



Title: Team Policy and Responsibilities

Document Number:	0005	Revision:	B
Document Type:	Policy	Effective Date:	10/4/2022
Document Title:	Team Policy and Responsibilities		Approval Date:
Signed Approval:	Secretary	/s/ Andrea Banaszewski	01/30/2024
	President	/s/ Shannon Ducklow	01/30/2024

1.0 Overview Section

1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to assure a consistent method for establishing teams, the number of games, and tryout expectations. It also defines the responsibility and disciplinary actions for any team member violations.

1.2 Scope:

This policy applies to all teams and levels of the SYHA.

1.3 Implementation:

Implementation is in accordance with *Effective by Date*.

1.4 Responsibilities:

Function Responsibility

Association Members (Parents/Volunteers)	Discuss issues or concerns with immediate team manager. Work to resolve issues with their coach as they arise or the coaches committee.
Team Managers	Advise parents/volunteers of this policy; be open to discuss issues and concerns and work to resolve in a timely manner.
Coaches	Be aware of this policy and work with coaches committee and parent to resolve issues
Employees	Be aware of this policy and work with your boss to resolve any issues.
Board Members	Advise parents/volunteers of this policy; be open to discuss issues and concerns and work to resolve in a timely manner.

1.5 Rationale:

This policy recognizes that it is necessary to provide a consistent approach for tryouts so that all teams and players may have opportunities to evaluate and explore all choices. The purpose of this policy is to outline a consistent, fair, and equitable system for forming teams within Somerset Youth Hockey Association, allowing players to properly evaluate and explore their options, and committing players to teams that suit their level of play and need for development.

2.0 Definitions

Term Definition

None

3.0 General Policy Statement

It is Somerset Youth Hockey Association's requirement that all teams are established fairly.



Hockey Association

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3.1 Procedure

3.1.1 Number of Games

- Mite Level
 - Optional participation in Jamborees with area association.
- Squirt Level
 - 20 League/Non-League games (minimum)
 - 1 home tournament
 - 3 away tournaments (1 overnight tournament is recommended)
 - 40 total games (maximum)
- Pee wee Level,
 - 30 League/Non-League games (minimum)
 - 1 home tournament
 - 5 away tournaments (1 overnight tournament is recommended)
 - 60 total games (maximum)
- Bantam Level
 - 30 League/Non-League games (minimum)
 - 1 home tournament
 - 5 away tournaments (1 overnight tournament is recommended)
 - 60 total games (maximum)

3.1.2 Players moving up

Requests to play up a level may be submitted to the coaching committee. The coaches committee will review requests. Decisions for players moving up will be based on the following criteria:

1. Team sizes
2. Player age and ability
3. Player maturity and attitude

3.1.3 Teams and Tryouts

Teams.

All teams shall be grouped according to the player's age as determined by USA Hockey guidelines. Age is determined by the player's age beginning Jan. 1 of the given year. IE: If the player turns 9 Dec. 31 he/she will be required to move up to Squirts. Each player is required to provide proof of age in the form of presenting an original birth certificate with the raised/stamped seal from his/her birth state and completed notarized "Annotation of Birth Facts Form". Prior to the first scheduled game this paperwork must be turned in. Failure to do so will result in the player sitting out games until proper documentation is received.



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Team Names and Ages:

Mini Mites—First year skaters, or anyone under the age of 6

Mites—Under age 8 before Dec. 31

Squirts—Under age 10 before Dec. 31

Pee Wee—Under age 12 before Dec. 31

Bantams—Under age 14 before Dec. 31

Players may play in an age group above his/her level, NOT BELOW. The exception would be any player with a doctor's note, SYHA Board Approval, parental written request, and proper USA Hockey authorization. The coaches committee has the responsibility to put players in the appropriate grouping. Parents/Players DO have the right to refuse moving up a level if the coaches ask them to do so.

3.1.3.1. Tryouts

Prior to team tryouts, players will be given the opportunity to participate in a pre-tryout practice.

