

NEW TRIER GIRLS HOCKEY POLICIES

Updated August 2023

1. GOALS AND PHILOSOPHY

This document sets forth the basic policies of New Trier Girls Hockey (NTGH or Club). The fundamental goal underlying these Policies is to provide New Trier High School (School or NTHS) students with the opportunity to participate in the sport of ice hockey on a basis that is consistent with other School sports. While ice hockey is a highly competitive sport at the high school level and everyone wants to win, the philosophy of NTGH is that success will derive naturally from expert instruction in the fundamentals of the sport and the development of advanced hockey skills in the context of good sportsmanship, consideration of other participants, and having fun. NTGH is dedicated to interscholastic athletics as a vital component of a New Trier education. Athletics will be a positive learning experience for our students if they recognize that they achieve their highest personal and athletic potential only by embracing a lifestyle dedicated to competition, integrity and self-discipline. Selection to a team is an honor and a privilege, but not a right, and as such, carries responsibilities commensurate with leadership. As leaders and as very visible representatives of New Trier and its teams, NTGH athletes have the obligation to present themselves in an exemplary manner.

To these ends, NTGH will endeavor to form teams capable of competing for state high school hockey championships within the context of a challenging game schedule. NTGH will employ the best coaches available to instruct and develop players consistent with fairness and good sportsmanship and in agreement with the Policies outlined herein.

NTGH seeks to have ice hockey recognized as a School sport, in which hockey players are treated as equal to athletes in other School sports. Club Policies will be consistent with those of other School sports.

2. FAMILY CONDUCT

New Trier Girls Hockey families will conduct themselves in a manner which exemplifies good sportsmanship and fair play. Families will be supportive of all team players and coaches, both on and off the ice, and will refrain from negative or derogatory comments about players, coaches, and officials. The Club reserves the right to restrict a player's ice time or terminate or restrict a player's participation if the behavior of a player is consistently detrimental to the best interest and goals of NTGH. Similarly, parental behavior that jeopardizes a team's opportunity for a positive experience will not be tolerated. The Club reserves the right to bar a parent temporarily or permanently from attending games involving NTGH teams or other Club activities if the behavior of that parent is detrimental to the best interests and goals of the Club. Such cases will be reviewed by NTGH's Rules & Ethics Committee.

3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Any female student in good standing at New Trier High School, who is in compliance with NTGH's Academic Eligibility Policy and Athletic Code, is eligible to try out for the teams organized by New Trier Girls Hockey. Players are eligible for a maximum of eight (8) consecutive semesters beginning freshman year and may not be more than twenty (20) years old at the time of tryouts. Students selected to play on teams must continue to adhere to the Club's Academic Eligibility Policy and Athletic Code to remain members of the team. The Board may allow, by majority vote, a female student from another high school to participate on a NTGH team under essentially the same codes and policies, if they believe it to be in the best interest of the program. The Club's Policies have been designed to correspond as closely as possible to the School's academic and athletic codes. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Academic Eligibility Policy, Athletic Code and these Policies can result in suspension from the team without refund or reduction of fees.

a. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

In order to try out, all students, except incoming freshman, must have passed classes that grant two (2) credit hours, in the spring semester prior to the official beginning of tryouts for the next year. Courses successfully completed during the intervening summer session will apply. All students, except incoming freshman, must submit a copy of the most recent spring (and if appropriate, summer) semester's report card before they will be permitted to participate in tryouts.

Once teams have been determined and throughout the hockey season, all athletes, including freshman, are expected to maintain passing grades on a weekly basis in classes that grant no fewer than two (2) credit hours, generally four majors or three majors and two minors. In prior years, the School would monitor compliance and report exceptions weekly to the NTGH President on Thursdays. The School no longer provides that information, and each family will therefore be responsible for that oversight and reporting noncompliance promptly to the NTGH President. A player who fails to meet these requirements will be suspended from all games for a minimum of one week once notification has been given to the athlete. In accordance with School rules, the suspension will run from Monday through the following Sunday. Players are expected to continue to attend team practices and off-ice events while they are serving an academic suspension. However, coaches are encouraged to consider excusing suspended players if time is needed to complete academic assignments. After completing the one-week suspension, the player will be reinstated provided it is determined that the academic requirements have been satisfied. A player who does not receive passing grades in classes that grant two (2) credit hours, at the completion of the fall semester will be ineligible to play for the balance of the season. There will be no exceptions to this policy and there will be no refund or reduction of fees.

