



**Minnesota River Youth Bulldog Hockey Association  
Handbook  
2022-2023**

The Association is proud to have players from many communities in the surrounding area including: St. Peter, Le Sueur, Henderson, Le Center, Montgomery, Lonsdale, Cleveland, Gaylord, Arlington and Belle Plaine.

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## MINNESOTA RIVER YOUTH BULLDOG HOCKEY OBJECTIVES

- 1) To provide youth the opportunity to participate in the sport of ice hockey.
- 2) To promote the participation of youth in the sport of ice hockey.
- 3) To prepare youth for the possibility of future participation in the sport of ice hockey.

## COMMUNICATIONS TO BULLDOG HOCKEY ASSOCIATION PARTICIPANTS

1. <http://bulldoghockey.org> - Our website has a wealth of information about our Association. Team coordinators are able to post schedules, news stories and other information specific to each team. Policies and committee structures are listed, along with contact information for board members. The website is a major source for accurate information.
2. Team Managers – We rely heavily on the team managers for furnishing information during the season. We're trying to move away from the need to physically hand out important information by putting more of the details on the website and using email. The team coordinators continue to be a key information delivery mode.

## REGISTRATION FOR 2022-2023 SEASON

Online registration opens mid August, and runs through September 15th. Registration for *Mites Levels 1-4* is extended through November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**NOTE:** Players not registered by the specified deadline will not be guaranteed a spot on a team.

Registration forms and instructions are located on the [Registration page](#) of the Bulldogs website, <http://bulldoghockey.org>.

If you do not have Internet access, or would like assistance filling out the online registration form, contact the Registrar, [registrar@bulldoghockey.org](mailto:registrar@bulldoghockey.org).

### What do you need to complete registration?

- USA Hockey registration
- Government issued birth certificate - For new players and players who did not play last season
- Volunteer deposit submitted to the Treasurer

## REGISTRATION POLICIES

### Squirt, Girls 10U, Girls 12U, PeeWee and Bantam players

All players must register by September 15th. All players must have the necessary paperwork, including a copy of a government issued birth certificate and completed Bulldog registration before being allowed on the ice. Players at these levels will be able to access information regarding evaluations on the Association website. Players are expected to attend all evaluation sessions unless they have made prior arrangements.

In regards to registration fees, volunteer & fundraising requirements for our association, the following policies have been put in place to ensure the financial sustainability of the association.

- If you have any outstanding fees from the previous season, these need to be paid before your player is allowed to participate in any on ice events including practices.
- All volunteer deposit checks are due by Oct. 15. If the check is not received, your player will not be able to participate in scrimmages or games until it has been received. (Exception would be for the Mite level players who are registering after this deadline. The Mite volunteer deposit checks are due by Dec. 15.)
- All fundraising requirements are due by Jan. 15. If at that time your family still has a financial commitment, it is due by Jan. 31 or your player will not be able to participate in scrimmages or games until it has been received.

## **Mite Level 1-4 players**

All players must have the necessary paperwork, including a copy of a government issued birth certificate and completed Bulldog registration before being allowed on the ice.

Our Mite Program is designed to help the development of our youngest players. Players in the Mite program should register based on years of organized hockey experience not age.

- 1st year player should register at Level 1 (first year playing Association hockey)
- 2nd year player should register at Level 2 (player has completed 1 year of Association hockey)
- 3rd year player should register at Level 3 (Player has completed 2 years of Association hockey and shown progression in their skill development )
- 4th year player should register at Level 4 (Player has completed 3 years of Association hockey and have solid foundation of the skating and stick skills)
- 5th year player should register at Level 4 (Player has completed 4 years of Association hockey and possess the highest level of skill development)

Coaches will evaluate and if a player is determined to be at the wrong level by a coach, adjustments will be made. Level placements are a guideline and the coaches have the right to move players at any given time during the season as they see fit to maximize the player's development.

## **Player levels**

### 2020-2021 Classifications:

Mite Level 1	born on June 1, 2013 – May 31, 2018
Mite Level 2	born on June 1, 2013 – May 31, 2017
Mite Level 3	born on June 1, 2013 – May 31, 2016
Mite Level 4	born on June 1, 2013 – May 31, 2015
Squirt/Girls 10U	born on June 1, 2011 – May 31, 2013
PeeWee /Girls 12U	born on June 1, 2009 – May 31, 2011
Bantam	born on June 1, 2007 – May 31, 2009

All players must register to play and be evaluated within their age groups, which are specified by Minnesota Hockey.

