



**PALOUSE YOUTH
HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
(PYHA)
GUIDEBOOK & CODES OF CONDUCT**

PURPOSE

This Guidebook is updated and published to reflect the specific rules and policies that govern Palouse Youth Hockey Association (PYHA) members. The PYHA Board has the right to evaluate and modify this Guidebook in accordance with the needs, growth, and vision for Idaho hockey and PYHA. By inference, all USA Hockey rules are incorporated and stand as written unless the PYHA Board has implemented a more restrictive policy or practice. Any rule NOT specifically addressed in this publication will automatically follow the USA Hockey rule/policy as written in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

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INTRODUCTION

PYHA is an association within Idaho Amateur Hockey Association (IAHA), and IAHA is an affiliate of [USA Hockey](#) (USAH), the national governing body for the sport of amateur ice hockey in the United States. Members of IAHA include rinks and Associations located within IAHA's geographical area, which apply and are granted member status and register amateur hockey teams with USA Hockey. Associate (non-voting) Members of IAHA include all players rostered on a USA Hockey registered team by an IAHA Member, parents, coaches and administrators. IAHA is run by an established voting board elected by its members and follows all rules and regulations established by USA Hockey. PYHA is also run by an established voting board elected by its members and follows all rules and regulations established by USA Hockey, IAHA, and PYHA.

Rules for PYHA are published on the PYHA website and those established by USA Hockey in the current USA Hockey Annual Guide. The purpose of this Guidebook is to assemble pertinent documents and rules established by PYHA that may not currently be in the USA Hockey Annual Guide or the IAHA Annual Guide. The following is a summary of the structure, relationship, rules, and policies that govern amateur hockey in the PYHA, IAHA, and USAH. The governing body for amateur hockey in the United States is USAH. This Guidebook will be updated whenever any changes are approved.

USA HOCKEY STATE AFFILIATE INFORMATION

Idaho Amateur Hockey Association (IAHA) – visit the following link for IAHA information
<https://www.idahoamateurhockey.com/>

IAHA has its own bylaws for local administration of rules and guidelines as one of 34 affiliates within USAH. IAHA is a non-profit 501.c.3 organization that operates using a combination of USAH funding, player registration fees, fees charged for camps and tournaments, and grants to promote and grow amateur hockey in Idaho. IAHA adheres to all rules, policies, and guidelines of USAH and RMD. The Affiliate also has certain rules and guidelines that are specific to the needs to govern hockey in Idaho. As an affiliate, IAHA manages its state tournaments and player development camps, which are steppingstones to similar events at the district and national levels. IAHA has one Annual and two General meetings each year. Periodic conference calls are held along with many email communications and web postings.

REGIONAL - ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT (RMD)

USA Hockey is divided into 12 districts, each with governing authority over all respective matters such as player development camps, national bound tournaments, player fees, and registration. The RMD (www.rockymountainhockey.com) is comprised of 6 affiliates and 7 states with Oklahoma being part of the Texas Affiliate. The RMD has a separate Policies and Procedures Manual that each affiliate and event is governed by, along with certain rules and policies that it administers on behalf of USAH. The RMD has 4 directors, each of whom serve on a committee within the USA Hockey governing body, and each vote on matters on behalf of RMD and its affiliates. For example, any rule and bylaw changes of USAH are voted on by these directors at the Annual Congress. The RMD convenes 3 meetings each year, as well as monthly conference calls.

PYHA BOARD

Current Officers: <https://www.palousehockey.com/board>

PYHA STANDING COMMITTEES (subject to change)

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

The Discipline Committee will follow the procedure outlined in USA Hockey Bylaw 10 to address reported Code of Conduct violations to the Board on behalf of PYHA. Any appeals, steps, or procedures will follow USA Hockey policy.

Relationship to USA Hockey: It is the intention of PYHA to comply fully with the rules of USA Hockey. The PYHA and IAHA Discipline Committees are specifically barred from waiving an action or imposing an action less severe than that called for by the rules of USA Hockey.

COACHING COMMITTEE

The Coaching Committee shall be chaired by the Director of Coaching. The Committee shall be responsible for securing and training an adequate number of coaches and to supervise the coaching of Association games. Responsibilities include locating and encouraging prospective coaches, arranging coaching clinics, assuring coaches maintain their credentials, ensuring the adequate training of coaches, and promoting the general quality of coaching staff.

PYHA BYLAWS

<https://www.palousehockey.com/page/show/3044366-pyha-bylaws>

COACHING

COACHING CERTIFICATION

Proper certification is required for all coaches. Each coach should be certified at the proper level for the age division he/she is coaching. Coaches with preexisting certifications will enter the new CEP program at their current certification level and must adhere to paragraphs A and B below as deemed by USAH. All Coaches need to have a current background screen and SafeSport training. All coaches are required to wear properly fastened helmets on the ice.

- 1) All coaches must be in compliance with USA Hockey's Coaching Education Program.
- 2) Coaches must complete USAH online age-specific training modules specific to the level of play they are coaching, if they have not already taken that module. This requirement applies to all coaches at all levels, 1 through 5. Coaches may complete more than one age specific module in any given season.

COACHING ETHICS CODE

All USA Hockey ice hockey coaches (head and assistant) and instructors must abide by the USA Hockey Coaching Ethics Code and understand that violations may result in full or partial forfeiture of coaching privileges in programs, sites or events under USA Hockey's governance. All coaches have an obligation to be familiar with USA Hockey's Coaching Ethics Code. Lack of awareness or misunderstanding of an ethical standard is not itself a defense to a charge of unethical conduct. The USA Hockey Coaching Ethics Code can be found online at www.usahockey.com under Coaches.

COACHES' HELMET RULE

On-ice hockey coaches who are observed on the ice without properly fastened protective helmet will be subject to the following disciplinary action. A suspension stays with the coach and not the team. Any hockey coach observed on the ice at a practice or USA Hockey sanctioned event should be reported immediately. The required information to be reported includes coach's name, team, date, time, rink, and names of any witnesses to the incident. This information should be sent as soon as possible via email to the IAHA Vice President and Coach-in-Chief at the addresses provided on the IAHA website. Any questions regarding this rule should also be directed to their attention.

- 1st offense – coach is suspended 30 days for all games, practices & meetings.
- 2nd offense – coach may be subject to additional disciplinary actions including suspension and fines.

OTHER PYHA AND USA HOCKEY INFORMATION

USA HOCKEY RECOMMENDATIONS (NETS / PUCKS / ICE)

Starting with the 2013-14 season, USA Hockey passed rules regarding 8U and 10U hockey on how the games are to be played in a half-ice or cross ice manner. PYHA has embraced the ADM principles, especially at the 8U and 10U levels.

Starting with the 2023-2024 season, PYHA will adopt the following:

- All PYHA sanctioned 8U tournaments and games are to be cross ice or half ice. Any 8U games or tournaments outside of PYHA that are to be full ice must have prior PYHA Board approval.
- 10U House games played within PYHA will be half ice games, as recommended by USA Hockey. This allows for more puck touches and more player involvement across all skill levels. PYHA recommends at least 50% of any games or tournaments outside of PYHA to be half ice.

To align with USA Hockey's recommendations, PYHA will adopt the following:

- For 8U, mid-size nets (36" x 48") and blue pucks (24" x 36" small nets for games with no goalies).
- For 10U, mid-size nets (36" x 48") and blue or black pucks (blue preferred, but at the coach's discretion).
- For 12U and up, full size nets (48" x 72") and black pucks.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- Colored (non-clear), internal mouth guards are required for all age divisions 12U through 18U Youth and 12U through 19U Girls at all times while players are on the ice. For the first violation of this rule, the team shall be issued a warning. A misconduct penalty for an equipment violation shall be assessed to any player of that team for a subsequent violation during the same game.
- It is also strongly recommended, in all classifications, that all players wear a mouthpiece form fitted by a dentist.
- Neck guards are not required by USA Hockey or IAHA for any youth players though local associations may require/recommend them.
- Helmets are required to be worn with chin straps fastened by all coaches at all times while on the ice.
- All players must comply with all other safety equipment as prescribed by USA Hockey.

