

MANDAN HOCKEY CLUB

Member Handbook

Revised 10-29-2024



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This handbook is designed to help answer many of the questions that arise throughout the season and may be amended as the Mandan Hockey Club Board of Directors deem necessary. Please contact the Mandan Hockey Club Board of Directors with any input you may have regarding the club handbook. The Board of Directors recognizes that there may need to be revisions to the guidebook in the future. All changes will be communicated to the members via the website at www.mandanhockey.com.

PHILOSOPHIES

As a member of USA Hockey, ND Amateur Hockey Association (NDAHA) and the Northern Plains District Hockey and as a subscriber to these organizations, Mandan Hockey Club (the Club) will follow the philosophies and guidelines as set forth by these organizations. The Club looks to USA Hockey and NDAHA for guidance and direction.

- USA Hockey is the National Governing Body for the sport of hockey in the United States. Additional information can be found on their web site at www.usahockey.com.
- NDAHA is the statewide governing body of amateur hockey in North Dakota and an affiliate of USA Hockey. Additional information can be found on their web site at www.ndaha.org.
- The club is also a member of the Northern Plains District Hockey. Additional information can be found on their web site at www.npdistrict.com.

The mission statement of the Club is “Providing our youth with the opportunity to develop Character, Responsibility, and Teamwork through life-long learning of the sport of hockey.” The success of the Club’s mission statement is dependent upon the involvement of our players, coaches and parents. Our objective to promote the advancement of well-rounded athletes through the sport of hockey is supported by the youth hockey program.

The Club exists for the players and should be made fun for all involved, which includes the players, coaches, parents and fans. Good sportsmanship and conduct of everyone in the club is essential. The Club’s reputation depends on the actions and behavior of its members, coaches and fans, both on and off the ice.

STARION SPORTS COMPLEX

The Mandan Park District owns and operates the Starion Sports Complex. Income generated from rentals and local tax dollars fund the operations of the Starion Sports Complex. The Starion Sports Complex is the home of the Mandan Hockey Club; the Mandan High School boy’s and

girl's hockey teams, football teams and track and field teams; the University of Mary hockey team; and Dakota Star Gymnastics. For more information about the Starion Sports Complex, visit their website at <http://starionsportscomplex.com/>.

Safety of our children is a primary goal. To help keep the facility safe for the children, parents must be aware of their children's activities. For the enjoyment and safety of all patrons, no one may play with sticks and pucks off the ice. Children should not run in the building or up and down the bleachers, stairs, or hallways.

MHC MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

Club Membership

Membership in the Club is on a per family basis, regardless of the number of players in the family (player fees are charged per individual participant). A registered MHC member is a person who has registered their child with the Club for the current season. The current season is approximately a one-year period beginning from the date of the child's registration until the next season's registration. A registered MHC member in good standing is a person who has paid 100% of their financial obligations owed to MHC for the current season.

Unless superseded by USA Hockey, NDAHA, or the Northern Plains District, the Club is designed for players residing and/or enrolled in the Mandan School District, or players from surrounding communities that do not have a North Dakota sanctioned hockey program. This allows for continuity of teams and teammates throughout the progression of the Club's hockey program.

Organization

A Board of Directors (the Board) consisting of 11 members governs the Club. Positions are on a rotating three-year term and include: President; President Elect; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer; and 6 at-large members. Every year during the May Board of Directors' meeting, members are invited to vote and elect new officers (when openings exist). Please refer to the Bylaws of the Club for the areas of responsibility for officers and directors, which can be found on our website. The board members are also assigned various committee duties, which are also posted on the website.

Board Meetings

The Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month (and/or at the call of the President) throughout the year. All Members are welcome and encouraged to attend. The location and time of the meeting is posted on the website and/or social media page.

Hockey Development Committee (HDC)

The Hockey Development Committee is responsible for the development and operation of both on-ice and off-ice player development activities for all players and coaches of the Club. The HDC members work closely with other members of the HDC to determine the objectives and needs for player development and organizes the resources and programs needed to fulfill those needs. HDC members must meet the coaching qualifications set forth by USA Hockey, follow the Club's Coaches Code of Conduct and HDC job description. All recommendations, proposals and employment need majority Board approval. The HDC is comprised of four members with alternating 2-year terms.