## **BULLDOG HOCKEY EARLY ADVANCEMENT POLICY**

This policy addresses any requests/needs to move players up one age level prematurely. All potential moves must be requested by the parents of the player before consideration will be given. As a general rule, the association prefers that players are rostered at their Minnesota Hockey assigned age level.

Players will be allowed to move up an age level ONLY if the following criteria are met:

1. There is a NEED for numbers at the older age level (based upon the Bulldog Hockey policy on team size requirements and maximums).
2. The player wishing to move up has the talent to participate competitively at the higher level (no player will be moved up who is not physically capable of playing at that level). Girls are to play on their age-appropriate girls' team unless they choose to be evaluated to play on the boys' team and make the top team at their age level.
3. A player/parent can petition for their child to move up early in cases of excessive peer group situations such as their grade in school. Consideration will be given to players who may be the only one in their grade to be playing at the lower level.

## **Requirements**

1. Any player/parent wishing to be considered for early entry into a higher level MUST present a written request to the HOC no later than Bulldog Hockey's registration deadline (this does NOT include any late registration dates). You can email the request to [hoc@bulldoghockey.org](mailto:hoc@bulldoghockey.org)
2. Anyone turning in a request after Bulldog Hockey's registration date will NOT be considered for a move.

### Team Need Process

If additional players are needed to make a team at a higher level, those who are entering their last year at the level below will be notified of the opportunity to participate with the older age group. Players who are interested in being evaluated to make the higher level must then notify HOC of their interest to do so. After evaluations the players who show the most potential and the ability to compete with the higher level will be determined by the HOC. HOC may identify that it is not in the best interest of moving any players up after evaluations in which other options may need to be explored for the higher team needing more players and those at the lower level will remain in their appropriate age level.

### Individual Request Process

1. The HOC will consider all association and individual play ramifications when contemplating move up requests.
2. The HOC will present move up recommendations to the board for approval prior to evaluations.
3. Those who have been granted permission to potentially move up early will take part in the regular Bulldog Hockey evaluation process of the older age group.
4. Decisions of approved move ups will be done during the evaluations, players will be placed on their respective teams at the end of evaluations.
5. If an individual who requested to move up does not make the top team at the higher level, he/she will remain at their age appropriate level.
6. If a player is moved up they will be billed for the remaining registration fee of the upper level.

### Registration Fees

Fees are due at the time of registration and are to be submitted online. Bulldog Hockey fees will be waived for first-year players at the Mite Level. See details on submitting online payments, including details on staggered payments on the Registration page of the Bulldogs website. If you have questions regarding registration, please contact the Bulldogs Registrar, [registrar@bulldoghockey.org](mailto:registrar@bulldoghockey.org).

Level	USA Hockey/ MN Hockey Fees (Paid to USA Hockey)	Bulldog Hockey Association Registration (Paid to Bulldog Hockey)	Fundraising Requirement (Family max \$500 profit)*	Volunteer Deposit (Multiple player family max \$1000)
Mite Levels 1-2	\$56	\$50	\$100	\$625 – 27 hours
Mite Levels 3-4	\$56	\$140	\$200	\$625 – 27 hours
Squirt	\$56	\$425	\$300	\$625 – 27 hours
Girls 10U	\$56	\$425	\$300	\$625 - 27 hours
PeeWee	\$56	\$475	\$300	\$625 – 27 hours
Girls 12U	\$56	\$475	\$300	\$625 – 27 hours
Bantam	\$56	\$575	\$300	\$625 – 27 hours

\*Fundraising amount is based on profit. The raffle has a 50% profit margin. For example, if you sell \$300 worth of raffle tickets \$150 (50%) will be credited to your fundraising requirements.

### Payment Policies

Registration fees may be paid in full at the time of registration or staggered payments may be made at designated times. The Association reserves the right to remove any player from their team if a payment is submitted with insufficient funds.

### Refund Policies

Requests for refunds should be made to the Association Registrar in writing as quickly as possible. Refunds will be given based on the following guideline:

- 100% of registration fees and volunteer deposit will be reimbursed if a written request is submitted to the Association Registrar prior to the first day of evaluations.

- 50% of registration fees and 50% of volunteer deposit will be reimbursed if the written request is submitted to the Association Registrar prior to November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 10% of registration fees and any earned refunds of volunteer hours will be reimbursed if the written request is submitted to the Association Registrar prior to December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## FUNDRAISING REQUIREMENTS

Family Maximum = \$500  
 Bantams = \$300  
 PeeWees = \$300  
 Girls U12 = \$300  
 Squirts = \$300  
 Mite Levels 3-4 = \$200  
 Mite Levels 1-2 = \$100

Families have the option to buy out of their fundraising at the time of registration if they'd like. See the [Fundraising Page](#) on the website for details regarding this season's fundraisers.

