

Northern Chautauqua County Youth Hockey Association



*P.O. Box 442
Fredonia, NY 14063
www.nccyha.com*

Player Handbook

Last Revised – July 15, 2025

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What is NCCYHA?

NCCYHA is a hockey association in Northern Chautauqua County, New York, dedicated to providing the opportunity to learn the game of hockey. We are a family-oriented, affordable youth-hockey program emphasizing fundamentals and fun for both the experienced and first-time player. We've been serving our community for over 40 years.

The NCCYHA was founded in August 1984, coinciding with the opening of the new Steele Hall Ice Arena at Fredonia State College. The association's first official game was played on January 19, 1985, featuring the Speedsters Mite team.

NCCYHA MISSION STATEMENT

Northern Chautauqua Youth Hockey Association (NCCYHA) serves to benefit the youth of northern Chautauqua County of New York State by fostering relationships among their teammates and adults. Through activities both on and off the ice, players learn the game of hockey and the importance of team building, good sportsmanship, and most importantly how to positively interact with peers and adults.

NCCYHA VISION

The primary mission of the Association is to teach fundamental hockey skills, teamwork and sportsmanship through competition, while promoting the further development of ice hockey in Northern Chautauqua County. NCCYHA supports the development of both self-discipline and an inclusive teamwork ethic.

Board of Directors

The NCCYHA Board of Directors is comprised of the following Positions:

1. President
2. Vice President – Scheduler
3. Vice President – Treasurer
4. Recording Secretary
5. Registrar
6. Coaching Coordinator
7. Social Media and Marketing
8. Player Development
9. Mites/Learn to Play Hockey Coordinator
10. Fundraising and Equipment Coordinator
11. Website Developer

This is subject to change based on the voting criteria outlined in the Associations By-Laws.

Dear Families and Players,

The purpose of this handbook is to provide all members of the association – players, families, and coaches – with information on the programs, policies, opportunities and activities of the Association.

The Northern Chautauqua County Youth Hockey Association is completely reliant on the efforts and contributions of volunteers. If you are not currently involved in the operations of a specific team or the overall Association, please check out the "volunteer opportunities" section of this handbook or contact one of the board members to get involved.

At the end of each season, the NCCYHA Board is committed to evaluating, assessing and modifying the Handbook procedures for the betterment of the Association. We look forward to your ideas and feedback.

Sincerely,
NCCYHA Board of Directors

Communication

- Board Communication: The NCCYHA Board is the governing body that meets on a regular basis (Monthly or as often as needed). The first 30 minutes of each meeting are open to all members of the Association. If players/parents would like to address the board regarding a specific Association issue, contact the Board President (nccyha.steelers@gmail.com) prior to the meeting to add the item to the agenda. Meeting dates will be posted on the website. Board meeting minutes will be posted on the league website after approval at the following meeting.
- NCCYHA utilizes the website NCCYHA.com, Facebook, group email postings, sports engine, and the *Dunkirk Observer* newspaper (For the Record sports column) for announcements and information. It is the responsibility of parents and players to check these sources for information.
- Team/Player Dispute Resolution:
 - **24 Hour Rule: It is best to wait 24 hours before addressing a Team official (Manager or Coach) with a concern.**
 - Team concerns should follow this chain of command:
 - Speak with the:
 - Team Manager for off-ice team matters
 - Head Coach for on-ice team matters
 - If the issue is not resolved at the team level, the NCCYHA Coaching Coordinator must be contacted. If no satisfactory resolution has been reached, the issue can be taken to the NCCYHA Board President, but only in writing and to be presented to the NCCYHA Board of Directors. Any issues brought to the board will be kept confidential.
- Association Dispute Resolution:
 - **24 Hour Rule: It is best to wait 24 hours before addressing a Board Officer with a concern.**
 - Association concerns should follow this chain of command:
 - Speak with the:
 - NCCYHA Board President
 - Concern must be in writing to be presented to the Board of Directors.
- Schedules: Association and Team Schedules will be posted on the website NCCYHA.com and Sports Engine. Schedules are subject to change throughout the course of the season.
- Posting of Game Scores: WNYAHL utilizes Test Flight App for game scoring. Home teams are required to provide a scorekeeper. The NCCYHA league will provide an iPad to each team for use during season. Once games are finalized and signed by the Referee, it is the responsibility of the Score Keeper or Head Coach to upload the game. Internet service is required. Game results can be found at <https://wnyahl-scoresheet.firebaseio.com/standings>
- High School Hockey Game Scores: Utilize the Game Sheet app via iPad in conjunction with Crossbar. Standings can be found at <https://www.wnyhschl.com/about/standings/64885>
- NCCYHA Events are posted on the league website and updated on a regularly basis.

