

PARENT HANDBOOK

2025-2026



NWCHARGERS.ORG

 [NWCHARGERSHOCKEY](https://www.facebook.com/NWCHARGERSHOCKEY)



INTRODUCTION

The Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Hockey Association are not-for-profit youth athletic organization serving the northwest suburbs of Chicago. Our programs consist of Tier II travel teams with an enrollment of over 60 Mite-aged players, more than 300 Squirt through Midget-aged players, and over 100 Future Chargers in learn-to-skate/pre-hockey and our in-house mite program.

This handbook sets forth the basic policies of the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Hockey Association concerning fall and spring travel teams and programs at the U8 (Mite), U10 (Squirt & Girls), U12 (PeeWee & Girls), U14 (Bantam), and U15/U16/U18 (Midget) levels. The fundamental goal underlying these policies is to give the best possible experience to the greatest number of children. While we hope that our teams win their share of games, it is more important that the players develop hockey skills and learn the rewards of teamwork, sportsmanship, and dedicated effort.

The Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Hockey Association is governed by a Board of Directors. Any participant of the Chargers may apply to serve on the Board. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the Mount Prospect Ice Arena at 7:00pm (unless rescheduled by the current Board) and are open to the public. Participants wishing to bring issues before the Board should contact the Secretary to be placed on the agenda by the Friday prior to any meeting.

This handbook is not an exhaustive list of all policies and procedures but rather a compilation of those policies that are likely to be of greatest interest to the parents. The Chargers website is an additional source for organizational, league, and team information. This site has the capability to provide each team with its own game and practice schedule, roster, as well as team news. No individual player or personal information will be allowed on the website for security purposes. This will be the only approved website for all Chargers' teams. Separate team sites will not be allowed or tolerated. Any team in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action by the Rules & Ethics Committee.

Questions about these or other policies of the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers should be addressed to any of the Board Members listed on the website: WWW.NWCHARGERS.ORG/BOARD.





AMATEUR ORGANIZATIONS



USA HOCKEY

www.usahockey.com

USA Hockey is the National Governing Body for the sport of ice hockey in the United States. Its mission is to promote the growth of hockey in America and provide the best possible experience for all participants by supporting the development of grassroots hockey programs. USA Hockey is the official representative of the United States Olympic Committee and the International Ice Hockey Federation. In this role, USA Hockey is responsible for organizing and training men's and women's teams for international tournaments, including the IIHF World Championships and the Olympic Winter Games. USA Hockey also collaborates with the National Hockey League and the National Collegiate Athletic Association on matters of mutual interest. For players, USA Hockey annually conducts regional and national championship tournaments in various age classifications; sponsors regional and national player identification and development camps; studies and makes recommendations for protective equipment; distributes Hat Trick, Playmaker, and Zero Club Awards; and provides an insurance program that includes excess accident, general liability, and catastrophic coverage.

For coaches and officials, USA Hockey conducts clinics and produces training manuals and videos through its Coaching Education and Officiating Education Programs. USA Hockey also promotes uniformity in playing rules and the interpretation of those rules.



AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS (AHAI)

www.ahai.org

The Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois (AHAI) is the governing body for Illinois amateur hockey. AHAI is a sanctioned Illinois affiliate of USA Hockey. AHAI provides governance for pre-mite teams, house league youth teams, youth travel teams, high school teams, senior men's teams, and Junior teams. AHAI is a part of USA Hockey's Central District, which includes Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska.



CENTRAL STATES DEVELOPMENTAL HOCKEY LEAGUE (CSDHL)

www.csdhl.org

The Central States Developmental Hockey League was created for the elite Tier II hockey teams within Illinois and the Central States region. CSDHL is a sanctioned affiliate of USA Hockey. CSDHL allows for competition at the highest-level Tier II play for the Squirt, PeeWee, Bantam, and Midget age classifications.



AMATEUR ORGANIZATIONS



MIDWEST SUPERIOR GIRLS HOCKEY (NIHL)

www.nihl.info

The Northern Illinois Hockey League (NIHL) operates as a highly competitive Tier II league in the geographic area of Northern Illinois. NIHL operates under the auspices of USA Hockey and AHA. NIHL conducts competition for Tier II teams for the Girls classification.



AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION – HOCKEY ILLINOIS

aauhockey.org

AAU has become the fastest-growing ice hockey program in the United States. AAU sanctions Leagues, Tournaments, and Clubs from coast to coast in most states and Ontario, Canada. Classifications include Mini-Mites (6U) through Juniors (20U) and High School leagues.

Hockey Illinois' main purpose is to promote and provide support for full ice hockey for Squirt and Mite-aged hockey players in Illinois. Illinois has emerged as a leading state in AAU hockey participation.



CHICAGO UNITED HOCKEY LEAGUE (CUHL)

www.chicagounitedhockey.com

Responding to market demands and a desire to offer a full-ice Mite hockey experience for its membership, over 30 Chicago area clubs formed a youth hockey league that started in the fall of 2014. The Chicago United Hockey League (CUHL) offers a full season of full-ice hockey beginning in September and concluding with round-robin playoffs in March. The league is an affiliate of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) and AAU Hockey Illinois.

The league offers three levels of travel hockey: Division 1, Division 2, and Division 3. These teams play a full season of 24 games beginning in late September and continuing through to the end of February. The House Division offers a 15-game season beginning slightly later in October. All League play will conclude with a round-robin playoff format.



COMMITMENT

TEAM SELECTION & ICE POLICIES

Players are selected to Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers travel teams following an evaluation/tryout process. Tryouts begin August 15th for Girls and Midget-aged players, and August 16th for Squirts, PeeWees, and Bantam-aged players. All players must register for tryouts regardless of the number of sessions attended. Team selection is a coaching decision with management and oversight by the Hockey Director(s). Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers tryout sessions are open to the public; however, the coaching staff will not be available for discussions during the tryouts. Players may be cut at any time, and team selection may occur as early as the first day of tryouts. Questions concerning team selection decisions should first be addressed by the appropriate coach and then the Hockey Director(s).

A player's ice time during games is not guaranteed and is at the discretion of the team coaching staff. There is no correlation between ice time and the Chargers' and Jr. Chargers' fees, and fees will not be prorated based on player ice time. Questions concerning a player's ice time should be addressed to the coaching staff.

