



**SOUTH WOOD COUNTY  
YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

**PARENT/PLAYER HANDBOOK  
2009-2010**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Welcome to the South Wood County Youth Hockey Association (SWCYHA). We are a non-profit youth hockey organization operated by dedicated volunteers.

## **OUR MISSION IS TO:**

- Provide a safe, fun, and affordable youth hockey experience for all members.
- Instill and support family values guided by respect for oneself and others.
- Create an environment that emphasizes progressive skill development necessary for success.
- Educate, understand, and respect various level of competition.
- Hold the game of hockey in high regard, along with its players, coaches and parents.
- Develop friendships that last a lifetime.

This handbook is designed to familiarize players/parents with our association guidelines and expectations as well as provide some basic hockey information. For further clarification of SWCYHA policies and procedures, you should contact a SWCYHA Board member or attend one of our monthly board meetings. Official SWCYHA policies are available upon request.

## **HISTORY:**

SWCYHA was established in February of 1974. Many years of practices and games took place on outdoor rinks under some harsh winter weather.

In 1992, we were fortunate to have donors and volunteers dedicated to the establishment of an indoor ice facility, The South Wood County Recreation Center.

The South Wood County Recreation Center is the home rink of SWCYHA and is located at 2711 16<sup>th</sup> Street South in Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Our mailing address is: PO BOX 1263, Wisconsin Rapids, WI, 54495-1263.

## **PROGRAMS OFFERED:**

The following programs are currently being offered by SWCYHA:

- Mites L1: Learn to skate program, ages 3 to 8 years old. Provides the perfect entry point for all hockey players.
- Mites L2: In-house program designed to teach 5 and 6 year olds the fundamentals of skating and provide an introduction to the game of hockey. Cross-Ice format will be used for most games/scrimmages.
- Mites L3&L4: Limited travel program for 7 and 8 year olds focusing on the fundamentals of skating and game skills. Teams will play approximately 20 games for level 3 and approximately 25 games for level 4 (including tournaments).
- Squirts: Travel program for 9 and 10 year olds. Teams generally play 25-35games.
- PeeWees: Travel program for 11 and 12 year olds. Teams generally play 30-40 games.
- Bantams: Travel program for 13 and 14 year olds. Teams generally play 30-40 games.
- High School Club: Travel program for high school age players, a co-op team with Marshfield for the 09-10 season. Teams generally play 30-40 games.
- Girls U12: Travel program for all girls 12 years old and under. The team co-ops with Portage County Youth on Ice (PCYOI) and Central Wisconsin Saints (CWS). Teams generally play 25-30 games.
- Girls U14: Travel program for all girls 13 and 14 years old. The team co-ops with PCYOI and CWS. Teams generally play 25-35 games.
- WIAA Varsity and Junior Varsity: Wisconsin Rapids Public School (WRPS) High School Boy's Hockey Program players are paying members of SWCYHA. The team is administered by WRPS staff under a formal agreement with SWCYHA.
- WIAA Girls Co-Op: High School Hockey program for female players who co-op with Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln, Stevens Point Area Senior High, Assumption High School, and Pacelli High School.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

The SWCYHA Board of Directors consists of twelve members who each serve a three year term. An annual election takes place at the end of each hockey season. Five board members make up the executive committee as follows: The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and past President. The executive positions are elected annually by the Board.