Registration

Player Registration

NCCYHA will begin registering players in May for the upcoming season. The registration announcement will be placed on the league website in May. Players must register online; all links and forms are located on the league website NCCYHA.com

Step 1: USA Hockey Registration

All players must be registered with USA Hockey. Visit USAHockeyRegistration.com to register. Print a copy of your registration form for a record of the registration number, which you will need to complete NCCYHA registration.

Step 2: On-line registration

NCCYHA contracts with Sports Engine to assist with hockey registration and fee collection. The online system of registration is simple and convenient.

All new players must provide a copy of a valid birth certificate (USA Hockey requirement)

Individual team players and coaches are also required to complete:

- NCCYHA Commitment Form
- NCCYHA Philosophy/Guidelines
- NCCYHA Rules of Conduct
- USA Hockey Code of Conduct
- USA Hockey Waiver of Liability
- NYS AHA Parent Code of Conduct

High School players are required to register with AAU. Information and forms will be provided upon team selection.

Player classifications are based on the birth year of the player. Travel play is outlined by USA Hockey.

USA Hockey Age Classifications

| Age | Division |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 18 Years 17 Years | Midget 18 & Under |
| 16 Years 15 Years | Midget 16 & Under |
| 14 Years 13 Years | Bantam 14 & Under |
| 12 Years 11 Years | Peewee 12 & Under |
| 10 Years 9 Years | Squirt 10 & Under |
| 8 Years 7 Years | Mite (ADM) 8 and Under |

Coaches/Manager Registration

Step 1: USA Hockey Registration

All coaches and managers must be registered with USA Hockey and the NCCYHA Registration Page - <https://www.nccyha.com/page/show/1463466-registration>

- USA Hockey Coaches/Managers – <https://www.usahockey.com/coachingcertification>
- USA Hockey Screening - <https://www.usahockey.com/backgroundscreen>
- Safe Sport Training – <https://www.usahockey.com/safesporttraining>
- Age Specific Module - <https://www.usahockey.com/agespecificmodules>
- CEP Clinic - <https://www.usahockey.com/coachingclinics>

Step 2: On-line registration

NCCYHA contracts with Sports Engine to assist with hockey registration. The online system of registration is simple and convenient. All returning coaches/managers must register using the online process.

Step 3: Verification of Coaching Criteria

The NCCYHA Registrar will submit for verification with USA Hockey, through the USA Hockey Portal. Coaches will not be allowed on the ice, until all credentials outlined above are completed. If you are new to the organization, please email a copy of your driver's license to the NCCYHA Registrar at nccyha.registrar@gmail.com. The NCCYHA organization is required by the college to complete a NYS Criminal Background Check and Sex Offender Check to obtain the ice lease agreement.

Coaches shall have the option at the end of the season, or upon completion, and verification of all outlined coaching criteria, to submit for reimbursement from the association. A link is available on the NCCYHA website.

Financial

The fee and discount schedule will be announced prior to registration on the league website and emailed to players who participated in the previous season. NCCYHA offers a 50% discount for goalies for the ages of (10U-18U), goalies are vital to each team and incur extra costs for equipment.

Registration payment plans are available. All registration fees must be paid in full by October 31st. After November 1st, a player will not be permitted on the ice until fees are paid.

Injury & Refund Policy

Refunds will be considered upon written request to the NCCYHA Board of Directors. The date when written notification is received will determine the amount of the refund (see below).

Once the season begins, refunds will be issued as follows (not to exceed amount paid minus \$50 administrative fee):

- Written notice given by October 1st will be 50%
- Written notice given by November 1st will be 30%
- Written notice given by December 1st will be 20%
- After December 1, no refunds will be issued.
- No refunds will be given for suspension or termination of a player for any disciplinary reason.
- If a refund is requested due to an injury, written request must be received within 10 days of the diagnosed injury. Ice used and/or available prior to receipt of the written notification will be deducted from any refund.

Refund checks will be issued directly from the NCCYHA League account within 30 days of refund determination. No electronic fund transfers will be permitted.

No refunds will be issued for high school teams. Players are responsible for the full travel fee once the commitment letter is signed.