SPORTS CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

IAHA adopts the [USA Hockey Concussion Management Program](#), as may be amended from time to time. A copy of the current USA Hockey Concussion Management Program can be found here:

This is the minimum concussion protocol to be followed by all USA Hockey programs.

[PYHA Return to Play Form](#)

TRAVEL PERMITS

Travel permits are recommended whenever a team plays outside of Idaho. The purpose of the permit is to protect teams from playing against non-USA Hockey registered teams or in non-sanctioned tournaments that puts their USA Hockey insurance at risk for all such players and coaches registered with USA Hockey.

International travel permits are required for travel to Canada or other countries. Travel permit forms can be obtained from your local registrar. Teams should submit all such forms at least two weeks before traveling. When approved, the Associate Registrar will send confirmation back to the requesting team through the local association registrar, who will then forward to the appropriate team.

OFFICIALS

Leagues and associations are encouraged to follow the USA Hockey guidelines when assigning officials. The hosting association or league is responsible for ensuring that properly certified on-ice officials are available for every game. In addition, off-ice officials shall be adequately trained to fulfill their responsibilities. IAHA recognizes the Ice Officials Associations listed below and in the absence of an organized group relies on a local official or hockey community member to assign certified officials at the appropriate level of experience for the game.

1. Treasure Valley Ice Hockey Officials Association (TVIHOA), Boise
2. East Idaho Ice Hockey Officials Association (EIIHOA), Idaho Falls
3. Ice Hockey Officials of the Palouse (IHOP), Moscow
4. Inland Empire Hockey Officials Association, Spokane, WA

HOME TOURNAMENTS

PYHA should make all reasonable attempts each season to host a house-level tournament for 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U. The specific age group tournaments should remain on the same weekend season after season as much as possible.

PATCH AWARDS

Three types of achievement patch awards are available for milestone events during a season. These are issued by IAHA. A player can only receive one patch award of each type per season. To receive a patch award, a scoresheet copy showing the achievement should be sent to the Patch Coordinator. Scoresheets are to be sent monthly by associations with a cover page detailing each player's achievement. Patch awards will then be sent to the association representative.

- Hat Trick patch for any player who scores 3 goals in a single USA Hockey sanctioned game.
- Playmaker patch for any player who records 3 assists in a single USA Hockey sanctioned game.
- Shut Out patch for any goalie who records a shutout in a single USA Hockey sanctioned game.

IAHA AFFILIATE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CAMP

Each year IAHA holds evaluations as part of an Idaho Affiliate Camp in order to select players to participate in the District Development Camp. This opportunity is open to all eligible players in each organization whose birth date is within that year's camp age requirement.

The objective is to give all Idaho players a developmental experience and to evaluate those players who are the best players at their respective position and age group based upon each player's performance in a series of structured drills and scrimmages facilitated by qualified hockey instructors. Evaluators will select a limited number of players at each age group and position to represent IAHA at the Rocky Mountain District Camp. Players must be citizens of the United States (NO EXCEPTIONS).

PYHA POLICIES

GIRLS REGISTRATION AND ROSTERING POLICY

PYHA supports the USA Hockey position on promoting female hockey and agrees that in order to promote female hockey, a female player may register with another association as long as the outside PYHA team she is playing for is classified by USA Hockey as a Girl's/Women's team.

PYHA female player who elects to play for a second association, on an all-girls/women's team, must submit to PYHA a letter of notification by the second association outlining the commitment requirements for participating with the second association's all girls/women's team. This should include a preliminary schedule of possible practices, games, tournaments, and any other possible conflicts. PYHA will acknowledge receipt of this letter within a reasonable amount of time. A copy of the letter should be kept by both associations. This must be done prior to the player participating in any team event with the second association (non-PYHA association).

Girls may roster on a youth and girls' team by following the USA Hockey rules for National Championship bound teams.

REGISTERING/PLAYING WITH OTHER ASSOCIATIONS POLICY

PYHA registered players may only be registered and rostered in one association at a time, with exceptions outlined in the Girls Registration and Rostering Policy. Any player participating in a PYHA hockey program may be eligible to register for a PYHA travel/select team, PYHA house team, or PYHA high school team, provided they meet the PYHA program and league eligibility requirements and maintain good standing with USA Hockey and PYHA.

To play on a PYHA travel/select team, a player must be registered with PYHA and play on the house team for their appropriate age group. Players registered for a house team in another association may also be eligible to register for a PYHA travel/select team, provided they remain in good standing with both associations.

Apart from the Girls Registration and Rostering Policy, PYHA players may only be rostered with one association at a time. However, this does not apply to players who "help out" another association when PYHA has no scheduling conflicts. Example: if Moses Lake is short players for a game against CDA and requests temporary assistance, PYHA players may participate if they have no prior scheduling obligations.

PYHA requires a written release for any player who was not registered with PYHA in the previous or current regular season. This release must be signed by the releasing association's President, Vice President, Registrar, or designated board member before PYHA can accept the player's registration. Failure to provide a release will result in a registration hold, making the player ineligible for PYHA activities. All players must remain in good standing with their releasing association.

REGISTRATION REFUND POLICY

If a player requests to withdraw from the Palouse Youth Hockey Association (PYHA) after registering, a *written* notification must be provided to the PYHA Board. Refund considerations will be based on the date the PYHA Board receives the written notification in accordance with this timeline:

- **Four (4) weeks or more before the season starts*:** If a registered player requests to withdraw *at least* four (4) weeks before the start of the season, the parent or guardian will be liable for 50% of the total registration fee. Any remaining balance must be paid in full to PYHA to receive a release from the association.
- **Less than four (4) weeks before the season starts*:** Refunds are not permitted.

*The start of the season will be defined annually by the PYHA Board prior to the opening of registration.

VOLUNTEER POLICY

The Palouse Youth Hockey Association (PYHA) has no paid positions and relies on volunteers to keep our organization running with as little overhead as possible. Each family is expected to fulfill a minimum number of service hours. This ensures that the various responsibilities are dispersed among the association's families, allowing opportunities for participation and ownership while helping to keep registration fees down. Our collective goal is to provide our kids with a great hockey experience.

The volunteer hours requirement is per family and not per player. For all families of 8U players and up, a total of fifteen (15) volunteer hours is required. Three (3) of the volunteer hours must be completed at the Home Tournament of your oldest player. For those with more than one child participating in PYHA, ideally, you will volunteer three (3) hours at the Home Tournament of all of your players.

It is the responsibility of each family to ensure their hours are tracked and reported for review/approval in the dibs platform. If volunteer hours are not completed in full, you will receive an invoice for the buy-out fee. Failure to pay the fee can result in the family being blocked from registration for the following season until the balance due is paid.

Buy-Out Option

For those members who might have more financial resources than time, PYHA allows for a buy-out of \$360 *per family* in lieu of providing volunteer hours. These monetary contributions help and are very much appreciated by the association. Even with the buy-out option, you are still required to complete three (3) volunteer hours at the home tournament of your oldest child. And, if it is your decision to select the buy-out option, please know that you are still welcome to assist in any area.

All volunteers are expected to familiarize themselves with, and abide by, the PYHA Codes of Conduct, including the policy regarding volunteer use of alcohol and other substances.