<b>Name/Title</b>	<b>Home Phone</b>	<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>Email-1</b>
Jay Capelle – President	712-0389	213-6719	<a href="mailto:capelle_jay1@charter.net">capelle_jay1@charter.net</a>
Joe Berry – Vice-President	421-0659	570-2427	<a href="mailto:nonamecreek@solarus.net">nonamecreek@solarus.net</a>
Patty Weinfurter – Secretary	424-1859	213-7075	<a href="mailto:tweinfurter@charter.net">tweinfurter@charter.net</a>
Bret Kastein – Treasurer	421-3904	340-0881	<a href="mailto:bkastein@pointprecision.com">bkastein@pointprecision.com</a>
Candy Blakeslee	423-6674	421-9821	<a href="mailto:blakeslee4@wctc.net">blakeslee4@wctc.net</a>
Jenni Derks	421-5849	570-8380	<a href="mailto:jennifer.derks@wrps.org">jennifer.derks@wrps.org</a>
Nicole Gessert	424-0997	741-0997	<a href="mailto:gessert4@yahoo.com">gessert4@yahoo.com</a>
Michael Gulenchyn	424-5265	213-8835	<a href="mailto:mcg@mosmc.com">mcg@mosmc.com</a>
Stewart Higgins	423-6684	498-0332	<a href="mailto:stewart.higgins@delmonte.com">stewart.higgins@delmonte.com</a>
Christopher Hoffman	421-3212	572-8746	<a href="mailto:hoffer2000@hotmail.com">hoffer2000@hotmail.com</a>
Jay Prochnow	569-4403	459-3872	<a href="mailto:prochnow@tds.net">prochnow@tds.net</a>
Tina Slaven	424-4769	421-9447	<a href="mailto:auto@rockingems.com">auto@rockingems.com</a>

## **ADDITIONAL SWCYHA CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Referee Coordinator/Scheduler	John Baker	323-9136
Concessions	Gary Campbell Zella Wronski	887-4234 307-4374
Player Selection Committee Chair	Joe Berry	421-0659
Volunteer Hour Coordinator	Kelly Acker	325-6655
Website	Christopher Hoffman	421-3212
Tournament Director	Jennifer Hanzlik	424-2258
Building Maintenance	Dave Steinhilber	423-1191

## **RECREATION CENTER INFORMATION:**

The South Wood County Recreation Center is a separate entity responsible for management of the ice arena. Contact information for the recreation center is as follows:

Rink Phone		421-3311
General Manager	Todd Knuth	423-5312
Operations Manager	Jim Arnold	424-1145 or 570-5516
Campus Pro Shop	Neil Peden	421-5551

## **REGISTRATION:**

Every player who wishes to participate in the SWCYHA program must register annually with SWCYHA and pay a registration fee as determined by the Board of Directors. Fees are due in full by the deadline set annually by the Board. In addition to the registration fee, all families are required to fulfill a volunteer hour requirement as set forth in this handbook.

SWCYHA follows Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association (WAHA). WAHA rules regarding players' eligibility are based on areas of residency. Any transfer in/out of your specific and designated association requires Board approval and must be performed according to WAHA rules and regulations.

Included in the registration fee is a team tournament allotment for Mite Level 3 and 4, Squirt, Peewee, Bantam and High School Club. The allotment is \$400 per team for tournament registration fees only. The intent of the allotment is to fund approximately one tournament. All tournament registration fees beyond \$400 given to each team are the team's responsibility. Tournament entry beyond the \$400 allotment must be discussed with and voted upon by all team players/parents prior to entry into an additional tournament. A home tournament is generally provided at each level; however, is not guaranteed.

The following forms (listed below) must be completed at registration. Please note, a player will not be allowed on the ice unless these forms have been completed:

- USA Hockey Waiver of Liability
- USA Hockey Consent to Treat / Medical History Form
- Parent Code of Conduct
- Player Code of Conduct

All players and parents are required to read, sign, and abide by both the USA Hockey Code of Conduct and the SWCYHA Code of Conduct. All forms are included at the end of the handbook for your reference.

## **EQUIPMENT:**

**Team Colors:** SWCYHA colors are red and white. SWCYHA players must adhere to the following color coordination for all games. Breezers (pants) must be red. Helmets can be either red or white however red is preferred. Socks must be red and white. Although not mandatory, it is preferred that gloves are red or black in color. Color coordination does not apply to practice equipment.

