



## **KANKAKEE YOUTH HOCKEY CLUB POLICY AND INFORMATION MANUAL**

**FOR PLAYERS, COACHES, TEAM OFFICIALS, PARENTS & SPECTATORS**

### ***MISSION STATEMENT***

*To provide high quality skill development in the sport of hockey for all players in a safe environment. (a) to promote, encourage and improve the standard of amateur ice hockey; and (b) to conduct an amateur hockey program consistent with the rules and regulations of USA Hockey, AHAI and the various leagues in which the Corporation's players participate.*

# WELCOME TO KANKAKEE YOUTH HOCKEY

The Kankakee Youth Hockey Club (KYHC) is a hockey club that operates out of the Ice Valley Centre in Kankakee, IL. Kankakee is rich with history and natural beauty!

Currently the KYHC consists of the **Irish** High School Hockey which play in the Illinois West High School Hockey League (IWHSHL) and the **Kankakee Coyotes** which consists of teams at the Bantam (14U), Peewee (12U), Squirt (10U), and Mite (8U) levels playing in the Northwest Hockey League (NWHL).

This manual sets forth the basic policies of the Kankakee Youth Hockey Club (KYHC) concerning all participants in the organization. The fundamental goal underlying these policies is to give the best possible experience to the greatest number of children and young adults. While we hope that our teams will win their share of games, it is more important that the children have fun, develop hockey skills and learn the rewards of teamwork, dedicated effort and sportsmanship. Anyone with questions about these policies should direct them to either the Club President or KYHC Rules and Ethics (R&E) Chair.

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. Both are similar and it is important to establish and understanding and clear lines of communication. When your player becomes part of the Kankakee Youth Hockey Club it is important that the established expectations and lines of communication are clearly understood by all. We are working with your most prized gift, and we look forward to working with you and your player to build on the foundation of a strong, proud Kankakee Youth Hockey Club tradition.

## **Expectations of our COACHING STAFF**

- Teach and promote good sportsmanship
- Be enthusiastic and motivational
- Stress Team unity in developing winning attitudes
- Communicate with players and parents
- Help players to set realistic goals for performance improvement
- Hold a meeting with the players for the purpose of understanding & communication

## **Expectations of our PLAYERS**

- Be coachable - have a positive, learning attitude
- Set realistic & challenging goals for yourself
- Respect coaches, teammates, officials, parents, and all rinks, facilities & equipment
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship
- Learn from your mistakes
- Have a good work ethic, both on and off the ice
- Maintain grades of a C or better
- Come prepared for practices and games
- Be a leader and a role model

### **Expectations of our PARENTS**

- Hold players accountable to the expectations set forth by the club and coaches
- Please notify coaches of ANY injury that they may not be aware of
- Be positive- being on any team is an accomplishment
- Be supportive- nothing can erode teamwork faster than athletes doubting the capabilities of their coaches. It can be an infectious problem that affects performance, confidence and the needed edge to compete in an athletic contest
- Communicate fairly and openly with the coaches
- Be a good role model- demonstrate positive behavior and good sportsmanship as a fan
- Attend parent meetings
- Learn the rules of the game
- Encourage commitment & positive values
- Ensure players are prepared and on time for practices and games
- Notify coaches and team manager with as much advance notice as possible if your player is unable to attend a practice or game

### **Inappropriate Issues to Discuss with Coaches**

- Other players
- Philosophy or play calling
- Team or Individual strategy
- Playing time

### **Appropriate Issues to Discuss with Coaches**

- Various ways to help your player improve
- Concerns about injury
- Concerns about behavior
- Concerns about the treatment of your player

It is important to understand that athletics provide some of the most rewarding moments in a child's life. It is equally important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your player would like them to go. Coaches will make judgements & decisions based on what they see, know & believe to be in the best interest of all the players involved & the team itself.

KYHC is a member of USA Hockey and the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois.



All players and Coaches must register online with USA Hockey prior to KYHCs registration. Please bring confirmation page to in person registration or have it available when registering online.

Go to [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com) Click on "online registration" Complete USA Hockey Registration



The Amateur Hockey Association Illinois was founded as the governing body of Illinois amateur hockey in 1975.

AHAI consists of over 2500 member teams of all sizes and shapes. There are boys' and girls' teams. There are pre-mite teams (for the 5 and 6 year olds), house league youth teams, all-star youth travel teams, high school teams, girl's/women's teams, in-line teams, youth and adult sled teams, special hockey teams, deaf/hard of hearing teams, adult teams, and Junior teams for the top contenders in Illinois.

