

2025-2026 PIHL ASSOCIATION DISCLAIMER

ASSOCIATION NAME: _____

STATE LAW REQUIREMENTS

___ Our association acknowledges receipt of information regarding the Pennsylvania State Background Clearance Law (Act 153 of 2014), which requires comprehensive criminal and child abuse background checks for employees and volunteers who have routine and/or direct contact with children.¹

___ Our association is aware of state laws requiring certified cardiac and concussion training² for all coaches of interscholastic sports teams.³

USA HOCKEY/MIDAM REQUIREMENTS

___ We understand that the USA Hockey insurance policies are comprehensive and cover the membership ONLY when members/teams are playing in sanctioned events authorized by USA Hockey and/or playing against other teams with an approved USA Hockey roster. Other off ice activities should be discussed with the USA Hockey Risk Manager (usahockey.com/Directory) to verify the scope of exposure and any potential coverage gaps that may be present due to the activities being performed. All contracts signed between associations and vendors should also be vetted with the USA Hockey Risk Manager to be in compliance with USA Hockey's insurance policies.

___ By appearing on a USA Hockey Roster (per USA Hockey registration and rostered on a PIHL-registered team), all individuals consent to be a part of all audio and video productions either produced by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League or sanctioned by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League, without requiring compensation. The PIHL has authority to produce -- or authorize production of -- the name, image, and/or likeness of all players and coaches for use on websites, social networks, publications, and similar media at the sole discretion of the PIHL. Our association understands it is our responsibility to inform any of our individuals wishing not to consent to this agreement to contact the PIHL Commissioner's Office.

___ Our association and its members are aware that USA Hockey has ZERO TOLERANCE for abuse and misconduct. The SafeSport Handbook includes the various policies that apply to all USA Hockey Member Programs. In addition to these policies, the SafeSport Handbook includes information about the available and required training of USA Hockey and its Member Programs' employees, volunteers, administrators, coaches, parents and players on recognizing and reducing circumstances for potential abuse to occur; information on USA Hockey's Screening and Background Check Program; the availability and procedures for any person to report suspected abuse or misconduct (including protections from any retaliation or repercussions for such reporting); the procedures and means by which USA Hockey and its Member Programs should respond to allegations of abuse and misconduct; and how USA Hockey and its Member Programs will monitor and supervise the SafeSport Program to help ensure its effectiveness.⁴

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_____ Our association is in compliance the SafeSport Code adopted by the Center for SafeSport and the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook and have provided a signed agreement with the Mid-American Affiliate of USA Hockey.

_____ Our association is aware of the new USA Hockey rules passed at the recent USA Hockey Annual Congress for the 2025-2026 season.⁵ The rule changes, USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy and Rule Emphasis & Standards will be properly communicated to our players, coaches and families in coordination with the PIHL Sportsmanship Initiative.⁶

_____ Our association is aware that all sports are associated with the risk of sustaining a concussion, including playing, officiating or participating in ice hockey. It is important that all participants and parents learn about concussion prevention, recognition, treatment and return to play. USA Hockey provides all participants with information and educational materials about concussions, including the risk of sustaining a concussion, how to minimize these risks, concussion signs and symptoms, and USA Hockey's program for returning to play following a concussion. If a USA Hockey participant reports one or more symptoms of concussion after a blow to the head or body, s/he should be kept out of practice, play or training immediately and referred to a health care professional with experience in concussion management. USA Hockey's Concussion Management Program can be found on the USA Hockey website at: <http://www.usahockey.com/safety-concussions>.

_____ Our association has been informed that guidance from USA Hockey requires all volunteers – including penalty box attendants, board members, scorekeeper and timesheet – are required to have the proper background clearances. Our association is responsible for compliance within our association.

COVID 19

_____ Our association acknowledges: (i) the contagious nature of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), (ii) that COVID-19 has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization, (iii) that the CDC and many other public health authorities still recommend practicing social distancing, (iv) the unprecedented complications and obstacles associated with coordinating and conducting the 2025-2026 PIHL season, and (v) the constantly changing COVID-19 landscape may require interruptions to (or cancellation of) certain parts or all of the 2025-2026 PIHL season, which such decision(s) will be made in the sole discretion of the PIHL Executive Committee.

_____ Our association agrees to: (i) comply with all applicable local, state and federal government laws and guidelines related to (or associated with) the COVID-19 pandemic, and (ii) comply with (and abide by) any and all guidelines, rules and procedures implemented by USAHockey, MidAm Hockey, the PIHL, the applicable rink (both home and away), and the applicable school district (both home and away), related to the COVID-19 pandemic or otherwise.

_____ Our association agrees: (i) to monitor (and disseminate within our association) any changes in these COVID-19 guidelines, rules and procedures, to ensure compliance within our association by our board, coaching staff, players, parents, spectators and invitees, and (ii) that these guidelines, rules and procedures will be followed at all times to ensure the safety of the players, their families and the general public.

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SCHOOL/PIHL REQUIREMENTS

_____ Our association must follow all local, school and state athletic policies and procedures. This includes, but is not limited, to attendance, academic and school suspensions, as well as any other requirements established by the school district representing our association and rules governing the PIHL, the State of Pennsylvania, USA Hockey and MidAm.⁷ These policies include any concussion guidelines and protocols, as well as any other health related requirements established by the school district or the State of Pennsylvania⁸. Our association acknowledges this applies to all our student athletes.

ASSOCIATION SIGN-OFF

Please initial next to each line above to acknowledge consent, sign and date below, and print one copy of this document for each of your Association's "Team Books".

Signature of Association President

Date

Print Name

- 1 <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2014&sessInd=0&act=153>
- 2 <http://www.piaa.org/news/details.aspx?ID=3631>
- 3 <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2011&sessInd=0&act=101>
- 4 <https://www.usahockey.com/safesportprogram>
- 5 <https://www.usahockey.com/rulesandresources>
- 6 <https://www.pihlhockey.com/sportsmanship>
- 7 <https://www.pihlhockey.com/rules>
- 8 [https://www.piaa.org/assets/web/documents/Handbook%20-%20Section%20%20IV%20-%20Sports%20Medicine\(1\).PDF](https://www.piaa.org/assets/web/documents/Handbook%20-%20Section%20%20IV%20-%20Sports%20Medicine(1).PDF)