b. ATHLETIC CODE

A NTGH team member will be subject to disciplinary action if she violates the Athletic Code. Conduct prohibited under the Athletic Code includes, but is not limited to the following:

- The purchase, possession, delivery, distribution, or use of tobacco products including e-cigarettes;
- The purchase, possession, delivery or distribution, or being under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, other illegal mood-altering and/or performance enhancing drugs or chemicals, or any substance used to obtain an altered mental state or “high”;
- The purchase, possession, delivery, or distribution of look-alike drugs, drug paraphernalia, and alcohol containers;
- Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy;
- Hosting or organizing a gathering or providing a venue where minors and any of the above-referenced prohibited substances are present;
- Assault or battery;
- Bullying and intimidation, hazing, and harassment of a written, verbal, physical or sexual nature; including, but not limited, to handwritten, computer generated, or spoken words;
- Vandalism, theft, property damage;
- Violations of major school policies including, but not limited to, disobedience, excessive absenteeism, misuse of technology, etc;
- Unsportsmanlike conduct during or surrounding games, practices and team events, such as cheating, fighting, or abuse of officials, other players, coaches or spectators;
- Conduct resulting in a school suspension;
- Falsification of any signatures on NTGH registration forms;
- Withdrawing from or quitting a NTGH team without prior written approval; and

- Alteration to the standard NTGH team uniform (including, but not limited to, the purchase of an alternative jersey, shell, helmet, etc.).

Violations of the Athletic Code, which is included in all registration packets, available online at the NTGH website (<http://www.newtriergirlshockey.com>) and distributed at the beginning of each season, will result in the sanctions specified in the Athletic Code. Sanctions include suspensions up to one full season, drug education programs, counseling, and community service. Please refer to the Athletic Code for additional policies.

4. TEAM SELECTION

Once the Tryout Committee has determined the eligibility of all registered students, the coaches or tryout coordinators will assign potential players to tryout groups and will so inform each participant at the rink prior to commencement of each tryout session. The Club's coaches will select the appropriate number of players for the number of teams the Club plans to form and will assign players to particular teams. Reasonable efforts will be made to fit the tryouts into the brief period between the beginning of school in late August and September 1st.

Students who plan to try out for another hockey organization must inform one of the tryout coordinators. A special effort will be made to inform these players about their team placement so they can make decisions with respect to the possible alternatives. If a player's family decides that the child will not play if selected for a certain team, this decision should be communicated to one of the tryout coordinators prior to the end of tryouts. The information will be held in confidence until the coaches have selected the teams. The information will be used only in an effort to avoid a situation leaving a particular team with too few players.

After tryouts, there will be practices and possibly practice games in September and maybe even early October. During this period the coaches will determine if the assignment of any players to teams needs adjustment. Such adjustments are expected to be extremely rare.

The coaches control the tryouts and make the decisions as to which players will be on which teams. The tryouts are closed to all except the players and the coaches. The only exceptions will be those few individuals who are directly involved in the administrative functions surrounding tryouts, and then only when required. The NTGH President will serve as the Board's observer during the tryout process to ensure a fair selection process. Parents are not allowed to communicate with the coaches on any matter bearing on team selection or their child's performance during the tryouts. Any questions should be directed to the Club President or a tryout coordinator. Similarly, if a parent feels that the coaches should be aware of some fact bearing on a child's performance, the information should be given to the Club President or a tryout coordinator.

If the Club's coaches are having difficulty deciding between two or more individuals that possess similar skills, they are directed to select the player that is in the higher grade for the higher team. If still considered essentially equal, the coaches should give priority to the player(s) that have played for the Club the longest.

