



**STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY  
2023-2024 HANDBOOK**

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## **STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY**

STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY, INC. ("Stowe Youth Hockey" or "SYH") is a non-profit organization, governed by a board of directors (the "Board") elected by the members pursuant to a formal set of by-laws. Membership is open to all with an interest in youth hockey. The organization is a member of the Vermont State Amateur Hockey Association ("VSAHA"), which, in turn, is a member of USA Hockey, and conducts a hockey program based on USA Hockey guidelines and rules of play. The Board endeavors to administer the SYH program according to the following guidelines, which may be amended in the Board's discretion as conditions warrant.

## **STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide a safe, supervised atmosphere for hockey instruction and games.  
To teach and practice good skating skills and hockey fundamentals in all age groups.  
To foster an atmosphere that encourages enjoyment and fun while playing competitive hockey.  
To provide competitive hockey games with other programs having similar levels.  
To encourage good sportsmanship and fair play.  
To the extent possible, provide the opportunity to play hockey to all children who wish to play, at an affordable cost.

## **STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY PHILOSOPHY & CORE VALUES**

Enjoyment and recreational benefits are the major focus of USA Hockey's recommended guidelines. Mastery of the fundamental skills and the fun of playing are essential to the development of a life-long interest in hockey. The following core values of USA Hockey, and Stowe Youth Hockey, have been adopted to guide our planning, programming, coaching and play, both now and in the future.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP:**

Foremost of all values is a sense of fair play. Be humble in victory, gracious in defeat. Foster friendship with teammates and opponents alike.

### **RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL:**

Treat all others as you expect to be treated.

### **INTEGRITY:**

We work to foster honesty and fair play beyond mere strict interpretation of the rules and regulations of the game.

## **PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE AT THE INDIVIDUAL, TEAM AND ORGANIZATIONAL LEVELS:**

Each member of the organization-whether player, volunteer, or staff-should seek to perform each aspect of the game to the highest level of his, or her, ability.

## **ENJOYMENT:**

It is important for the hockey experience to be fun, satisfying, and rewarding for the participant.

## **LOYALTY:**

We aspire to teach loyalty to the ideals and fellow members of the sport of hockey.

## **TEAMWORK:**

We value the strengths of learning to work together.

The use of teamwork is reinforced and rewarded by success in the hockey experience

## **ELIGIBILITY**

All children, who are at least four years of age as of December 31st of the registering year, are eligible to participate. Children who have participated in other formal hockey programs may be required to obtain a release form from that program before they are eligible to enroll here, in accordance with the State Annual Guide regarding player transfers.

## **PROGRAMS AVAILABLE**

Stowe Youth Hockey offers a variety of teams each season, including Bruins Academy, Learn to Skate, Learn to Play, one or more teams at the 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U levels (formerly referred to as Mites, Squirts, Pee Wees, and Bantams). The number of teams per age category will be based on the number of registered players. A birth certificate will be required as proof of age at the time of a participant's first registration. For the 2023-2024 season, Stowe Youth Hockey is proud to partner again with the Boston Bruins in the Bruins Academy/Learn to Play 4-week program.

See the Annual Addendum at the back of the handbook for specific details.

### **Bruins Academy**

Bruins Academy Learn to Play is a program that provides an opportunity for families to join the hockey community and for participants to develop fundamental skills. Created jointly by the NHL and National Hockey League Players' Association, the goal is to encourage kids to try hockey (and have fun!!!) and make hockey accessible to more families by offering a full set of hockey gear and 4 lessons at a low cost in the hopes that kids enjoy the sport and continue playing with their local organization. Stowe Youth Hockey coaches teach the Bruins Academy program at Stowe Arena. Children should be able to skate without support devices.

### **Learn to Skate**

The Learn to Skate Program follows the well-received format utilized in previous years. We coordinate this program with the Stowe Parks and Recreation Department/ Town of Stowe. Stowe Youth Hockey teaches this program focusing on skating skills with a huge emphasis on fun. This is for kids new to the ice. Stowe Rec provides free skate rentals for Learn to Skate participants. There are two sessions – participants sign up for either or both. Participation is open to those who will be 4 years old by December 31st, up to about 9 years old. This is open to participants from Stowe and nearby communities in Washington and Lamoille counties. Older players who are beginning skaters may participate in the Initiation program until their skills warrant moving up to play on the appropriate team for their age level. Hockey gear not required for Learn to Skate.

### **Learn to Play Hockey**

Learn to Play is for the skater who can navigate the ice without props and is excited to dress for hockey and learn the foundations. Our teaching and lessons are based on USA Hockey's American Development Model (ADM). This 10-week program is run in tandem with our full season 6U Mite program. Participants will need hockey gear; we often have extra gear to loan or distribute however this is subject to availability.

### **Youth Teams** (i.e. "Youth Travel Teams")

SYH offers youth teams in the following age classifications (based on calendar birth years):

- 6U ages 6 and under (house team)
- 8U ages 8 and younger (house, travel, girls teams when numbers permit)
- 10U ages 9 & 10 (coed and girls when numbers permit)
- 12U ages 11 & 12 (coed and girls when numbers permit)
- 14U ages 13 & 14

See the Annual Addendum at the back of the handbook for specific details on exact birth year eligibility. These are competitive level teams. Players on these teams, and their parents, are expected to make a commitment to faithful attendance at practices and games. Scores are not kept during 6U and 8U games to encourage fun, fair play, equal ice time. There is an expectation for players to participate throughout the season.