Only rostered Chargers and Jr. Chargers team members and registered coaches may take the ice during a Chargers and Jr. Chargers ice slot. Non-rostered parents and siblings, whether younger or older, may not participate in Chargers practices even if the sibling is a member of another Chargers and Jr. Chargers team. Former and present Chargers and Jr. Chargers may not help out as "Assistant Coaches" for another team unless they are registered under the USA Hockey Student Coaching program. AAU/USA Hockey, as well as the Chargers and Jr. Chargers, will not assume liability for the expense of an injury to an unauthorized player/parent/coach. Additionally, AAU/USA Hockey may revoke coverage for the entire team or hockey club. All coaching staff on the ice during practices must wear a helmet. Coaches and Managers must see that this rule is strictly enforced. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action by the Rules & Ethics Committee.

Being selected for a travel team requires a much higher level of commitment than house league and, indeed, most other recreational activities. Families should carefully abide by the following policies.

OUT-OF-AGE LEVEL PLAYERS

It is the policy of the Northwest Jr. Chargers Hockey Association that players must play on a team within the age classifications as outlined by CUHL for the 2025-26 season (birth years 2017, 2018, 2019). A player is not allowed to play up at the Squirt level.

It is the policy of the Northwest Chargers Hockey Association that players who play on any Charger-sponsored team must play at their appropriate age level. For the birth year designated teams (primarily CSDHL teams), this means within the same birth year. For the CSDHL Prospect and Girls NIHL teams, birth years may be mixed-aged if they fall within the age classification as outlined by USA Hockey for the upcoming season. A player who wishes to play up a level may petition the Chargers Board of Directors for an exception to this policy if done so in writing on or before March 1 for the Spring season and on or before August 1 for the Fall season, with a statement of reasons as to why the player is unable to play for an anticipated coach or team. It shall require a 2/3 vote of the Board to allow an exception to this policy. A player playing up a level must be selected for and play on the highest team within that level. For the Board to consider this request, the Coaching Staff and Hockey Director(s) must be in full support.

ABSENCES

Attendance at practice and games is **mandatory**. The only excused absences are for health reasons, required school activities, and family emergencies. Parents or players should notify the coach or manager before any absence in accordance with team-specific rules. The Head Coach, along with the Hockey Director, will establish and enforce written rules concerning the consequences for unexcused absences. These rules, as well as any other rules concerning disciplinary matters, shall be applied consistently to all players.



COMMITMENT

PARTICIPATION

By participating on a travel team, each participant agrees to full participation in all aspects of the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers program, including team-approved tournaments and CUHL, NIHL, AHAI, and CSDHL tournaments.

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

The organization is proud to offer one-of-a-kind jerseys and custom equipment, helping to create a sense of pride in how our players look, both on and off the ice. It is your responsibility to maintain the appearance of your players' uniforms throughout the season. Failure to keep the game jerseys and socks in presentable condition may result in a player not being eligible for game play.

In addition to standard hockey equipment (shoulder pads, shin guards, cup and supporter, hockey gloves, hockey skates, helmet, and hockey pants), all players of Squirts to Midget age are required to wear neck guards, and all players of PeeWee to Midget age are required to wear mouth guards.

Jersey & Socks

- **Please check your Player's Jerseys NOW to ensure they'll fit for the upcoming season.**
- For players new to Chargers, or current players who need a replacement set, they must attend the jersey fitting session to ensure uniforms arrive by the start of the fall season. Please see the website for the uniform fitting dates.
- If the player has a set of game jerseys from last season that still fit and are in presentable condition, they may use that set again this year. Returning players may use last year's game socks only if they are not discolored or ripped. Socks are on sale all season at Jerry's Hockey. Light blue knit socks will be provided to rostered players to be worn at practice.
- NOTE: Jersey numbers are assigned by year of birth. Odd birth years have odd numbers, even birth years use even numbers. Numbers chosen at the jersey fittings are based on availability. No exceptions.

Helmets

- All players will be required to wear a navy blue helmet.
- Helmet stickers will be issued at the start of the season and are to be applied following the NWC Helmet Sticker Guide. No other stickers are permitted on helmets.

Gloves

- All players will be required to wear navy blue gloves.
- All players on CSDHL birth year teams (Major/Minor) are required to wear custom Northwest Chargers Bauer gloves.

Hockey Pants/Shells

- All players will be required to wear navy blue pants.
- All Squirt through Midget and Girls players will be required to wear the custom Northwest Chargers shell.

Equipment Bags

- All players on CSDHL birth year teams (Major/Minor) are required to have a custom Northwest Chargers equipment bag.

Custom Bauer Warm-Ups

- Bauer Warm-Ups (jacket & jogger/pants) are optional at the Mite level.
- Bauer Warm-Ups (jacket & jogger/pants) will be required for all Squirt, PeeWee, Bantam, and Girls players.
- Bauer Warm-Up jackets are required for all Midget players.



COMMITMENT

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Player Fee Schedule

Following the tryout process, and once the players are placed on a team, you will receive a second registration link to set up your player fee schedule for the fall season. You will have 24 hours to register to secure your player's roster spot or another player may be moved up as a replacement. Players are not allowed on the ice until they are officially registered. All fees include a 3% credit card service charge.

Tryout Season Deposit

This is a non-refundable season deposit. This will be charged to the payment information on file on the first day of the level respective tryouts (or paid at time of tryout registration if the registrant chooses to pay in full). This deposit will be applied to the total season fee for the team the player has been assigned to during the team-specific registration tryouts. If a player chooses to leave the Chargers program after team placements have been determined, this deposit is non-refundable. In the event that a player is cut from our program, this season's deposit is fully refunded. If a player decides NOT to tryout for the Chargers you must notify Pete Carcione in advance of the first day of tryouts to be eligible for cancellation of your season deposit, minus a \$25 processing charge if the season fee is paid in full.

Your Player Fee Includes

- Four home ice slots per week including power skating skills (Mites-Bantams), two ice slots per week and optional skills (Girls), two extended ice slots (Midgets) plus a skills session twice a month
- Weekly dryland training with HPI (Squirts-Midgets)
- Weekly goalie clinics with Gould Goaltending Goalie School
- AHAI and team league fees (CUHL, CSDHL, NIHL)
- EMT fees for CSDHL Bantam and Midget teams
- Coaching staff salaries
- Practice socks and a dry-fit t-shirt

In addition, a team fund will be determined by the Coach and or Team Manager once tournament activity is finalized and managed at the team level. NOTE: the Chargers do not require or include a volunteer fee in our costs.

Tryout Payment Details

	^A TRYOUT FEE	*SEASON DEPOSIT
Mites	\$195.00	\$500.00
Squirts-Bantams	\$295.00	\$1,000.00
Girls	\$295.00	\$0.00
Midgets	\$350.00	\$0.00

ALL CHARGES WILL INCLUDE
A 3% CREDIT CARD FEE

^ANON-REFUNDABLE AT ALL LEVELS. DUAL ROSTER GIRLS PLAYERS MUST REGISTER AND PAY A \$295.00 FEE FOR THE GIRLS TEAM, AND THE FEE FOR THE CO-ED TEAM WILL BE WAIVED.
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS LICHTERMAN FOR A DISCOUNT CODE.