Fundraising

Fundraising is essential to the NCCYHA, which is a non-profit organization. Fundraising money collected is used to pay for hockey equipment (pucks, water bottles and mite goalie equipment), administration costs, required coaching-course fees and end-of-season parties and gifts. The NCCYHA Board will host a fundraising event annually to help in offsetting these costs outlined above. The fundraising event will be at the board discretion.

NCCYHA does not incorporate individual team events such as tournaments, out of town stays, and additional ice play in their registration, in efforts to keep the season affordable. Individual team fundraising is encouraged to cover these costs. Each team shall submit to the board fundraising coordinator a list of fundraisers that they intend to hold throughout the season. The purpose of this is to help coordinate events so teams aren't overlapping or conducting the same fundraisers at the same time.

Volunteer Commitment

NCCYHA is a volunteer-run organization. All families are encouraged to volunteer during the season. There are many ways families can volunteer: coach, team manager, clock/scorekeeper, penalty box, team photographer, team stats, fundraising, NCCYHA Board, board Committee, etc. Talk to your division coordinator, head coach, team manager or NCCYHA board member for more information on how to get involved.

Conduct

The NCCYHA subscribes to and endorses the following USA Hockey policies from the Code of Conduct for players, coaches (including all team officials – scorekeeper, time clock and penalty box) and parents:

- No swearing or abusive language on the bench, in the rink or at any team function.
- No lashing out at any official no matter what the call is. The coaching staff will handle all matters pertaining to officiating.
- Anyone who receives a penalty will skate directly to the penalty box.
- Fighting will not be tolerated. Fighting will result in an appearance before the NCCYHA Discipline Committee.
- There will be no drinking, smoking, chewing of tobacco or use of illegal substance at any team function.
- All players, coaches and parents will conduct themselves in a befitting manner at all facilities (ice rink, hotel, restaurant, etc.) during all team functions.

Zero Tolerance Policy

In order to assure the safe and orderly progress of games and other events sanctioned by NCCYHA the following conduct is prohibited:

- The use of vulgar, obscene or boisterous language or behavior to annoy, harass, ridicule, taunt, threaten or intimidate another or the utterance of comments or slurs of a racial, ethnic or sexual nature.
- The infliction or threatened infliction of physical or offensive harm or contact which is not part of the recognized regular play of the game of hockey whether on or off the ice.
- Throwing any object within the spectators' area, players' bench, playing surface or other area within an arena to create a hazard to the safety of players, officials or spectators.
- Openly disputing or persistently displaying signs of dissatisfaction with a decision of a game official.

- The theft or mishandling of or infliction of damage to any area or facilities or any personal or public property.
- The possession, supply or use of any unlawful substance or the commission or any criminal offense on property on which a game or other event sanctioned by NCCYHA is being conducted.
- Encouraging or inciting any other person to engage in conduct that is prohibited by the Zero Tolerance Policy.
- Engaging in any other conduct that is unsportsmanlike, disruptive or detrimental to the game of hockey or the programs of the Association, or which is disruptive to the good order or morale of any team.

Responsibility and Enforcement

Responsibility of Coaches:

- It shall be the responsibility of the coaches to maintain order and discipline on their team with respect to the behavior of players, all personnel on the bench during games, and all persons who participate in practices. The coaches shall be responsible for seeing that all such persons abide by the Zero Tolerance Policy set forth above at all times.
- Coaches are responsible for being in attendance at all games and practices and when absent must appoint a screened coach to oversee the team in their absence.
- Coaches must abide by all USA Hockey and NCCYHA rules.

Disciplinary Enforcement:

- Head coaches are authorized to impose reasonable disciplinary measures necessary to maintain good order on the team, to enforce the Zero Tolerance Policy, and to safeguard the morale of the team in the best interest of the Association. Such measures may include punitive activity during practice, or suspension from any practice or games upon notification of parents and the NCCYHA Disciplinary Committee. If parents do not agree with the suspension, they may request a hearing by the Disciplinary Committee by writing a letter or email to the NCCYHA President. The committee will discuss the issue and hold a meeting if deemed necessary. The committee may uphold the action of the coach or modify the penalty.
- The NCCYHA Disciplinary Committee is made up of three board members with the President or Vice President as the lead. They committee will be notified by the Head Coach or Team Manager regarding player team suspensions, game misconducts, and all other violations of the USA Hockey Code of Conduct or Zero Tolerance Policy. The Committee will evaluate information, interview players, coaches and parents when necessary and determine appropriate follow-up for each incident based upon USA Hockey standards. Results of the committee investigation and action will be reported to the NCCYHA Board.
- In all cases of suspension, unless the President shall in his discretion delay the suspension, the suspension shall remain in effect pending review by the Disciplinary Committee. The hearing shall be undertaken as quickly as possible.