*"Provide an improved grassroots foundation for the growth and development of USA Hockey and its members, designing programs aimed at encouraging increased participation, improved skills and a responsible environment for the conduct of youth hockey."*

## **KHYC BOARD**

Board meetings are held monthly. Date, time and location to be determined by the Board of Directors. and communicated via the website, social media and/or email. Current Board Members and information on how to contact the board are listed on the website. Meeting minutes and by-laws are also posted on the website.

## **KANKAKEE COYOTE YOUTH HOCKEY TEAM**



"Fostering balanced competition and fair play in hockey throughout Chicagoland."

The Coyotes play in the Northwest Hockey League (NWHL).

<http://www.nwhleague.com/>

The Northwest Hockey League was formed to provide safe recreationally competitive youth hockey at all age levels. The league focuses on sportsmanship, fair play, and player development.

### **REGULAR (FALL/WINTER) SEASON**

Evaluations (if needed) are early to mid-September and practices start in mid-September. Game play begins in October and continues until the final tournament in early March. Fees are determined by the board annually and published at registration.

Typically, each team will participate in at least one tournament independent of the NWHL. Some of the tournaments we have done in the past have been in Wisconsin Dells, St. Louis, Notre Dame, and Chicago. The cost of one tournament entry fee is included in your KYHC fees. Any additional tournaments the team chooses to do would be an additional expense and the fees divided among the families of the players that choose to participate in that tournament. Additional tournament costs such as travel, accommodations, etc. are at the expense of individual families.

## **Discount Opportunities**

Goalie:

- Full-time, single goalie will receive 20% off fees
- If a team has 2 goalies, each will receive 50% off fees (discount only applies if the player does not skate out in addition to playing the goalie position)
- Special circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis with Board determination of appropriate discount.

Multi-Player: oldest player is full price; each younger sibling will receive 10% off fees

Volunteer:

- Head Coach: 10% off youngest player's fees
- Team Manager: 10% off youngest player's fees
- Board Member: 10% off youngest player's fees

\*Each individual volunteer will be eligible for only 1 discount per year

## **Refund Policy**

Refunds will be issued only in rare situations where we are unable to field a team. There will be no refunds for voluntary withdrawal from a team. The board reserves the right to make exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis.

## **SPRING SEASON**

Starts on or after April 1 and ends in early June with a Championship Tournament. The season consists of 10 games. The jerseys are included in Spring Fees. Fee TBD and published at registration.

## **IRISH HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY TEAM**

The Irish High School hockey team skates out of Ice Valley Ice Centre in Kankakee, Illinois, near the Kankakee Community College campus. The IWSHL season begins in September and runs through February with playoffs and finals through mid-March.

Kankakee Irish play in the Illinois West High School Hockey League (IWSHL). The IWSHL season consists of regular season games, a playoff tournament, State Tournament and an All-Star/Conference game. Fees are determined by the board annually and published at registration. Any prospective player who attends pre-season conditioning/evaluations will be required to pay a \$200 tryout fee. This fee will go toward registration fees but will not be refundable if the prospective player elects not to move forward with joining one of the Irish teams.

Updated June 2024

Irish teams participate in 1-2 tournaments each season. The cost of one tournament entry fee is included in your KYHC fees. Any additional tournaments the team chooses to do would be an additional expense and the fees divided among the families of the players that choose to participate in that tournament. Additional tournament costs such as travel, accommodations, etc. are at the expense of individual families.

Schools that make up the Kankakee Irish High School team include: Beecher HS, Bishop McNamara HS, Bradley Bourbonnais Community HS, Clifton Central HS, Donovan HS, Grant Park HS, Herscher HS, Kankakee HS, Manteno HS, Momence HS, Peotone HS, Reed-Custer HS, St Anne HS, Watseka HS and Wilmington HS.

### **Discount Opportunities**

Goalie:

- Full-time, single goalie will receive 20% off fees
- If a team has 2 goalies, each will receive 50% off fees (discount only applies if the player does not skate out in addition to playing the goalie position)
- Special circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis with Board determination of appropriate discount.

Multi-Player: oldest player is full price; each younger sibling will receive 10% off fees

Volunteer:

- Head Coach: 10% off youngest player's fees
- Team Manager: 10% off youngest player's fees
- Board Member: 10% off youngest player's fees

\*Each individual volunteer will be eligible for only 1 discount per year

### **Refund Policy**

Refunds will be issued only in rare situations where we are unable to field a team. There will be no refunds for voluntary withdrawal from a team. The board reserves the right to make exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis.