No student should be excluded from playing on a NTGH team solely because a short-term injury or illness makes complete participation at tryouts impossible. Each case of injury or illness will be examined by the tryout coordinators to gather as much information as possible concerning both the player's medical situation and skill level to present to the coaches making the team selections. In the best case, these coaches will be familiar with the player, but in all cases, coaches with first-hand experience with the player's ability will be consulted. The Board recommends that the coaches take a conservative approach when evaluating a player who is unable to try out. If there is any doubt as to which team the player should be on, the player should be placed on the lower of the two teams being considered. Similarly, if there is any doubt as to whether a player should make a team at all, the player should not be placed on a team. After the relevant information has been gathered, and in consultation with the Club President or tryout coordinators to ensure that this conservative approach is being followed, it is the coaches who decide whether a player who is unable to try out should be placed on a team. This decision will not be made until all players trying out have been evaluated.

Players currently serving a School suspension for a violation of New Trier High School's rules will NOT be permitted to tryout on those days when they are suspended from school. However, using the mechanism described above, the coaches can decide to place such players on a team. If they are selected for a team, they may not start participating in games or practices until their school suspension is completed and they are allowed to return to campus.

NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO TRYOUT UNTIL ALL THE REQUIRED FORMS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO THE REGISTRAR OR A MEMBER OF THE TRYOUT COMMITTEE AND ALL FEES DUE AND OWING HAVE BEEN PAID!

5. TEAM SIZE

The Club's coaches, when possible, will select twenty players for each team, generally two goalies and eighteen skaters. It is the intention of the Board that as many individuals as possible should be given the opportunity to play on a team. It is the desire and expectation of the Club that the coaches will use their collective experience and judgment in selecting players to form the team(s). Our policy is that all of the coaches should agree on the final roster for each team. Each team formed must have a sufficient number of players to ensure that they will be able to compete effectively during the season.

6. PLAYING TIME

Because the Board believes it to be in the best interest of the development of each player and, accordingly, each team, the Club directs its coaches to provide meaningful ice time to each player in each game unless that player is being disciplined in accordance with the Club's and/or the team's rules. Although it is recognized that the concept of "meaningful ice time" cannot be precisely defined and that the amount of ice time any player receives will vary from game to game depending on a number of factors, each coach is encouraged to find a balance between the needs of the player for her growth and personal development and the needs of the team.

7. COMMITMENT

Membership on a NTGH team requires an extraordinary level of commitment. Families should carefully consider the policies outlined below, and throughout this document, before committing to try out for a team.

a. FINANCIAL

The cost of high school hockey is comparable to the cost of the feeder travel programs familiar to most entering families. This is due to many factors, including the following:

- Coaches salaries
- The length of the season
- Practice times are generally not split between teams
- League fees and the higher cost of paid officials
- Limited available ice at lower cost park district rinks

b. EQUIPMENT

All players are required to wear a white helmet and New Trier green hockey pants or shell. A shell can be purchased to cover pants that do not comply with the New Trier green color standard. First-time players are required to purchase home and away game jerseys as well as team warm-ups through the Club. NTGH provides socks and practice jerseys to every player as required. The cost of the game jerseys will be billed separately in the fall after the jerseys have been delivered to the players. Team warm-ups will be ordered and billed separately as well.

Full protective hockey equipment (*including helmet, mouthguard, neck guard, shoulder pads or chest protector, elbow pads, hockey pants, pelvic protector, shin guards or goalie pads, gloves, socks and skates*) is required every time a player steps on the ice for a game or a practice. All equipment must meet USA Hockey regulations. Players are responsible for providing their own equipment.