Parent Conduct

Parents are expected to follow the same code of conduct as players. Negative behavior at host rinks reflects upon all teams and parents of the NCCYHA. Parents are expected to present a respectful and positive attitude when attending home and away games as well as any league meetings or functions. The following behaviors are not considered positive:

- Yelling at, threatening, or booing opposing players, coaches, or referees at any time.
- Direct confrontations with parents or players from opposing teams.
- Demonstrations of frustration or anger after a game loss.
- Exaggerated celebration of a goal scored, or a game won that would embarrass or demean the opposing team.
- Any physical abuse of any other person. Any physical altercation between coaches, parents, or players will result in being removed from participation in any NCCYHA sanctioned events until a Disciplinary hearing is held.

- Blaming of, or criticizing player, coaches, and referees, for either a positive or negative result of a call, a play or a game.
- Yelling at your own children (coaching from the sidelines).
- Abusive, harassing, slanderous or intimidating behavior directed at any association member including members of the Board of Directors, parents, players, coaches, managers or other association volunteers.

NYS AHA (New in 2025)

Parent Code of Conduct

<https://www.jotform.com/sign/250840042967054/invite/01jq8acak563ca20b07bd005df>

NYS AHA and NCCYHA will require each parent and guardian to sign the Parent Code of Conduct.

***** IMPORTANT ***** Line "C" for an offending party, the organization will be fined \$500.00. If there is an event at a game or tournament that an Offending Party Fine is issued to the NCCYHA Association, it will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to pay the fine, prior to the player being allowed back on the ice.

Please make sure spectators (siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) are made aware of this rule. We will investigate and find out how/why this fine was issued, and who the spectator was there supporting. The parents or guardians will be held accountable.

USA Hockey Locker Room Monitor

Whenever players are present in the locker room, there must be at least one screened and SafeSport trained adult present either in the locker room or near the door (within arm's length and so the monitor can sufficiently hear inside the locker room), frequently checking and communicating with the players so they understand they are being monitored. Coaches can act as locker room monitors; however, we strongly encourage volunteer parents to fill this role to enable the coaches to focus on game or practice planning and preparation. The prevention of hazing, bullying, harassment, or other inappropriate behaviors in addition to physical harm caused by horseplay, can be lessened by following some fundamental strategies outlined below:

- Hold a team meeting focused on locker room monitoring and behavior expectations:
 - Include players, parents, coaches, team managers, and locker room monitors.
 - Clearly explain the rules and expectations for players.
 - Clearly explain the rules and expectations of the locker room monitor.....including the corrective action that will be taken if necessary (player could be benched, suspended, or worse).
 - Ensure players and parents understand the locker room monitor is there to help ensure there is a safe environment for all members of the team.
- Opening and use of the locker room:
 - Ideally, the designated locker room will only be opened once players arrive.
 - If a single player is present, the locker room should be monitored by at least two adults until additional players arrive.
 - If there is only one adult present, whether a coach or volunteer parent, they should wait for multiple players to arrive before allowing access to the locker room.
 - Limit the time the players are in the locker room to the amount of time necessary for them to get ready for their game or practice.
 - If the coach needs additional time to address the team, the coach should be in the locker room as well.

- **Locker rooms must be monitored for any team event, regardless of location (including practices, games, and not off-site venues).**
- Location of Monitor:
 - It is preferable to have the monitor/supervisor actually inside the locker room whenever possible.
 - The physical presence of an adult(s) is far more effective in deterring and stopping misbehavior, and also enables the adult(s) to visually monitor the behavior of the individual players and to intercede prior to an incident getting out of hand. Additionally, it affords the opportunity to ensure that players are not using their electronic devices inappropriately. ● When an issue arises:
 - Monitors/team managers/coaches need to be respectful and keep their own emotions in check.
 - Speaking quietly and calmly to a player, to help avoid embarrassment, may be best. However, it may be appropriate and necessary to use a strong verbal command to stop misbehavior.
 - If the attempt to intercede is ignored, or the problem persists, and there is no immediate threat of potential harm, the monitor/supervisor should seek assistance from another adult to remove the misbehaving player from the locker room and address the issue separate from the rest of the team. If the player's parent(s) are present, they should be engaged immediately.
 - Situations where misbehavior could lead to the threat of immediate harm are very rare (especially with monitors present); however, if a situation arises, it may become necessary to intercede to stop the problem (examples include fighting, wrestling, hitting with sticks, throwing items, dangerous use of skates, etc.). If you are uncomfortable directly engaging to separate players in these circumstances, send someone for help and continue to calmly attempt to deescalate the situation until it can be resolved. However, with an adult in the locker room, none of these potential scenarios should occur.
 - Immediately report any misbehavior occurring in a locker room to your local SafeSport coordinator or any other official. Identify as best you can both the participants as well as anyone who closely witnessed the incident and the actions of those involved.
 - Report any incidents of unmonitored or inadequately monitored locker rooms to your local or Affiliate SafeSport Coordinator.

