalie coach. He will attend two practices each month with teams to work specifically with the goalies on increasing their skills. Information on all our skills coaches can be found at [utahjuniorgrizzlies.com](http://utahjuniorgrizzlies.com).

#### **XV. LOCKER ROOM POLICY.**

The Utah Junior Grizzlies have adopted a locker room policy which is posted at [utahjuniorgrizzlies.com](http://utahjuniorgrizzlies.com) and is modeled on the USA Hockey suggested policy. This policy requires an adult who has been formally “background checked” to be in the vicinity of the locker room when players are present.

**THIS POLICY ALSO BARS THE USE OF CELL PHONES OR ANY DEVICE WITH AUDIO OR VIDEO CAPABILITIES WITHIN THE LOCKER ROOMS.**

While players may use their cell phones outside the locker rooms, they must not be used for any purpose within locker rooms.

USA Hockey also encourages organizations to adopt policies regarding parents and other non-background checked individuals within locker rooms. For some age groups, players may need assistance dressing or tying skates. Older players are expected to dress and tie their own skates. Here are the current policies in place:

**10U:** Parents allowed entry to dress and undress players.

**12U:** No access except in case of player injury.

**14U:** No access except in case of player injury.

**16U:** No access except in case of player injury.

**18U:** No access except in case of player injury.

All facilities used by the Utah Junior Grizzlies have locker rooms available for female players. Teams may congregate before and after games to discuss team play. However, players at all ages must not commence dressing or undressing until the genders have separated.

## **XVI. DRESS CODE**

The Utah Junior Grizzlies strives to present a professional appearance at all team events. With respect to games, players are expected to wear their warmups and polos when not in their playing gear. Hats not showing the Grizzlies logo are prohibited. Baseball caps are always prohibited.

## **XVII. VOLUNTEERISM**

The Utah Junior Grizzlies is a volunteer run organization. All team managers, board members, and assistant coaches serve without compensation. The success of the organization depends upon the willingness of each member to contribute. As part of our contracts, each member is required to volunteer for 20 hours per year or pay a penalty. There are a number of opportunities to volunteer throughout the year:

- Penalty Box Attendant
- Scorekeeper
- Dryland Coach
- Video coordinator
- Grizz Cup attendant
- Fundraising coordinator

Information on these and other volunteer opportunities is available from your team manager.

### **XVIII. GRIZZ CUP**

Grizz Cup is held each Martin Luther King Day Weekend and is the largest tournament in the Western United States. Grizz Cup 2017 had over 80 teams, 1500 players, 12000 plus attendees during the weekend and a 170 game. All Utah Junior Grizzlies teams participate free of charge. This event not only serves as a fundraiser for the organization, but also allows us to showcase Utah hockey, our wonderful facilities, and the Utah Junior Grizzlies organization. This requires extensive planning and hundreds of hours of volunteer contributions. Your team manager will have more information as the event nears.

### **XIX. BANQUET**

Each year the Utah Junior Grizzlies hosts an annual banquet. Although the date varies due to national tournaments and local school spring break schedules, it is usually held in early April. Each member's dues include two tickets to the event: one for the player and one for a parent. Additional tickets can be purchased online as the banquet approaches. Dress for players is dress pants and their black Utah Junior Grizzlies jersey. Each team is recognized during the event with awards being given for MVP, Unsung Hero, Best Forward, Best Defense, and Most Improved Player.

### **XX. SPRING ICE**

Spring Ice is held between the end of the season and tryouts. Typically, the event is four to seven weeks in length depending upon the date of tryouts. This event not only allows returning players to keep their skills sharp, but also allows new players to meet our coaches and attend sessions which are similar to Utah Junior Grizzlies practices. This allows players to determine whether they would enjoy what can be an intense travel hockey practice and schedule. The cost depends upon the number of sessions but ranges from \$50.00 to \$85.00. The format is skills and is run by Utah Junior Grizzlies coaches of various ages and our skills coaches. Information on Spring Ice is posted at [Utahjuniorgrizzlies.com](http://Utahjuniorgrizzlies.com) in February.

For more information visit: [www.utahjuniorgrizzlies.com](http://www.utahjuniorgrizzlies.com)