### **Girls' Teams**

For the 2023-24 season, SYH will offer competitive level 10U and 12U girls team. Players on these teams, and their parents, are expected to make a commitment to attend practices and games. There will be an opportunity for 8U girls to play together as well with a head 8U girls coach.

### **Preseason Program**

SYH will offer a 4-week Preseason program for an additional fee consisting of 1x weekly practice & skills session. This may also include a scrimmage or casual game.

### **High School**

All High School rostered players who intend to step on the ice, at any time, with SYH teams MUST register with SYH for insurance purposes which also includes USA Hockey; non-registered players will NOT be permitted on SYH ice. High School players may NOT participate in preseason SYH unless registered and paid in advance. This is monitored by VSAHA.

### **PAYMENT & FEES**

The financial responsibilities of program participants include the registration fees set annually by the Board. Financial responsibilities also include volunteering and fundraising.

Payment for "teams" is due in accordance with the payment schedule established upon registration unless prior arrangements for an alternate payment plan have been made in advance with the Registrar and subject to approval. There is a late fee of \$100 per player if payment is not made on time.

### **Family Discount**

Stowe Youth Hockey provides a family discount of \$50 off the annual registration fee for the second player in a family, and each additional player in the same family. The family discount does not apply to players registering for Initiation or Preseason programs.

### **Scholarships**

It is the philosophy of the SYH Board that no child should be denied the opportunity to participate due to increased registration costs. Money should not be an obstacle to playing hockey. Scholarships and equipment are available if a family is truly in need. Contact the SYH Registrar or President with any scholarship requests. Players' families who receive scholarships are still required to fulfill volunteer requirements as we cannot run our organization without the help of every single member.

### **Insurance**

A portion of the registration fee covers the cost of the insurance that USA Hockey requires be obtained for a participant before that participant may be allowed on the ice. Because of liability insurance considerations, no child will be permitted on the ice without first completing a registration form, paying the registration fee, and completing a required Information/Consent to Treat and Waiver Form.

## **Refunds**

If a player is unable to participate in the program for which he or she registered due to circumstances beyond his or her control (e.g., illness, injury, making the High School team), the player can petition the Board for a full or partial refund, as the Board deems appropriate.

## **VOLUNTEERING AND FUNDRAISING**

We are able to keep our registration fees stable only through our commitment to fundraising. As always, fundraising is an ESSENTIAL part of our program-without a successful effort, fees would be almost double! Therefore, all parents of SYH players (except those who ONLY have players in Initiation programs) are REQUIRED to participate in these activities. Each family is expected to volunteer at fundraising events. This is in addition to the jobs that must be done, on a rotating basis, by the team parents for each home game. Volunteering at your player's home games is a fun way to be part of the action. At any point, practice, game day, more seasoned volunteers are happy to teach new volunteers how to run the clock, keep official score sheets, and open/shut the penalty box doors. Our kids love seeing their names in the newspaper; volunteering to write the weekly game wrap up and send it to the Stowe Reporter is another fantastic way to contribute.

Team Managers coordinate the volunteer efforts of their team parents. When volunteers are needed for a particular fundraising event, coaches and managers will contact their team parents, encourage them to make a commitment and to fulfill their minimum volunteer requirements, and report back to the person coordinating the event.

Volunteering is a requirement. Thank you for your support!

Our fundraising efforts this year are a mix of old and new. This year, SYH offers several options to fulfill your volunteering and fund-raising responsibilities:

### **Golf Tournament and Barbecue 2023**

The 5th Annual "Hackers for Hockey" golf tournament is the second largest fundraiser for Stowe Youth Hockey. This year it takes place September 15 at Ryder Brook Golf Course in Morrisville, Vermont. Over 80 individuals of all abilities register for the annual event. Funds for the event are raised through registration fees, raffle tickets for donated prizes, "mulligans" that entrants can purchase as well as cash donations. A dinner is included with the price of registration for all entrants.

### **Stick Season Showdown**

This year we have added the Stick Season Tournament with 10U and 12U coed and girls divisions, 16+ teams, to take place at Stowe Arena November 10-12, 2023.

### **Winter Carnival Tournament**

This is our biggest fundraising event, and requires a substantial number of volunteers. We invite teams from throughout the Northeast for a weekend of youth hockey in Stowe. It generates significant revenue in our community. For the 2023-2024 season, this sold-out tournament includes 6 10U, 6 12U, 6 14U teams utilizing ice at Stowe Arena AND the Ice Center in Waterbury. We will need volunteer timekeepers, scorers, hosts, clean-up helpers, raffle room volunteers, greeters and more. You will be asked to work at more than just the games your child is playing in, so please be prepared!

### **Gear Swap**

Prior to the season starting, we host a gear swap in which good condition quality pre-owned gear is donated to SYH and resold at a very LOW price. Families enjoy participating & shopping while it also raises money for Stowe Youth Hockey. Unsold gear is either absorbed into our loaner gear or brought to a resale shop for credit to be used for new goalie equipment.