### **Double Rostering**

Requests to double roster will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If approved, the Board will determine an appropriate fee structure.

## **REGISTRATION DEADLINES**

Registrations after the established deadline will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Late registration could result in increased costs for uniform pieces and/or rush processing and shipping. Any additional costs associated with late registration will be the responsibility of that family.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Our fundraising committee organizes several fundraisers each year to provide families with opportunities to raise funds toward their fees. Participation in fundraisers is completely optional. Fundraising efforts can only be applied to player fees to cover enrollment on the team and uniform pieces purchased through the club. Funds cannot be used for other expenses such as equipment, lodging or meals. Any surplus of fundraising credits can be applied to future fees however no refunds will be issued. Some of the successful fundraisers organized in the past include:

Ad Book (see below for more details)

Fannie May Candy

Nothing Bundt Cakes

Holiday Pies

Spirit Wear

Discount Cards

### **AD BOOK**

The ad book is a "program" containing all of the KYHC teams and player profiles. Inside we reserve space for local businesses or even parents, grandparents and other family members to pay for space to advertise or wish their favorite player a good season. 80% of the ad sales a player/family make will go toward the player's fees.

Specific fundraisers will be determined by the fundraising committee annually and details announced to all KYHC members.

## **POLICIES**

### **Photography**

On occasion, KYHC will take photos during games and other club activities for use on the website and social media. Unless an express written request is received, all members of KYHC agree to the use of photos for promotional and celebratory purposes. Members wishing to have their photo excluded from use on the website and social media must send a written request to [kyhc.registrar@gmail.com](mailto:kyhc.registrar@gmail.com).

### **Fee Payments**

It is imperative that we collect fees in a timely manner throughout the course of the season to ensure timely payment of our expenses. Two payment options are provided at registration: 1.) payment in full by credit card or ACH, or 2.) A deposit plus 6 equal monthly automatic payments to be charged the first of each month September-February. For those who do not pay their accounts in full at registration, a credit/debit card will be required at registration and will remain on file to facilitate the monthly automatic payments. It is your responsibility to ensure payments do not fail (i.e. expired cards are updated before they expire, funds are available for charging, etc.). If at any time an automatic payment fails, a late charge of \$30 will be assessed to the account and the player may be deemed ineligible for all club activities until the account is brought current.

If a special payment arrangement is needed, please contact the KYHC Treasurer with your request. The Treasurer will take your request to the full board for approval. If at any time the board has to issue an invoice for payment, a processing fee of \$10 will be assessed.

We recognize that many families participate in fundraisers to subsidize fees each year. Fundraising credits will be applied as quickly as possible after a fundraiser closes and will be applied to accounts in order of latest scheduled payment to soonest.

All accounts must be paid in full by February 1<sup>st</sup> or the player will be deemed ineligible for all club activities until the account is paid in full.

### **Expense Reimbursement**

The Club will reimburse all coaches, managers and board members for the cost of their annual USA Hockey Registration, background check fees and any registration costs incurred for required classes/training. Travel costs, meals, lodging, voluntary classes/training and personal equipment will not be reimbursed. The Board reserves the right to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis.



## **ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

KYHC has a strict anti-discrimination policy. It is our view that discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, or socioeconomic status is detrimental to the game of hockey and to youth hockey in our community and is therefore prohibited.

## **24 HOUR RULE**

KYHC subscribes to the following "24Hour Rule" policy with regard to the reporting of a complaint or issue of concern. Please keep the intent of this rule in mind. The intent is not to discourage discussion, but to impose a period to allow emotions to cool and to allow a civil conversation to occur.

1. There shall be no contact with any team official or member of the coaching staff regarding an issue of concern before, during or after a hockey game, practice, or other event for a 24-hour period following the occurrence of an issue of concern.

Should there be an issue of concern after the 24hour period has passed, Parents must follow protocol after the 24 hour period that includes: contacting the Team Manager - wait for response and if response doesn't satisfy you contact the Head Coach - wait for response and if response doesn't satisfy you, the KYHC R&E Chair shall be notified and will schedule a meeting or respond in writing based on the complaint. The R&E Committee can be notified by sending an email to the R&E Chair or by submitting an incident report.

2. A violation of this rule constitutes a violation of KYHC's Zero Tolerance Policy, and any player, coach, team official, parent/guardian, spectator who violates this rule will be required to appear before the Chair of the KYHC R&E Committee or the Chair's designee. The Chair or the Chair's designee will examine the reported infraction/complaint and may assess sanctions against the player, coach, team official, parent/guardian, or spectator in accordance with the "Three Strike Policy". Before issuing any Strike Two or Strike Three sanction, the Chair or the Chair's designee will consult with the KYHC Club President and in some cases, the full Executive Board.