Season Payment Options

*SEASON DEPOSIT	The season deposit is part of the tryout registration for Mite through Bantam Co-Ed Players . This Season Deposit, while paid at time of Tryout Registration applies to the Season Fees. This amount will be collected on August 15th (or at time of tryout registration if the registrant selects the 'Pay in Full' option) and is non-refundable at that point.
FULL PLAN (1X)	Full payment of the Season Fee at time of Registration.
TWO-TIME PLAN (2X)	Payment of the Season fee divided into 2 equal payments: Mites - Bantams & Girls: 10/1/25 and 12/15/25. Midgets: Time of Registration and 11/15/2025
MONTHLY PLAN (5X)	Payment of the Season Fee divided into 5 equal payments on monthly basis: Mites - Bantams & Girls: 9/15/25, 10/15/25, 11/15/25, 12/15/25, 1/15/26 Midgets: Time of Registration, 9/15/25, 10/15/25, 11/15/25, 12/15/25



COMMITMENT

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS (CONT)

Fee Payment Plans

- Cash or check paid in full on the last day of tryouts.
- One credit/debit or ACH payment online at team registration for the full payment.
- Two equal payments as indicated on the previous page. Credit/debit payments will post on the dates listed above.
- Five equal payments as indicated on the previous page. Credit/debit payments will post on the dates listed above.

Payments will post to the Credit/Debit card or debited from the bank account via ACH on the dates outlined above. All credit card charges will include a 3% processing fee. Credit/Debit cards must not expire within the time frame of the payment structure. You are responsible for keeping a current credit card. If a card is declined, a \$35 NSF fee will be applied. Players who do not have payments submitted by the team registration deadline will be denied access to the ice and all team activity. Late payments, denied credit/debit card charges, or unpaid balances during the season may result in the player being suspended from the ice. In addition, under the rules and regulations outlined by AHAI, which is the governing body of amateur hockey in Illinois, the Northwest Chargers may file for Financial Suspension. This will suspend the player involved for nonpayment within any AHAI-sanctioned hockey club.

*The season deposit is part of the tryout registration for **Mite through Bantam Co-Ed Players**. This Season Deposit, while paid at time of Tryout Registration applies to the Season Fees. This amount will be collected on August 15th (or at time of tryout registration if the registrant selects the 'Pay in Full' option) and is non-refundable at that point.

Season Payment Details

	TOTAL SEASON FEE	*SEASON DEPOSIT	FULL PLAN (1X)	TWO-TIME PLAN (2X)	MONTHLY PLAN (5X)
Mites (Jr. Chargers)	\$3,950.00	\$500.00	\$3,450.00	\$1,725.00	\$690.00
Squirt Major & Minor	\$5,450.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,450.00	\$2,225.00	\$890.00
Squirt Prospects	\$4,600.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,600.00	\$1,800.00	\$720.00
PeeWee Major & Minor	\$5,765.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,765.00	\$2,382.50	\$953.00
PeeWee Prospects	\$5,150.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,150.00	\$2,075.00	\$830.00
Bantam Major	\$6,180.00	\$1,000.00	\$5,180.00	\$2,590.00	\$1,036.00
Bantam Prospects	\$5,850.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,850.00	\$2,425.00	\$970.00
Midget U15	\$6,200.00	\$0.00	\$6,200.00	\$3,100.00	\$1,240.00
Midget U15/U16 Prospects	\$5,850.00	\$0.00	\$5,850.00	\$2,925.00	\$1,170.00
Midget U18 Prospects	\$5,850.00	\$0.00	\$5,850.00	\$2,925.00	\$1,170.00
Girls 10U	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00	\$800.00	\$320.00
Girls 10U (Dual Roster)	\$500	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$100.00
Girls 12U	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00	\$800.00	\$320.00
Girls 12U (Dual Roster)	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$100.00

Goalie Discount

All goaltenders will receive a discount of \$1,000 off their player fee. To qualify for the discount, the player will need to dress as a goalie (i.e. not a forward) for half (or more) of the games. Players who serve as occasional goalie substitutes but who play primarily as Skaters will not qualify.

Multi-Player Discount

Any family, who has two players registered with the Northwest Chargers, will receive a 5% discount on the lowest fee. If you have 3 or more players, you will receive 10% off the next lowest fee. Discounts for players will be applied as a credit to the credit card on file by December 1, 2025.



COMMITMENT

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS *(CONT)*

Injury Policy Refund

Medical-related injuries and illnesses will be considered on an individual basis for possible proration of fees once a player has missed 8 consecutive weeks of the season. Pro-ration, if granted, will begin after the 8th week. No refunds will be granted for injuries that occur after December 31st of the fall season. Prior to a skater returning to his/her team, a medical release must be provided by the attending physician.

Any family wishing to pursue an injury-related refund must complete the [INJURY REFUND REQUEST FORM](#), which can be found on the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers website. If you have questions about this policy, contact the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Treasurer.

Team Funds

A Team Fund is a monetary fund established at the beginning of the season by the head coach and team manager based on the number of local and out-of-state tournaments the team shall attend and to cover team expenses that are not covered by a player's season fees. Included, but not limited to, tournament entry fees, referee and ice fees for scrimmages, coach's lodging for out-of-town tournaments where a free coach's room is not available or attainable, coaches per diem out of town, team meals for players, practice jerseys, coaches' gifts, raffle baskets, etc. Each player shall be responsible for the payment of their proportionate share of the team fund within the timeframe established by the team manager. All players on a team are expected to participate and pay their equal and proportionate share of the team fund, regardless of the player's participation. The manager shall track all expenses paid through the team fund under the supervision of the club's Treasurer. Any unspent funds shall be refunded to the players after the season, along with a final accounting.

Each team manager will be given access to an online bank account for their chosen team. The account will begin with a \$10 balance, and at the end of the season, this account must conclude with this \$10 balance. For security purposes, this account is to be maintained online only, and paper checks/checkbooks will not be issued. Since each team has its own account, no manager or team parent shall mix personal money with team funds. Questions concerning team checking accounts should be directed to the Chargers and Jr. Chargers Treasurer.

The Team Fund may not be used for souvenirs unless every member of the team agrees and they all receive the same souvenir. If the team agrees to hold a team party, money can be used for the player's portion only when all players are in attendance. All family members and friends who attend the party must pay their share separately. Restaurant or out-of-town meals can only cover the player's portion of the bill. All others must pay separately. Money cannot be used to pay for alcohol at any time.