### **Supporting non-SYH Tournaments**

We are often asked to help out the local Hyde Cup and the Don Post Memorial tournaments whether it's taping sticks, refereeing games, handling time clock and scoring, etc. in exchange for the tournament making a donation to SYH. These are important events within our community and a great way for us to help one another. Last year, our supporting these events covered the majority of our scholarships.

Stay tuned for other new and exciting fundraising and sponsorship ideas that arise during the season!

## **EQUIPMENT**

### **Practice Jerseys**

SYH utilizes color-coordinated practice jerseys which are distributed at the beginning of the season. They **MUST BE RETURNED** at the end of the season or players will be charged prior to registration for the following year.

### **Game Jerseys & Socks**

Game jerseys: Game jerseys, both home and away, are provided by SYH once. The second set will be paid for by the parents or guardians (this includes lost or ruined jerseys).

- Game jerseys will not be worn at practice.
- To wash game jerseys:
  - wash inside out and separately
  - do not put in dryer
  - do not use bleach

We have a limited supply of loaner Game jerseys which can be loaned out only with consent by SYH board members or equipment room manager. Loaner jerseys must be returned at the end of the season or a replacement fee of \$50 per jersey must be paid.

Game socks: one pair (away and home) are provided by SYH. All additional socks will be paid for by parents or guardians subject to the current manufacturing price.

Anyone damaging a jersey due to neglect, or carelessness will be responsible for replacing the jersey. The approximate cost for replacement is \$100 per jersey. Contact the SYH Equipment Coordinator before removing any jerseys from the SYH locker at Stowe Arena.

### **Equipment to be Provided by Players**

No child will be permitted on the ice without the proper equipment, as follows:

Skates

Helmet with facemask/cage

Protective cup for boys/pelvic protector for girls

Shin pads

Hockey socks

Jock Shorts, Garter belt or hockey girdle

Hockey pants

Elbow pads

Shoulder/chest protector

Hockey gloves

Hockey stick(s)-older levels should always have a spare

Neck guard

Mouth guard required for 12U level and above

### **GOALIE POLICY**

#### **8U and 10U**

SYH wants to encourage children to try all positions, including goalie, at the younger levels.

During the season, coaches will encourage as many players as are interested to try the goalie position.

#### **12U and 14U**

SYH will endeavor to have a minimum of two players whose primary position is goalie assigned to the 12U and 14U teams. When not playing in goal, these players will be allowed to "skate out" if they desire to do so and if the coach deems it appropriate.



## **TRYOUT PROCESS**

Stowe Youth Hockey is committed to providing the most positive hockey experience possible for our youth membership. In recent years SYH has fielded multiple teams at certain levels to ensure that all of our players are provided with an equal opportunity to participate in practices and games. We are also committed to placing our players in the on-ice environment and at the level of skill where we feel they will have the greatest chance of success. Following USA Hockey's lead, we attempt to create teams whose players have skill levels sufficient to compete safely, enjoyably, and successfully at the various levels of play defined and put forth by the local league (VSAHA) in which we compete. When necessary, we do so by a tryout process. SYH has formed a Youth Hockey and Coaching Committee, headed by the Chair, who is committed to developing and implementing a process that is well grounded in objective measures of evaluation provided by equally objective individuals from both within and outside SYH membership. This committee is in place to facilitate the general membership through the tryout process with as limited an amount of confusion and anxiety as possible. To accomplish this, it is imperative that everyone is well informed and aware of the tryout process and its policies as outlined below.

### **Tier 2 & 3 Teams**

SYH Tier 2 & 3 level teams compete within these levels in Vermont against comparably-rated teams and play as many as thirty (30) to forty (40) games per season. These teams focus on team systems and concepts along with skill development. Players are expected to be committed to the practice and game schedule set forth by the organization and his or her coach. Coaches expect as close to 100% attendance to the schedule as possible.

### **Tier 4 & 5 Teams**

SYH Tier 4 level teams are considered development teams that have an equally competitive game schedule. These teams play a competitive level of hockey with strong emphasis on developing individual skills. As in any team sport, a commitment to the practice and game schedule is expected and is important to the development of the team and its players.

### **Goalie Tryouts**

Players interested in playing goalie for 12U and 14U level teams will tryout as goalies, not skaters. Please contact the Coaching Committee Chair, if interested in playing goalie. See the Goalie Policy for further details.

### **Tryout Criteria**

The Coaching Committee will recommend final placement of players on specific team rosters. Rosters will then be submitted to and approved by the Board, based on the following measures of evaluation:

1. On ice tryout (list of skills to be evaluated will be provided at registration)
2. Objective Factors
  - Previous year level (Tier 2, 3 or 4 vs. non-participant)

- Age (second year at level vs. first year at level, with consideration given to second year players)
  - Team sizes (how the numbers split into which levels)
3. Evaluation from previous year coaches; where appropriate.

Any player missing tryouts for reasons other than illness or injury will automatically be assigned. Absences for illness or injury will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. A player who wishes to be on a Tier 5 level team need not try out, but must inform the Coaching Committee Chair in advance of tryouts.