## VOLUNTEER POLICY GUIDELINES

The goal of the Volunteer Policy is to distribute the workload among ALL of the hockey families. As a result, we have implemented additional ways to help reduce the annual cost for certain critical volunteer positions as defined later in this section.

Our hockey Association benefits from volunteer hours in three distinct ways:

1. The Association cannot sustain without the work hours contributed by Bulldogs families. Examples: working at hockey tournaments and serving on an Association committee.
2. The Association receives revenue as a result of some volunteer hours. Example: our concession stand in the Le Sueur Community Center.
3. Our teams could not operate without the time and efforts of the Bulldogs families and friends who step up to work directly with our players and families. Examples: team coordinators and coaches.

### **Volunteer Requirements are as follows:**

A family with one player is required to volunteer 27 hours with 2 of those hours in the concession stand. A multiple player family is required to volunteer 42 hours with 2 of those hours in the concession stand. If you have more than one skater in the program, you qualify as a multiple player family. Multiple player families are asked to distribute their volunteerism between all teams. Volunteer hours must be worked by an adult.

The association uses "Dibs," an online tool for members to view and sign-up for volunteer opportunities. Site members can browse assigned Dib Sessions (volunteer opportunities) and claim responsibility for Dib Items. Please see the Bulldog website for more information.

### **Volunteer Deposit**

Volunteer deposits (please date checks April 1, 2023) should be mailed to the Association Treasurer at the time of online registration, or may be dropped off at the Association Open House (*see website for date, time and location*). Families who decide to make staggered registration payments are still required to submit their full volunteer deposit by the time registration closes. If deposits are not received by October 15<sup>th</sup> the Association reserves the right to remove players from their team. Families with multiple players have a maximum volunteer commitment of \$1000. Volunteer checks will only be returned if a family fulfills all of its volunteer hours. If all hours are not completed, the check will be cashed. If a portion of the required volunteer hours are completed a family will receive a check back for the amount of the hours worked times \$12.

***A penalty will be enforced for volunteer hours that are claimed but not worked.*** If you claim the hours in Dibs and do not show up or make an attempt to contact the appropriate person or do not find a replacement within a reasonable time (2 days notice) you forfeit \$50 from your volunteer deposit for missing your shift. Families are still required to work their 27 or 42 hours, in order to get the remainder of their volunteer deposit (i.e. \$200 or \$350 if one penalty is received) back after the \$50 is forfeited.

All hours worked shall be completed and accounted for by April 1, 2023 at which time your deposit will be returned to you, as long as your family fulfills all of its volunteer hours. If you do not complete all your required volunteer hours your deposit will be cashed around April 1, 2023. If you do work a portion of your volunteer hours you will receive a check back from the Association for the number of hours your family did complete times \$12 (e.g., 15 hours x \$12 = \$180). **Exception** – players holding Association-owned equipment will receive their deposits back when equipment is returned.

The majority of volunteer opportunities will occur November through February. It is your responsibility to seek and complete volunteer opportunities to ensure you fulfill your required volunteer commitment.

**The following positions will fulfill all required volunteer hours:**

Board Member (elected position)  
Rostered Head Coach (requires HOC approval)  
Rostered Assistant Coaches (requires HOC and Head Coach verification of hours for approval)  
Team Manager (chosen by coach) – *co-Team Managers for mini-mites/mites get 25 hours each*  
Tournament Director (requires Board approval)  
Association Fundraising Chair (requires Board approval)  
Association Photographer (requires Board approval)  
Association Registrar (requires Board approval)  
Association Ice Scheduler (requires Board approval)  
Association Team Coordinator (requires Board approval)  
Association Concession Manager (requires Board approval)  
Association Equipment Manager (requires Board approval)  
ACE Coordinator (requires Board approval)  
Referee Manager (requires Board approval)

**The following position will fulfill 10 required volunteer hours:**

District 9 Representative

**Critical Volunteer Positions**

Each and every year the Minnesota River Youth Bulldog Hockey Association requires hours of commitment and service from volunteers willing to put in the time to make things happen for the good of the Association. And each year, there are critical volunteer positions that absorb more time than the average person would need to work to get credit for their volunteer hours. As a result, and as a measure to get more people involved in annual operations of Bulldog Hockey, we are expanding the roles of these critical volunteer positions to include compensation towards a reduction of other annual costs beyond the volunteer hours to help reduce the fundraising requirement as well.