Resources and Downloads

USA Hockey - <https://www.usahockey.com/resourcesanddownloads>

WNYAHL - <https://www.wnyahl.net/>

NYSAHA - <https://www.nysaha.com/>

AAU - <https://aausports.org/ice-hockey>

WNYHSCHL - <https://www.wnyhschl.com/#>

Concussion Protocol - <https://www.usahockey.com/safety-concussions>

Return to Play Form – [USA Hockey Concussion RTP Form](#)

Coaching

Coaching Requirements:

- Current USA Hockey Member Registration
- Helmet use required when on ice
- Completion of the USA or NY State Hockey Clearance Form (every three years)
- Coach must have a valid USA Hockey coaching card by December 1st of that year for the appropriate division/team (level determined by USA Hockey for specific age/division)
- Coach will be reimbursed for the cost of the coaching course with proof of payment, valid coaching card (course must be required for the age group) and be actively participating with an NCCYHA team(s)

Coach Selection Process:

- NCCYHA will open a coaching registration to apply on the NCCYHA webpage under registrations, starting in mid-December for the following season.
- Travel Team Coaches: Potential travel team coaches will submit a letter of interest to the NCCYHA Coaching Coordinator by January 15th. The coaching selection committee will interview potential coaches and make a recommendation to the board of directors. Coaches will be selected based upon several qualification which include but are not limited to; certification level, years of experience, prior NCCYHA coaching, character, coaching philosophy, ability to work with other coaches and support the NCCYHA league philosophy.
- House League Coaches: Potential house team coaches will submit a letter (email) of interest to the NCCYHA Coaching Coordinator by September 1. The coaching selection committee will review letters and make recommendations to the Board. The senior coach in the division will be named as the Division Coordinator (with board approval).
- House Select Coach (Mite and Squirt Divisions): Senior head coach in the division will have priority for the head coach position. Other head coaches in the division will act as assistant coaches – if positions are still available (maximum of 4 coaches on the roster, house league assistant coaches will be on the bench at the discretion of the house select head coach).
- High School Coaches: Potential High School coaches (Modified, JV, and Varsity) will submit a letter of interest to the NCCYHA Coaching Coordinator by January 15th. Coaches will be interviewed by the Director of High School Hockey, and two other Board Members.

Coaching Duties:

- Organizing parent volunteers to assist with on- and off-ice team responsibilities such as:
 - Team Management (scheduling, team fee collection for travel/high school teams)
 - Scheduling
 - League meeting attendance (travel and high-school teams)
 - On-ice coordination of practice, game and player-development plans
 - Communication with board, players and parents
 - Equipment
 - Ensure players are wearing required equipment (also parent/player responsibility)
 - Pucks, water bottles
 - Supervision (on & off the ice, locker room: Coach or team representative cannot leave rink until all players have been picked up)
 - Posting of game scores: Winning coach or team parent volunteer will contact local newspaper to post score and player information. Media criteria will be followed regarding the posting of player names.

House, Travel/High-School Division Coordinator:

- House Division Coordinator (Mite Squirt): The senior head coach in the division will be asked to head the division, coordinate the ice schedule and act as the lead for practice plans, etc.
- MOHL, Travel and High School head coaches will act as the on-ice coordinators. Team Managers will act as the off-ice coordinators.

Equipment

Coaches must wear an approved HECC certified Helmet for all on-ice activities. All team officials (Including scorekeeper/time clock) must walk outside the boards and around the rink when moving to the player or scorekeeper boxes.

All players (including goal tenders) must wear an approved HECC certified hockey **helmet with cage, mouth guard** and **neck guard** along with **all** other USA approved hockey equipment.

(g) "All players, including goalkeepers, in all age classifications except Adults are required to wear a HECC-certified neck laceration protector that covers as much of the neck area as possible, and are recommended to wear cut-resistant socks, sleeves or undergarments.