### **Team Assignments**

Notice of team assignments will be emailed to participants shortly after tryouts.

### **PETITIONS TO "PLAY UP"**

Occasionally, players and their parents feel strongly that the player ought to play on an older-level team. This sort of "petitioning up" to an older level is not encouraged and happens only in rare individual cases. USA Hockey has structured the team levels and highly recommends that all organizations follow their guidelines; SYH follows their recommendations. If, however, this is something you wish to pursue, you must file a petition at registration. Please look up the USA Hockey and VSAHA guidelines BEFORE petitioning the board. Feel free to discuss with coaching director or SYH board member. If more than 1 player in an age group wants to play up, there will be a try out as Vermont Youth Hockey (VSAHA) only permits 1 player to move up within that age group per season. Please see the Coaching Committee for details.

### **CROSS-ROSTERING POLICY**

SYH submits official rosters for all of our State Tournament bound teams to the VSAHA. The team roster form has room for twenty names. We rarely have twenty players on a team due to membership numbers. Crossrostering, placing a player on two rosters, allows us to add players from other teams who are age-eligible. This ability to cross-roster players helps us, at times, field teams for games when we are short of players. Under SYH's guidelines, what is considered "short" is fewer than eleven players including a goalie at the non checking levels and fewer than fourteen players including a goalie at the checking levels (14U).

- It is not intended for the purpose of making a team more competitive for any given game, nor is it for the purpose of giving particular players extra ice time.
- All players listed on a game sheet for any given game must be listed on the official team roster submitted by our registrar for that team. If all players are not listed on both, the game will not count towards the minimum number of games needed to qualify for the State Tournament for that season.

Decisions about cross-rostering will be made by the SYH Coach after consulting with the Coaching Committee.

## **NUMBER OF GAMES**

### **Regular Season**

The Board follows USA Hockey recommended guidelines regarding the number of games to be played by each team during the regular season (exclusive of the State Tournaments). These are guidelines only, and the number of games actually played may depend upon a number of factors, e.g., adverse weather or driving conditions, the availability of appropriate competition, etc. A travel team usually plays 20-30 games prior to the state tournaments.

### **State Tournament Requirements**

All players on any 10U, 12U, 14U team must be rostered for at least ten games to be eligible to play in the State Tournament for that team, and the team as a whole must play 20 official games. All players on any Girls' team must be rostered for at least ten games to be eligible to play in the State Tournament for that team, and the Girls' team as a whole must play a minimum of 14 games.

## **SCHEDULING**

### **Practice Schedules**

Practice schedules are set and distributed at the beginning of the season. Please check the SYH Website or a Team Manager will contact you with changes.

### **Game Schedules**

Game schedules will be produced and maintained by the individual team schedulers and copies provided to each coach and posted on the SYH Website and SportsEngine App. In the case of a last-minute change, the Head Coach or Team Manager will notify his or her team. If a Head Coach must cancel a game, the coach will notify the scheduler as soon as possible. It will be the responsibility of the scheduler to fill a home ice slot or re-schedule an away game. Game schedules are subject to change.

### **Adverse Weather**

In case of schedule changes due to adverse weather or driving conditions, the Head Coach (with the assistance of the Team Manager) will notify his or her team prior to the game or practice.

## **PLAYER PARTICIPATION POLICY**

While the objective of the Stowe Youth Hockey Program is for the players to have fun while learning and playing the game of hockey, all players also have a responsibility to support their respective teams through participation, attendance, and enthusiasm.

***Punctual attendance at all games and practice sessions is essential.*** Players are expected to arrive at least one-half hour before games. Players are expected to be dressed and ready to take the ice five (5) minutes prior to practice. Players are also required to leave the ice as soon as their scheduled practice or game is over.

In regular season games, scrimmages and tournaments, it is expected that the coaches will provide equitable on-ice participation for all players to the extent possible.

***It is important to note that equitable does not mean equal.***

Coaches have the discretion to determine a child's playing time from shift to shift, period to period, and game to game. However, ***over the course of a season, each child should receive a substantially similar amount of playing time.***

***Valid reasons*** to vary playing time include, but are not limited to: unsportsmanlike conduct, disruptive behavior, avoidable non-attendance or tardiness at scheduled practices, discipline, 'time of occurrence' instruction, and lack of motivation.

***Invalid reasons*** to vary playing time include, but are not limited to, child favoritism, power play lines, and a focus on winning.

**CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD'S PLAYING TIME SHOULD, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, BE RAISED WITH THE COACH.**

If a suitable resolution is not reached, these concerns should be brought to the attention of the Coaching Committee who will then consult with the Board if necessary.

## **TOURNAMENTS**

In addition to the State Tournament, Stowe Youth Hockey will make every effort to schedule at least one tournament for each team, per season. Usually this is our Stowe Winter Carnival Tournament, typically held in mid-December. This tournament brings in teams from across New England to participate in brackets of 4-8 teams. See the section on volunteering and fundraising, as well as the website, for more information. Additionally, the Stick Season Showdown makes it's return in 23..