Critical Positions must be approved each year by the board and include but are not limited to:

- President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Registrar
- Fundraising Chair
- Ice Scheduler
- Equipment Manager
- Concession Manager
- Website Coordinator
- Association Coordinator

- Referee Scheduler
- Marketing Chair
- COVID Manager

### **Volunteer Opportunity Examples:**

Concession stand shift = 2 hours per shift

Bingo=2.5 hours per shift

Meat Raffle=2 hours per shift

Bulldog Hockey Sponsored Tournament(s) = actual time worked (e.g., selling tickets, penalty box, clock operator, scoring, registering teams, etc.)

Committee (e.g., Fundraising, Tournament, Marketing) member = actual time worked

Association Registration Day(s) = actual time worked

Association Equipment Checkout/Return Day(s) = actual time worked

If you come upon an opportunity that is not listed above please contact any Board member for pre-approval.

Almost any Bulldog Youth Hockey sponsored opportunity that brings revenue to or is vital to the operation of the program is eligible to apply toward volunteer hours. Any discrepancies or clarification will be decided by the Board.

### **Activities Outside the Guidelines**

The following activities are encouraged and definitely appreciated but DO NOT fill volunteer hours for the Association: organizing coaches' gifts, team parties, photographs, treat scheduling, calling trees, locker room monitoring, home game penalty box, clock, etc. These activities generate team spirit and vary from team to team. However, these activities are not revenue generating actions for the Association.

**NOTE:** Certain tasks above *do* fulfill volunteer hours, but only if they take place in the context of a Bulldogs-sponsored tournament.

### **Who can volunteer?**

If an adult, other than the player's parent (sibling, relative, etc.) would like to volunteer for your family, please check in advance if it is permissible.

### **HARDSHIP POLICY**

On occasion, there are families that are experiencing a hardship and are unable to fulfill their requirements for registration, volunteer hours and possibly fundraising. Volunteer hours and fundraising are NOT to be shared or transferred from one family to another without prior approval of the hardship circumstances. To get approval, please send a note explaining the circumstances to: Bulldog Hockey, PO Box 157, St. Peter, MN 56082 or email, [treasurer@bulldoghockey.org](mailto:treasurer@bulldoghockey.org).

### **ASSOCIATION COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Attend Monthly Board Meetings
- Meet Monthly with Team Managers
- Coordinate the collection of registration forms/paperwork with team coordinators to ensure all forms are received at the start of the season from each player and coach. Ex tryouts.
- Disseminate/collect information as needed from Team Managers
- Promote partnership of parent/team/Association
- Maintain association showcase and encourage the use of team showcases.

### **ACE COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Coach by HEP Standards (Mastery Approach to Coaching)
- Promote partnership of parent/coach/Association
- Attend all Association coaches meetings
- Establish team rules with players
- Conduct parent meetings
- Conduct team meetings for player feedback



- Understand program level skills
- Meet regularly with assistant coaches
- Administer HEP skills assessment
- Coaches will follow HOC/ACE coordinator recommended practice plans
- ADM

### **ASSOCIATION PHOTOGRAPHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Taking team and individual pictures of all teams in the Association (to be sold to the players families)
- Printing of team and individual pictures and handing them out
- Help in setting the cost of the team and individual pictures (to cover cost and generate revenue while being competitive)
- Work with the Association Coordinator and Ice Scheduler to set picture dates
- Giving each team coordinator individual player pictures for the display case
- Attend board meetings as necessary
- All printing costs will be absorbed by the Association
- All the revenue collected will be turned into the Association Treasurer
- This person will be given the first opportunity to do any additional photographic work needed by the Association and additional fees would be negotiated at that time
- Parents are encouraged to take photographs and add them to their team page or submit them to their team coordinator to be added.

### **TEAM MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Team Managers are the main line of communication between the coach and players/parents. They are also responsible for all administrative, non-coaching aspects of their teams. One team manager is chosen from each team. Team managers need to complete a background check form annually.

#### **Communication Box**

In the coach's room in Le Sueur are wall mounted boxes with labeled slots for each team. Each team manager will have a key code to the coach's room to gain access to this communication box. Any information without immediate time constraints shall be placed in the respective team's slot or emailed. *Check this box at every practice/game* as well as conferring with coaches at every practice to ensure the information is getting passed on. Label all information with player's names that is handed out, this way any missing people can be given their information at a later date.

#### **Website**

Team Manager website responsibilities include entering team schedules for the season, team announcements, rosters, coach and coordinator contact information, and team stats as directed by the coach. This information should be kept up to date on the team page of the website.