The NTGH team uniform is determined by the Club and not by individual teams. Any deviation from the Club's uniform must be approved by the New Trier Girls Hockey Board of Directors.

c. PRE-SEASON MEETING

All players and their parents are required to attend a meeting before tryouts begin. The meeting is held to complete the registration process and to receive information from the Club and the league regarding expectations for the coming season.

d. TOURNAMENTS

As part of their commitment to their fellow team members, **all players are expected to attend all tournaments**. Because of various early deadlines, the Club reserves the right to register teams for tournaments considered to be the most appropriate. Generally, appropriate tournaments for High School girls teams are more difficult to find. Our objective is to have each team participate in at least one tournament each season. For out of town tournaments, 75% of parents must approve by secret ballot any tournament requiring air travel. If an appropriate tournament for a team can be found, the Club generally will cover the cost of a reasonable tournament fee and any additional costs will be the responsibility of the team members. Coaches expenses incurred in attending tournaments are considered a cost that is shared by the team.

e. PLAYING SEASON

The hockey season is comprised of the following major parts:

- Tryouts - Usually one week in late August after school has begun.
- Pre-Season - Usually three practices per week and a varying number of practice games during September and early October.
- Chicagoland Metro Girls' High School Hockey League Play - League games generally begin in October and continue through February. The team managers generally try to avoid scheduling games during Thanksgiving weekend, Winter Break, and the weekdays of semester exams unless absolutely necessary. In recent years, the league has had each team play each other team once in the period from early October to Winter Break ("regular season"), and then divide the teams based on results of the regular season into two brackets, Scholastic Cup (upper) and Founder's Cup (lower), where the teams in each bracket play each other twice (home and away). Practices continue at the rate of two-three per week.
- Post-Season - League Championships are in late February or early March. State High School playoffs then run through the third week in March. Practices continue at the rate of two-three per week until the team has completed its season.

f. ATTENDANCE AT TEAM ACTIVITIES

In addition to this rigorous schedule of two-three practices and one-two games per week, most teams choose to have team meals together on a more or less regular basis and some teams opt for additional off-ice training sessions. Every player is expected to attend all team functions. Attendance at practices and team events is critical to building team chemistry and improving personal and team performance. Thus, having each player be at every team function possible is necessary to achieve the level of success the team is ultimately capable of. Failure to attend team practices and events not only compromises the integrity of the team but also may result in restricted playing time.

Absences for the following reasons are considered to be excused – provided they are confirmed and the player communicates appropriately with the Coach or Team Manager in advance (except for emergencies):

- Illness or injury
- Required school events - academic events, school musical or theatrical commitments where academic credit is involved, homeroom/advisory events, orientations, and testing (ACT's, SAT's, PSAT's, etc.)
- Religious commitments - holidays, ceremonies and services that involve the player
- Family emergencies
- Major family ceremonies - weddings of immediate family members, funerals, etc.

Coaches have the discretion to seek confirmation of the validity of the excuse. If the excuse can't be confirmed, the Coach is empowered to apply discipline.

If a student is too ill to come to school, then it is not appropriate for her to participate in team practices or games that day unless they are in school by the fourth (4th) period and stay in school for the remainder of the school day. Players are expected to communicate their status directly to the Coach or Team Manager. Coaches are directed that players who were not in school by the fourth (4th) period should not be allowed to participate in that day's hockey activities.

g. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER SCHOOL SPORTS

Players participating in other school-sponsored fall sports are allowed to honor those commitments and attend as many hockey team activities as their schedule and fall sport coach will allow. We recognize that participation in a New Trier-sponsored fall sport must take priority until that season is completed. However, players and families are strongly cautioned that participation in hockey and another School sport simultaneously represents a massive time commitment that only a well-organized student with strong academic abilities should attempt. Furthermore, the School strongly disapproves of dual sport participation and the player may come under substantial pressure from the School sport coach not to participate in hockey during the fall season. Players are required to declare their intention to pursue a School-sponsored sport on their "Application Form". This information will be made available to the Coaches during the tryout process. Our understanding with the School provides that fall sport coaches will excuse hockey players to participate in the Club's tryouts in the event there is a conflict. Similarly, the NTGH coaches are expected to excuse players to allow them to participate in spring sport tryouts if there is a conflict. The spring sport coaches are expected to give Club activities priority in the event of conflicts. NTGH strongly discourages its members from participating in School-sponsored winter sports and coaches are NOT required to excuse a player who misses a team event due to a conflict with a winter sport.

h. DOUBLE ROSTERING

Due to the substantial time commitment required in order to play on a NTGH high school team, it is challenging for a player to also participate on another team. The decision to be double rostered during the same season represents a significant commitment of both time and financial resources and should be attempted only by well-organized students with strong academic abilities. It is suggested that those families considering double rostering discuss their plans in advance of tryouts with a member of the tryout committee or the President of NTGH.