(Note) In addition to HECC-certified NLPs, BNQ-certified neck laceration protectors will fulfill this rule through the 2026-27 USA Hockey Season."

Penalties remain the same: team warning followed by misconduct for subsequent violations during the same game.

Full equipment is mandatory for all NCCYHA activities including practices and games at home and away rinks.

Mandatory equipment includes: (Player required to have)

1. Cup and supporter w/ garter belt **or**
 - a. compression pants w/ cup and Velcro



1. Shin pads



2. Hockey Pants w/ belt or suspenders (Preferably Navy)



3. Hockey Skates



4. Shoulder Pads



5. Elbow pads



6. Gloves (Preferably Navy)



7. Hockey Helmet w/ cage (mask) and chin strap (Travel; White; High School Hockey: Navy)



8. Neck Guard / Mouth Guard (In accordance with USA Hockey)



9. Hockey Bag for Gear is helpful



10. Hockey Stick



11. Player Uniform

- Socks - Home/Away Game Socks are provided with Player Registration (10U-18U)
- Jerseys - Home/Away Game Jerseys are required and available for purchase with Player Registration (10U-18U). **If you are new to the organization, when registering to purchase a Jersey please enter "0".** The President or Registrar will contact you to select available numbers. NCCYHA has three before and three years after rule to prevent conflicting Jersey Numbers as player's progress in age.
- NCCYHA Approved Jersey, Sample Below:



Goaltending Policy

The NCCYHA would like to encourage your child to become a goaltender. Goaltenders are being pursued in the Squirt (U10), PeeWee (U12), and Bantam (U14) divisions. The skills and excitement that accompany goaltenders are lifelong. They challenge the player in many ways including, more ice time, the ability to dictate the outcome of a game, and often times the game's star player. Often compared to the likes of a pitcher in baseball, or the quarterback in football, the goaltender in hockey is the back-bone of the team. Player's families are encourage to consider your child to become a goaltender.

- i. The Board of Directors have put a policy in place to assist with new and returning goaltenders. Effective for the start of the 2018-2019 hockey season, goaltenders will be given a 50% discount off registration costs. This subsidy is for the above-mentioned divisions. Our Mites (U6-U8) division are encouraged not to classify player's positions. All players wanting to try the goaltending position in the Mites will have equipment provided to them for use by the NCCYHA.
- ii. The Board of Directors have approved an equipment reimbursement of 25% (not to exceed \$300.00) for goaltenders.
- iii. The Board of Directors and Coaches will be looking into pre-season and inner-season goaltending clinics for goaltenders. This may include some form of reimbursement for clinics attended by registered NCCYHA goaltenders in good standing.

If you or your child are interested, please contact the NCCYHA President nccyha.steelers@gmail.com.

PROGRAMS & TEAMS

General Information

- Length of Season depends on the team/division
- Expectations – attending practice and games, wearing proper equipment
- Ready to step on the ice at least 5 minutes before the game or practice (house league), 30-45 minutes (Select, Travel, and High School) or as directed by the team coach

Placement of players:

- A player will play in his/her age division unless approved by the NCCYHA Board. Players will never play in a lower age division (USA Hockey requirement). Players will never move up more than one age group. Under new regulations, Mite players will not be permitted to move up to Squirt.
- Consideration for players to move up will be based upon the player's size and/or abilities that far exceed that of the player's current age bracket. The number of NCCYHA players in each division will also be considered. NCCYHA and USA Hockey discourage players from moving out of their appropriate age bracket. Any player wishing to move up a division must write a formal request to the NCCYHA Board of Directors President (may be done via email) and must assume all risk associated with the move.
- House league requests to have players on the same team will be considered only for family and ride purposes (when families are outside the Dunkirk/Fredonia area).
- When fair play is compromised by a house-league player playing in his/her own age division, the Coaches Coordinator may request that the player move up to the next division. Parents will have the option of moving the player up.

Learn To Play Hockey

This program is designed to introduce children to skating and basic hockey skills in a fun, supportive environment.

- NCCYHA offer two sessions. The program runs 10, 60-minute on-ice sessions on Saturdays and Sundays beginning in mid- September and running through mid-October. And 10, 60-minute on-ice session on Saturdays and Sundays in mid-January and running through mid-February.
- NCCYHA has hockey packages available to use during Learn to Play Hockey.
- A Graduation Celebration will be held after the final session.
- Coaches and assistants must be properly registered with USA Hockey (and wear a helmet as required by USA Hockey).