#### **Calling**

There will be instances where immediate information needs to be passed on to the players/parents. Coaches will usually direct managers as to this information. Each team will have a three-ring binder with birth certificate information, medical information and player information. There is a stamp on the paperwork from the district that states that the birth certificate has been verified once birth certificates are examined, certified and stamped by the District Associate Registrar. USA Hockey mandates that birth certificates *not* travel with team books. The team book will need to be made available for the coach at every practice and game. It is also helpful to get cell phone and email addresses from parents. This information is used for Association business only and is not to be given out for any other reason.

#### **Initial Parent Meeting**

This meeting should be organized with the coach to be held as soon as possible after the team is picked. Procedures, expectations for players and parents, volunteer hours, and tournaments should be discussed at this meeting.

### **Rosters**

It is necessary for every team to have a completed official hockey roster. Work with the Registrar to make sure the roster is completed before the District Registration meeting. You are responsible to take rosters to any tournaments your team participates in. Provide each player with a list of players on the team, including parents' names, email and phone numbers as well as a game/practice schedule.

### **Game Confirmation**

Confirm game with opposing team 72 hours in advance either via email or phone. Contact information can usually be obtained from your coach or opponents website. If you have difficulty confirming game, advise your coach ASAP. For weather related cancellations, the team coordinator is to confirm the cancellation at the appropriate home arena. All members of the team should be notified via telephone. Use your best judgment for road conditions. The Association is not billed for arena closures due to weather.

### **Home Ice**

Any additions or changes to home ice team schedules must be reported to the ice scheduler at all times. All home ice cancellations must be reported to the ice scheduler at least 72 hours in advance before the scheduled event. If cancellations are not reported to either LSCC or GAC, the Association is charged the hourly ice fee. Home game changes should be routed through the ice scheduler rather than the head referee unless a short notice cancellation occurs.

### **Penalty Box/Clock/Score Sheet**

You will need to find parents for the two penalty boxes, running the clock, and keeping the score sheet for each home game. You may find an individual who wants to do every game. If not, at parent meeting you should pass a sign-up sheet for all home games and rotate for the box. The clock operator will need to be trained. No one under the age of 18 should be in the official's area during a game (the area by the clock).

**NOTE:** Working the penalty box/clock/score sheet does not count toward volunteer hours, unless it takes place within the context of a Bulldogs-sponsored tournament.

### **Score Sheets**

Game results are entered on the District 9 website. Game scores need to be posted within 24 hours otherwise the game will be posted as a forfeit. Please make a copy of anything you are mailing out and keep it with the team book in case items are lost. You will need to have a parent score each home game. Each home and away coach and game referee must sign the game sheet and include their coach's number. Computer labels with player names and jersey number are available from the Registrar.

**NOTE:** Any game misconduct or checking from behind penalties must be reported on the results sheet.

### **Tournaments**

Coaches will advise you of any out-of-town tournament as soon as it has been confirmed. Obtain information on hotel choices as soon as possible. The Team Manager should hold a block of rooms under the name of the Association and pass the information on to the parents to confirm individual rooms. It is a good idea to follow-up with the hotel to confirm someone has not overlooked making the reservation before letting the blocked rooms go.

### **Fundraising**

You will help with your team's distribution and collection for fundraising

### **Board Meetings**

If possible, attend one Board meeting monthly and give brief team updates and take back any pertinent information to your parents. Please consider submitting an article and/or picture to Let's Play Hockey and/or local publications if your team does exceptionally well at a tournament.

### **Other**

Provide maps to away games. Coordinate year-end banquet (with coach). Pictures – check with Association Coordinator. Coordinate treats for games (with parents). Showcase – get up team bulletin board in the LS Community Center ASAP. Note those players whose parents DO NOT authorize the release of their players name and/or picture.

## **PLAYER/COACHES EQUIPMENT**

As part of the player participation fees, the Association will provide shoulder pads, elbow pads, breezers, gloves, shin pads and skates for Mite skaters. Please note, helmets are not provided by the Association. Mite families please reference the website for dates and times of the equipment check-outs and check-ins. First time Mite skaters will receive a jersey to keep.

Skaters at other levels must provide their own equipment. We suggest equipment purchased be: a white helmet; black breezers; and black gloves.

The Mite, Squirt and Girls 10U levels will have all goalie equipment provided. Girls 12U, PeeWee and Bantam goaltenders must provide their own equipment.

If you need assistance in finding equipment, contact the Equipment Manager, [equipment@bulldoghockey.org](mailto:equipment@bulldoghockey.org).

All coaches are required to wear a helmet during all on ice activities per Minnesota Hockey.