Away tournaments, if any, will be chosen and scheduled by each Head Coach. Head Coaches will have the flexibility to schedule tournaments for their team throughout the season; however, they must convey their tournament interest and cost to the Board before making their final commitment. The SYH Board has set aside funds to use towards tournaments subject to SYH board approval. Players' families may be responsible for additional tournament costs that fall outside approved team allotment. If a player's portion of the entry fee is not paid prior to the tournament, that player will not be allowed to participate in that tournament.

## **SUMMER PROGRAM**

The objective of the Summer Program is to allow SYH players to stay on the ice over the summer months through a mix of power skating, skills based drills and fun game play.

## **TEAM STAFF**

All Head Coaches will be approved each year by the Board. Head Coaches will select assistant coaches with Board assistance and final approval. The staff of each team will consist of:

### **Head Coach**

The Head Coach has full responsibility for the conduct of the hockey program during all practice sessions and games, including the conduct of practices, supervision of instruction, proper handling of accidents, enforcement of safety requirements, and control over player behavior. Each Head Coach must be certified in accordance with USA Hockey coaching guidelines.

### **Assistant Coach(es)**

The Assistant Coaches assist the Head Coach at practices and games, and may occasionally act as coach in the Head Coach's absence. It is our objective to have at least two Assistant Coaches per team, though this is not always possible. All Assistant Coaches must be certified in accordance with USA Hockey coaching guidelines.

### **Team Manager**

Each Head Coach's first function will be to appoint a Team Manager. Every team MUST have a Team Manager in place before distribution of coach's supplies and team jerseys and before the first weekend of games. Strongly encourage as many different families as possible to fill leadership positions like Team Manager. The Team Manager assists the Head Coach with organizational issues, serves as a liaison among parents, the Board, and the team's coaches, attends Board of Directors' meetings when requested by the Board, and assists in communicating cancellation notices and other necessary information.

### **Team Winter Carnival Representative**

Each team manager will also be the Winter Carnival Team Rep (unless another team parent volunteers), reporting into the Winter Carnival Director. This person will be responsible for coordinating and organizing the team's raffle donations and making sure that all volunteer shifts are covered during the tournament.

## **STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY CODES OF CONDUCT**

Stowe Youth Hockey strongly believes in creating and maintaining a strong code of conduct for everyone involved and associated with our program, including Coaches, Players, Parents and spectators.

### **COACHES' CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Be a positive role model to your players
- Display emotional maturity
- Be alert to the physical safety of players.
- Be generous with your praise when it is deserved
- Be consistent, honest, fair and just
- Do not criticize players publicly
- Study to learn to be an effective communicator and coach.
- Adjust to personal needs and problems of players
- Be a good listener.
- Never verbally or physically abuse a player or official
- Give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem, and learn the basics.
- Organize practices ahead of time that are fun and challenging and appropriate for your teams' developmental needs.
- Maintain an open line of communication with your players' parents, beginning with a pre-season parents/coaches meeting to explain the goals and objectives of your season.
- Be concerned with the overall development of your players.
- Stress good nutrition, fitness, and health habits.

### **PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Play for FUN!!!
- Work to improve your skills
- Be a team player - get along with your teammates.
- Learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline.
- Be on time for all practices and games.
- Learn the rules, and play by them.
- Always be a good sport.
- Respect your coach, your teammates, your parents. your opponents, and officials.
- Never argue with officials' decisions.
- RESPECT FOR PERSONS AND PROPERTY AT RINKS, BOTH AT HOME AND AWAY, IS MANDATORY!!

For serious cases of misconduct, the Board reserves the right to suspend or expel any player from games, tournaments, or the Stowe Youth Hockey program.

## **PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Do not force your children to participate, but support their desire to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules.
- Children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
- Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials.
- Show a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants
- Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete.
- De-emphasize games and competition in the younger age levels.
- Know and study the rules of hockey, and support the officials on and off the ice. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.
- Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat and reinforce the positive points of the game.
- Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice. It is destructive.
- Work toward removing physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.

## **SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials.
- Act appropriately; do not taunt or disturb other fans. Enjoy the game together.
- Cheer good plays of all participants, avoid booing opponents.
- Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive.
- Help provide a safe and fun environment; throwing objects on the ice surface can cause injury to players and officials.
- Do not lean over and pound on the glass; the glass surrounding the ice surface is part of the playing area.
- Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
- Be responsible for your own safety and remain alert to help prevent accidents.
- Respect locker rooms as private areas for players, coaches and officials.
- Be supportive after the game, win or lose.
- Recognize good effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.

## **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, the USA Hockey Youth, Junior, and Adult Councils have instructed the Officiating Program to adhere to certain points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship.

This campaign is designed to require 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.

The following points of emphasis must be implemented by all On-Ice Referees and Linesmen:

### **Players**

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be assessed whenever a player:

- Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
- Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision.

Anytime a player persists in any of these actions, he or she shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.

### **Coaches**

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be assessed whenever a coach:

- Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Visually demonstrates 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 or 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.