If a deposit or full payment for a tournament is required prior to the Team Fund being established, the Chargers and Jr. Chargers will front the cost, to be later reimbursed by the Team Fund. No payments on personal credit cards will be allowed.

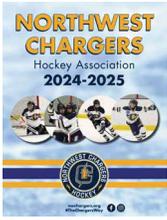
The team manager will provide the team's parents and the Charger and Jr. Chargers Treasurer with a financial statement of their Team Fund accounts twice during the season: in November and at the conclusion of the season.



FEE REDUCTIONS

Below is a summary of the fundraising opportunities available this season. With a variety of options to choose from, we hope at least one will be a good fit for your family. If any additional opportunities arise, we'll be sure to keep you informed via email.

Have fundraising questions? Don't hesitate to get in touch with Nicole Ciesla at sponsorship@nwchargers.org



SPONSORSHIP BOOK

Deadline: 10/30/25

- Purchase an advertisement of varying sizes to be included in our yearly sponsorship book.
- 100% of the cost of the ad is returned to the player via the Team Fund.
- The sponsorship book includes the team photos and Chargers accolades.
- Distribution: The book is sent electronically to our mailing list (~4,000 people), promoted on social media, and advertised on our website. This is a great opportunity to highlight your business.
- Visit nwchargers.org/fundraising for more information, ad costs, sizes, and required copy.



LOU MALNATI'S FROZEN PIZZA COUPONS

Deadline: 10/10/25

- Pre-sell frozen pizza certificates; seller delivers all certificates to purchasers.
- Players earn \$10 for each pizza sold. (Selling at \$20 per pizza)
- Each coupon is good for **one 9" frozen Deep Dish pizza** (cheese, sausage, pepperoni, or spinach ONLY) to be picked up by customers at any Lou Malnati's location, including Arizona, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Good for 6 months. The expiration date will be at the bottom of the coupon. The gluten-free option is excluded.
- Complete the order form and return it by **October 10th**.
- One check must be made to the Northwest Chargers for the entire order amount.



FOOTBALLMANIA

Deadline: 10/31/25

A fun game built around the first 10 weeks of the NFL season – no skill required!

No need to pick teams or predict winners!

- All tickets are available electronically.
- Tickets sell for \$20 each; the Player gets \$14 for every ticket sold, a 65% profit.
- Chargers are guaranteed to have at least one winning ticket each week based on the entire order of sold tickets.
- Winners are contacted by email, and winnings are sent via Zelle.
- Ten Week Tickets
- To sell tickets, you must first create an account, which is located towards the end of this page: www.charitymania.com/give/GFOOA



TEAM MANAGERS

Head Coaches will select a Team Manager at the start of the season to manage the team communication, do the game scheduling, manage the team calendar, manage the team fund account, and serve as the liaison between parent and coaching staff. Below is an extensive list of possible managerial duties during the season. These can be done by a single volunteer, or multiple. The NWC Board offers training and resources in every area for all Managers at the beginning and during the season:

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Get AAU/USAH SafeSport certified and pass USAH background check (\$35 cost) - MANDATORY
- Send regular communication to families (weekly preferred)
- Work with the ice scheduler as needed for revised ice times and conflicts
- Coordinate volunteers for all games and tournaments (scoresheet/Gamesheet, scoreboard, penalty box, music, etc)
- Organize bag drop-off and assign an adult chaperone to walk the team to/from Dryland (Squirts-Midgets & Girls)
- Maintain team fund report (keep updated, track receipts, receive/send payments, collect team fund payments, reimburse coaches, verify that report and bank balances match) and report to Treasurer
- Send pictures/posts to the designated marketing person for social media
- Verify scheduled referees for home games (Squirts-Midgets & Girls)
- Communicate information and help organize club events (Picture Day, Chargers Day, Players' Banquet, etc.)
- Organize Chargers Day team gift basket
- Distribute jerseys/warm-ups/spirit wear to families when they arrive

OPTIONAL (IF REQUESTED BY COACH OR FAMILIES)

- Order practice jerseys
- Register for (and maybe help the coach find) tournaments
- Organize and schedule scrimmages and request referee officials
- Organize team activities (meals, team-building, activities, team parties)
- Purchase coaches' gifts from families (holidays/EOS)



TOURNAMENT & TRAVEL

In addition to regularly scheduled league gameplay in the Chicago United Hockey League (CUHL), Midwest Superior Girls Hockey (NIHL), or the Central States Developmental Hockey League (CSDHL), parents should expect that teams will participate in AAU/USA Hockey-sanctioned tournaments (both locally and out of town), and out-of-town non-league, non-tournament games. Out-of-town non-league games that are not played as part of a tournament shall be considered as one (1) trip (i.e. - an overnight trip to Madison, Wisconsin for non-tournament, non-league games where two games are played on Saturday, and one game on Sunday shall only count as one (1) trip). The total number of tournaments and out of town, non-league games shall be governed by the Chargers and Jr. Chargers travel policy.

This policy does not apply to any regularly scheduled league gameplay in the Midwest Superior Girls Hockey (NIHL) or the Central States Developmental Hockey League (CSDHL), including required Central States Showcases. This policy also does not include any local, non-league game. A local non-league game shall be considered any Illinois-based non-league games played against teams that are not subject to the "Peoria Rule" as defined and more fully set forth in the By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of the Central States Developmental Hockey League (CSDHL).

AAU SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS/OUT OF TOWN NON-LEAGUE GAMES (MITES)

For all Mite teams, the maximum number of tournaments and out of town, non-league games which any team may participate in during a season without obtaining Board of Director approval is four (4). In determining the maximum number of allowable tournaments and out-of-town, non-league games in which a team may participate without Board of Director approval, the following two categories for tournaments and out-of-town, non-league games will be used:

- A. Local Tournaments or Games: Any tournament within the Chicago metropolitan area not requiring an overnight hotel stay.
- B. Out-of-Town Tournaments and Non-League Games: Any United States-based tournament or out-of-town non-league games held would require an overnight hotel stay and possibly air travel for the coaches and players.