The HDC will have an appointed Chairperson that will act as the liaison between the HDC and the Board. The Chairperson is given the authority to lead the HDC. The Chairperson is appointed annually by the Board at the recommendation of the HDC members once the HDC positions have been filled each spring.

FINANCES

Revenues

The goal of the Club is to provide the best program at the most reasonable cost to participants. The Club is a non-profit organization. Funding of the program comes from member registration fees, tournament team fees, concession stand profit and fundraisers. The club also receives revenue from legalized pull-tab gambling, black jack gambling, bingo and sponsorships.

Registration

The Board evaluates and determines registration fees annually. Fees are due at the time of registration or paid through the payment program that is available at the time of registration. The Club offers an early bird registration each year at a reduced rate. All registrations received after the early bird period will be required to pay the full rate. Registration fees are determined by the level of play the skater is rostered to play in. The member is also responsible for paying the processing fees.

Financial Support

It is a goal of the Club to provide kids with the opportunity to play hockey, regardless of their family's financial position. The intent of the Club is to keep kids playing the game of hockey rather than be forced out by financial hardship. Because the Club recognizes the many levels of need, the Board or its designated shall award financial scholarships based on the amount of funds available and the demonstrated financial need of the applicant. A Financial Scholarship application can be found on the website and must be completed by the skaters registration deadline.

Insurance

The Club provides medical insurance coverage through USA Hockey team registration, which is available for regular season play only. For more information on the coverage or for claim forms, contact the MHC Registrar.

Refunds

Refunds may be given for some registration fees if written notice is given to the MHC Treasurer prior to season tryouts and costs are not incurred by the Club. Any other refunds due to extenuating circumstances (i.e. injury, moving) must have Board approval. Also see High School Tryout Policy Page 16.

Failure to Pay Fees

The Board makes every effort to make payment arrangements for its members; however, failure to work with the Board to make payments will result in removal of the player from the team roster. All previous year's fees, including DIBS payment, fundraiser requirements, etc., must be paid in full before a player will be allowed to participate in the current year's program.

Fundraising

The Club solicits and is grateful for sponsor contributions received from local businesses. In addition to sponsor contributions, fundraisers are also run each year. All monies collected from fundraisers go directly into the program for equipment, coaches training, ice time, long-term projects, and programs to enhance the Club. Fundraisers help to keep member fees down. The following fundraisers are run each year: Raffle, Ice Jam and Corporate Sponsorships.

Even with above mentioned items contributing to the overall funds of the Club, we rely on all fundraising, as well as concession stand profits, to provide for the reasonable fees and great experience that our players are provided during the year.

Raffle:

The Club sponsors a raffle each year during the months of November through January. Profits from the raffle go directly to the Club's operating costs.

Ice Jam:

Ice Jam is a yearly year-end party put on for the parents and other adult fans and followers of the Club. This event hosts a silent auction, various raffles and a live auction as a fundraising event. Also included as part of the event is dinner and entertainment. Profits from the event go directly to the Club's operating costs. Each registered family for skaters in the Club receives two tickets to this event. Additional tickets are available for purchase from the Ice Jam coordinator or other board members.

Concessions:

The Club operates the concession stand at the Starion Sports Complex. The concession stand is staffed by the Club members as well as other paid staff as necessary. The concession stand is open for hockey events, football events, track and field events and gymnastics events throughout the calendar year. Proceeds from the concessions go directly into the general fund to help offset the Club costs to its members. The Club has also hired a concession stand manager to aid in the management and scheduling of the concessions throughout the year.

The Club relies on its members to work concession hours each year to reduce the amount of paid labor needed to run the concession stand. Each family has a required number of "Dibs" credits to work each season in the concession stand. The following section explains these requirements.

Dibs:

"Dibs" is an online tool that helps keep members organized by providing a platform to assign and claim responsibility. Each year, the Club requires each family to work Dibs credits to fulfill their requirements. The required number of hours per family is as follows:

- 5 Hours per mini-mite & termite skater
- 20 Hours for one skater in mites & older
- 5 additional Hours for each additional skater

All families with Mites and older skaters must make a \$950 check payable to MHC and is required to be turned in at the parent meeting at the beginning of the season and will be returned once hours are completed. Termites and Mini Mite Deposit Check is \$250. The check will only be cashed if the Dibs credits requirements are not fulfilled. Players who do not provide a deposit check will not be allowed to skate following the first week of practices or following the parent meeting.