Tryouts will be organized by the coaches committee. The coaches committee will appoint a selection committee that will judge at tryouts. The selection committee will include qualified 3rd party judges. The selection committee will use a grading scale to evaluate players. The coaching committee will tabulate the tryout results.

No parent of any skater shall be involved in any aspect of his/her child's try out..

Everyone is able to view the blank evaluation form prior to tryouts. However, once the tryouts have begun and the forms have been written on, they are **not to** be viewed by anyone other than the selection committee and the coaching committee. Parents do not have the right to see their players' evaluation. Tryout drills will be explained clearly so all skaters understand what is expected giving them equal opportunity to succeed.

If you feel that this process has been compromised, a grievance can be brought to the board. The board will investigate the claims.

3.1.4 Player Responsibility

1. Hockey should be fun! If you do not love the game or you are not having fun playing, you should not be playing.
2. If you want your opponent to respect you, it is important that you respect them.
3. Team efforts are more important than individual efforts. Your team will be more successful if you work toward one common goal together.



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4. Once the referee has made a decision, you are required to respect that decision. You may not use any verbal criticism or gesture that implies disrespect.
5. The rules of the game are designed to allow the game to be played. When they are violated the game is in danger. Do not forget that most of the people out on the ice with you are volunteering their time—appreciate it! ' Don't take it for granted.
6. Winning is fun and should be celebrated as long as there is no disrespect directed at the opposing team.
7. Swearing, nasty language, or gestures will not be tolerated.
8. Attendance at all practices and games is expected. You must notify your coach or team manager if you are going to miss.
9. Treat everyone fairly no matter gender, color, ethnicity, religion, or economic status
10. Abstain from the use of tobacco, alcohol, or performance enhancing drugs.
11. Regularly seek ways of increasing your athletic development and self-awareness.
12. Participate in a manner that ensures safety of athletes, coaches, and officials.
13. Respect other athlete's dignity—verbal, or physical behaviors that constitute harassment or abuse are totally unacceptable.
14. Use of Cell phones in the locker room can be viewed in the social media policy.

3.1.4.1 Actions that require immediate disciplinary action

1. Any instigating or fighting during games or any hockey related event.
2. Any use of the stick with the intent to harm or injure another player
3. Any use of alcohol or drugs while a member of SYHA during hockey season
4. Use of vulgarity in language, gestures, or insinuations of any kind
5. Disrespect shown to any coach, referee or player.
6. All SYHA disciplinary actions will be IN ADDITION to WAHA actions.

3.1.4.2 Disciplinary Actions

Step 1: Coach gives skater a written warning and copies are forwarded to the parents and SYHA Board.

Step 2: Coach gives skater a one week suspension and a 2-month probation with written report to skater, parents, and SYHA Board. At the U8/U10 level the player will sit a minimum of one game. At the U12/U14 level the player will sit a minimum of two games. Any sanctions imposed on a player that the player is unable to fulfill in the current season will be carried over to the next season..

Step 3: Written report given to the Board for review to consider length of suspension, probation, or possible expulsion from SYHA. Board will forward decision to parents and skater. At any point if a skater is involved in a major altercation Coaches have the right to impose immediate suspension followed by a SYHA Board review. Parents do have the right to bring any questions regarding a disciplinary action taken by the coach to the Board. However, it should be understood that the Board fully supports all of its coaches.



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Repeat offenders (Year over Year) will be subject to enhanced and/or expedited discipline by the SYHA Board, including the possible removal from the Association. If enhanced and/or expedited disciplinary action is required a meeting will be scheduled with members of the SYHA Board, the Player and/or Parents involved in the incident.

4.0 Document Information

4.1 Attachments

None

4.2 Governing Documents

Document Title

None

4.3 Reference Documents

Document Number Title

None

4.4 Description of Change

Addition of Step 2 Disciplinary Action

No other changes.

4.5 Description of Change

Addition of Step 2 Disciplinary Action

No other changes.

4.6 Distribution

All members of SYHA via the SYHA website.

END OF DOCUMENT