A head coach may commit their team to any one of the following combinations of tournaments and out-of-town, non-league games without Board of Director approval:

- 1. Up to and including two (2) out-of-town tournaments or non-league games and up to and including two (2) local tournaments
- 2. Up to and including one (1) out-of-town tournament or non-league game, and up to and including three (3) local tournaments
- 3. Up to and including four (4) local tournaments



TOURNAMENT & TRAVEL

USA HOCKEY-SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS/OUT-OF-TOWN NON-LEAGUE GAMES (SQUIRTS-MIDGET)

For Squirt-Bantam Major/Minor & All Midget CSDHL teams, the maximum number of tournaments and out of town, non-league games which any team may participate in during a season without obtaining Board of Director approval is five (5). For all remaining teams, the maximum number of tournaments and out of town, non-league games which any team may participate in during a season without obtaining Board of Director approval is four (4). In determining the maximum number of allowable tournaments and out-of-town, non-league games in which a team may participate without Board of Directors approval, the following two categories for tournaments and out-of-town, non-league games will be used:

- A. **Local Tournaments or Games:** Any tournament within the Chicago metropolitan area not requiring an overnight hotel stay. Local non-league games are not included nor subject to calculation in this category and shall be defined as any Illinois-based non-league games against teams that are not subject to the "Peoria Rule" as defined and more fully set forth in the By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of the Northern Illinois Hockey League (NIHL).
- B. **Out of Town Tournaments and Non-League Games:** Any United States-based tournament or out-of-town non-league games held would require an overnight hotel stay and possibly air travel for the coaches and players.

A head coach may commit their team to any one of the following combinations of tournaments and out-of-town, non-league games without Board of Director approval:

CSDHL Major/Minor Teams & Midgets:

1. Up to and including three (3) out-of-town tournaments or non-league games and up to and including two (2) local tournaments
2. Up to and including two (2) out-of-town tournaments or non-league games and up to and including three (3) local tournaments
3. Up to and including one (1) out-of-town tournament or non-league game and up to and including four (4) local tournaments
4. Up to and including five (5) local tournaments

Squirt-Bantam Prospect Teams and NIHL Girls Teams:

1. Up to and including two (2) out-of-town tournaments or non-league games and up to and including two (2) local tournaments
2. Up to and including one (1) out-of-town tournament or non-league game and up to and including three (3) local tournaments
3. Up to and including four (4) local tournaments

Participation in any tournament games or scrimmage games during the season must not exceed the out-of-tier restrictions as set forth by AHAI in Article 11 of the [AHAJ RULES & REGULATIONS](#):

- 18U, 16U, 15U: no more than 50% outside tier level
- 14U: no more than 50% outside tier level
- 12U: no more than 50% outside tier level
- 10U: no more than 50% outside tier level

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

In addition to any requirements set forth above, any international tournament travel will require an international travel permit (at the Team's expense) and shall require approval by the Board of Directors at least two weeks prior to the first date of the tournament. The approval process shall be the same as set forth in the "Board of Director Approval Process" paragraph listed below. Please see the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois (AHAJ) Guidebook for any associated international travel permit requirements.



TOURNAMENT & TRAVEL

BOARD OF DIRECTOR APPEAL PROCESS

Participation in additional tournaments and/or out-of-town non-league games greater than or in different combinations than the choices listed above is allowable with the specific approval of the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Board of Directors. Such approval shall only be sought after the head coach and/or team manager has given notice of the intention to seek approval for additional and/or a different combination of tournaments and out-of-town, non-league games to each parent on the affected team, specifically describing the dates and locations of the proposed tournaments and/or out of town, non-league games, with a copy of said notice provided to the President and Secretary of the Board of Directors. The request for approval of additional and/or a different combination of tournaments and/or out-of-town, non-league games shall then be placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meeting so long as the request is received at least one (1) week prior to the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meeting. Within seventy-two hours (72) after the request for approval is submitted, each parent of the affected team shall be contacted by the President and/or Secretary of the Board of Directors to seek any private comments in support of or against the request and to invite them to attend the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting at which the request for approval shall be heard to offer public comment in support of or against the request. The head coach and team manager must attend the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meeting to present the request for approval to the Board of Directors and to answer any questions related thereto. Failure to attend by either the head coach or team manager shall cause the Board of Directors to neither consider nor vote upon the request for approval.

USA HOCKEY TRAVEL POLICY

Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Hockey Association adheres to the USA Hockey travel policies to guide our travel, minimize one-on-one interactions, and reduce the risk of abuse or misconduct. Adherence to these travel guidelines will increase player safety and improve the player's experience while keeping travel a fun and enjoyable experience. The USA Hockey Travel policy can be found on the website or at the following link: [NWC/USAH TRAVEL POLICY](#)

UNSUPERVISED MINORS

No player is allowed to travel unsupervised out of town. Managers will be given parent consent forms to be filed for any player who might be traveling with another family out of town. This consent form must have the parent's signature and insurance information. For players with extended families, it is required that both parents provide signatures agreeing to the out-of-town travel. A copy of this consent form must be given to the team manager and a copy will be retained by the Registrar. [UNSUPERVISED MINOR TRAVEL REQUEST](#)

TRAVEL TOURNAMENT EXPENSES

The allowable costs/expenses for any tournaments or out-of-town non-league games specifically permitted under the Travel Policy or otherwise approved by the Board of Directors shall be divided and born equally by the total number of players on the affected team and handled via the Team Fund, regardless of whether or not an individual player attends or participates in the tournament or out of town, non-league game. The lone exception shall be for instances in which a player is injured and unable to play.

Managers have a responsibility to the families on the team to keep these expenses to a minimum, both for the team and for the coaching staff. Reimbursable expenses are those incurred on tournament or game days only unless a team is scheduled to play before noon or a team must fly the day prior. In such cases, expenses for dinner and lodging the night before will be reimbursable.



TOURNAMENT & TRAVEL

TRAVEL TOURNAMENT EXPENSES (CONT)

Hotel Rooms

Head Coach: Each team is responsible for providing/paying for a room for one head coach. If the room is "comped" by the hotel, then the coach receives the room at no charge. If the head coach has a player on another team that is attending the same tournament, then the coach still receives a room paid for by the team he/she coaches. However, for the coach to receive the room at no cost, the coach **MUST** attend all team games, meals, and meetings during the course of the tournament for the team he/she coaches. If the coach is unable to attend all functions for his/her team, then the coach is responsible for the cost of the room regardless of whether the room is "comped" or not. Teams are not responsible for any of the coaches' personal expenditures, such as phone calls, movies, video games, alcohol, etc.

Assistant Coaches: Each team is responsible for providing/paying for one room for all assistant coaches to share. If an assistant coach has a player on the team, then the team is not required to pay any room costs for that assistant coach. Teams are not responsible for any of the assistant coaches' personal expenditures, such as phone calls, movies, video games, alcohol, etc.

Bus Trips

The cost of the bus should be divided by the number of people using the bus (excluding the coaches), not by the number of families attending or the number of players on the team. Thus, the total cost per family would be the cost per person times the number of each family using the bus. When taking a bus out of town, the team should pay for the driver's room and meals unless it is written in the bus contract. You should also include a tip for the driver at the end of the trip. If there are multiple drivers, each driver should receive a tip.

Air Travel

If the team will be traveling by air out of town, the coaches' air fare will be paid for by the team.