NTGH recognizes that as a result of having double rostered players on its teams, there will be conflicts concerning game and practice times between the two teams. Accordingly, NTGH will attempt to schedule games around the schedule of its players' other teams. Each double rostered player is expected to promptly communicate schedules and schedule changes for her other team to her Team Manager and the President of NTGH. All players and parents must recognize that ice times are established based on ice contracts set well in advance of the season. These ice contracts span the entire season. In reality, because of the chronic lack of ice it is effectively impossible to

change ice times during the season and even from season-to-season. As a result, it requires each player to put forth additional effort to make every practice, game, and team event that she possibly can, even if it requires extraordinary travel and attending more than one event on the same day.

8. ADMINISTRATION

a. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

New Trier Girls Hockey, NFP was incorporated in 2007 as an Illinois not-for-profit corporation. The By-laws prescribe for a Board of Directors consisting of from 3 to 8 members. Members who either have a child currently enrolled in the program or had a child enrolled in the program during a preceding season, and who are in good standing with respect to payment of fees are eligible to serve as Officers and on the Board. Once teams for the season have been selected, the Board shall ensure that each team has at least one member on the Board by making the necessary appointments to fill vacancies.

b. TEAM MANAGERS

One parent (sometimes two) from each team is recruited to act as the Team Manager(s). The Team Manager handles the day-to-day administrative details of running the team and acts as the liaison between the coach, the parents, and the Board. Unless a coach initiates or specifically states that he or she welcomes direct discussion, parents are requested not to engage the coach in a dialogue concerning hockey-related matters. A mandatory twenty-four hour cooling off period applies to all contentious discussions. In accordance with the New Trier Athletic Department Parent/Coach Communication Guide, matters such as a player's ice time, a player's position, the team's practice routine, the team's offensive or defensive tactics, and other student athletes are not appropriate to discuss with coaches.

Team and individual player statistics based on the information entered on each league regular season and playoff score sheet are available on line at www.metrogirlshockey.com (see www.ahai2.org for statistics from seasons 2019-20 and prior) for all the teams in the league. Care should be utilized in drawing conclusions from these statistics. The emphasis should be on team play rather than individual comparisons.

The Team Manager also is responsible for keeping players informed, particularly with respect to schedules and schedule changes. At the high school level, we expect that each player will be primarily responsible for keeping her parents informed.

c. PARENTS

Parents are expected to help the team by volunteering to host team meals, to keep an eye on the fans in the stands, operate the game clock, keep score, operate the penalty box and perform any other duties required for the smooth functioning of the team.

d. RULES & ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Rules & Ethics Committee investigates alleged offenses and recommends disciplinary measures for implementation by the NTGH President. Its purpose is to support the administration of the Club's Athletic Code and ensure consistency and objectivity in the investigation of allegations and the determination of the length of punishments. Its scope includes all Athletic Code violations by players and any other inappropriate behavior by players, coaches and other members of the Hockey Club – including parents. Its scope also includes matters referred to it in accordance with these Policies.

The Rule & Ethics Committee members are appointed for a one (1) year term by the President at the beginning of each season shortly after teams have been selected. Appointments must be confirmed by the NTGH Board. The committee's membership consists of a representative of each team. At

least one (1) Committee member should be a member of the Board. The President has the option to propose the appointment of one (1) additional member from outside the Club who has an understanding of high school hockey. One of the prospective Committee members proposed by the President and approved by the Board would be designated to serve as the Chairman of the Rules & Ethics Committee.