## **Method of reporting violations**

All reports of potential violations of any KYHC policy must be directed to the R&E Chair. The person reporting the violation has the responsibility to ensure the report is made to the correct email address. Reports sent elsewhere may not be acted upon in a timely matter.

## **Reporting Form**

So that reports of potential violations can be fully investigated and acted upon, reporting persons are encouraged to use the KYHC Incident Report format below:

Updated June 2024

Date:

Full Name:

Phone:

Email Contact:

Player/Child's Name (if applicable):

Date of Incident:

Location of Incident:

Witness(es), if any:

Description of incident (Make sure to include background information about the events before, during, and immediately after the incident). In your own words, please describe what happened (who, what, where, when, why & how):

### **Confidential Reporting**

So that reports of alleged violations can be fully investigated, KYHC encourages persons who report violations to identify themselves and to provide contact information that will allow investigators to obtain follow-up information or verification of allegations.

KYHC recognizes that in rare instances, persons may be unwilling to identify themselves or provide contact information when reporting violations. In these rare instances, an anonymous incident report may be delivered to the KYHC mailbox located at Ice Valley Centre (IVC), please place the report in an envelope addressed to the R&E Chair.

### **ZERO TOLERANCE**

A penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be assessed whenever a player or coach.....

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
3. Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision.

On-ice officials will stop the game when the parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The on-ice 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 suspended from attending games at Ice Valley Arena. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior includes:

Updated June 2024

1. Use of obscene or vulgar 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, player's bench, penalty box or on the ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

Parents of KYHC players need to model appropriate behavior. Parents agree to be respectful and show appreciation for officials and volunteers who give their time to the Kankakee Youth Hockey Club. Parents further agree not to yell, taunt, threaten physical violence upon a player, coach, official, or spectator at any KYHC function. KYHC parents must abide by the 24-hour rule. Parents are not to approach a coach to discuss a game, a game incident or a situation that occurred during the game that has provoked an adverse emotional response or a hostile situation until at least 24 hours after the fact. Contact includes email and the use of social networking websites. Parents must follow protocol after the 24-hour period that includes contacting the Team Manager - wait for response and if response doesn't satisfy you contact the Head Coach - wait for response and if response doesn't satisfy you contact the Hockey Director/Board Member.

No player siblings are allowed to be in the locker room at any time during KYHC practice or competition. Parents should only enter a team locker room if asked to do so by a coach or club official and only when a NCSI background screened/Safe Sport trained locker room monitor is present. Parents of KYHC players are not allowed in the bench area during any KYHC practice or competition.

The player and parents acknowledge that failure to abide by the rules set forth in this agreement constitutes a breach of this agreement and subjects the player and his/her parents to disciplinary action and possible expulsion from the Kankakee Youth Hockey Club.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

All Players, Coaches, Team Officials, Parents and Guardians are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and responsible manner at all times including at both home and away games, all tournaments and any team related functions. Any conduct deemed to not be in the best interest of youth hockey, will be viewed as a violation of the player code of conduct by KYHC.

## **PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT**

Unsportsmanlike conduct (i.e. trash talking; swearing; disrespecting the referees, opposing team or your own teammates) or the intent to injure another player (kicking, slashing, checking from behind, high sticking, etc.) will not be tolerated.

In the locker rooms, corridors, lobbies, parking lots and elsewhere, you are a representative of your team and KYHC. Players are expected to show the highest level of respect for their teammates, officials, opponents and spectators. This means no bullying, no teasing, no trash talking, no hand  
Updated June 2024

gestures, no demeaning locker room antics, no swearing, no hazing, no locker boxing and no fighting.

At hockey games and practices, all coaches will be addressed as “coach”, “sir/ma’am” or the term “coach” preceding their first/last name (i.e. Coach John). Coaches are never to be addressed by their first name only. Coaches and league officials also command the respect of all players, regardless of team or level affiliation and will be treated as such. Under no circumstances will a player display disrespect of a verbal or physical nature towards a coach or league official when said coach or official gives a player verbal direction regarding inappropriate behavior.

## **COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT**

As a coach at KYHC you are obligated to fulfill certain requirements mandated by the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois (AHA), USA Hockey and KYHC. As a Head Coach at KYHC you will report directly to the KYHC Hockey Director. Assistant Coaches will report directly to the Head Coach and therefore fall under the direct supervision of the KYHC Hockey Director. Any conduct deemed to not be in the best interest of youth hockey, will be viewed as a violation of the Coaches Code of Conduct by KYHC.