Coaches per Diems

Coaches' expenses should be reimbursed up to the following maximums when substantiated by receipts and cannot include alcohol:

Mileage	\$0.70 per mile* or car rental (whichever is the least expensive)
Food (maximums)	Breakfast \$10.00
	Lunch \$15.00
	Dinner \$25.00
	Full Day \$50.00 (must produce receipts)

**Subject to change 01/01/2026*

TEAM APPAREL

The Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers offer Chargers Spirit Wear, such as hoodies, golf shirts, t-shirts, athletic shirts, hats, etc., through the website. There are numerous other items available. Teams should place all orders for team apparel through the website, as this clothing has been approved by the board. The Chargers logo is a registered trademark and will not be allowed to be used on unapproved spirit wear. Any unauthorized use of the logo will be subject to legal and disciplinary action by the Chargers Rules & Ethics Committees. Special orders by the team are available through the Board's Apparel representative.



RULES & ETHICS POLICIES

ZERO TOLERANCE

The Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Zero Tolerance Policy affords all participants direction in developing self-discipline, leadership, integrity, and a healthy attitude and respect for rules and regulations. All persons associated with the Chargers and Jr. Chargers must understand that situations will arise during the course of the season that might be upsetting; however, all must work through these occasions to set an example for the entire organization and the sport of hockey.

Parents are required to review and sign a copy of the Zero Tolerance Policy during the registration process, which outlines the specific conduct prohibited and the possible consequences of violating the policy. The Zero Tolerance Policy is also posted on the Charger website at the following link: [ZERO TOLERANCE](#)

Our position is that abusive or excessive behavior by any Charger and Jr. Charger parent, guardian, coach, manager, team official, or player will not be tolerated. Any violation of this policy constitutes conduct detrimental to hockey and makes the participant subject to disciplinary action, with possible suspension by the Chargers Rules & Ethics Committee. All violations are also subject to review by the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee.

Any person with a zero-tolerance violation has the option of accepting the disciplinary action or has five (5) days in which to notify the Rules & Ethics Chairmen to request a hearing. Any disciplinary action will be valid until such a hearing is held. Rules & Ethics will make its best effort to conduct a requested hearing within 10 days. Upon receiving the results of the hearing, you will have further right of appeal to the entire Northwest Charger and Jr. Chargers Board of Directors at its next scheduled board meeting. Please be aware if you appeal your decision, your discipline may be reduced, kept the same or increased.

PLAYER/PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Northwest Chargers Hockey is committed to creating and maintaining a sports community and participation environment where all persons who participate can work and learn together in an atmosphere free from all forms of emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct, including harassment, hazing, and bullying. Furthermore, Northwest Chargers Hockey does not permit harassment, intimidation or bullying against its participants, employees, coaches, trainers, team staff, medical or paramedical personnel, administrators, officials or other athlete support personnel, or volunteers by anyone, including managers, supervisors, co-workers, executives, directors, officers, other persons, vendors, or third parties. Protected status includes race, color, age, religion, marital status, sex, ancestry, national origin, citizenship, veteran's status, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, protected activity, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law.

Any violation of these policies by a player or parent may result in disciplinary action and potential expulsion from the club.

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying

No person involved in any way with Northwest Chargers Hockey programs, including participants, employees, coaches, trainers, team staff, medical or paramedical personnel, administrators, officials or other athlete support personnel, or volunteers, shall harass, intimidate, or bully a participant or other person involved in a Northwest Chargers Hockey program on the basis of actual or perceived: race; color; national origin; sex; sexual orientation; veteran's status; pregnancy; gender identity; gender-related identity or expression; ancestry; age; religion; physical or mental disability; association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics; or any other distinguishing characteristic or characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law. Northwest Chargers Hockey will not tolerate harassing, intimidating conduct, or bullying whether verbal, physical, sexual, or visual, that affects the tangible benefits of participation, that unreasonably interferes with a participant's ability to participate in the program or his/her performance, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening, or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above. This policy applies to behavior conducted online or distributed electronically using email, text messages or any other electronic medium, including without limitation, blogs, web postings, chats and social networking sites.



RULES & ETHICS POLICIES

ZERO TOLERANCE

PLAYER/PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT *(CONT)*

Harassment

Prohibited harassment includes repeated and/or severe conduct that (a) causes fear, humiliation, or annoyance, (b) offends or degrades, (c) creates a hostile environment, or (d) reflects discriminatory bias in an attempt to establish dominance, superiority or power over an individual based on a protected characteristic as described above; or (e) any act or conduct described as harassment under federal or state law.

Sexual Harassment or Misconduct

Sexual harassment and sexual misconduct includes harassment of a sexual nature or based on sex by any employee, coach, trainer, team staff member, medical or paramedical personnel, administrator, official or other athlete support personnel, volunteer, participant, or other person involved in a Northwest Chargers Hockey program toward a participant or other person involved in a Northwest Chargers Hockey program and is strictly prohibited by Northwest Chargers Hockey. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, (a) sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical behaviors of a sexual nature; or (b) conduct which is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive and objectively offensive that it negatively affects a person's performance, participation, or work. Prohibited sexual misconduct includes, but is not limited to, any intentional bodily contact of a sexual nature, however slight, whether clothed or unclothed, of a person's intimate body parts with any object or body part. Non-contact behaviors of a sexual nature are prohibited by Northwest Chargers Hockey and this policy and include: behaviors which expose a person to a sexual situation; sexual comments, sexually explicit photographs; or filming, taking or disseminating photographs of a sexual nature.

Emotional Misconduct

Emotional misconduct in all forms is prohibited. Emotional misconduct is a pattern of deliberate, non-contact behavior that has the potential to cause emotional or psychological harm to another person. Non-contact behaviors include verbal acts, physical acts, or acts that deny attention or support; or any act or conduct described as emotional abuse or misconduct under federal or state law. Emotional misconduct is determined by the objective behaviors, not whether harm is intended or results from the behavior.

Emotional misconduct does not include professionally-accepted coaching methods of skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building, appropriate discipline or improving athletic performance.

Physical Misconduct

Physical misconduct in all forms is prohibited. Physical misconduct is defined as contact or non-contact conduct that results in, or reasonably threatens to cause physical harm to another person; or any act or conduct described as physical abuse or misconduct under federal or state law (e.g. child abuse, child neglect, assault). Physical misconduct does not include professionally-accepted coaching methods of skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building, appropriate discipline or improving athletic performance. For example, hitting and punching are well-regulated forms of contact in combat sports, but have no place in hockey.