SAFESPORT COMPLIANCE POLICY

USA Hockey and PYHA are committed to creating a safe and positive environment for its participants' physical, emotional, and social development and ensuring it promotes an environment free from abuse and misconduct. We have a ZERO TOLERANCE for abuse and misconduct. As part of this program, USA Hockey and PYHA have implemented policies and procedures addressing certain types of abuse and misconduct, certain policies intended to reduce potential misconduct, to monitor and govern the areas where potential abuse and misconduct might occur, and certain policies pertaining to the procedures and interactions with the US Center for SafeSport (USCSS). PYHA, as a member of USA Hockey, agrees to and complies with the SafeSport Program. All our coaches, board members, managers, locker room monitors, and other volunteers who have contact with players will be SafeSport certified and background checked.

PYHA has enacted policies and procedures regarding travel, locker room use and monitoring, individual meetings, and electronic communications to provide a safer environment for our participants and to comply with SafeSport.

SAFESPORT TRAINING

<https://www.usahockey.com/safesporttraining>

The Safe Sport Training and Refresher Training are each valid for twelve (12) months.

As of January 1, 2018, all relevant individuals who need to be SafeSport certified or are seeking recertification will need to complete the new SafeSport training, which features updated content. This will include any players that are 18 years of age or older.

Once you have completed the Core SafeSport Course, there will be a Refresher Course available for individuals who have previously completed the core SafeSport course and need to recertify. Users completing the SafeSport refresher course will be certified for an additional season.

PLEASE NOTE that you will need your own USA Hockey Confirmation Number or Referee Number and your own email address to access the training. You can locate your number OR obtain a number [here](#). If you will not be participating as a player, coach, or referee, you can register at no cost under the ice manager/volunteer category to obtain your USA Hockey Confirmation Number.

BACKGROUND SCREENINGS

In compliance with new requirements from the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), USA Hockey launched a national level background screening program (April 2020). All adult coaches, officials, board members, employees, volunteers, and anyone else who will have regular contact with, or authority over, athletes under the age of 18 are required to submit to a background screen before any such contact with those athletes. The background screening program will be handled at the national level using NCSI and screens are valid for 2 years. There is a cost associated with the screening. More information and screening registration available at <https://usahockey.com/backgroundscreen>.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

USA Hockey and PYHA are committed to creating a safe and fair environment for all participants. Respect for the game, the opponents, coaches, and officials are a critical part of the environment that is created. This Zero Tolerance Policy summarizes required actions to be taken when violations occur.

All players, coaches, officials, team officials and administrators and parents/spectators are required to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey sanctioned games. Thus, the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all USA Hockey participants and spectators.

Players

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

- 1) Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- 2) Taunts or incites an opponent.
- 3) Visually creates a disturbance during the game.

Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.

Coaches

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

- 1) Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- 2) Uses obscene, profane or abusive language to anyone at any time.
- 3) Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision including standing on the boards or standing in the bench doorway with the intent of inciting the officials, players or spectators.

Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

In addition, any player/coach who uses language that is hateful or discriminatory in nature anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game shall be penalized under Rule 601(e.3) resulting in a match penalty. Such behavior is reprehensible and has absolutely no place in our game. The offender shall be immediately suspended until a hearing is conducted by the governing USA Hockey Affiliate or Junior League.

Officials

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited.

Officials are strongly encouraged to introduce themselves to the coaches prior to the game to establish a basis of mutual respect and to facilitate/define in-game communication.

Officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

Parents/Spectators

Parents are expected to be a positive role model by treating all players, coaches, officials and fellow spectators with respect and support.

The game will be stopped by game officials when parents/ spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The game officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/ spectators from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced, and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include but not limited to:

- 1) Use of obscene, profane, overly loud and or negative/abusive language to anyone at any time.

- 2) Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
- 3) Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, players bench, penalty box or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

USA Hockey strongly recommends that each local youth hockey registered team designate a volunteer to serve as a parent/spectator monitor during all team games. This monitor will, ideally, address inappropriate spectator behavior prior to the situation escalating to the point it has an impact on the game. This designated monitor shall have the full support of the youth hockey association and the arena management to remove any spectator in violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy.

Administrators

Administrators are the key to building a positive, growing, and safe USA Hockey community. Create a culture that is:

- 1) Welcoming
- 2) Protected
- 3) Respected
- 4) Connected
- 5) Valued

Administrators are responsible for enforcing the rules and policies established and approved by USA Hockey, their Affiliate, and their Association or Club. This includes taking disciplinary action, as deemed appropriate, towards any parent/spectator removed from a game as a result of a violation of the Zero Tolerance

LOCKER ROOM POLICY

As a team sport in which youth teams can often include players of different genders, special circumstances may exist that can increase the chance of abuse or misconduct. If the team consists of players of different genders, the privacy rights of all players must be given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. It is not acceptable under USA Hockey's Sexual Abuse Policy for persons to be observing the opposite gender while they dress or undress. There are a variety of ways to comply with the above tenets, and what works may depend on the locker rooms that are available at a particular facility.

PYHA has adopted USA Hockey's Co-Ed Locker Room Policy, which attempts to balance the social integration and camaraderie of a team sport while providing a safe and respectful environment for all our participants. **Outlined below are acceptable options** that allow for flexibility depending upon unique team needs and the locker room space available at a particular facility:

- **Single Locker Room with Required Attire:** If sharing one locker room, all players should be required to arrive at the rink wearing their hockey base layers or shorts and T-shirts (in good condition - no holes or tears in clothing) under their street clothes. All members of the team must have this minimum attire before entering a co-ed locker room so that no player of one gender can see players of the opposite gender in a state of dress/undress.
- **Separate, Supervised Locker Rooms:** A second option is for the program to have males and females change/dress in separate, supervised locker rooms. Then, approximately ten (10) to fifteen (15) minutes before each game/practice everyone is to be ready in gear in one designated locker room so the coach can address the entire team. If a player (whether male or female) is not fully dressed by the time the coach arrives, then that player must go to a separate locker room or bathroom to finish dressing. The onus is on the players being properly dressed when the coaches begin preparing the team for the practice or game.
- **Alternate Use of a Single Locker Room:** Players of one gender dress in the locker room while players of the opposite gender wait outside. When the one group is ready, then the players switch places and the players in gear wait for players of opposite gender to get dressed. No coaching is to be done until all the players are together in full gear. Taking turns is a means of reasonable accommodation; neither gender group should be favored, nor should one group be the group who always has to wait to change.

LOCKER ROOM SUPERVISION

It is the policy of USA Hockey that all USA Hockey Member Programs must have at least one responsible screened and trained adult (which may include coaches, managers or other volunteers) present at all times and monitoring the locker room during all team events to assure that only players, coaches, and approved team personnel (managers, assigned locker room monitors) are permitted in the locker room and to supervise the conduct in the locker room.

- The Responsible Adult(s) who monitors and supervises the locker room shall have completed the Volunteer Registration process, which includes SafeSport Training and background screening.
- PYHA's preferred stance is that **two (2) locker room monitors be assigned** for all practices, games, or anytime the team is using a locker room. **We request that these two monitors are not coaches**, as coaches often need to leave before and after games and practices to handle different situations.
- If two locker room monitors are not possible, USA Hockey would consider it acceptable to have one (1) locker room monitor in the immediate vicinity outside the locker room (near the door within arm's length and so that the monitor can sufficiently hear inside the locker room) who also regularly and frequently enters the locker room to monitor activity inside.
- Regardless of the number of monitors present, the person(s) monitoring the locker room must be of the same gender as the players being monitored.