The responsibilities of the Rules & Ethics Committee include:

- Reviewing all allegations of Athletic Code violations, investigating the allegation if appropriate and recommending an appropriate punishment to the President of the Club who will then implement the punishment. The President has the option to reject a proposed punishment and may require the Rules & Ethics Committee to re-consider but is generally expected to accept the Rules & Ethics' Committee's recommendation. Allegations may not be made anonymously and the alleged offender has a right to know who made the allegation.
- Administering any community service punishments that may be assessed. If a player is required to participate in counseling or other therapeutic program, the Rules & Ethics Committee shall be responsible for monitoring compliance.
- Reviewing all score sheets for Club teams involved in games in which a Match penalty is assessed against a Club player or coach. The Rules & Ethics Committee will maintain statistics, or use league statistics, and recommend appropriate action be taken in the event that a pattern of inappropriate behavior is identified. Any Club player or coach receiving a match penalty must appear before the Rules & Ethics Committee before they may be reinstated. The Rules & Ethics Committee shall have the option to recommend to the President that additional sanctions be imposed beyond the AHAI or USA Hockey mandated suspensions.
- Investigating any other instance of behavior by a Club player, coach or parent that the Rules & Ethics Committee Chairman and the President agree may be potentially inappropriate. Make recommendations for appropriate disciplinary action.
- Ensuring that allegations are promptly investigated and recommendations for punishments are made as rapidly as possible. The Rules & Ethics Committee may conduct business via conference call or via e-mail as appropriate.
- Maintaining records of the punishments assessed to Club players, coaches and other members.
- Ensuring that all investigations and deliberations remain as confidential as possible.
- Providing a summary report of its activities, if any, to the Board at each meeting. Individual offenders are not named in the summary report.

Any player who is assessed a punishment under the Club's Athletic Code has the right, as described in the Athletic Code, to request that the case be referred for appeal under the procedures outlined in the Athletic Code.

The following procedural examples are intended to illustrate how the Rules & Ethics Committee and the President might interact in administering the Athletic Code:

Determination of an Athletic Code violation made by New Trier High School, the Police or other external authority: The President immediately suspends the player, coach or parent and refers the investigation to the Rules & Ethics Committee to determine the length of the punishment. Rules & Ethics Committee assesses the severity of the offense in comparison to others and recommends an appropriate punishment to the President who will either accept the recommendation or request that the Rules & Ethics Committee reconsider. The President will communicate the punishment to the offender.

Allegation of a potential Athletic Code violation or other inappropriate behavior made by a Club member or an external source: The allegation is referred to the Chairman of the Rules

& Ethics Committee who, if the allegation seems plausible, will assign a Rules & Ethics Committee member to investigate. If there is clear evidence of a violation immediately available, the President will be notified and the offender suspended immediately pending the results of the investigation and a recommendation for punishment. As a result of the investigation, the Rules & Ethics Committee may make a recommendation for disciplinary action or may dismiss the allegation.

USA Hockey has published an Ethics Code which is intended to provide standards of ethical conduct that can be applied by USA Hockey and its member organizations. The Code is intended to provide both the general principles and the decision rules to cover most situations that coaches will encounter. The primary objective is to protect the welfare of the individuals and groups with whom coaches work. All of the New Trier Girls Hockey coaches are required to read the Code and sign an acknowledgement annually that they have read the Code, they will abide by it and if they violate the Code they are subject to termination. USA Hockey has also initiated their SafeSport program to help insure a safe environment for all participants. In particular, the Social Media Policy provides strict rules for communications between players and their families, coaches, administrators, consultants and volunteers. NTGH fully supports the SafeSport initiative of USA Hockey and will actively enforce the Social Media Policy.