Hazing

Hazing in all forms is prohibited. Hazing is defined as coercing, requiring, forcing or willfully tolerating any humiliating, unwelcome or dangerous activity that serves as a condition for (a) joining a group or (b) being socially accepted by a group's members. Hazing does not include group or team activities that (a) are meant to establish normative team behaviors or (b) promote team cohesion.



RULES & ETHICS POLICIES

ZERO TOLERANCE

PLAYER/PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT *(CONT)*

Bullying

Bullying in all forms is prohibited. Bullying is defined as an intentional, persistent and repeated pattern of committing or willfully tolerating physical and non-physical behaviors that are intended, or have the reasonable potential, to cause fear, humiliation or physical harm in an attempt to socially exclude, diminish or isolate the target(s). Bullying does not include group or team behaviors that (a) are meant to establish normative team behaviors, or (b) promote team cohesion.

Forms of prohibited bullying conduct can be:

- Physical conduct such as hitting, pushing, punching, beating, biting, striking, kicking, choking, spitting or slapping; throwing objects such as sporting equipment at another person.
- Verbal conduct such as teasing, ridiculing, taunting, name-calling or intimidating or threatening to cause someone harm.
- Social conduct, including cyberbullying, such as using rumors or false statements about someone to diminish that person's reputation; using electronic communications, social media or other technology to harass, frighten, intimidate or humiliate someone; socially excluding someone and asking others to do the same.
- Conduct based on sex or gender, such as teasing, ridiculing or taunting based on gender or sexual orientation (real or implied), gender traits or behavior or teasing someone about their looks or behavior as it relates to sexual attractiveness.

Making a Complaint; Enforcement

Participants, employees, coaches, trainers, team staff, medical or paramedical personnel, administrators, officials or other athlete support personnel, and volunteers, are encouraged to report claims or incidences of bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, or any other prohibited conduct to the Northwest Chargers Hockey Rules & Ethics Chairperson. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to investigate and to inform the alleged victim of misconduct of the outcome of any investigation. Any person who makes a good faith complaint will not be disciplined and/or retaliated against.

USA Hockey Code of Conduct

- No swearing or abusive language on the bench, in the rink, or at any team function.
- No lashing out at any official no matter what the call is. The coaching staff will handle all matters pertaining to officiating.
- Anyone who receives a penalty will skate directly to the penalty box.
- Fighting will not be tolerated. Fighting will result in an appearance before the Discipline Committee.
- There will be no drinking, smoking, chewing of tobacco or use of illegal substance at any team function.
- I will conduct myself in a befitting manner at all facilities (ice rink, hotel, restaurant, etc.) during all team functions.
- Any player or team official who cannot abide by these rules or violates them will be subject to further disciplinary action.

Program Rules

- All players will treat teammates, coaches, parents, referees, opponents and all others with respect as YOU are a representative of your team and the hockey club.
- All players will respect our home facilities at Mount Prospect Ice Arena and Barrington Ice Arena as well as away facilities. Locker rooms will be clean, removed of tape and other debris before the team vacates the locker room.
- All players will adhere to the AHA's and USA Hockey's Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vape zero tolerance policies. Repercussions will be dealt with via the NWC R&E committee.
- All players are to be cognizant of social media and will not defame the NWC, any of its members, any opponents or officials. See the Electronic Media policy on our website for further information.
- Cell phones or iPads are NOT ALLOWED in the locker rooms (unless approved by the coach for the purpose of Bluetooth speakers only). If teams are caught in violation of this the TEAM will have to home dress for all practices and games until further notified. See the Locker Room policy on the website for more information.
- Team-specific rules can be set by the Head Coach and must be followed, including arrival times and dress code. All games, practices, skills, dryland sessions, and any other team event including film and team bonding are MANDATORY.



RULES & ETHICS POLICIES

ZERO TOLERANCE

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The consumption/use/abuse of altering substances is detrimental to a healthy state of mind, body, and spirit in an athletic participant. This is especially true for those participants aspiring to develop their talents in the furtherance of their playing, coaching or officiating careers in the sport of hockey. Therefore, discovery of any violation of this policy will result in an immediate suspension from participation in all Chargers' and Jr. Chargers' programs until members of the Rules & Ethics Committee complete a review hearing, where further disciplinary action could result. Altering substance shall be defined to include, but not limited to, the following:

- Intoxicating beverages, including but not limited to alcohol
- Non-prescription or prescribed controlled substances when used to excess in violation of doctor's orders to produce a state of intoxication in the participant
- All forms of tobacco/nicotine, including vaping
- Steroids or any other illegal performance enhancing substance
- Any illegal drugs/substance not described above
- Sales or distribution of any of the above

24-HOUR RULE

Each year 2.5 million people volunteer their time to help coach kids. These coaches are the vehicle that provides organized youth athletics an existence. As parents/guardians, we will not always agree with a coach's decision. However, it is important to recognize that a coach's role is to make decisions for the team first and the player second. Often, we tend to recognize our coaching staff's decisions through our players first and the team second. Also, we need to understand that most players are not aware of any problems until we, as parents/guardians, bring it to their attention.

Many sports throughout the United States have adopted the 24-hour rule in an effort to address significant concerns while attempting to remove the emotional concerns, particularly in the presence of the youth athlete.

The Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Hockey Association subscribes to the 24-Hour Rule.

Briefly, this means that parents/guardians are not allowed to confront a coach, team, or league official to discuss any, regardless of the nature, game or practice situation with the coaching and management staff until at least 24 hours have passed from the completion of the game or practice. A confrontation shall consist of any conversation that is elevated from a normal speaking tone and demeanor to one that involves yelling, profanity, or derogatory comments toward said coach, team, or league official. After 24 hours have elapsed, the parent/guardian may address their concern with the coach, team, or league official however, the following protocol must be followed at all times:

- The parent/guardian will contact the Team Manager and report their issue or concerns to be addressed;
- The Team Manager is responsible for documenting the complaint, as necessary.
- The Team Manager shall meet with the coach and the parent/guardian. The coach is encouraged NOT to engage in this meeting without a third party present.
- If the parent/guardian feels the issue of concern remains and has not been appropriately addressed, the parent/guardian may schedule a meeting with the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Hockey Association Hockey Director and/or the Rules & Ethics Committee Chairman.

Please respect the significance of the 24-Hour Rule Policy. If we all honor this concept, concerns will be moved away from an audience with our children, a possible ill-timed discussion, and issues will be viewed from the proper perspective.



RULES & ETHICS POLICIES

ZERO TOLERANCE

LOCKER ROOM CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

All players, parents/guardians, & coaches acknowledge that the use of the locker room facilities, whether at Nicholas Sportsplex, Barrington Ice Arena, or any other away venue, is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, when utilizing such facilities, whether as a player, parent/guardian, and/or coach, the Northwest Chargers Hockey Association reminds you that you are a representative of the organization and that you treat all such venues with dignity and respect.