LOCKER ROOM ACCESS

- The only individuals allowed in the locker room are the players of the specific team assigned to that locker room, the coaches for that specific team, the manager(s) for that specific team, and the locker room monitor(s) assigned for the current team event.
- Parents/guardians who are not assigned as Responsible Adults (coaches, managers, locker room monitors) for that specific team event should not have open access to the locker room. For the younger ages or those in need of help with gear or skates, the individual/player would need to leave the locker room and go to a common area to get help from parents or others not assigned to the current team event.
- Responsible Adults must also secure the locker room appropriately during times when Minor Athletes are on the ice.
- If a Minor Athlete goes to a locker room during practice or a game, and does not return in a timely fashion, then a Responsible Adult (or, if possible, two) should check on the Minor Athlete's whereabouts.

DEVICES WITH CAMERAS

- Per SafeSport policy, **phones and other devices with cameras should not be in locker rooms**. Players should leave their devices with cameras, mainly phones, in their vehicle, with a parent or guardian, or at home.
- Any use of a device with a camera in the locker room will be reported as a SafeSport violation by coaches and/or locker room monitors.

ADDITIONAL LOCKER ROOM RULES

- Teams must use the locker room assigned to you, whether away or at home. This is to assist with rink scheduling and flow of teams using locker rooms.
- Showering is not permitted in locker rooms.
- No sticks in the locker rooms. Sticks should be worked on and stored outside the locker room, unless the facility has a stick rack or designated area inside the locker room for this.
- Leave the locker room cleaner than you find it. Players are responsible for cleaning the locker rooms after each use.

PLAY UP POLICY

Why does PYHA need this policy?

PYHA needs to have a clear set of rules that allow PYHA to make objective, transparent decisions that are in the best interest of PYHA as a whole, as well as the players.

In addition, playing at a higher age division increases the risk of injury and imposes a liability to our association and our rink if we do not have a sensible policy in place. Player safety is PYHA's first priority, and thus the "play up" criteria will be specific to each age division.

It should be noted, nothing in USA Hockey's rules requires an association to allow any player(s) to "play up." To more closely align with USA Hockey and IAHA, PYHA will follow the below.

How does a parent request that their child play up at a higher age division?

The request to play up an age division must be based upon one or more of the following reasons: 1) Family Constraints 2) Skill 3) Team / Division Composition (association needs) 4) Grandfather Clause*. Making a request to play up using any of these reasons does NOT guarantee an approval. The request will be evaluated using criteria outlined in the PYHA Play-up policy and "Justifications" sheet, along with those guidelines, and the with USA Hockey and IAHA guidelines and recommendations.

The request must originate from the parent(s), be in writing (email), and have a clear and legally binding acknowledgement of the increased injury risk, PYHA Risk Acknowledgement and Liability Waiver. A waiver indemnifying the association, coaches, and rink must be included prior to beginning any practice or play with the older division. If a request for play up is based on an association/team need, it must originate from a coach.

Who decides whether the player can move up a division?

The play up committee (PYHA President, Vice President, and Coaching Director) will receive the request from the parent or coach, gather all information, and present it to the PYHA Board. The PYHA Board will decide based upon outlined criteria, and written request. At the discretion of the PYHA Board, an impartial committee of three to five association members, not to include the parent(s) of the player or coaches from the age group in or requested to move into, may be convened to assist with a decision. The IAHA ADM Coordinator may also be contacted regarding input on decisions regarding Play Up.

What criteria will be used to make the decision?

Players will never be allowed to play up two years. For example, a first-year squirt (10U age group) will not be permitted to play at the peewee level (12U age group), and so on. Requests for a player to move up a division by one year will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis using ALL the following criteria. The decisions of PYHA to allow a player to move up a division may be revoked and the player may be asked to return to their age appropriate division if the player has not played 4 or more USA Hockey sanctioned games at the upper level, and there is a basis to indicate that the decision to move the player up a level is deemed inappropriate.

Other criteria/information:

- 8U Players Playing Up - Having 8U players play up at 10U is strongly discouraged but may be allowed when there are compelling reasons to do so. At PYHA's discretion, PYHA may allow up to three 8U players per season to play up at the 10U division. Additional players playing up may be considered with an exception request to the IAHA ADM Coordinator, who will only consider the request for additional players to play up if it's due to association needs, i.e., having to merge age divisions to have a functional program. *Please see the Skill Justification section below for additional criteria/information.*
- 10U Players Playing Up - Having 10U players play up at 12U is strongly discouraged but may be allowed when there are compelling reasons to do so. At PYHA's discretion, PYHA may allow up to three 10U players per season to play up at the 12U division. Similar to 8U, additional players playing up may be considered with an exception request to the IAHA ADM Coordinator, who will only consider the request for additional players to play

up if it's due to association needs, i.e., having to merge age divisions to have a functional program. *Please see the Skill Justification section below for additional criteria/information.*

- 12U and 14U Players Playing Up - Having 12U or 14U players play up is strongly discouraged but may be allowed when there are compelling reasons to do so. At PYHA's discretion, PYHA may allow up to three players per season to play up one age division. Additional players playing up may be considered with an exception request to the Affiliate ADM Coordinator, who will only consider the request for additional players to play up if it's due to association needs, i.e. having to merge age divisions to have a functional program. *Please see the Skill Justification section below for additional criteria/information.*
- If PYHA's rules or decisions permit a player to do so, players 11 years of age or older (as defined in the USA Hockey age classification chart for the current season) may participate in only one age classification higher than the player's actual birth year classification. This exception shall not apply to the Youth Tier I 15-only age classification as this classification shall be limited to only players age 15 (as defined in the birth year age classification chart for the current season).
- If PYHA's rules or decisions permit a player to do so, players 14 years of age according to USA Hockey birth year classification, may participate in the 18U or 19U age classification if their current organization does not have a 16U age classification team.
- No Youth player 12 years of age or younger (as defined in the USA Hockey age classification chart for the current season) is eligible to play on a team intending or declared to compete in the IAHA State, District, or National Championships or playoffs leading thereto.
- No player 12 years of age or younger (as defined in the USA Hockey age classification chart for the current season) is eligible to play in a game that allows checking without prior approval from the PYHA Play Up Committee and the IAHA ADM Coordinator.
- No team's roster in the Youth 14U, 16U, 18U and Girls 14U, 16U and 19U age classification can have more than 30% of its players who are playing up without approval by the Affiliate ADM Coordinator.
- The District Registrar is the only person that can approve a player to play down an age classification. Waivers to play down an age classification are granted for medical reasons and not for lack of playing ability or skills level experience. If a waiver is approved, the player would not be allowed to play in any State, Regional or National Championships. In order for a waiver to be approved, the following documentation is required:
 1. A letter from the parents requesting the waiver.
 2. A letter from a medical doctor stating the medical reasons for the waiver.
 3. Approval letter from the Local Association.
 4. Approval letter from the State affiliate.
 5. The above documentation package should be sent to the Rocky Mountain District Registrar for consideration and approval.
- IAHA states no more than three players can play up to the next age division in a season. The three players playing up rule is an IAHA rule and applies for all ages. These play ups would be due to association needs only.
- Additional players playing up may be considered with an exception request made to the PYHA President, Vice President, and Coaching Director. If PYHA Board approves the exception request, it must then be made to the state ADM director, who will make the final decision if needed, and will only consider the request if it's due to association needs, i.e. having to merge age divisions in order to have a functional program, not due to skill or family constraints/hardships.