Coaches are role models on and off the ice and are expected to exhibit quality leadership and enthusiastic behavior. Coaches will refrain from all forms of tobacco use within the arenas and at any club events when players are present and avoid alcohol consumption prior to taking the ice for practices or games. It is the intent of KYHC to enjoy a variety of coaching styles and techniques, however certain types of behavior will not be tolerated: **Per USA Hockey and AHA guidelines, the use of profanity or other verbal or physical abuse towards a player will result in the offending coach being banned from future coaching consideration in the state of Illinois.**

In addition to the aforementioned stipulation regarding coaching conduct, all coaches will refrain from engaging in the verbal abuse of all players, on either team, or abusive remarks towards the referees. Such conduct will be considered a violation of the USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy and shall result in sanctions against the coach.

Head coaches will use their best efforts to arrive at the rink at least 45 minutes before games and 15 minutes before practices. They will be in the locker room with their players (not outside with the parents) at least 20 minutes before taking the ice. As a head coach at KYHC you have responsibility for your team, this includes ensuring locker room monitoring policies are followed at all times. Coaches, or their staff, are responsible for supervising and controlling behavior of your players during any and all hockey related events. During this time the head coach will be responsible for upholding the KYHC conduct policies. Coaches will remain in the locker room after games for any post game breakdown speeches. Coaches shall encourage sportsmanship, a hard work ethic and teamwork. Coaches will not allow bullying, hazing or any other misconduct by players. They are responsible for enforcing the Player’s Code of Conduct. KYHC takes this responsibility seriously and expects the Head

Coach and their staff to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects youth hockey and KYHC in the most positive way.

Each coach with KYHC will provide a positive team atmosphere both on and off the ice. Each coach will provide positive support, care and encouragement for all players. Each coach will encourage good sportsmanship and lead by example, show self-control and refrain from using profanity. Each coach will treat the on-ice officials with respect, failure to do so may result in a formal complaint filed against a coach by the Illinois Hockey Officials Association (IHOA). Any formal complaint will be viewed as a Zero Tolerance Policy violation. Each coach will do their best to provide positive practice and game plans to develop the overall skills of each player. Coaches will be consistent with both praise and punishment – the rules apply to everyone. Each coach will be responsible to avoid participating in verbal disputes with parents/guardians in the public eye by strictly adhering to the 24-hour rule. Each coach will do their best to be empathetic towards the concerns and constructive criticism of parents/guardians, players, referees and KYHC officials.

Each coach will be responsible to ensure there is no trash talking of other players or coaches. Champions let their actions do the talking. No coach will encourage hitting from behind or intent to injure another player; this will be strictly enforced and shall result in disciplinary action by the KYHC Rules & Ethics Chair, the KYHC Executive Board, AHAI and/or USA Hockey.

### **Team Official Code of Conduct**

A Team Official is defined as ANY person who serves in any on or office capacity, be it as a Team Manager, Game Score Keeper, Game Clock Operator, Penalty Box Tender, Check In Table worker, or other capacity whether on a paid or volunteer basis. These positions are viewed by both KYHC and AHAI in the same capacity as a member of the coaching staff and will fall under the same penalties should a Zero Tolerance Violation or similar USA Hockey Rule violation occur. The role of the Team Manager is to serve as the liaison between the coaching staff and the parents/guardians. Therefore, in order to maintain the integrity of this position and the duties/responsibilities thereof, no Team Manager will be allowed to serve in ANY coaching capacity for which they are also serving as Team Manager. By allowing this practice, it would jeopardize the ability for the Manager to fulfill their duties without bias or the perception thereof.

The Team Manager is responsible for the submission of the game score sheets to the appropriate league upon completion of each game. It is the Team Manager, and only the Team Manager, who should take sole possession of these documents upon the completion of each game. Under no circumstances should anyone other than the Team Manager or member of the Team coaching staff be in sole possession of these documents. Should there be a situation where the Team Manager is unable to perform the correspondence duties, arrangements will be made with the coaching staff to ensure the delivery of the score sheet to the appropriate league upon completion of the game and the score sheet will be returned to the Team Manager as soon as possible upon completion of said

Updated June 2024

duties. Team Managers are expected to sub in as locker room monitors if at any time a member of the coaching staff is unavailable to fulfil that responsibility.

### **Parents/Guardians Code of Conduct**

KYHC adheres to the Parents' Codes of Conduct established by the rules and policies established by the Northwest Hockey League (NWHL), Lincoln Land Prep High School League (LLPHL), Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois (AHA) and USA Hockey. Any conduct deemed to be as a violation of the Parental/Guardian Codes of Conduct of any of these organizations will be viewed as a violation of the by the KYHC Parents/Guardians Code of Conduct.