To sign up for Dibs credits, visit the Club's website and select the Dibs tab. Members can browse Dibs sessions available and claim responsibility for those Dibs items. Members then complete the Dibs to fulfill their Dibs Session requirements. The Concessions Manager is responsible for posting all Dibs credits as they become available.

Families failing to work any or all of the required credits will have the deposit check cashed the first week of June each year.

Once you commit to a specific Dibs shift, you are expected to work those hours. You have up until 4 days before your shift to cancel a Dibs shift. If after the 4-day period you cannot work the hours you have signed up for, you must find a replacement. If you cannot find a replacement, contact the Concession Manager as soon as possible. If you sign up for more than one Dibs shift during the same period of time on the same day for another family member to fulfill and that member is not in attendance, that will be considered a no-show.

If you fail to show up for a claimed shift, this is considered a “no-show”. No-shows will be billed \$50 per no-show. You are still responsible for making up the no-show. If a family has two no-shows during the season, they forfeit their entire Dibs deposit and will not be allowed to work any additional Dibs credits. Families that are required to work additional hours due to hardship requirements are also subject to no-show penalty fees. Families who have not paid billed no-show fees or supply checks that are unable to be cashed or returned for insufficient funds, will not be allowed on the ice for the following season until the account has been paid in full (including any applicable bank charges).

Hosted Tournaments:

During the season, the Club hosts hockey tournaments. The Board submits their tournament requests to the state hockey board prior to the start of the season. The state tournament director does the scheduling of the tournaments. Proceeds from the tournaments go directly into the general fund to help offset the costs for every skater.

Legalized Gambling

The Club also receives revenue from legalized gambling (pull tabs) and black jack gambling. Proceeds from this gaming go to the Club. Gambling sites include:

- Central Station Bar and Events – Mandan
- Blackstone Tavern – Mandan
- Vicky's Sports Bar – Mandan
- Old Ten - Mandan

POLICIES

The following policies have been put into place by the Club in order to accomplish our Philosophies and goals as a member of USA Hockey, NDAHA and the Northern Plains District.

CODES OF CONDUCT POLICY

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT:

- 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 matter 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 a Discipline Committee.
- There will be no drinking, smoking, chewing of tobacco or use of illegal substances at any team functions.
- Players will conduct themselves in a befitting manner at all facilities (ice rink, hotel, restaurant, etc.) during all team functions.
- Any player who cannot abide by these rules or violates them will be subject to further disciplinary action.

PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT:

- Parent Code of Conduct is set forth by the Mandan Hockey Club.
- Parents are required to exhibit the highest standards of sportsmanship and proper behavior when actively participating in and around any hockey environment. Parents will be supportive of the Mandan Hockey Club coaches and will be respectful of the officials, rink managers, employees, players, and others involved with sponsored games.
- No Contact with coaches regarding coaching issues. Contact with Coaches by Parents or guardians shall be limited to non-coaching issues.
- The Club asks that no parent or guardian shall have any contact (whether in person, in writing, or otherwise) with the coaches or on-ice officials of the Mandan Hockey Club organization that in any manner pertains to or concerns coaching; officiating issues such as playing time, positions, strategies, offenses, defenses, power plays, penalties, or any other similar matters.
- Any concerns, complaints or comments regarding coaching matters or issues should be first addressed to the MHC Level Coordinator. There is a “24 hour cooling off period” a parent or guardian must wait before they contact the level coordinator about any situation. If the Parent or Guardian feels they need to pursue further action, The Grievance procedure must be followed.
- Sanctions for Violation of Parent Code: Inappropriate conduct will result in one warning; If conduct continues, one (1) week suspension from the rink. If problem continues, one (1) year suspension from rink, in congruent with registration, may apply. If parent doesn't abide by suspension, skater will serve suspension by sitting on the bench during the suspension period, both games and practice.