Justification for request	Information required	As determined by	Should NOT play up an age division	MAY be considered to play up an age division	Why this criterion is important?
Family Constraints	# of players in family, # of parents in family, teams on which siblings play, other considerations.	Parents, PYHA rosters.	The ability of the player to attend practices and games does not differ with regards to age division.	The ability of the player to attend practices/ games of the age-appropriate division is severely compromised by family constraints, AND , these constraints are mitigated by playing up a division (typically with a sibling).	Single parent households. Households with more teams than parents.
Skill	Ability of the player with regard to all of the fundamentals of hockey.	Former and current coaches of the player OR an independent skills assessment by a neutral party.	Player would be among the bottom 90% of the team to which they are playing up.	8U/10U: Player would be among the top 3 of the players for the division to which they are playing up. 12U and up: Successful try-out for a regionally tiered hockey team at the age-appropriate level, but family would like to remain in PYHA.	Moving up a division only makes sense for player development if they will be appropriately challenged ONLY at the higher division.
Team/Division Composition	Number of players per team in each age division. How will the lower and upper teams be impacted?	PYHA rosters.	The team of the higher division has more than 16 players, OR , the team of the lower division will be left with less than 13 players.	The team of the higher division needs more players (has fewer than 13 or lacks critical position such as goalie) to remain viable.	It is not fair to the older players on the team to give up ice time to a non-age appropriate player, or have the lower division team be unable to field a team due to insufficient numbers.
Grandfather Clause	Has the player played up to this division in years prior within or outside of our association?	PYHA rosters.	The player did not play to the higher division last season.	The player played in the higher division last season.	The decision to play up a division predated the development of these rules. Moving the player down a division would be pointless.

Criterion for evaluation	Information required	As determined by	Should NOT play up an age division	MAY be considered to play up an age division	Why this criterion is important?
Safety	Size, fitness, ability.	Approval committee	Player is at a significantly higher risk of injury.	Player's risk of injury is not significantly higher.	Always the first consideration.
Size	Height and weight of the player compared to the median size of the higher division.	Start of season measurement	Player would be below the median size in the higher age division.	Player would be above the median size in the higher division, OR , the player is so much bigger than their age group that they impose a safety risk to kids in their own age group.	Safety. Even in non-checking divisions, collisions with significantly smaller players increase injury risk.
Division Characteristics	Rules for body contact/ checking for each division.	USA Hockey	The higher division involves significantly more body contact than the age-appropriate division.	The rules for body contact in the two divisions are the same.	Safety.
Emotional Maturity / Development	Past, present, and potential division coaches' assessment.	Coaches, parents, evaluation committee	The player is deemed not mature enough to thrive under the increased demands or changes in social dynamic of older teammates.	The player is mature enough to thrive under the increased demands and changes in social dynamic of older teammates.	Optimal player development, efficiency of coaching, team cohesion. Increased playing/practice time and team expectations.

GOALTENDER PLAY- UP

Starting with the 2023-2024 season, PYHA will adopt the following based on USA Hockey recommendations.

Where feasible, each team should include two goaltenders. Unfortunately, there is often a shortage or surplus of goaltenders at a particular age classification. The possibility exists that an age classification may not have enough goaltenders to field a team. PYHA will allow goaltender movement to address these situations.

If after exhausting all possibilities to obtain a goaltender from within the age classification, a goaltender from a lower age classification may be moved up provided the age-appropriate team is not left without an experienced goaltender. All goaltenders moving up will be required to have a completed Play-Up Request & Acknowledgement of Risk and Liability Form. This will be done to acknowledge the risk of playing with older players and the criteria for players to be "projected to be among the top players" will be excluded.

Any goaltender moving up should be discussed with the entire PYHA board and approved by the PYHA President, Vice President, Coaching Director. The IAHA ADM coordinator should be consulted when required per the IAHA policies.

GOAL TENDER PRACTICE PLAY-UP

The intention of this policy is to allow goalies from one lower age group to practice with the older age group when appropriate. This is intended to accomplish 2 objectives and should be the driving force behind approvals.

First, additional ice time is simply beneficial to all players and prepares a goalie for stiffer competition and harder shots in a more controlled environment.

Second, some teams have been short on goalies, sometimes not having a goalie at practice. This hinders team development and is a missed training opportunity.

Criteria for approval:

- Player commitment to the position. This is not intended for the player to be “trying” the position. The player should have the competency in net to safely navigate a practice at a higher level. The player will also need to have the maturity to integrate with an older cohort.
- Parent commitment to the position. Once it is communicated that the goalie will be at practice(s), the coach will rely on this information to make a practice plan with the goalie in mind. Not following through on this commitment will hinder this program.
- Current year group coaching recommendation. The board will consider the coach’s assessment of the players commitment, competency, and maturity when approving the practice play-up request.
- Gaining coach agreement to utilize the play up goalie appropriately within their practice plan. The gaining coach is not expected to have the player at every practice if not needed within their practice plan.
- 2nd year players within their age group are the target group for this policy. A 1st year player within their age group would need to be exceptional in commitment, competency, and maturity, coupled with a significant need by the gaining year group.
- Board approval of a majority vote.

There will be no additional fees assessed to the player practicing up.

WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

A whistleblower as defined by this policy is a PYHA member, volunteer, executive committee member, or board member of PYHA who reports an activity that he or she considers to be illegal or dishonest to one or more other parties specified in this policy. The whistleblower is not responsible for investigating the activity or for determining fault or corrective measures; appropriate management officials are charged with these responsibilities.

Examples of illegal or dishonest activities are violations of federal, state or local laws; billing for services not performed or for goods not delivered; and other fraudulent financial reporting.

If a member or volunteer has knowledge of or a concern of illegal or dishonest fraudulent activity, the member or volunteer is to contact any voting member of the PYHA Board of Directors who are responsible for investigation and coordinating corrective action. The member or volunteer must exercise sound judgment to avoid baseline allegation. A member or volunteer who intentionally files a false report of wrongdoing will be subject to discipline up to and including suspension.

Whistleblower protections are to cover two important areas: confidentiality and retaliation. Insofar as possible, the confidentiality of the whistleblower will be maintained. However, identity may have to be disclosed to conduct a thorough investigation, to comply with the law and to provide accused individuals of their legal rights of defense. There shall be no retaliation against a whistleblower. This includes, but is not limited to, protection from retaliation in the form of an adverse action such as suspension, fines or threats of physical harm. Any whistleblower who believes he or she is being retaliated against must contact any voting member of the PYHA Board of Directors immediately. The right of the whistleblower for protection against retaliation does not include immunity for any personal wrongdoing that is alleged and investigated.

Members or volunteer with any questions regarding this policy should contact the PYHA President or any voting member of the PYHA Board of Directors.

RECORDS RETENTION POLICY

SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION: This document applies to all areas of the PYHA. Records can be in the form of any type of media such as hard copy or electronic media.

Record Retention: PYHA will retain records in an orderly fashion for time periods that comply with legal and government requirements, and PYHA policy, and as dictated by acceptable accounting procedures.

Storage and Protection: Records are maintained and stored in a suitable manner to permit appropriate access and retrieval, as well as an environment that protects against deterioration, damage and loss.

Record Disposition: When the record retention period expires, records are to be discarded without further authorization, unless they are connected to litigation, investigation or claim. The owner/custodian of the record is responsible for determining the appropriate means of disposal of the record.

RECORD MANAGEMENT OF ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS: The same care in storage, protection, retrieval, retention and disposition is given to records stored using electronic media.