In addition to the aforementioned guidelines, KYHC also insists that parents/guardians adhere to the following conduct:

1. Parents/guardians will refrain from engaging in any physical altercation. Any physical altercation or unwanted physical contact with another will result in a thorough investigation and may result in extended suspension penalties or expulsion from KYHC for life.
2. Parents/guardians will conduct themselves in a manner which will exemplify good sportsmanship and fair play.
3. Parents/guardians will be supportive of all team players and coaches both on and off the ice.
4. Parents/guardians will refrain from negative or derogatory comments about players, coaches, referees, and KYHC or league officials; either in person, via telephone, via email or any other media.
5. Parents/guardians will notify their child's team manager or head coach in the event that their child is unable to attend any skills development sessions, practices, games, or other team activities.
6. Parents/guardians will comply with the 24-Hour Rule if a problem exists on their team and follow the aforementioned reporting steps.
7. Parents/guardians will be aware that their conduct at games is a reflection on KYHC. Excessive, obnoxious or overbearing behavior which puts KYHC in a negative light will not be tolerated. KYHC adheres to the USA Hockey policy regarding the abuse and use of excessive noisemakers. Noisemakers of any kind (i.e. horns, bells, and whistles) are not allowed in the ice arenas and will be confiscated without prior warning. Use of noisemakers will be considered a violation of the "Zero Tolerance" rules discussed above.

8. Any violation of the Parents/Guardians Pledge will be deemed a violation of the Parents/Guardians Code of Conduct.

### **Parents/Guardians Pledge**

As a parent/guardian of a young person in the KYHC Hockey Club, I will do my part to help respect all participants.

- I will not participate in any name calling or undesirable acts that detract from the game of hockey; either in person, via telephone, via email or any other media.
- I resolve to conduct myself as a parent and adult even under the most trying circumstances.
- I will remember that all of our children are looking to us for guidance.
- It is important to remember that through hockey we are building a solid foundation for future character development.
- I will do my part to make this season of hockey the best for my child and our team, welcome our guests at our home rink and recognize a good play regardless of who makes it.
- I will assure that my player is properly equipped to play the game of hockey including all safety equipment.
- Finally, I will remember that each game is for our young people and win or lose; it's a stride in life for them.

### **BALANCED ICE TIME POLICY (APPLIES TO COYOTES ONLY)**

From its inception the Northwest Hockey League was created to offer a league for players looking for a competitive but enjoyable playing experience. A major expectation of this league is that EVERY player is provided a positive hockey playing experience. The NWHL created Balanced Ice Time (BIT) to help promote that positive playing experience. Balanced Ice Time is defined as that "over the course of the season everyone's ice time will be fairly similar".

In simple terms it is often referred to as "Rolling Lines". Along with rolling lines there should NOT be special lines for power play or penalty kill. Also, when there are uneven numbers of players at each of the positions then the lines should be adjusted through the season so that all players get the benefit of playing a few extra shifts in a game. No player feels good about themselves nor improves when they unfairly sit on the bench. Coaches are expected to create game lineups with a focus on ensuring every player receives BIT. For example: 4 left and right wings and just 2 star centers is not balance;

Updated June 2024

having 2 sets of defensemen and 4 sets of wingers is not balanced. If your team is blessed with a player/s of greater skill or experience you should not expect those with less experience or skill to receive any less playing time, at any point in the game.

The NWHL BIT line-up policy: "The greatest discrepancy for the number of players at any one of the 5 positions and all other positions cannot be more than 1, excluding the goalie." If a team has multiple goalies they should be rotated either within games, or game by game. While it is the coach's responsibility to provide Balanced Ice Time, it can be the parents that hold the coach to continue following the policy. If your child is noticeably being bypassed by the coach in favor of others, you are fully entitled to contact your team manager, Committee Chair, club NWHL representative or a NWHL board member to ask them to look into it.

Do note...the ebb and flow of games will result in varying amounts of ice for everyone from game to game. It is important to consider the average game ice time over a period of time and the NWHL tournament should be no different.

### **Team Composition and Positions**

The Coach determines the composition of the team and determines the position for each player including goalies based on their skills and the needs of the team. If your child wishes to play goalie, we encourage you to borrow equipment either from equipment kept by the KYHC or other goalies so that you do not incur the expense if your child is not chosen to play as a goalie.