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT:

- The Coach must have USA Hockey certification, in good standing, for their designated level of coaching.
- The Coach agrees that he/she will attend all the applicable rink practices, games, off-ice training, instructional sessions, designated tryout sessions and organized team meetings, except when prevented from doing so for excusable reasons, in which case, the Coach will coordinate with the Assistant Coach or team manager in advance (when reasonably possible to do so) to cover for their absence. In the event a scheduling conflict occurs, the MHC program events take priority.
- The Coach understands that the MHC will be establishing a specific player development system for the season for teaching our players. These systems will be explained to all coaches during designated coaches meetings throughout the year.
- The Coach understands that in order for the program to build and be successful, all coaches must follow this system. The Coach acknowledges that failure to follow this system could result in disciplinary actions or expulsion from the program.
- The Coach agrees to obey the laws of the USA Hockey, NDAHA, and the MHC and that he/she will maintain good citizenship and behavior at all MHC events, as well as in his/her everyday life, recognizing that his/her behavior is a reflection upon the Club.
- Good sportsmanship is required from all Coaches.
- The Coach agrees not to use vulgar or profane language, racial, ethnic or gender related slurs toward program staff, players, fellow coaches, officials, opponents or spectators. At the end of the game, all coaches will line up and shake hands.
- Coaches are expected to behave in a manner on and off the rink that will not bring embarrassment to the program.
- The Coach agrees to respect and show appreciation for the volunteers who give their time to hockey. The Coach further agrees not to yell, taunt, threaten or inflict physical violence upon any player, coach, official or spectator at any MHC function. - The Coach should be punctual to games and practice sessions.
- The Coach also agrees to abide by and enforce the locker room policies set forth by USA Hockey and the Club.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, USA Hockey instituted a zero tolerance policy beginning with the 1992-93 season. This policy requires all players, coaches, officials, team officials and administrators and parents/spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey

sanctioned games. Thus, the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all referees and linesmen:

Players

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
3. Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision. Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.

Coaches

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
3. Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision including standing on the boards or standing in the bench doorway with the intent of inciting the officials, players or spectators.

Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, he/she shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

Officials

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited. Officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

Parents/Spectators

The game will be stopped by game officials when parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The game officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/ spectators from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

1. Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
2. Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.

3. Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, players bench, penalty box or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

SAFESPORT POLICY

USA Hockey is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for its participants' physical, emotional, and social development and ensuring it promotes an environment free from abuse and misconduct. As part of this program USA Hockey has implemented policies below addressing certain types of abuse and misconduct, and certain policies intended to reduce, monitor and govern the areas where potential abuse and misconduct might occur.

The Policies below address the following types of abuse and misconduct:

- Sexual Abuse and Misconduct
- Physical Abuse and Misconduct
- Emotional Abuse and Misconduct
- Bullying, Threats and Harassment
- Hazing

The above Policies set forth some of the boundaries for appropriate and inappropriate conduct.

The Policies below are implemented to reduce the risks of potential abuse:

- Locker Room Policy
- Electronic Communications Policy
- Travel Policy
- Billeting Policy

All USA Hockey members shall familiarize themselves with each form of misconduct and shall refrain from engaging in misconduct and/or violating any of these policies. In the event that any of USA Hockey's or any of its Member Programs' employees or volunteers observe inappropriate behaviors (i.e., policy violations), suspected physical or sexual abuse, or any other type of abuse or misconduct, it is the personal responsibility of each such person to immediately report their observations to the appropriate person as described in Section IV of USA HOCKEY SafeSport Program Handbook. **In addition to reporting within USA Hockey, such persons must also report suspected child physical or sexual abuse to appropriate law enforcement authorities when required under this Policy and/or under applicable law. Employees and volunteers should not attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of child physical or sexual abuse allegations as a condition for reporting to appropriate law enforcement authorities.** USA Hockey has **ZERO TOLERANCE** for abuse and misconduct. How USA Hockey and its Member Programs respond to an allegation of abuse or misconduct is described in Section V of USA HOCKEY SafeSport Program Handbook.

REPORTING POLICY

In an effort to guide members on how to report abuse, inappropriate actions, or concerns about the Club, a Mandan Hockey Club Grievance Procedure has been created.

MANDAN HOCKEY CLUB GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE-

The following is an overview. To file an official grievance, follow the procedure on the Mandan Hockey Website. Procedure is located in the documents tab.