The following holding periods shall be used for the maintenance of the documents listed below:

1. Accounting Records - 7 years
2. Accounts Payable - 7 Years
3. Accounts Receivable - 7 Years
4. Audit Reports - Permanent
5. Chart of Accounts - Permanent
6. Depreciation Schedules - Permanent
7. Expense Reports - 7 Years
8. Financial Statements (Annual) - Permanent
9. Fixed Asset Purchases - Permanent
10. General Ledger and General Journals - Permanent
11. Loan Payment Schedule - 7 Years
12. Purchase Orders & Correspondence - 7 Years
13. Purchase Requisitions - 2 Years
14. Tax Returns and Working Papers - Permanent
15. Trial Balances (Annual) – Permanent

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY

Conflicts of interest have the potential to cause legal problems as well as embarrassment for Palouse Youth Hockey Association - PYHA ("Organization"). While conflicts of interest are not prohibited, they must be duly considered by an appropriate body or party of Organization, based on disclosures as required by Organization. This Conflicts of Interest Policy (this "Policy") is intended to help directors, officers, employees, members of councils, committees and similar bodies, and certain other persons identify situations that present possible conflicts of interest and to provide Organization with procedures whereby potential conflicts may be reviewed by an appropriate body or party of Organization.

Conflicts of interest exist where an individual's activities or relationships present the potential for improper personal gain or advantage, or an adverse effect on the interests of Organization. It is impossible to list every circumstance giving rise to a conflict of interest; however, this Policy will serve as a guide to the types of circumstances that create conflicts of interest. Because the nature of the business of Organization requires great public respect for and trust in the reputation and integrity of Organization, and because Organization operates in the public spotlight, Organization is expected to conduct its affairs in a manner consistent with high ethical principles. Organization correspondingly requires Responsible Persons (as defined below) to act in the same manner.

It is recognized that many persons serving in paid, volunteer and other roles with Organization may also have volunteer, employment, management, ownership and other relationships with other entities involved in hockey that give rise to fiduciary and similar obligations to those other third parties. Ordinarily a Responsible Person's obligations to Organization and a third party are not in conflict; however, when Conflicts of Interest arise, a Responsible Person has a primary fiduciary duty to Organization and must always act in the best interests of Organization. If a Conflict exists, then the Responsible Person must recuse themselves from involvement in the matter as more fully set forth in Section C below.

Recognizing that Conflicts of Interest arise, this Policy is intended to preserve the integrity of the decisions and actions taken by Organization.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The PYHA Board recognizes that disputes do arise in hockey; often because each person has their own perspective of what is right. This summary is intended to help you understand how disputes are resolved under the rules of USA Hockey and PYHA.

The Federal Amateur Sports Act governs amateur hockey in the United States. USA Hockey is required to comply with that law as the sanctioning body for America's national and Olympic hockey teams. The Act requires USA Hockey, and therefore IAHA, to maintain a fair and speedy process for resolving disputes. USA Hockey just rewrote its dispute resolution rules, which are contained in the new Section 10 of the Bylaws of USA Hockey.

Every Member Association, league, or independent team must maintain an impartial procedure for discipline and for dispute resolution. A team, which is part of an association, functions under its association's dispute resolution rules.

There is no right to appeal a game misconduct, since this rule is considered to be part of the referee's game jurisdiction. Note that supplemental discipline may be awarded under USA Hockey Rule 410 after a game misconduct, after hearing.

All hearings should have the following components:

- a. Adequate notice of the time and place of the hearing must be provided. This should be in writing. "Adequate notice" means giving a reasonable chance to prepare, including obtaining evidence or affidavits and getting the assistance of others. Notice of the charges or issues will be considered and the possible discipline, which may occur, must be provided. This should also be in writing. It is the Association's responsibility to give prior notice of the allegations and the possible discipline. For example, absent an immediate threat to the safety of youth players, it would be improper to schedule a meeting to "discuss" a coach's conduct, and to then suspend the coach based on the "discussion".
- b. Where playing conduct is under review, the player or his parent must be provided with the information supporting the suspension, including a copy of the game scoresheet and any report submitted by the referees, as well as written statements, or summaries of oral statements, to the extent those were relied upon in awarding or sustaining the penalty.
- c. The person or panel that is ruling on the matter must be impartial and they must not have previously made up their mind on a dispute. It is invalid for someone who is involved in the dispute to rule on a matter.
- d. The person who is the object of the hearing must have the right to hear all negative evidence and to present all favorable evidence. They must be permitted to have someone assist them or represent them. However, legal rules of evidence do not apply, and they do not have unlimited time to present their case.
- e. The decision resulting from the hearing shall be promptly conveyed and should be memorialized in writing.
- f. All Appeals are conducted in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10.

INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLINE

Players, parents, coaches and all other individuals within IAHA are subject to the same rules and regulations of conduct and are equally subject to suspension, expulsion or discipline for conduct detrimental to the game, or for such other reasons as may be determined as grounds for suspension or expulsion by the Board of Directors.

CODES OF CONDUCT

The Palouse Youth Hockey Association (PYHA) is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization that fosters national and international amateur sports competition, and is dedicated to the development, advancement, and enjoyment of youth hockey on the Palouse. One of the goals is to provide children an opportunity to develop life skills through team play, sportsmanship, competition, and hard work.

Code of Conduct is a covenant between PYHA players, parents, and coaches to abide by the rules and regulations of the game, as well as to maintain a cooperative attitude and uphold the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship. The Code of Conduct expresses our core values and goals. It is essential it be honored and followed.

The Code of Conduct can be summarized in the following three principles: (1) Demonstrating a positive attitude; (2) Setting a good example; and (3) Maintaining good relationships with all youth hockey participants - including officials, opponents, and our own team's players, parents, and coaches.

1. DEMONSTRATING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Players, parents, and coaches are expected to show a positive, respectful attitude for everyone involved in the sport. Criticism and disrespect for officials, opponents, coaches or fans undermine the purpose of sport and encourage behavior contrary to the spirit of the game and of PYHA.

2. SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE

Each person associated with PYHA is always accountable for his/her own behavior, on or off the ice. Parents, coaches and other adults should remember that children learn by example - it is up to the adults to set good examples. PYHA will not tolerate conduct that is detrimental to the sport, the participants, or the community. Such conduct includes vulgarity by coaches, players or parents; harassment or belittling of officials, coaches or players; verbal abuse, threats or physical violence toward anyone, and the taunting of opposing players, coaches and parents. We require thorough self-restraint by all participants - both players and adults. Teams must exercise appropriate control over those who fail to control themselves.

3. MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONSHIPS

Officials - The referee's job is a difficult one. All referees are human, and they do make mistakes. Parents or players who believe their team has been treated unfairly or has been assigned an unqualified referee should speak to their coach after the game. Coaches should inform the appropriate league or tournament officials about blatant officiating problems. In accordance with USA Hockey rules, verbal abuse toward a referee can result in a penalty and/or ejection of the player, the coach, or the parent. Referees have the authority to suspend play if a coach does not control his players and parents/supporters.

Opponents - Players and coaches are required to maintain a sense of fair play and be respectful of opposing players, coaches, and fans at all times. Sportsmanship begins with respect. Without it, the positive competitive environment, which should be a perfect classroom for learning the values of hockey, is completely undermined. Occasionally we will encounter opponents who do not share our values and high standards. If we allow ourselves to be drawn down to their level, we will have lost regardless of the final score.

Our Own Team - In an environment where our children are competing not only against other teams but also frequently against each other, it can be difficult to control jealousies and rivalries. A successful team resembles a family in that members put their own needs second, behind the greater good of the team. Great care must be taken not to undermine the coach's authority. As in most cases, parental example is all-important.

ON AND OFF ICE BEHAVIOR

Each person associated with PYHA is always accountable for his/her own behavior, on or off the ice. PYHA will not tolerate conduct that is detrimental to the sport, the participants, or the community. Such conduct includes vulgarity by coaches, players or parents; harassment or belittling of officials, coaches, or players; verbal abuse,

threats or physical violence toward anyone, and the taunting of opposing players, coaches and parents. PYHA members are required to refrain from conduct in any that will be offensive to those around them. We require thorough self-restraint by all participants - both players and adults. Teams must exercise appropriate control over those who fail to control themselves.