Mite & Mini Mite Programs

House League

Players per Team:

USA Hockey rules apply to a maximum number of 20 players per team. The maximum of 18 skaters and 2 goaltenders can dress and be on the bench for each game.

Select Teams: NCCYHA Board recommends 15 players and 2 goal tenders. Head Coach will determine if additional players are placed on the team up to the USA Hockey maximum.

House League Team Draft System (Team Selection for Squirt, Pee Wee):

- The team draft will take place after the first few weeks of the season. Early practices will be open to all players. Coaches will plan practice sessions for the purposes of training and skill evaluation.
- All division head coaches will meet with the NCCYHA Coaching Coordinator or a board substitute. An Assistant Coach may attend the draft in place of the head coach. Other assistant coaches may attend the draft with Coaching Coordinator approval but will not be permitted to participate in the draft process.

- All players will be given a rating from 1 to 5, with 1 being low and 5 being high by the Head Coaches.
- A player selection draft will proceed until all players have been assigned to a team. Coaches will notify all players selected for their team within 48 hours of the draft.
- During the first round or two of house games, the coaching coordinator and division coaches will evaluate team balance and determine if any moves are needed to obtain balance within the division. If player movement is necessary, parents will be contacted by the head coach. Team rosters will be final as of December 1st.

All draft information and player rating will be kept confidential.

Equal Ice Policy:

It is the intent of the NCCYHA and the responsibility of all house coaches to ensure that players except the goalie are played equally.

- No player shall play two (2) shifts more than any other player or ice time within three minutes from the player with the most ice to the player with the least ice.
- Double shifting is **NOT** permitted unless fewer than 10 skaters are available.
- Any player who is injured seriously enough to stop play must be replaced.
- A goaltender may only be removed in the last 2 minutes of play in the game in favor of a sixth attacker.

House Practices:

- USA Hockey recommended 2 practices for every game that is played. During practice, players spend more time working on fundamental skills and touch the puck much more often. Coaches will structure practices so that there is little time spent waiting in line for a turn.

House Games:

- Squirt teams will play house league games against other NCCYHA teams.
- Ice times will be 60 minutes for practices and games.
- Pee Wee and Bantam MOHL players will play scrimmage games with the travel players at least 1 time per month or as the schedule allows. Players will be split up onto teams by the travel and MOHL coaches when they arrive at the rink to encourage equal ability teams. If a paid referee is not present at the game, NO checking will be permitted and the coaches will referee the scrimmage.
- Squirt and Pee Wee Players (Non-Travel) will participate in MOHL (Multi Organizational House League) games when available or home/home games will be set up in the Buffalo and Jamestown areas.
- Bantam & Midget Players: Team will participate in MOHL (Multi Organizational House League) when available or home/home games will be set up. The season will run from mid/late-September to late February. Due to fall high-school sports, the Midget team may not begin practice until October.
- Roster: Top roster size will be 18 players, 2 goaltenders
- If more players register than top roster size, a wait list will be established and a 2nd team will be formed when there are enough players (based upon date registration was received) – at least 12 skaters per team required.

House Select

The select season is a special and limited opportunity for exceptional players above and beyond the regular house season. It involves additional time, cost, travel and functions outside the house season expectations. Select team participation is a great experience for players, coaches and families but requires a great deal of commitment.

TEAM SELECTION: Players will be evaluated, using the following criteria, by NCCYHA coaches from the beginning of the season.

- ◆ Skill level
- ◆ Positive attitude and effort
- ◆ Team play
- ◆ House practice and game attendance
- ◆ Second-year player has preference over a first year player providing the skill level is equivalent

PLAYER SELECTION: Division head coaches will meet in late November with an NCCYHA board representative to discuss and recommend players for the “A” Select team roster.

- ◆ Each Head Coach will present the top 4 players from his team taking the Team Selection criteria into account.
- ◆ The Head Coach will appoint the remaining players based upon the Team Selection criteria.
- ◆ Select Head Coach will determine the size of the team within USA Hockey guidelines (20 player maximum). NCCYHA Board recommended team size: 15 players, 2 goaltenders.
- ◆ The NCCYHA Board will discuss and approve the roster (at a meeting or via email vote)
- ◆ All Select players must have NCCYHA league fees paid in full before they are added to the team roster.
- ◆ The Head Coach will contact parents of players selected for the team to determine participation after team has been approved by the board. NOTE: If a parent or player decline team participation, the player is not eligible to play on the “B” select team if one is formed. With parent permission, the Head Coach will personally (or by phone) notify players of team selection or non-selection (players not selected for the team).
- ◆ Players playing out of their appropriate age division (USA Hockey guidelines) will be moved to appropriate division for the select season. Coaches in the appropriate division are encouraged to carefully consider the players’ skills and approval for moving up for team selection.
- ◆ Parents and players selected for the team will be asked to sign the select guidelines and expectations form stating that they have received the information and agree to abide by it.