- Witness a grievable offense
- Gather witnesses (if Applicable)
- Determine if this is a SafeSport Report or a Club Grievance
- Fill out the applicable form for the grievance
- File the report, in a timely fashion, to the applicable organization.

Once a report is filed with the age appropriate Level Coordinator of the MHC, the Level Coordinator will notify a member of the HDC and the Grievance Committee of a filed grievance. The Level Coordinator will determine the next step of action for the grievance. A course of action will be reported to the person filing the grievance within 7 days by the Level Coordinator. An attempt to resolve the grievance should be made within 14 days. If the member filing the grievance is not satisfied with the resolution of the grievance, a request to the Board of Directors President can be made by the member. A grievance must be filed within 7 days of the reportable incident.

ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

The Club has a strict no illegal substance usage by minors policy. Violation of the policy will result in the following actions and apply to the skater's time in the program and not only for the current season i.e. would carryover into the next season.

- First offense – 6 weeks suspension from the program
- Second offense – 18 weeks suspension from the program
- Third offense – One year suspension from the program

LOCKER ROOM POLICY

In addition to the development of our hockey players and enjoyment of the sport of hockey, the safety and protection of our participants is central to the Club's goals. The Club adheres to USA Hockey's SafeSport Program as a means to help protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse and other types of misconduct, including emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing. To help prevent abuse or misconduct from occurring in our locker rooms,

the Club has adopted the following locker room policy. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms.

At Starion Sports Complex there are 8 locker rooms available for our program's use. Some of the locker rooms have their own restrooms and shower area. Some teams in our program may also occasionally or regularly travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, rest rooms and shower facilities will vary from location to location. The Club team organizers will attempt to provide information on the locker room facilities in advance of games away from our home arena. At arenas for which you are unfamiliar, parents should plan to have extra time and some flexibility in making arrangements for their child to dress, undress and shower if desired.

Locker Room Monitoring

The Club has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (30 minutes before and 15 minutes following practices. Game times will vary at the discretion of the coaches.) This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this would likely make some players uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion. We conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive, and if the coaches are not inside the locker rooms, either a coach or voluntary locker room monitors (each of which has been screened) will be posted directly outside of the locker rooms and changing areas during periods of use, and leave the doors open only when adequate privacy is still possible, so that only participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room. Team personnel will also secure the locker room appropriately during times when the team is on the ice.

Locker room monitors must complete a background screen and USA Hockey's SafeSport training. To complete a background screen please visit the NDADA web site.

Parents in Locker Rooms

Except for players at the Mite level and below, we discourage parents from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a player needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear, if the player is or may be injured, or a player's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that parents let the coach know beforehand that he or she will be helping the player.

Naturally, with our youngest age groups it is necessary for parents to assist the players getting dressed. We encourage parents to teach their players as young as possible how to get dressed so that players will learn as early as possible how to get dressed independently. In circumstances

where parents are permitted in the locker room, coaches are permitted to ask that the parents leave for a short time before the game and for a short time after the game so that the coaches may address the players. As players get older, the coach may in his or her discretion prohibit parents from a locker room.

Mixed Gender Teams

As a team sport in which youth teams can often include both male and female players, special circumstances may exist that can increase the chance of abuse or misconduct. If the team consists of both male and female players, both female and male privacy rights must be given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. It is not acceptable under USA Hockey's Sexual Abuse Policy for persons to be observing the opposite gender while they dress or undress. There are a variety of ways to comply with the above tenets, and what works may depend on the locker rooms that are available at a particular facility. Where possible, the male and female players should undress/dress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single dressing room prior to the game or team meeting. Once the game is finished, the players may come to one locker room and then the male and female players proceed to their separate dressing rooms to undress and shower (separately), if available. If separate locker rooms are not available, then the genders may take turns using the locker room to change and then leave while the other gender changes. When separate locker rooms are used, both locker rooms must be properly monitored. Where possible, when both male and female players are together in the locker room, there should be at least two adults in the locker room that have been properly screened in compliance with USA Hockey Screening Policy. The USA Hockey SafeSport website (www.usahockey.com/safesport) contains sample approaches that may be used by a local program depending on the facilities available at a particular arena. Additionally, USA Hockey's Co-Ed Locker Room Policy set forth in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, also addresses gender equity and the need to provide equal exposure to coaching and instruction as it may be impacted by a program's Co-Ed Locker Room Policy.