RACIAL SLURS

PYHA will NOT tolerate in any way, any type of racial remarks or slurs and they will result in immediate disciplinary action.

BULLYING

PYHA will NOT tolerate bullying in any form by any members of the association and may result in disciplinary actions.

ON-ICE OFFICIALS

No adversarial confrontation, either verbal or physical, toward officials will be tolerated.

All players are to submit to the instruction of the referees whether in agreement or not.

Anyone who receives a penalty should skate directly to the penalty box without argument. The only players who are allowed to discuss issues with on-ice officials are the team captains or assistant captains, who need to do so in a respectful manner. Ideally the coaches should handle all matters pertaining to officiating and the officials.

TIMELINESS

Players are expected to be on time for all practices, games, and other team functions. There should be no exceptions without prior coach approval. Plan on being early.

SUMMARY OF THE PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

It is a privilege to play hockey for PYHA. As a PYHA player, I will:

- Play the game for the game's sake, and not just to please my parents or coach.
- Be modest and generous when I win and gracious when I lose.
- Respect the game of hockey and its rules, learn these rules and try to follow them, and play the game fairly.
- Work for the good of my team and always give my best effort.
- Show respect for the authority of the referee, even though I will sometimes disagree with his/her calls.
- Show good sportsmanship before, during, and after games. I understand that hockey is a game, and that the players on the other team are my opponents, not my enemies.
- Conduct myself with honor and dignity and treat other players as I would like to be treated.
- Help my parents and fans understand the rules of the game so they can watch and enjoy the game better. I will be sure they understand that dissent is not appropriate or permitted at friendly, league, or tournament games.
- Control my temper and not retaliate, even if I believe I have been wronged.

Player consequences will be determined by the team coaches and/or member(s) of the PYHA Board for violations of the player Code of Conduct. Consequences will be determined based on the offense, the severity, and repetitiveness in a progressive discipline manner. Possible consequences include but are not limited to, being talked to and warned by a coach, being talked to and warned by coach with a parent(s) involved, removal from practice or game for remainder of the ice time, removal from future practices, games, or other team activities, and/or possible disciplinary actions by the PYHA Board.

VIOLATIONS OF THE PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT MAY RESULT IN:

- A player being suspended and/or removed from practice, a game, or a tournament by a coach or a referee for misconduct.
- A coach being suspended and/or removed from practice, a game, or a tournament by another coach or a referee for misconduct.

- A player being benched by the team's coach for parent misconduct before, during, or after a game.
- A player being benched by the team's coach for player misconduct before, during, or after a game.
- A member or family could be released from the association.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

As a parent, you play a special role in the development of your daughter or son, and of his/her teammates. Your encouragement and good example will do more to ensure good sportsmanship and self-discipline than any other influence. The other team is the opponent, not the enemy, and should be treated with respect. While winning is important, playing well and fairly and having fun is the essence of the game.

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

Support your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in his/her team. Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are more important than victory.

BE SUPPORTIVE AND YOUR CHILD'S BIGGEST CHEERLEADER

Children learn more by example than by criticism. Work to be a positive role model and reinforce positive behavior in others. Applaud good plays by others on your child's team as well as good plays by the opposing team. Do not criticize any child's performance from the stands or glass. Accept the results of each game. Teach your child to be gracious in victory and to turn defeat into victory by learning and working toward improvement.

DON'T BE A SIDELINE COACH OR REF

Refrain from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. Parents who shout or scream from the sidelines often give inappropriate advice at the wrong time. The coach should be the only sideline voice. You and your child will both enjoy the game more if you put some emotional distance between yourself and the ice or play. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship - do not openly question their judgment or honesty.

DEMONSTRATE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD YOUR OPPONENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Opponents are not enemies. Take care to show good hospitality at home and to represent PYHA in a positive way when playing other teams and associations. Never allow yourself to be drawn into a verbal disagreement with opposing parents or coaches. No one normally regrets letting "cooler heads prevail."

REMEMBER THAT YOUR CHILD WANTS TO HAVE FUN

Your child is the one playing hockey, not you. Children must establish their own goals - to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose unreasonable demands on your child. Let your children experience the fun of playing as well as the challenge of excelling.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS OF PYHA PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parents/guardians should always set a good example for their child in his/her hockey development by adhering to the following. I/We will:

- Not criticize the referee openly or directly, during or after games. Any criticism shall be made in writing, sent to my coach and/or my association representative, not verbally.
- Give only positive feedback to players.
- Cheer at all games within the spirit of fair play and do our best to cheer the effort regardless of the outcome. We will be mindful in "lopsided" games where cheering our own "winning" team might be misunderstood.
- Do our best to teach our players to become students of the game.
- Show the quality of our sportsmanship during and after each game and help our child remember to thank the referee after the match without regard to the result.

- Do our very best to have our child prepared for every game.
- Support the learning efforts of the players, the coaches, and the referees by demonstrating our patience.
- Understand that improper behavior at any game may result in a parent being asked to leave the arena or rink by a coach, a referee, or a PYHA association official so the team does not receive an unnecessary penalty or an ejection due to the action of the parent spectator.
- Leave the coaching to the coach during the game. We shall not give our child instructions during the game.
- Understand that the PYHA association, or in the case of out-of-town games, other associations can, and will if necessary, suspend our individual privilege to watch our child play should we behave in a manner that is rude or otherwise offensive.
- Agree to do our best to have as much fun watching the game as the players should have playing the game.

24-HOUR RULE

The 24-hour rule is a rule that is in place to help keep peace between the coach and parents. The rule is simple. Parents are not allowed to approach the coach about issues until 24 hours after the competition or 24 hours after an issue arises.

REASONS FOR THE 24-HOUR RULE

- To allow the parents to calm down after the issue has developed.
- Allow the coach to calm down after the competition or issue.
- Give parents and coaches time to think about the problem and possible solutions.
- To prevent any unnecessary acts or scenes in front of players and other parents.
- Calmer heads will prevail.
- To stop any embarrassing moments in front of the players or child.
- The hope that time to think about the issues will help to solve the problem in a positive manner and the right resolution.

Sometimes in the heat of the moment parents and coaches say things that they really don't mean. This can hurt the player or team because things were not handled correctly. The parent & coach relationship is important, but the overall decisions should be based on what is best for the team and players. The rule is in place to help protect the players and team.

VIOLATIONS OF THE PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT MAY RESULT IN:

- A Parent being suspended and/or removed from a game/tournament by a referee for misconduct.
- A Coach being suspended and/or removed from a game/tournament by a referee for a misconduct.
- A Player being benched by the team's coach for parent misconduct before, during, or after a game.
- A member or family could be released from the association.

EXAMPLES OF CONDUCT SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINE

Examples of words or actions which will constitute a violation of the Code include, but are not limited to the following:

- Making physical contact with any player, coach, official, league representative, arena personnel or spectator.
- Taunting or threatening any player, coach, official, league representative, arena personnel or spectator.
- Going into the locker/dressing room of an opposing team or obstructing their access to or exit from said room and arena.
- Going into the officials' locker/dressing room or obstructing their access to or exit from said room and arena.
- Using profane and/or vulgar language or mannerisms.
- Going onto the ice surface.
- Throwing of any object onto the ice surface, into the player area(s), or at another individual.
- Pounding or climbing on the glass.
- Defacing or damaging property belonging to any individual, team, association, or arena.
- Being involved in any activity that would warrant the summoning of law enforcement officials.
- Inciting any person(s) to become involved in any of the above-listed behaviors.
- Any other conduct that is not in compliance with the standards of Palouse Youth Hockey Association.

