



HENNIKER YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION - “Henniker Huskies”

• 2026–2027 Parent & Player Handbook •

About Henniker Youth Hockey Association (HYHA)

The **Henniker Youth Hockey Association (HYHA)** was founded in 1991 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to youth hockey development. HYHA is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors elected to serve three-year terms. All board and coaching positions are volunteer-based.

HYHA is a member of:

- **USA Hockey**
- **New Hampshire Amateur Hockey Association**

These organizations govern amateur hockey in the United States and New Hampshire.

Our home rink is **Lee Clement Ice Arena**, located on the campus of **New England College**.

HYHA teams primarily compete within the Granite State League and other USA Hockey sanctioned events.

Current Board members, bylaws, policies, and registration information can be found at: www.hyha.hockey

Our Mission & Philosophy

HYHA exists to:

- Develop hockey skills
- Promote sportsmanship and teamwork
- Provide a safe and structured environment
- Foster a lifelong love of the game

We prioritize development over a “win-at-all-costs” mentality.

Core Values

Enjoyment – Hockey should be fun and rewarding.

Sportsmanship – Be humble in victory, gracious in defeat.

Teamwork – Success comes from playing together.

Integrity – Do what is right, even when no one is watching.

Respect – Treat teammates, opponents, officials, and families with dignity.

Excellence – Strive to be your best every day.

Participation – Development requires consistent participation in practice and games.

Programs Offered

HYHA offers:

Development Programs

- **Husky Pups – Learn to Skate**
- **Husky Pups – Learn to Play**

Travel Teams

- 8U
- 10U
- 12U
- 14U
- 18U

Teams generally practice twice per week and maintain a 2:1 practice-to-game ratio, consistent with USA Hockey recommendations. One tournament per team is included in tuition.

Travel is primarily within New Hampshire.

Coaching Standards (2026 Requirements)

All HYHA coaches must:

- Be USA Hockey registered annually
- Complete age-specific certification
- Complete SafeSport training
- Pass a national background screening
- Attend preseason HYHA coaching orientation

Coaches are expected to:

- Put player development first
- Model emotional maturity
- Maintain open parent communication
- Provide safe, organized, skill-focused practices
- Follow USA Hockey Codes of Conduct

Parent Expectations

Parents play a critical role in the success of HYHA.

We expect parents to:

- Encourage effort over outcomes
- Support officials and coaches
- Model respectful behavior
- Follow USA Hockey's Parent Code of Conduct
- Address concerns using proper communication channels (see 24-Hour Rule below)

24-Hour Rule

Parents must wait 24 hours after a game or practice before approaching a coach about concerns related to playing time, positioning, or competition decisions.

Zero Tolerance Policy

HYHA follows the NHAHA Zero Tolerance Policy.

The following behaviors will result in removal from the facility and possible disciplinary action:

- Abusive or vulgar language
- Taunting players, officials, or spectators
- Threats or physical confrontation
- Throwing objects

Lost game time will not be restored.

SafeSport & Locker Room Policy (2026 Update)

HYHA strictly follows USA Hockey SafeSport guidelines.

Locker Room Rules

- No cell phones or recording devices permitted
- Two-deep leadership (no adult alone with a minor)
- Separate changing accommodations available when needed
- Coaches and volunteers must be SafeSport certified

Any SafeSport concern must be reported immediately to:

- USA Hockey SafeSport
- HYHA President or SafeSport Coordinator

Equipment Requirements

All players must wear USA Hockey approved equipment.

Mandatory for ALL competitive players:

- HECC approved helmet with cage
- Neck guard (required)
- Mouth guard (required)
- Full protective gear

HYHA provides:

- Game jerseys
- Game socks

Players must provide:

- Practice jersey
- All protective equipment

Used equipment is available through the Equipment Director on a first-come basis.

Evaluations & Team Placement

Evaluations are conducted annually using:

- Neutral evaluators
- Anonymous pinnies
- Skill-based drills
- Prior season coach input

Team placement decisions are made by:

- Coaching Committee
- Head Coaches
- HYHA Board

Player movement between levels requires Coaching Committee approval.

Registration & Financial Policies (2026)

- Registration is completed online via SportsEngine.
- USA Hockey registration is required annually.
- Tuition may be paid in full or via approved installment plan.
- Family discounts may apply (excluding Learn to Skate).
- Tuition is non-refundable except under board-approved special circumstances.
- Financial assistance is available confidentially upon written request.

Outstanding balances or unreturned equipment must be resolved before participation.

Grievance Procedure

HYHA encourages professional and respectful conflict resolution.

If concerns arise:

1. Follow the 24-Hour Rule.
2. Address the coach first (if appropriate).
3. Submit written concerns to the HYHA Board within 7 days of the incident.

Board meetings are held monthly. Agenda requests must be submitted one week in advance.

Game & Facility Conduct

At **Lee Clement Ice Arena**:

- No running or horseplay
- No pucks or balls in lobby areas
- Leave locker rooms clean
- Only rostered players allowed on bench side
- No children in score box or penalty box

Respect the facility at all times.

Communication

HYHA uses:

- SportsEngine App & Team Chat
- Email communications
- HYHA website: www.hyha.hockey

Parents are responsible for checking communications regularly.

Weather Policy

Rink closures are determined by NEC.

If ice is cancelled, teams will be notified via SportsEngine.

Families should use personal judgment when weather conditions vary by town.

Volunteer Commitment

HYHA is 100% volunteer-run.

All families are expected to contribute by:

- Running clock or scorebook
- Fundraising
- Team coordination
- Events support
- Social media updates

HYHA thrives when everyone participates.

Final Message

HYHA is more than a hockey program — it is a community.

We are committed to:

- Safety
- Development
- Sportsmanship
- Respect
- Balanced competition
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Thank you for being part of the HYHA family.