HIGH SCHOOL TRY-OUT POLICY

The Club values its Bantam/14U programs and desires to maintain fairness for its players. In order to better prepare and schedule games for our Bantam/14U teams, the Club has adopted a strict tryout policy. We ask that our Bantam/14U players determine their intentions of playing high school hockey prior to the start of the season. Our program cannot allow a player take a roster spot with our club and then leave to play high school. This results in the Club having to shift players between teams during the season and has even forced the Club to cancel a team's entire season schedule. Therefore, any MHC registered player that participates in a high school tryout will forfeit the entire registration fee.

MHC ACCELERATION POLICY

USA Hockey and NDAHA set age limits for playing at a specific level. ND schools sets age limits for attending each grade level. In the event that USA Hockey/NDAHA age level and ND school age level are not consistent, the player's parents may elect to permit the player to play at the higher playing level with players in his/her class. Failure to request acceleration at the time of registration will result in the denial of request. Additional fees will apply if player advances to the higher desired level. MHC will not accept petitions for acceleration from Mini-Mites to Termites and or Termites to Mites. All termite players will be evaluated for the first 2-4 weeks of the season, during this period the on-ice coordinators will observe and make recommendations for advancement into Mites, based on skill, strength, and maturity. Parents will be notified of any recommendation for advancement to Mites. Additional fees will apply in this case if the parent elects to advance player. Mite age players and higher can petition the Board for player advancement based on size, skill, and maturity. A written request must be received by the MHC Registrar at the time of registration. Failure to request at time of registration will result in denial of request. The request will be reviewed by the HDC and a recommendation presented to the Board, with a vote to follow. Upon completion of voting, notification will be sent to the player's parents with the decision. Upon notification of a positive vote, the player will need to rank in the top 10% of the highest level team to be allowed to stay at the higher level; as an example, if we have 2 'A' team at a particular level with 30 players. The player petitioning would need to be ranked as one of the top 3 players at that level. If they do not attain that ranking, they will be assigned to their correct age level. Additional fees will apply if player advances to a higher level.

Hockey Equipment Rental Policy

The Club is excited to participate in a hockey equipment loaner program in order to help encourage young players to participate in hockey without the expense of purchasing equipment.

The Club has a limited amount of equipment kits available for players NEW to the Club or at Mites and below. The kits are designed to fit youth 4-8 years old. Kits will be on a first come, first serve basis during gear check out dates. ALL equipment must be returned at the conclusion of the season.

Kits include: shin pads, pants, elbow pads, shoulder pads, skates, gloves and helmets. Parents will need to purchase a stick.

A \$200.00 check will need to be given at gear check out. This will check WILL NOT be cashed. It will be held as a deposit and cashed only if the equipment is not returned.

PLAYERS: RULES AND REGULATIONS

Equipment

All MHC players must wear the following equipment during ice times. The Club encourages players to wear black helmets, breezers and gloves.

- League approved helmet with face mask, chin and mask straps
- Attached internal mouth guard
- Shoulder pads and chest protector
- Elbow pads
- Shin guards
- Gloves
- Breezers
- Skates
- Neckguards (optional)
- Athletic supporter (cup)/pelvic protector (depending upon gender) All Goalies are required to wear the following equipment during ice times:
 - League approved helmet with face mask, chin and mask straps OR goalie helmet
 - Attached internal mouth guard
 - Chest protector
 - Catch glove
 - Blocker glove
 - Goalie stick
 - Leg pads
 - Athletic supporter (cup)/pelvic protector (depending upon gender)

All coaches/assistants are required to have the following or they will not be allowed on the ice:

- Completed and signed screening form
- Wear league approved helmet
- Appropriate league coaches training
- Signed coach's contract
- SafeSport Training

Participation Levels

MHC participation levels follow NDAHA guidelines (except as outlined in the player movement policy). The Club utilizes the following playing divisions which are based on the player's age at time of registration. See the registration page of the Club's website for a current chart of the players age breakdown at each playing level.,

LEVELS

•5U:

- Introductory level of mite hockey

- Ages ≤ 5
- Intended to develop a love for hockey
- Practices will be station-based with SAG (Small Area Games)
- Smaller nets and a lighter puck will be used
- No travel required