## **Jersey Policy**

### **Mite Levels:**

All Mites are supplied with one player jersey when they become a Bulldog. The Bulldog jerseys are for the players to keep. The jersey is to be worn to all practices and games unless an alternate game jersey is given to the player. If an alternate game jersey is given to a player, that jersey must be returned at the end of the event or season. Jerseys should not be washed in bleach or dry cleaned.

### **Traveling Teams (Squirt, PeeWee, Bantam, Girls 10u & 12u):**

Game jerseys are expensive to replace but players are proud to wear them. Players are allowed to wear their jerseys ONLY during the following occasions:

- Games
- School - ONLY on game days
- Fridays if there is a Saturday game scheduled
- Team pictures
- Specified fundraiser events

**NOTE:** Game jerseys are not to be worn at any other time including practices, open skate, open hockey, etc. or by siblings or friends.

The Minnesota River Youth Bulldog Hockey Association will have a consistent look with their game jerseys. No teams in the MRYBHA will have uniforms that differ from the MRYBHA approved uniform, unless approved by the board. (Ex. Third alternate game jersey)

Game jerseys cannot be altered in any way. If a player's jersey is altered in any way it may prevent the player from participating in on-ice team events.

- Game jerseys cannot be signed by another player or professional player.
- Player patches (personal awards) cannot be sewn on to the game jerseys.
- Parents will purchase jerseys with the number assigned by the jersey committee.

Jerseys should be washed often to prevent staining. The jerseys should also be washed in cold water to prevent color bleeding. Hang dry the jerseys, do no dry clean or place in the dryer.

**It is recommended that Jerseys be transported in a jersey bag or suit bag of some type rather than being in hockey bags with other equipment where they could become cut by a skate or stained with a sports drink.**

## **BULLDOG HOCKEY APPAREL**

The Bulldog Youth Hockey Association will have a consistent look in apparel. The clothing coordinator position will work to prepare and present a selection of clothing that display the Association's colors and logo. There will be three separate ordering windows that will ensure that the clothing is available within three weeks of placing your order. The first window will be at Registration in September. There will be an additional two week window in early October and a final ordering window sometime in November to ensure delivery by the Holidays. There will also be the option to order clothing from our on-line vendor. On-line clothing orders can take place at any time and can be accessed through the Bulldog Youth Hockey Association website.

## **HOCKEY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (HOC)**

The Hockey Operations Committee is made up of individuals with significant hockey backgrounds or experience and makes recommendations to the Association Board. HOC's role is to provide guidance to the on ice portion of the Association so that the board may concentrate on the larger administrative aspects of running the Association. Recommendations will not be made without research and a thorough consideration of potential results.

- Selection of Coaches: The HOC will be responsible for the placement of coaches at the youth levels. Part of this process will include the recruiting of non-parent coaches.
- Player placement within the various levels: The HOC will evaluate player requests to "move up" and make decisions about placement of those players.
- Coordinating of ice time: The HOC will determine game to practice ratios, length of practices, number of games (including tournament games), optimal number of skaters on the ice at a given time, etc.
- 'A' teams, 'B' teams, etc: Based on skater registration by age, and prevailing rules in mind (Minnesota Hockey, District 9, etc), the HOC will determine what classifications will be most beneficial for the Association.
- The HOC works in conjunction with the ACE Coordinator.

### **HOC Guidelines for Playing and Ice Time**

- Refer to next section for playing time guidelines.
- Practice to game ratio shall be a minimum of 2:1 at the Squirt, PeeWee and Bantam levels and 4:1 at the Mite level. Tryout hours are included in practice hours. All tournament games, excluding District Regional, and State, will count towards figuring practice to game ratios at all levels.
- There may be 1 ½ hour blocks of time at the Squirt, PeeWee and Bantam levels which can be broken up by those respective coaches to allow for solo ice for the teams at each level.
- The following guidelines will be followed for number of events allowed at each level:
  - Mite: 10 (including tournament/Jamboree games)
  - Squirt/Girls 10U: 20-25 (including tournaments)
  - PeeWee/Girls 12U: 22-27 (including tournaments)
  - Bantam/Girls 15U: 25-30 (including tournaments)
- No Parents or Siblings on benches during practices.

### **Team Guidelines**

The following guidelines are to be followed regarding playing time at the Squirt, Girls 10U, Girls 12U, PeeWee and Bantam levels. Any playing time guidelines below are based on the assumption of adequate practice attendance and participation (effort, conduct) by the player. Playing time may be reduced if a player does not satisfy attendance and participation requirements. Coaches will review requirements and penalties at the beginning of the season with parents and players.