### **Locker Room Policies**

**For all club activities where locker rooms are used, no players shall be allowed access to the locker room unless a NCSI background screened/Safe Sport trained locker room monitor is present in the locker room. The coaching staff for each team are expected to monitor the locker room. If at any point the coaching staff is unavailable to fulfill the responsibility, the Team Manager is expected to monitor the locker room until a coach is available. In a very rare circumstance when neither a coach nor Team Manager are available, a NCSI background screened/Safe Sport trained club official may step in to monitor. If no NCSI background screened/Safe Sport trained locker room monitor is available, players MUST wait to enter the locker room until one is present.**

**If at any time only a single player is present, the locker room must be monitored by at least two adults until additional players arrive. If there is only one NCSI background screened/Safe Sport trained locker room monitor present, they MUST wait for multiple players to arrive before allowing access to the locker room.**

**The use of the locker room facility at all ice arenas, both home and away is a privilege bestowed upon our teams, not a right.** Therefore, when using a locker room (as a player, coach and parent/guardian) KYHC insists we treat these facilities with respect. Coaches, players and parents/guardians are expected to pick up after themselves (i.e. tape, bottles, wrappers, etc.). The



intentional destruction or vandalism of these facilities can result in the offending player or team losing their locker room privileges. If there is intentional damage to the facility, the responsible person(s) may face prosecution for Criminal Damage to Property.

KYHC adheres to the State of Illinois Compiled Statutes regarding eavesdropping violations (720 ILCS 5/142) and unlawful videotaping (720 ILCS 5/264). Therefore, **NO 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 KYHC Rules & Ethics Chair and if warranted, the matter may be referred to Law Enforcement for formal criminal investigation and prosecution.

It shall be the policy of KYHC that all Coyote players and coaches are in the locker room 15 minutes before taking the ice (game or practice) and for up to 10 minutes thereafter. ***During this period of time, no parents, siblings, relatives, friends, etc. shall be allowed in the locker room.*** As a reminder, parents should only enter a team locker room if asked to do so by a coach or club official and only when a NCSI background screened/Safe Sport trained locker room monitor is present. This will give the coaching staff the necessary time to prepare/debrief after a game or practice. Any infraction of this policy will be viewed as a Zero Tolerance violation.

**Irish Players must arrive in game day dress 1 hour prior to game time. Coyote Coaches will determine how far in advance their players are expected to be at the rink for games and players and parents are expected to comply.**

### **Social Media Policy**

It is the position of KYHC that ALL participants and their family members shall refrain from participating in any form of electronic cyber communications that are deemed by KYHC to be negative, threatening, harassing, derogatory, defaming or otherwise interpreted as cyber harassment as defined by Illinois Compiled Statute 720 ILCS 135/12. These forums include, but are not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, internet blogs or any other public online forum.

Per the USA Hockey/AHAI SafeSport manual:

*...All electronic communication of any kind between coach and player, including social media, must be nonpersonal in nature and be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team oriented motivational purposes.*

*Social media and other means of electronic communication can be used to commit abuse and misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by any employee, volunteer, independent contractor or other participant of a USA Hockey/AHAI Program will*

Updated June 2024

*not be tolerated and are considered violations of USA Hockey/AHA's SafeSport Program."*

In this era of social media, KYHC believes its membership needs to be held to the highest standard of integrity. Participation in negative, or defamatory online chat room discussions, "tweets", and/or postings as defined by 720 ILCS 135/12 by ANY member KYHC or their family members will not be tolerated. Violations may be reported to law enforcement with formal criminal complaints to follow.

Any player, coach, team official, parent/guardian, spectator who exhibits behavior in violation of the Social Media Policy or in violation of any of the Zero Tolerance Policies will be required to appear before the Chair of the KYHC R&E Chair or the Chair's designee. The Chair or the Chair's designee will examine the reported infraction/complaint and may assess sanctions against the player, coach, team official, parent/guardian, or spectator in accordance with the "Three Strike" policy. Before issuing any Strike Two or Strike Three sanction, the Chair or the Chair's designee will consult with the KYHC Club President and in some instances, the full Executive Board.

### **Physical Abuse Policy**

It is the policy of KYHC that there shall be no physical abuse at any game, practice, tournament, camp, clinic, or any other event.

Physical abuse means physical contact with a participant that intentionally causes the participant to sustain bodily harm or personal injury. Physical abuse also includes physical contact with a participant that intentionally creates a threat of immediate bodily harm or personal injury. Any conduct which evidences abuse will be referred to proper legal authorities for review.