•6U:

- Intermediate level of mite hockey
- Ages 5 to 6 but could include skaters with previous 5U Level
- Practices will be station-based with SAG (Small Area Games) with or without a goalie utilizing 1/3 or 1/2 of the ice
- Smaller nets and a lighter puck will be used
- Players will experience all positions
- Travel is not likely, but may happen

•8U:

- Advanced level of mite hockey
- All players who are 8 on or before December 31
- Practices will be station-based with SAG (Small Area Games) with or without a goalie utilizing 1/3 or 1/2 of the ice
- Smaller nets and a lighter puck will be used
- Players will experience all positions
- Players will begin to travel

• 10U:

- Age guidelines will follow NDAHA (10 yrs old on or before December 31) Teams will be split according to level of play.
- Players may still experience all positions, but may begin to play a specific team position, & practice to development specific positions

• 12U:

- First level of competitive league play hockey
- Age guidelines will follow NDAHA (12 yrs old on or before June 1st)
- Players will be placed on teams according to ability
- Playing time is earned by Ability, Attitude & Attendance

• 14U:

- Highest level of competitive league play within the Mandan Hockey Club
- This level is to prepare players for the High School Hockey Program

- Age guidelines will follow NDAHA (14 yrs old on or before June 30th)
- Players will be placed on teams according to ability
- Playing time is earned by Ability, Attitude & Attendance

Placement of Players/Tryouts

Placement of players on the “A”, “B1” and “B” teams at the 10U, 12U and 14U levels will be determined by tryouts and an evaluation procedure determined by the HDC. If needed, the HDC will determine an evaluation procedure for 8U. The HDC will determine the criteria for evaluations and tryouts.

Guidelines for tryouts include:

- Tryouts should be completed at the earliest possible time and are closed to the public.
- Within 48 hours after the selection of the teams, the team rosters are posted to the Club’s website or emailed.
- The Evaluation/Tryout Committee will address extenuating circumstances (i.e.: injuries, sickness) on an individual case-by-case basis.

Roster Size

The number of players registered at each level will determine team sizing and will follow LTAD guidelines when applicable.

Player Participation

It is fundamental that all players on a team receive an approximately equal amount of playing time. However, 10U, 12U, 14U level coaches may use discretion to make exceptions to this rule under some conditions, such as:

- Penalty situations
- Overtime periods
- Closing minutes of a close game
- District, Regional, or State play-offs

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The HDC should consider NEW applicants on the following criteria:

- General coaching philosophy and willingness to perform within the MHC guidelines.
- Willingness to put in long hours during the season.
- Other considerations:
 - o Coach of the team for the previous year

- o Experience as an assistant coach in the Club
- o Experience as a coach in other youth hockey programs

Non-Parent vs. Parent Coaches

It is a continued effort of the Club to recruit non-parent coaches but not to exclude good parent coaches. In an effort to make non-parent coaching attractive, compensation is made to non-parent coaches based on the recommendation of the Board. The Board reimburses the cost of hotel accommodations and travel costs for tournaments and out of town games throughout the year for non-parent coaches.

The Club recognizes the Association contains many very qualified parent coaches and assistant coaches and greatly appreciates all of their volunteer efforts. The Club does not typically reimburse a parent head coach or parent assistant coach for expenses that they incur, however, 12U/14U parent coaches may receive hotel expense reimbursement with prior approval from HDC.

ICE TIME

It is the Club's goal to secure ice time for all teams such that each team will be allotted enough ice time to provide a quality hockey experience for all players. Scheduling of ice time will be done by the Ice Scheduler and is determined by the Park District the ice time available to the Club.

Guidelines

Because older players are available for later ice hours than younger players, and older players have more stamina than the younger players, the older groups will inherently receive more ice hours. To maximize the use of available ice, teams may share part of their practice ice hours with another team. It will be a goal of the Ice Scheduler to have compatible teams share the ice.

AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT MODEL (ADM) & LONG-TERM ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT (LTAD)

The Club utilizes the American Development Model (ADM) and its Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) principles as its framework for a successful program in relation to training players. It is designed for more puck time, age appropriate training, cost savings and increased competition. ADM provides a structure by which the Club tries to closely adhere to and that provides defined levels of structure. The Club does its best to follow the guidelines.