Level of play	Playing time	Power Play unit	Short Handed unit
Squirt A **	Equal over the course of the season.	Rotate lines	Allowed
Squirt B^, C Girls 10U^	Equal, rotate lines	Rotate lines	Rotate lines
PeeWee A	Earned, may not be equal, but should try to be equal over the course of the season.	Allowed	Allowed
PeeWee B* ^ Girls 12U*^ Both **	Equal over the course of the season.	Rotate lines	Allowed
PeeWee C *	Equal, rotate lines	Rotate lines	Rotate lines
Bantam A	Earned, not necessarily equal.	Allowed	Allowed
Bantam B *^ Girls 15UB B *^	Earned, may not be equal, but should try to be equal over the course of the season.	Allowed	Allowed
Bantam C *	Equal over the course of the season.	Rotate	Allowed

\*Beginning players at these levels may be kept out of games, or play at a reduced amount, until the coach feels the player is ready.

\*\*A goalie at these levels is not guaranteed 100% playing time as a goalie through the season even if they were the only one that tried out as a goalie. Players are encouraged to try the goalie position if they are interested.

^If these are the highest registered levels at a given age level the playing time/power play/short handed rules of the "A" designation will apply to the "B" level.

## LOCKER ROOM SUPERVISION POLICY

USA Hockey is concerned with locker room activities between minor players; minor players and adult players; adults being alone with individual minor players in locker rooms; and with nonofficial or non-related adults having unsupervised access to minor participants at sanctioned team events.

It is the policy of USA Hockey and USA Hockey InLine that all Affiliates, Districts, leagues, and local hockey programs have at least one responsible adult present directly monitoring the locker room during all team events to assure that only participants, (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room and to supervise the conduct in the locker room. Any individual meetings with a minor participant and a coach in a locker room shall require a responsible adult be with the coach.

Further, responsible adults must personally monitor the locker room environment at all times while participants are present and also make sure the locker room is appropriately secured during times when minor participants are on the ice.

## CO-ED LOCKER ROOM POLICY

1. It is the intent of the Bulldog Hockey Association to provide a place for our youth to change into and out of their hockey equipment.
2. The following policy will be enacted to provide our youth with the opportunity to change into and out of their hockey equipment in a safe environment.
3. The Bulldog Hockey Association will follow the guidelines as set forth by USA Hockey which states:
  - a. Where possible, have the male and female players undress / dress in separate locker rooms; then convene in a single dressing room to hold coach's pre-game meeting.
  - b. Once the game is finished, hold the coach's post-game meeting; then have the male and female players proceed to their separate dressing rooms to undress separately, if available.
  - c. In those cases where separate facilities are not available, have one gender enter the locker room and change into their uniforms. The first gender would then leave the locker room, while the other gender dressed. Both genders would then assemble in the locker room and hold the coach's pregame meeting.

- d. Following the game and the coach's post-game meeting where separate facilities are not available, the second gender group enters the locker room and undresses, while the first group waits outside until they have undressed and left the room. Once the second group leaves, the first group enters the locker room and undresses.
- e. Under no circumstances will a member of the opposite sex (adults included) be in the same room while players are undressing or dressing.

**NOTE:** Taking turns is a reasonable way of accommodation, it's fair, neither gender is favored, and no one becomes "the ones who always have to wait".

## **MINNESOTA RIVER YOUTH BULLDOG HOCKEY ASSOCIATION PLAYER, PARENT AND COACHES CONDUCT CODE**

The Minnesota River Youth Bulldog Hockey Association was organized to promote youth hockey at all levels. This organization strives to develop hockey skills, self-confidence, self-discipline, a sense of team loyalty and good sportsmanship in a fun and enjoyable atmosphere.

The success of the organization depends upon the commitment of players, parents and coaches. By accepting membership in the Minnesota River Youth Bulldog Hockey Association, players, parents and coaches agree to adhere to the standards of this organization. The MRYBHA reserves the right to dismiss any player or coach, or take appropriate action against any parent, whose conduct is detrimental to the organization without refund of any fees that may have been paid.

### **Expectations of Player Conduct**

Bulldog hockey players are expected to strive to the best of their ability to achieve coach's practice and game objectives.

- A. Players will be on time for practices and games, and will notify the coach in advance if unable to attend.
- B. Excused absences include family emergencies, required church or school activities, illness, weather related emergencies and court orders.
- C. Unexcused absences will be dealt with by the respective coach and may include a one or more period suspension.

Bulldog hockey players are expected to be loyal to their team and their teammates.

- A. Enthusiasm, leadership and supportive play are encouraged.
- B. Negative criticism of teammates will not be tolerated.