**Jerseys:** Jerseys are provided by SWCYHA to all Mite level players. Mite jerseys are to be worn for games only. Association jerseys must be cleaned and returned in good condition at the end of the season. Squirt level and above must purchase SWCYHA jerseys through the SWCYHA Equipment Coordinator. Everyone must have a red and a white jersey (home and away). Player numbers will be assigned by the Equipment Coordinator based on preference and availability.

### **Protective Equipment:**

**Mites** – All equipment, except skates, are available on a rental basis for players at this level. The equipment must be returned in good condition at the end of the season.

**Squirt and above** – All parents are obligated to provide proper protective equipment to their own skaters for practices and games. This equipment includes skates, HECC approved helmet with a full cage, mouth guard, shoulder pads, elbow pads, breezers, protective cup, shin pads, stick, and gloves.

**Helmets** – All players and coaches must wear a HECC approved helmet when they are on the ice during practice.

**Mouth guards** – Mouth guards must be worn during all practices and games at the Peewee level and above. Players without them will be asked to leave the ice and will not be allowed to return until they correct the situation. There are no exceptions to this rule.

**Goalie Equipment** - SWCYHA provides the following equipment for goalies.

Mite and Squirt Levels– Leg Pads, Chest Protector, Blocker, Catcher, and Stick

Peewee – Leg Pads, and Chest Protector

Bantam – Leg Pads

High School Club – Leg Pads

Girls U12 & U14 – Leg Pads

## **VOLUNTEER HOURS:**

Our organization has been built and run by volunteers. It will continue to be as great as the volunteers who run it. Please read through this carefully and ask if you have any questions. Your team manager will try to answer your questions, and if he/she can't, he/she will refer you to someone who can.

Volunteer participation is critical in our effort to keep the registration fee as affordable as possible.

Volunteer hours have been set at 40 hours per family. The following is a breakdown of what is expected of each family.

### 25 Concessions Stand Volunteer Hours:

A minimum of 25 hours is required from each family. Your hours must consist of at least:

\*\*\*2 hours must be from a WIAA Football Game

\*\*\*5 hours must be from WIAA Hockey Games (Three hours must be concessions)

\*\*\*2 hours must be from a WIAA Track Meet

\*\*\*1 hour must be from the Elite Tournament

\*\*\*You must sign up for your fair share of slots during each of your teams' weekends

\*\*\*You must sign up for your fair share of slots for your home tournament (concessions, time keeper, raffle table, etc.)

### 15 Maintenance/Other Activities Hours:

A minimum of 15 hours is required from each family. Your hours must consist of at least:

\*\*\*2 hours of cleaning/tournament prep for your team's tournament weekend

\*\*\*Not more than 4 hours can be counted for penalty box hours

\*\*\*Not more than 5 hours can be counted for WIAA Staff hours

### Important Points to Know:

\*\*\*When you sign up for a shift, please be sure to be at your assignment on time. We all have busy schedules and kids to get home to. So, please be polite and be there when you say you will be. Also, when working concessions, we have tried very hard to estimate a time when the shift will be over. Sometimes it will be 10 minutes earlier, and sometimes it might run 10 minutes over. Please remember that it is courteous to stay until the work is done for the end of the shift. It is much easier for five people to clean up and put away the concessions stand rather than leave one person to do all the work that is left over. Sometimes it is a good idea to think ahead of what little jobs can be completed earlier in the concessions stand so clean up goes quicker at the very end. Everyone needs to pitch in and help. This is OUR association and OUR responsibility.

\*\*\*You will be able to sign up for WIAA Football, WIAA Hockey, and WIAA Track Meets at hockey registration. The sign-up book will be kept in the concessions stand once hockey season starts and you can sign up for additional hours at the rink. During football and track season, the sign-up sheet will be with Kelly Acker. You can sign up for games/meets by contacting her by telephone (325-6655) or e-mail [acker@solarus.biz](mailto:acker@solarus.biz). It is your responsibility to be sure you sign up for your needed hours. The slots are given on a 'first come, first serve basis'.