Locker Room Access

- No players shall be allowed access to the locker room unless a USAH or AAU-screened/Safe Sport-trained member of the Northwest Chargers Coaching Staff is present.
- The locker room shall be monitored at all times by a minimum of one (1) USAH or AAU-screened and trained Northwest Chargers Association member of the Coaching Staff. This is inclusive of both primary and secondary coaches. Under no circumstances shall a player be allowed access to the locker room unsupervised.
- All Squirt (U10) through Midget (U18) & Girls Parents/Guardians are prohibited from entering the assigned player locker room at any time. Mites (U8) parents/guardians are allowed access to the locker room only in those instances where a player requires assistance preparing for a scheduled event, such as tying skates, and where an approved member of the coaching staff is also present. (Note: If circumstances exist where a player/participant requires additional assistance, such as due to a disability and/or injury, the parent/guardian must first obtain permission from an assigned team coach prior to rendering such assistance.)

Rules & Regulations

The Northwest Chargers Hockey Association considers the safety and welfare of our registered players, their families, and our guests as one of our top priorities. All players are expected to treat the facility, including its representatives, their teammates, opponents, coaching staff, officials, etc., with the utmost respect. Disrespect of any or all of these aforementioned entities shall be met with disciplinary action. The following is a list of examples of infractions, but by no means should be considered all-inclusive.

- Leaving the locker room in a state of uncleanliness. Note: Players are expected to return the locker room in the same, if not better, condition as when received. This includes disposing of all tape, bottles, wrappers, etc.
- Destruction and/or vandalism of the locker room, including, but not limited to, writing on the walls, spraying water bottles, and wanted destruction of property.
- Fighting, Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying, and hazing of any kind will not be tolerated. Note: For a more complete definition of prohibited behavior, refer to the Northwest Chargers Hockey Association's [PLAYER & PARENT CONDUCT POLICY](#).
- Weapons and/or items that can be construed as weapons are expressly forbidden from all locker rooms. This includes but is not necessarily limited to, sharp-ended scissors and small knives commonly utilized to cut tape and repair equipment. Note: Blunt-ended scissors shall be allowed.
- Cell phones and/or photographic and/or recording equipment are expressly prohibited from locker rooms at all times. Note: A single cell phone shall be allowed in the locker room, at the discretion of the team's coach, for the sole purpose of providing a music media source for pre/post-team entertainment only.

In addition to the above, it is also noted that any instances of similar behavior that occur on social media and/or other communication platforms that lead to an infraction within the confines of the arena will be taken seriously and adjudicated as part of the Rules & Ethics committees' formal investigation into the matter. Any violation of the Locker Room "Code of Conduct" will result in the loss of locker room privileges for both the offending parties and his/her teammates, as stipulated below. Please be aware that the loss of "team" locker room privileges may or may not be inclusive of individual punishment of involved individuals.

- 1st Offense 14 Days
- 2nd Offense 30 Days
- 3rd Offense Remainder of the Season

Please note that the Northwest Chargers Hockey Association Rules & Ethics Committee reserves the right to assess more stringent penalties if the infractions are egregious and warrant such action. The Northwest Chargers Hockey Association takes no responsibility for personal property and its loss and/or damage. All participants are encouraged to leave such property at home or with a trusted party during team activities.

RULES & ETHICS POLICIES

ZERO TOLERANCE



ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

As part of the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Hockey Association's emphasis on safety, communications involving any participant, and especially our minor participants, should be appropriate, productive, and transparent. Effective communication concerning travel, practice or game schedules, and administrative issues among coaches, administrators, players, and their families is critical. However, the use of mobile devices, web-based applications, social media, and other forms of electronic communications increases the possibility for improprieties and misunderstandings and also provides potential offenders with unsupervised and potentially inappropriate access to participants. The improper use of social media, mobile, and electronic communications can result in misconduct. Adherence to the Electronic Communications Policy helps reduce these risks. The Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Hockey Association adheres to the State of Illinois Compiled Statutes regarding eavesdropping violations (720 ILCS 5/14-2) and unlawful videotaping (720 ILCS 5/26-4). Therefore, **NO CAMERA OR VIDEO EQUIPMENT WILL BE USED IN THE LOCKER ROOMS OF ANY RINK AT ANY TIME.** This will include cameras, video cameras, cell phones, or any other media collecting format. It shall be the responsibility of the players and parents to ensure that these devices remain unused. Any intentional and unauthorized video taken within the confines of any locker room at any time shall be viewed as a Zero Tolerance Violation. Any unlawful video will be reviewed by the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Hockey Association Rules & Ethics Committee, and if warranted, the matter may be referred to Law Enforcement for formal criminal investigation and prosecution.

A full report of the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Electronic Communications Policy can be found on our website or at the following link: [ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY](#)

RIGHT OF REFUSAL OF SERVICE & REGISTRATION



In an effort to maintain the highest standards of sportsmanship and to demonstrate the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers as a leader in Illinois youth hockey both on and off the ice, Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers reserves the right to not accept registration for participation in any, and all Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers programming; including but not limited to all sanctioned leagues (CUHL, CSDH, and NIHL, or Select Tournament Teams in Fall or Spring), summer camps, on-ice developmental programming, off-ice conditioning programming, or any other program authorized and originated by the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers should the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Board of Directors, through a simple majority vote, determine said registration jeopardizes the goals and mission statement of the organization. The basis of any refusal of service may be based on past or present conduct by the individual attempting to register, or any member of their family, extended family, former marital relationships, or social network that has engaged in conduct that resulted in any disciplinary action taken by the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers, AAU, CUHL, AHAI, USA Hockey or law enforcement resulting in a conviction or finding of guilt, or denial of service by the Barrington Ice Arena or Mount Prospect Ice Arena, which the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Board of Directors deems to not be in the best interest of youth hockey and the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Hockey Association. Any refusal of service will be provided to the applying customer in writing with an explanation outlining the decision and Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers board vote. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Hockey Association shall not deny service based on race, religion, ethnicity, creed, or sexual orientation.

SUMMARY



While this document provides a great deal of information pertaining to the guidelines, policies, and procedures of the Northwest Chargers and Jr. Chargers Hockey Association, it is not all-encompassing. Please let the Board or Hockey Director(s) know of any questions, suggestions, ideas, or problems that you may have. Our most successful teams are not necessarily the teams that end the year with flags. They are often those that establish a sense of unity, family, and trust. Vince Lombardi said, "Build for your team a feeling of oneness, of dependence on one another, and of strength to be derived by unity".

Good Luck with your season and your team.