On-ice officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

### **Parents and Spectators**

The game will be stopped by on-ice officials when parents or spectators display inappropriate and disruptive behavior that interferes with other spectators or the game. The on-ice officials will identify the violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing the violators 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 can include, but is not limited to:

- Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
- Throwing of any object in the spectators' viewing area, player's bench, penalty box or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

If the behavior of a Stowe Youth Hockey player or parent at an SYH game (home or away), practice or anytime a player is representing SYH results in that person's removal from the arena by the on-ice officials or team coach, the Board will hold a hearing to investigate and determine the appropriate disciplinary action. The Board reserves the right to require all concerned parties to appear before the Board during this open investigation.

## **PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

Parents are encouraged to participate in Stowe Youth Hockey in any capacity possible. Volunteers may contact any member of the Board or Team Manager for information on volunteer opportunities.

Parents are responsible for their children's behavior both on and off the ice.

Parents should be concerned with the overall development of their child. Stress good nutrition, fitness, and health habits.

Parents have the responsibility to notify Stowe Youth Hockey of any child's disabilities that merit special attention. This provision alerts coaches to the need for suitable accommodations and could, in some cases, prevent personal injury. Such disclosure should be made at registration on the Consent to Treat Form.

If a child has a known medical condition that may require medical intervention during the course of practices or games, (e.g., asthma requiring use of an inhalator, diabetes, etc.), then his/her parent or legal guardian must be present as is necessary during the practice or game. ***Any required medication must be carried and administered by the parent or legal guardian.*** Coaches and Team Managers will not be allowed to carry or administer any medication for any child other than their own.

## **CELL PHONE POLICY**

USA Hockey, VSAHA and SYH have adopted a policy regarding cell phones to address privacy concerns. ***Cell phones are not permitted in locker rooms, either home or away, and will be***

***immediately confiscated by the coaches.*** Players and parents should be informed of this policy at the first team meeting.

## **STOWE ARENA RINK RULES**

The following are the rules of Stowe Arena, established by the Stowe Recreation Commission:

- No eating, drinking or chewing gum on the ice.
- No alcoholic beverages on or off the ice.
- No hockey sticks or pucks on the ice except during scheduled games, practices, or stick time.
- School hockey players must wear helmets and face masks.
- Only skates may be worn on the ice.
- No running, street hockey or other disruptive activity will be permitted in or around the arena.
- No one is allowed on the ice or on the boards when the Zamboni is in operation.
- Locker rooms must be left clean and picked up after every group use. Home Teams are responsible for the condition of both locker rooms.
- Cancellations of scheduled ice time must be made two weeks in advance. Users must pay for scheduled time canceled less than two weeks in advance unless the rink management is able to rent the time to someone else.
- Programs renting ice time are responsible for the conduct of their members and guests during scheduled times and for any damage to rink facilities.

Failure to follow these rules may result in forfeiture of ice privileges by the individual or program responsible. Similar rules apply when at other rinks.

## **COMMUNICATION AND COMMITMENT**

We are lucky to be able to offer our kids the opportunity to play ice hockey, but a youth hockey program doesn't just happen by itself. Pulling off "The Miracle on Ice" that is every hockey season requires enormous commitment from the members of SYH, which must not go unacknowledged. But despite the eternal quest for perfection, every season there are things that are not done as well as they could be. Please bring your complaints, concerns, suggestions, and ideas for improvement to the attention of the Board, but your willingness to jump in and help with the solution would also be greatly appreciated.

# 2023-2024 STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY ADDENDUM

## 2023-2024 PROGRAMS

FOR THIS SEASON, WE ANTICIPATE HAVING MULTIPLE TEAMS IN SOME AGE CATEGORIES.

Bruins Academy  
 L2P/L2S  
 6U  
 8U girls and coed  
 10U girls and coed  
 12U girls and coed  
 14U  
 Preseason  
 Summer 3v3



## 2023-24 SEASON AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

USA Hockey Playing Season: September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024

### YOUTH TEAMS

DATE OF BIRTH	AGE CATEGORY	AGE DIVISION
2005	18 Years	18 & Under
2006	17 Years	18 & Under
2007	16 Years	16 & Under
2008	15 Years	16 & Under
2009	14 Years	14 & Under
2010	13 Years	14 & Under
2011	12 Years	12 & Under
2012	11 Years	12 & Under
2013	10 Years	10 & Under
2014	9 Years	10 & Under
2015	8 Years	8 & Under
2016	7 Years	8 & Under
2017	6 Years	6 & Under

### GIRLS TEAMS

DATE OF BIRTH	AGE CATEGORY	AGE DIVISION
2004	19 Years	19 & Under
2005	18 Years	19 & Under
2006	17 Years	19 & Under
2007	16 Years	16 & Under
2008	15 Years	16 & Under
2009	14 Years	14 & Under
2010	13 Years	14 & Under
2011	12 Years	12 & Under
2012	11 Years	12 & Under
2013	10 Years	10 & Under
2014	9 Years	10 & Under
2015	8 Years	8 & Under
2016	7 Years	8 & Under
2017	6 Years	6 & Under