\*\*\*If you do not work your number of WIAA hours or your share of your home tournament time, you will be billed for them at the conclusion of the WIAA Track season.

\*\*\*Children need to be at least 13 years of age to help out in the concessions stand with a parent. For WIAA events, children need to be at least 16 to help in concessions. No exceptions.

\*\*\*Your team will be assigned to work the concessions stand a few weekends throughout the season. Team weekends have already been assigned, so you should add this to your family calendar. If you have a conflict with your teams' concession weekend, you can trade with another family or 'hire' someone to cover your shift. Every family on the team is expected to work your teams' weekends equally. The team manager of your team is expected to make sure every family contributes equally and that all the slots are filled for your weekends. Teams that do not fulfill their commitments will be penalized. Families that do not contribute to working their teams' weekends will be billed for their shifts. Your team manager will report families who do not do their share to the Hockey Board.

\*\*\*If a family fails to reach their 40 total volunteer hours or any of the requirements set forth, the family will be billed at \$20.00 per hour that is delinquent.

\*\*\*Teams hosting their own home tournament will be responsible for all work hours for their team's tournament equally. Team managers have the flexibility to ask other teams to 'help out' or trade shifts if need be so families can watch their skaters during tournament game time. Each family is expected to help out for their fair share of the tournament. Team managers will be approaching those families who are not equally represented. Families that do not contribute to working their fair share of their home tournament will be billed for the delinquent hours.

\*\*\*There will be a few weekends throughout the season (example: WAHA State Tournament) that our association will be hosting. The entire association is responsible for helping to cover this. These events are huge money-makers for our association, and everyone's help is necessary. Please help out when you can.

\*\*\*You can receive maintenance hours for cleaning at the rec center or taking home paper or plastic recycling. You can receive .25 hours for a fair amount of recycle.

\*\*\*It is hard to put a value on how much time and expertise our volunteer coaches, assistant coaches and team managers put into our association. They are the backbone of the team, and we appreciate every minute of their time that is spent with our children. A 'Thank You' doesn't seem to be enough for all they do. The following volunteer positions will be credited for the amount of hours indicated:

\*\*\*Head Coach (1 per team)

(Squirt Level and above) - 20 hours

(Mite Level) - 15 hours

\*\*\*Assistant Coaches (2 per team)

(Squirt Level and above) - 15 hours

(Mite Level) - 10 hours

\*\*\*Team Managers (1 per team, unless you choose to split this position/hours)

(All Levels) - 15 hours

Coaching/Assistant Coaching/Team Manager hours will be split half into your concessions volunteer hour account and half into your maintenance/other account.

\*\*\*We have switched to a new system of recording volunteer hours. This system promises to save a lot of time and to be much more efficient to our needs. The recording of volunteer hours at the rink is your responsibility. While some people have done a fantastic job of keeping track of your own volunteer hours at home, it is not going to help you out if you don't do it at the rink as well. **MAKE SURE YOU RECORD YOUR HOURS AT THE RINK.** It is that simple. You will also have to be sure you record your hours with the correct description. While this system, like all new things, will take a little getting used to, we think you will find it very simple and much more accountable. The biggest error will be your human error in recording, so please take a little extra time until we all get used to this to be sure you are recording your hours correctly. And as always, ask if you have questions.

**Unfulfilled hours will be billed at \$20.00 per hour and must be paid prior to the next registration date to continue participation in the SWCYHA.**

Families that have only a high school senior (WIAA OR CLUB) registered will be required to prepay 20 of their volunteer hour requirement in the amount of \$400 at registration. The \$400 prepayment will be returned upon completion of the 40 hour requirement.

## **PLAYER EVALUATION AND TEAM SELECTION:**

All players have the option to participate in the player evaluation and team selection process. If a player chooses not to participate, they will automatically be placed to the lowest level team for their age level.