Bulldog hockey players are expected to condition their bodies and strive to improve their hockey skills.

- A. Players will perform to the best of their ability at all games and practices.
- B. Players will work to condition their bodies for peak performance.
- C. Players will work diligently to master all aspects of the game.

Bulldog hockey players are expected to be responsible for their own conduct and its consequences both on and off the ice.

- A. Players will compete with USA Hockey Official Playing Rules and graciously accept the decisions of game officials.
- B. Players will refrain from obscene language or gestures.
- C. Use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs is expressly prohibited, as per Minnesota Hockey guidelines.
- D. Players will respect the property of the arenas in which they play.
- E. Any conduct deemed inappropriate by the coach will be dealt with on an individual basis.

### **Expectations of Parent and Coaches Conduct**

Parents and coaches of Bulldog hockey players are expected to accept winning and losing as mature adults. It is the parents and coaches duty to teach players to understand the meaning of winning and losing.

- A. Parents and coaches will react graciously to wins and refrain from seeking scapegoats such as biased officials, poor ice surface, or poor performance by players or coaches when the team loses.

- B. Parents and coaches will help players learn from their losses, to put a lost game behind them and to look forward to the opportunity to play in the next game.
- C. Parents and coaches will convey a positive attitude toward the Bulldog Hockey Association; its philosophy and goals.

Parents and coaches of Bulldog hockey players are expected as spectators and coaches to conduct themselves in a manner that exemplifies good sportsmanship.

- A. Parents and coaches will accept the decisions of game officials without criticizing, booing or using obscene language towards officials at any time during or after a game.
- B. Parents and coaches will treat other players with the courtesy, respect and considerations that they would want other parents and coaches to show their sons and daughters.
- C. Parents and coaches will not attend practices or games while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. The Association reserves the right to request such individuals to leave the arena.

Parents of Bulldog hockey players are expected to support all coaches and coaching decisions.

- A. Parents will ensure their players are on time for all practices and games.
- B. Parents are encouraged to attend as many games as possible to show their support for the team.
- C. Practice and games are under the direction of the coaching staff. Parents will allow the coaches to coach and correct deficiencies in hockey skills.
- D. Parents are encouraged to make suggestions or to resolve conflicts with coaching staff by following appropriate channels as stated in the Grievance Procedure Policy.

## **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE POLICY**

The Minnesota River Youth Bulldog Hockey Association is committed to ensuring fair play and treatment for all members of the Association, as well as our volunteer and paid partners. The Association recognizes that, in the course of its activities, diverging opinions and difficulties can arise leading to complaints about a member, team official, policy or practice. The MRYBHA Grievance Policy is intended to provide our members, volunteers and referees access to a process by which complaints, disputes, or other significant concerns can be addressed, reviewed and resolved in a fair and balanced approach. This process is intended to provide individuals a forum to communicate with members of the MRYBHA Board when all attempts to resolve an issue have failed. Player conduct, attendance, swearing, attitude and other minor items should be handled through team rules.

1. The aggrieved party should discuss, in person, any complaints, disputes or other significant concerns directly with the individual(s) immediately involved in or having knowledge of the issue. Ideally, most issues are resolved at this level. Players and parents agree to wait at least 24 hours after a game or practice prior to initiating this conversation. Parents and coaches, or other involved parties, agree to conduct themselves professionally and respectfully at all times.
2. If the issue remains unresolved, the individual may file a Grievance Report [link to form to be included here] with the Board President. He or she will convene a group to include him/herself, another member of the Board, and a member of HOC (Hockey Operations Committee) or other committees applicable to the complaint. This group will review the facts of the situation with the parties involved and identify a fair resolution to the issue. This group will report all grievances reported and the recommended resolution to the Board of Directors. All decisions made by the BHA Board of Directors as laid out above are final.
3. No grievances will be heard by any member of the Board until a Grievance Report has been filed.
4. No grievances will be addressed at monthly Board meetings.

## **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Please see the Bulldog website, <http://bulldoghockey.org>, Board page for board members contact information.

The Board typically meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Please reference the Bulldog hockey website calendar for confirmed meeting time and place each month.

An Annual Meeting of the membership takes place in the spring of each year for the purpose of electing directors and for summarizing the prior season.

### **VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AND COMMITTEES**

The Minnesota River Youth Bulldog Hockey Association is also made up of several volunteer positions and committees. Positions are open to all members of the Association and in most cases would help fulfill volunteer hours. If you are interested in getting involved with a committee or position, please email [board@bulldoghockey.org](mailto:board@bulldoghockey.org) or visit the Bulldog website Committees page for more information on the different positions and committees.