Physical abuse does not include physical contact that is reasonably designed to coach, teach or demonstrate a hockey skill. Permitted physical contact may include, but is not necessarily limited to, shooting pucks at a goaltender, demonstrating checking or other hockey skills, and communicating with participants during the course of a game or practice, by touching them in a nonthreatening, non-sexual manner.

Any player, coach, team official, parent/guardian, spectator who exhibits behavior in violation of the Physical Abuse Policy or in violation of any of the Zero Tolerance Policies will be required to appear before the Chair of the KYHC R&E Chair or the Chair's designee. The Chair or the Chair's designee will examine the reported infraction/complaint and may assess sanctions against the player, coach, team official, parent/guardian, or spectator in accordance with the "Three Strike" policy. Before issuing any Strike Two or Strike Three sanction, the Chair or the Chair's designee will consult with the KYHC R&E Chair and Club President.

### **Sexual Abuse Policy**

It is the policy of KYHC that there shall be no sexual abuse of any minor participant involved in any of its or its sanctioned programs, games, practices, tournaments, camps, clinics, or other

Updated June 2024

events by an employee, volunteer or independent contractor.

Sexual abuse of a minor participant occurs when an employee, volunteer or independent contractor touches a minor participant for the purpose of causing the sexual arousal or gratification of either the minor participant or the employee, volunteer or independent contractor.

Neither consent of the player to the sexual contact, mistakes to the participant's age, nor the fact the sexual contact did not take place at a hockey function are defenses to a complaint of sexual abuse.

Upon proof of violation of this policy, the violator will be permanently banned or suspended from all KYHC activities and facilities.

**KYHC will notify the appropriate authorities if there is any evidence of abuse of any kind.**

### **Consumption Abuse Policy**

It is the considered judgment of KYHC that consumption/use/abuse of mood-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, or coaching, or officiating careers in the sport of ice hockey.

Therefore, with the best interests of its participants in mind, KYHC prohibits use by any participant of mood-altering substances during active participation in its programs, and, upon discovery of any violation, shall take action to remove the participant from participation in its programs for a reasonable period of time.

For purposes of this policy, the words mood altering substances shall include the following:

1. Intoxicating beverages, including, but not limited to, alcohol.
2. Nonprescription or prescribed controlled substances.
3. Prescription or prescribed controlled substances when used to an excess in violation of doctor's orders, or to produce the state of intoxication in the participant.

Further, a participant shall include players, coaches, team officials, referees, and all persons involved in the conduct of an ice hockey contest.

## DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES (THREE STRIKE POLICY)

### Appearance before KYHC R&E Chair

Any player (with his or her parents), coach, team official, parent, or spectator exhibiting behavior violating any of the policies set forth in this document or in violation of any of the Zero Tolerance Policies will be required to appear before the KYHC Rules & Ethics Chair or the Chair's designee. The Chair or the Chair's designee will examine the reported infraction/complaint and may assess sanctions in accordance with the "Three Strike" policy outlined below. Before issuing any Strike Two or Strike Three sanction, the Chair or the Chair's designee will consult with the KYHC and Club President and in some instances, the full Executive Board.

### Three Strike Policy

Every player, coach, team official, parent, and spectator will be allowed a maximum of three (3) strikes. Each instance of behavior that is deemed to have violated any of the above codes will result in at least one (1) strike. It is possible to earn all three (3) strikes for a single infraction. Players (and his or her parents), coaches, team officials, parents, and spectators will be notified in writing of any strikes assessed against them by the KYHC Rules and Ethics Chair.

1. Strike One – Could include but not limited to One week (minimum one game) suspension
2. Strike Two – Could include but not limited to a Two week (minimum two game) suspension
3. Strike Three – Could include but not limited to suspension for the balance of the regular season

***\*All consequences are at the discretion of the KYHC Rules & Ethics Chair and the Executive Board, however, ALL minimum consequences mandated by NWHL, SWHL, AHAI and USA Hockey will be strictly enforced. KYHC reserves the right to adopt tougher sanctions depending on the nature of the infraction.***

### Disciplinary Carry Over

Any disciplinary action taken by KYHC that remains unserved at the end of a season will carry over to the following season, whether it is Spring or Fall/Winter. If the suspended party chooses not to return to KYHC and participate elsewhere, the notice of suspension will be forwarded to AHAI and the new organization will be notified of the time remaining on the disciplinary action. It is up to said new organization to take enforcement and/or uphold the sanctions levied by KYHC. Should a player, coach, team official, parent, or spectator move to another organization and NOT serve said suspension, and returns to KYHC at a later date, the pending, unserved suspension will be reinstated and must be served in its entirety.