## 202-2024 MASTER CALENDAR

Registration	July 15- Sept 15, 2023
Pre-Season Skate Begins	September 10, 2023
Bruins Academy Begins	October 15, 2023
Regular Season Begins	October 16, 2023
(6U Begins)	November 1, 2023
L2P/L2S Begin	November 1, 2023
Stick Season Showdown	November 10-12, 2023
Stowe Winter Carnival Tournament	December 8-10, 2023
State Tournament Playdown*	February 16-18, 2024 and Feb 23-25, 2024
State Championship Weekend	March 1-3, 2024
Regionals	March 8-10, 2024

## **2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS (9)**

John Flint  
Mason Graddock  
Audra Hughes  
Andrew Kneale  
Jessica Lawrence  
Graham Mink  
Chessie Roy  
Holly Ryan  
Kelly Shaw  
Kelvey Wilson

## **2022-2023 OFFICERS**

President	Vice President	Registrar	Treasurer	Secretary
Andrew Kneale	Mason Graddock	Chessie Roy	Jessica Lawrence	Audra Hughes

## **2023-2024 BOARD MEETINGS**

The SYH Board holds regular monthly meetings on the first Monday or Tuesday evening of each month at Stowe Arena. Meetings are open to all SYH members and the public.

### **Board Meeting Dates:**

Monday, September 11  
Monday, October 2  
Tuesday, November 7  
Tuesday, December 5  
Tuesday, January 9  
Tuesday, February 6  
Tuesday, March 5  
Tuesday, April 2

## **2023-2024 COORDINATOR, CHAIRS, VOLUNTEERS**

Stowe Youth Hockey Coaching Director*	Ian Smith*
Referee Scheduler	Chessie Roy
VSAHA Representative	Ben Keaton
Head Scheduler	Chessie Roy
Girls Coordinator	Holly Ryan/Kelvey Wilson

8U/Grow the Game Coordinator	Audra Hughes
Tournament Director	Andrew Kneale
Equipment Coordinator	Kelly Shaw
Fundraising Coordinator	Andrew Kneale
Schedulers/Team Managers:	
6U	
8U	
10UT4	Jim Curran
10UG	Jennifer Crum
12UG	
12UT3	
12UT4	
14U	
Communications/Social Media/Web	Audra Hughes

\*Hockey Director position is an annual [paid] position. Ian Smith has acted in this role since the 2021-22 season with a multi-faceted role that includes but is not limited to attending board meetings, assisting coaches during practices & games, running SYH pre-season program, teaching Wednesday skills sessions, acting as our VSAHA representative & attending monthly meetings, working in tandem with fundraising director on all our fundraising events.

## BYLAWS OF STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY, INC.

### ARTICLE 1 - NAME, PURPOSE AND AFFILIATION

#### 1.1 Name

The name of the organization is Stowe Youth Hockey, Inc. ("SYH").

#### 1.2 Purpose

SYH is a volunteer-run, non-profit corporation, the purpose of which is to promote the sport of ice hockey and to provide opportunities for youth in the Stowe and immediate surrounding areas to participate in the sport of ice hockey. SYH emphasizes education, participation, sportsmanship, teamwork, fitness, and skills development, in an enjoyable and competitive atmosphere.

#### 1.3 Affiliation

SYH is affiliated with the Vermont State Amateur Hockey Association ("VSAHA") and the USA Hockey, Inc. ("USAHockey").

## **ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP**

### **2.1 Membership in SYH**

There shall be four classes of membership in SYH: player members; full members; contributing members; and honorary members.

### **2.2 Player Members**

Any youth who is eligible to play for SYH under USAHockey and VSAHA rules and regulations, and who registers with SYH, is a player member. In particular, SYH welcomes and encourages the participation of player members who are residents of any town in Lamoille and Washington counties, Vermont. Player members are non-voting members.

### **2.3 Full Members**

All parents or guardians of player members, all SYH registered coaches, and all current and former SYH Board members and Officers are full members. Full members are voting members.

### **2.4 Contributing Members**

Any person who is a former full member, any person who has contributed something of value, including volunteer services, to SYH, and any person who has a sincere interest in the purposes of the organization, may be a contributing member. Contributing membership is granted at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Contributing members are voting members.

### **2.5 Honorary Members**

Any person who has a sincere interest in the purposes of the organization may be an honorary member. Honorary membership is granted at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Honorary members are non-voting members.

## **ARTICLE 3 - MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **3.1 Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors (the "Board") shall conduct the affairs of SYH and shall be responsible for general management of and authority over the property, funds, and operations of SYH. The Board shall consist of nine elected Directors and the immediate past President of SYH, provided however that if the immediate past President is elected a current Director, then the President serving prior to him or her shall serve on the Board. The nine elected Directors shall be elected by a majority vote of the voting members present at the Annual Meeting. Each of the nine elected Directors shall serve a two-year term, with four Directors elected the first year, five Directors elected in the following year, and alternating in subsequent years.

The Board may designate and appoint one or more committees, as needed from time to time and at the pleasure of the Board, to assist the Board in its duties, but said designation and appointment shall not operate to relieve the Board of any responsibility imposed upon it by law or under these bylaws.

### **3.2 Officers**

The Board shall elect the following Officers from among its members: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of a quorum of the Directors. Job descriptions for the Officers are attached and made a part hereto.