HOUSE LEAGUE COMMITMENT:

- ◆ The regular House league team will be the player's primary commitment during the regular house season
- ◆ If a player does not participate on his/her division or house team (practices and games with at least 80% attendance, or 4 of 5 ice times), select team participation will be ended. The player will be removed from the select team roster.
- ◆ Scheduling of select practices and games will not conflict with house ice

SELECT TEAM COMMITMENT:

- ◆ Parent/player accepts full responsibility for team activities (practices, games, tournaments) and fees upon agreement to participate on the team.
- ◆ Players on a travel team for another organization must agree that the NCCYHA select team would be a priority during the select season. If a select game, practice or tournament conflicts with travel, the select event would take priority.
- ◆ Select team fees will be no more than \$250. Exact costs will be determined by the number of players, practices, games, tournaments played and the amount of sponsorships collected. An initial fee of \$50 will be collected when the player is notified of team selection. Full payment must be made before February 15th. The team will play two to three tournaments.
- ◆ **PLAY TIME – TEAM PLAY – ATTENDANCE:** Coaches are the authority on the bench. All players selected for the team (listed on the USA Hockey roster) will play. All players may not play in all games. The Head Coach will determine the amount of play time each player

receives as well as the player position. Player position will be determined by the head coach to create the best team possible. This includes positions for power play and penalty kill situations.

- ◆ As opposed to the house league, the focus during the select season will be less on individual player development and more on total team play and success. There will be an increased emphasis on competing, winning and on total team play. Skills will be taught and practiced to assist the team in playing together at the highest level against skilled competitors. **Attendance at every practice is expected. Players must be ready to step on the ice at least 10 minutes before the start of the practice.** Select teams will receive limited practice and game ice at STEELE Hall. Teams may choose to purchase ice at outside rinks (Jamestown or Buffalo). This will mean that travel time must be included so that players arrive with ample time to change and prepare for the practice or game.

See Select Guidelines and Expectations sign-off sheet for additional team information

Travel/High School

NCCYHA provides squirt, peewee, bantam and midget hockey players with a privilege to learn and compete in amateur travel and/or high-school hockey.

- Our travel teams play in the Western New York Amateur Hockey League (WNYAHL). Our high-school teams play in Western New York High School Club Hockey League (WNYHSCHL).
- Player must attend try-out or be excused from try-out and be chosen for the team to participate.
- NCCYHA Travel Team Commitment, Philosophy/Guidelines & Rules of Conduct forms must be signed by Player & Parent/Guardian in order for players to be selected for the teams.
- Travel teams will be determined by the NCCYHA Board of Directors and Travel team coaches based upon the number and age of players interested and the ability to sustain the house-league program at that level. Typically, NCCYHA will host travel/high-school teams at the Girls, Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget, Modified (U14), Junior Varsity and Varsity levels.

See Travel Team Code of Conduct, Philosophy and Commitment forms for additional information

Girls Travel:

When interest and numbers permit, a girl's travel team will be formed to participate in the Great Lakes Girls Hockey League.

Squirt, Pee Wee, and Bantam Travel:

The travel season begins in mid-September and runs through March. Coaches and Parents together decide on how many tournaments the team will play in addition to the 18- to 24-game travel season. Team fees vary based upon fundraising and team sponsors. Team practices typically begin in late August.

Players in 8th or 9th grade may also choose to play Junior Varsity Hockey (an 8th grader who plays JV may not play spring U14 High School Modified Hockey).

Modified, JV, and Varsity High School Hockey:

The high-school season runs from November through February/March. The 9th and 10th grade players are typically on the Junior Varsity team (JV). Due to a change in league rules, no 11th grade players may play on JV. 8th graders must pass a physical-fitness test to play. 11th and 12th grade players are typically on the Varsity (V) team. A Modified U14 Hockey Team (7th and 8th grade players not on JV) will be selected and play March – June. Additional High School information will be provided by the High School Committee.

The modified hockey season begins in mid-March and runs through early June. Team practices typically begin in early March in Fredonia, once steel hall melts the ice, practices move to Jamestown. (2 times per week). Team fees vary based upon fundraising and team sponsors.

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