9. OVERNIGHT TRAVEL PRECAUTIONS FOR TEAMS

New Trier Girls Hockey is extremely concerned about the safety of its players and has decided to take a proactive approach to ensuring the safety of our players and to prevent alcohol and drug-related incidents. The following policies will apply to all teams sponsored by New Trier Girls Hockey:

- a. Prior to boarding a bus heading to an-out-of town game or tournament for which a hotel stay is anticipated, all player bags (carry-on, personal and hockey equipment) will be opened and inspected by a team official, or designated parent, immediately prior to being placed on the bus. No drinkable liquids will be permitted unless they are factory-sealed. Prescription medications found in a player's baggage must be labeled by the dispensing pharmacy for use by that player and must carry a recent date. If any substance prohibited by the NTGH Athletic Code is detected in a player's baggage, it will be deemed an immediate Athletic Code violation and the player will be suspended. The suspended player may not accompany the team on its trip.
- b. During an overnight hotel stay, wherever possible, each player must sleep in a hotel room with a parent or guardian who is responsible for the player's conduct. If a player's parent or guardian does not accompany the team on the trip, the player must be under the direct supervision during the trip of another adult who was designated in writing or via e-mail by the player's parent or guardian prior to the trip and who has agreed to accept responsibility for that player. Adults may supervise a maximum of one player who is not an immediate family member. Parents, guardians or other adults supervising more than one player may allow two players to share a room without having an adult stay in the room, however, the supervising adult is responsible for the behavior of the players staying in the room and any other players that may visit the room. Such rooming arrangements must be approved by the Team Manager in advance.

10. FINANCIAL POLICIES

The fees necessary to cover the cost of operating a team and the Club consist of a tryout fee due upon registration and a team fee due in three installments. The first installment is due at registration with another due in mid-November to December 1st and the final due in mid-January to February 1st. The Club has the option to offer players a discount if they elect to pay their entire season fee at the time of registration. NTGH will make every effort to keep the team fees reasonable. However, depending upon the number of players,

the cost of ice, and various other factors, the team fee may need to be adjusted during the season and supplemental bills may be issued if necessary.

Failure to pay a bill by the due date may result in a player being suspended until payment is made or a payment plan is established. Families who require additional time to pay a bill are strongly encouraged to make arrangements with the NTGH Treasurer in advance. All such payment plans must be approved by the Treasurer and the President and will be held in confidence. For families in which the parents or guardians live in separate households, one parent or guardian must be designated at the time of registration as the person primarily responsible for payment of all bills. All bills will be sent to the designated parent and that individual will be responsible for ensuring that any payments expected from the other parent are made.

Refunds:

- If a player drops out after the registration process has been completed, but before tryouts begin, the tryout fee, if any, and any team fees will be refunded, less a \$50 charge to cover administrative costs.
- Once tryouts begin, the tryout fee, if any, is not refundable.
- If a player is not selected for a team, any team fees paid will be refunded promptly. If a player is selected for a team, but decides not to participate within 48 hours of the completion of tryouts (defined as the distribution of emails and/or the posting of lists announcing that players have been selected for a team), any team fees paid will be refunded promptly.
- If a player decides not to skate for NTGH after that point and withdraws or drops out, but does so within 7 days following completion of tryouts, any team fees paid will be refunded less a \$1,000 payment.
- The entire team fee for the season will be forfeited for any player who resigns 7 or more days after the completion of the tryouts.

These are the only circumstances under which NTGH will issue refunds. Following 7 days after completion of the tryouts, NTGH will NOT under any circumstances refund, waive or forgive any part of the season fees (whether already paid or to be due and owing in future installments) for any player who thereafter withdraws or resigns from the team, drops out or is unwilling or unable to participate in NTGH. NTGH also will NOT under any circumstances refund, waive or forgive any part of the season fees (whether already paid or to be due and owing in future installments) for any time lost by a player due to absence, illness, injury or suspension for academic or disciplinary reasons. In all such cases, the player remains responsible for paying any subsequent installment payments that may be due for the remainder of the season as well as all other outstanding payments that may be due.

11. OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Club is involved in other activities that support its main objectives but are not a mandatory part of the program. These activities include the following:

- Fund Raising activities such as the NTHC Program Book, but only if NTGH participates in its preparation, to offset the cost of hockey.
- Community and Charitable Activities to reach out to the larger community.
- End of the Season Banquet to recognize the efforts of our players and coaches.
- Spring and Summer Programs to allow our players to keep skating through the off-season in a fun environment.