### **3.3 Vacancies and Removal**

Any vacancy occurring in the Board or the Officers by reason of death, resignation, cause or otherwise shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by a majority vote of a quorum of the remaining Directors at any regular meeting of the Board or a special meeting of the Board called for that purpose. Any Director or Officer may resign at any time by giving written notice thereof to the Board. Unless otherwise specified in such written notice, the resignation shall take effect upon receipt thereof by the Board.

Any Director or Officer may be removed from the Board for good cause. Removal shall be effected only by a majority vote of a quorum of the Directors, acting at a special meeting of the Board called for that purpose, with adequate notice to the subject Director or Officer.

## **ARTICLE 4 - ANNUAL MEETING**

### **4.1 Annual Meeting of the Members**

An annual meeting of the members (the "Annual Meeting") shall be held during the spring of each year, and at such other times as may be determined to be necessary by the Board. The purpose shall be to conduct any necessary business of SYH, including but not limited to: election of Board members; amendments to the Bylaws; and long-range planning and policy decisions. Each voting member shall be notified of the time, place, and agenda for the Annual Meeting at least fourteen days in advance of each such meeting.

Those voting members present at the Annual Meeting shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote of those present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be necessary for approval of any questions before the meeting, with the exception of amendments to the Bylaws.

Members present will vote for new board members for each seat open for election. If there are 4 openings, members can submit a person's name one time. Multiple votes by the same member for the same person will only count as one vote. Therefore members should be voting for a different person for each open seat.

## **ARTICLE 5 - MEETINGS OF THE BOARD**

### **5.1 Meetings of the Board**

An annual meeting of the Board shall be held immediately following the Annual Meeting of the members. The purpose shall be to conduct any business that may properly come before the Board, including but not limited to the election of Officers. Notice of the annual meeting need not be given.

The Board shall meet regularly, on a schedule to be determined by the Board. Notice of regular meetings need not be given.

Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President at any time and the President shall, upon the written request of any two Directors, call a special meeting of the Board to be held not more than ten business days after the date of such request. Notice of special meetings must be given not less than three business days prior to the meeting.

## **5.2 Quorum and Voting**

A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. The action of a majority of the Board members present at any meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board. Each Director shall have one vote, provided however that the immediate past President shall be a non-voting member of the Board.

Directors may participate by phone or any other available medium that allows them to hear other Directors and be heard by them. The Board may act without a meeting upon the consent of all Board members.

## **ARTICLE 6 - NOTICE**

### **6.1 Notice**

Whenever notice is required under these Bylaws, such notice may be given by regular mail, by electronic mail, by publication in area newspapers, or by any combination of such methods that the Board shall determine to be appropriate.

## **ARTICLE 7 - CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE**

### **7.1 Standards of Conduct**

The Board has the authority to take whatever steps it deems appropriate to encourage and enforce good sportsmanship, fair play, and adherence to the standards of conduct mandated by USAHockey from all SYH members.

### **7.2 Discipline**

The Board may, by a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum of Directors, for good cause and consistent with due process, admonish, suspend or terminate the membership of any SYH member for violation of these standards of conduct. This authority extends beyond any disciplinary actions taken or not taken by game officials.

## **ARTICLE 8 - ENACTMENT AND AMENDMENTS**

### **8.1 Enactment**

These Bylaws shall become effective upon a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the Annual Meeting.

### **8.2 Amendment**



These Bylaws may be amended or repealed, or new Bylaws enacted, by the Board at any time upon a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the Annual Meeting.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary of Stowe Youth Hockey, Inc., hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Bylaws adopted by vote of the members at a meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm in Stowe, Vermont.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

### **Descriptions of Officers' Job Duties**

#### **President**

The President shall have primary responsibility and authority to conduct all business of SYH, within the framework of the Bylaws and the guiding principle that the desire to win will not be pursued to the detriment of sportsmanship, fair play, participation, or the general philosophy of SYH. The President shall preside at all Board meetings and meetings of the members. With the approval of the Board, the President shall appoint all coaches, all program coordinators, and such committees as may be deemed necessary to coordinate program delivery to players, coaches, and referees.

#### **Vice President**

The Vice President shall assist the President in completion of his/her duties and shall preside over regularly scheduled Board meetings if the President is unable to attend.

### **Secretary**

The Secretary shall take minutes of all regularly scheduled and special Board meetings. Such minutes will summarize important issues and results of any votes taken. The Secretary shall make sufficient copies of minutes and provide to each Board member a copy before the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. The Secretary shall maintain the corporate records of SYH.

### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall: keep accurate financial and accounting records and ensure payment of all bills incurred; provide an accounting of all funds received and disbursed whenever requested by the President; deposit all funds in SYH bank account in a timely manner; open the books for an audit whenever requested by the President; assist the President in producing a budget of financial requirements for the coming year; prescribe procedures for collecting registration fees and other income; and shall prepare and submit financial reports.

### **Registrar**

The Registrar shall: administer the registration of eligible players including the coordination of registration information to VSAHA and USAHockey; conduct individual late registration when necessary; acquire sufficient volunteers for the registration process and will ensure that copies of registration forms are properly disseminated; and confirm birth dates and other information as necessary and compile statistical data on players to assist the Board in team balancing.