HOCKEY CHAT ROOMS AND OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Players, parents, coaches, and volunteers are allowed to enter hockey chat rooms via the internet, they are however prohibited from publishing any information, either negative or positive about any of the PYHA teams, players, coaches, parents, or volunteers, or any of the policies and other information pertaining to PYHA on those sites.

While nothing in this should be construed as limiting a PYHA member's First Amendment Right, PYHA believes it is important for its members to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner on social media. This is only intended to regulate the use of social media by PYHA members when that use interferes with or harasses PYHA members or others, creates a hostile environment, breaches confidentiality obligations, disrupts the overall function of PYHA, harms the goodwill and reputation of PYHA, violates the law, PYHA policies and/or other rules including those of USA Hockey, or facilitates inappropriate contact or conversations between players, coaches, parents, volunteers, or other members of the association. Inappropriate behavior may result in disciplinary actions.

PLAYER USE OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

Alcohol consumption of any kind by players is strictly prohibited. Any violation of this rule will result in disciplinary action.

Tobacco use by players is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

The use of "illegal" substances by players, including PEDs, is prohibited. USA Hockey has taken a "No Tolerance" stance on this and will not be tolerated. Immediate discipline will be taken.

Aside from PYHA disciplinary actions, there may also be criminal consequences for violations of this section of the Code of Conduct. One will not cancel or prevent the other.

VOLUNTEER USE OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER SUBSTANCES

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety and well-being of all youth participants in our hockey program by maintaining a drug-free and alcohol-free environment. This policy applies to all volunteers serving in roles where they are directly responsible for the safety and well-being of youth participants; including, but not limited to, coaches, locker room monitors and penalty box monitors.

Prohibition on Substance Use: Volunteers are strictly prohibited from reporting for duty under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, whether legal or illegal. This prohibition includes prescription medications that may impair the volunteer's ability to safely and effectively perform their duties, unless a doctor has confirmed that the medication will not affect their performance. As a precautionary measure, volunteers are asked to abstain from alcohol consumption within three (3) hours prior to the start of their volunteer shift.

Responsibilities: Volunteers are responsible for ensuring they are in a fit state to perform their duties, which include monitoring the safety and well-being of youth participants. Volunteers must immediately notify the team manager if they are unable to fulfill their duties due to the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

Enforcement: Any volunteer found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including being banned from attendance at PYHA events.

FORMS OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Every member of PYHA, players and adults, are responsible for their own actions and behaviors on and off the ice. Any action(s) by a PYHA member which exhibits a lack of respect to any other individual, facility, association or represents PYHA in a negative way may be cause for disciplinary action, suspension, or expulsion from the team or association. Each violation or suspected violation will be handled on a case-by-case basis by either the coaching staff or PYHA board. USA Hockey Bylaw 10 will be followed.

Disciplinary actions will be determined on the severity of the action, and/or a repeated offense or offender, and/or age of player. Discipline may result in a wide range of action and may be progressive depending on nature of the offense.

DISCLAIMER

** All discipline/consequences are to be considered a minimum action taken for violating a certain team/PYHA rule. Violations or suspected violations will be handled in a case-by-case basis and attempting to keep a consistent outcome. This is in no way an all-inclusive code of conduct and any action deemed to be inappropriate will result in negative consequences.

USA HOCKEY

Players, coaches, volunteers, and other members of PYHA, including parents and other spectators, are also subject to USA Hockey Rules and Regulations and the USA Hockey consequences imposed to certain rule violations. USA Hockey protocol will be followed in all appropriate situations. We must also adhere to the [USA Hockey Codes of Conduct](#).

STATE HOCKEY TEAM DEFINITIONS

HOUSE/RECREATION

House or Recreational level is the backbone of youth hockey. This level encourages “house league” play and must be designed by the Member Association to provide opportunities to play for enjoyment, fitness, relaxation, and friendship. Skill development and team concepts should be stressed rather than winning the game at “all costs”.

TRAVEL HOCKEY (ROSTERED AS HOUSE/REC)

Travel hockey is comprised of skilled players and teams of local associations who have the desire and ability to travel and any Recreational team that plays any games against teams from outside their home rink.

TIER HOCKEY (ROSTERED AS TIER I OR TIER II)

Tier level hockey is comprised of highly skilled, accomplished players and teams who have the desire and ability to travel and compete for State (Affiliate), District and National Championships. An emphasis is placed on even higher-level skill development both on and off ice, high level of competition, and on winning, which is balanced with sportsmanship and fair play.

DISABLED HOCKEY

Disabled hockey is a relatively new section of hockey for IAHA. Disabled hockey players (e.g. sled, hearing impaired, etc.) face many challenges, but ice hockey offers an avenue to participate, compete, and enjoy our great game. In Idaho, current efforts are focused on funding and growing disabled programs from across the state.

GIRLS/WOMEN’S HOCKEY

Divisions recognized by USAH and IAHA are as follows:

- National Bound Girls’ Tier I: 14U, 16U & 19U
- National Bound Girls’ Tier II: 14U, 16U & 19U
- Girls’ Travel: 14U, 16U & 19U
- Girls’ Recreational or House: 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U & 19U
- National Bound Women’s (18 & Over): Senior A, B, C
- National Bound Women’s Recreational: 30+, 40+ & 50+
- Women’s Adult Recreational (18 & Over)

As allowed by USAH and IAHA, Girls may dual roster Youth teams and Girls’ teams. Dual-rostered females playing on Youth and Girls’ teams may continue playing on all teams until the end of the regular season. However, the player must declare in writing to her appropriate Association and State registrar, or his/her designee, by December 31st (or the earlier date established by the State or District Registrar)(or earlier if so designated by the State Registrar), on which National Championship bound team she wishes to be eligible to advance to the District, State, Regional and National Championship (as applicable). If the player does not indicate on which team she wishes to be eligible for District, State, Regional and National Tournaments, the State registrar shall have the final GUIDEBOOK PAGE 16 authority to certify the eligibility of any such player solely on the basis of the date of the earliest team roster registration form (form C-1), as provided above, is received. IAHA hosts the State Player Development Idaho Camp each winter. PDC is a player development camp with advancement opportunities to District and National levels. All eligible females are encouraged to attend.

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

High School Hockey is separated into Varsity and JV and teams skate for their School’s Club Team or for an “Independent or Combined” team in area leagues. Teams are defined as either “pure” (meaning all players attend the same school) or “Independent or combined” meaning players may attend different schools within a district or region. All teams have rosters registered through USA Hockey as House/Rec. IAHA will conduct a State

Tournament and declared teams will compete during this tournament. If necessary, this tournament may also be used to determine which High School team will advance to the National HS Championships. For High School teams that are not National Bound, a State Tournament will be held for A and B divisions with an option for JV teams. The High School hockey season runs from September 1st to March 31st each year. Players are eligible to play for their high school and can also be rostered on a House/Rec, Travel or Tier team. Select High School players within IAHA may compete each spring on a Showcase team.

LEAGUES

Multiple leagues may exist within Idaho, whether they were formed for adult, high school, house, or travel play. Leagues were formed based on sufficient demand from teams and players for organized play. Leagues are governed by rules and guidelines established by the leagues. League rules are designed to manage all aspects of league play, and shall not conflict with existing rules within IAHA, RMD, or USAH. Situations arise occasionally that require input from IAHA or USAH. These situations will be addressed by the appropriate body on a case-by-case basis.

ADULT HOCKEY

Players become eligible for Adult League hockey at age 18.