All players must be current with registration requirements to participate in the evaluation and selection process. All players must comply with SWCYHA guidelines with regards to proper equipment. Any player not in compliance with registration or equipment guidelines will be asked to leave the ice and will not be able to return to the ice until the situation is corrected. The player evaluation committee is not allowed to provide any special considerations.

### **Level 2 Mites:**

Teams will be formed at a date to be determined by the Mite Coordinator and assistant coaches, generally in late November. The Coordinator will divide the players into teams of equal playing ability. Some adjustments may be made if the abilities change significantly by mid-season. (The intent is to keep the teams equal and make it fun for all).

### **Level 3 & Level 4 Mites:**

The L3 and L4 Mite program is an In-House program with limited travel. Team selection will take place in early November after the players have had time to practice and progress in their skills. The team selection process will involve the Mite Coordinator and Assistant Coaches. Registered coaches from within SWCYHA but not at the Mite level may give additional input on player placement.

### **Squirt, PeeWee and Bantam:**

Player evaluation and team selection will take place at the beginning of the season, usually around mid to the end of October. Dates will be announced in a timely manner once established by the Board of Directors.

Players will be assigned a random jersey to wear throughout the evaluation and selection process.

An independent player evaluation committee will be responsible for the evaluation and placement of each player on a team based on the individual player's current age and skill level. Hockey skills to be evaluated will include skating, puck control, passing, shooting, and game situations (scrimmage). Upon completion of the team selection process, final rosters will be compiled for each team. All players will be notified of their individual team placement within 24 hours of completion of the selection process.

Questions regarding the team selection should be submitted in writing to the player selection committee chairperson. Evaluation forms are not available for player or parent review. Review and discussion will be limited to the individual's own evaluation and placement. No discussion will be held regarding another player's evaluation and placement. Upon request, a summary of the players' performance and comments will be provided.

**Bantam** team selection will follow the above procedures; however, if any Bantam player tries out and is selected for the WIAA high school team, the following procedure will take place:

- Bantam teams will be reviewed to determine whether or not the number of players on each team remains appropriate (the objective is to equalize the numbers).
- If openings exist and after thorough review of the number of players per Bantam team, the SWCYHA Board of Directors Selection Committee will determine which player(s) to move up a level. Moving up a level will be based only upon the numerical placement/rankings determined by the Bantam evaluation and selection process.

**Girls** are allowed to choose to participate on either the youth coed **or** girls program, but not both. If a girl player desires to tryout and play for the youth coed program they must contact the President, Vice President or Secretary of SWCYHA on or before the declaration date to state their intent to tryout and play on a coed team. After a girl player declares their intent to tryout for the youth coed and completes the youth coed tryout, they will not be allowed to change programs (coed to girls). For additional information see SWCYHA roster policy.

If a player misses the evaluation and team selection process because of late registration or other reasons, team placement will be determined by the current SWCYHA policy.

## **PRACTICES:**

All practices for Mites through Bantam will be held at the South Wood County Recreation Center. Girls Co-op U12 & U14 teams will have rotating practices at the SWCYHA, PCYOI and CWS rinks. The High School Club Co-op team will have approximately two practices per week at the SWCYHA and a third practice alternating locations between Marshfield and SWCYHA. In general, games will not begin until early November, therefore, additional practices will be held on weekends in both October and November.

It is the intention of SWCYHA to provide an approximate equal number of practices to all teams at the Squirt level and above. SWCYHA practice and game ice is purchased under a contract with the South Wood County Recreation Center. As an association, we try our best to schedule practices to benefit the needs of ALL players. Several factors are taken into consideration when planning the overall schedule. This includes player's age, time of day or evening, impact of WIAA High School games, coach's availability, religious commitments, holidays, and total number of teams.

Pre-Season practice will begin immediately after teams are selected. Pre-Season practice time will be a priority for approximately two weeks before season games begin. Once the season begins, your team will have designated practice days and times determined by the head practice scheduler. Practice times will vary from time to time due to High School games, tournaments and other special events.

Each team is responsible for cleaning up the locker room, lavatory, shower, and players bench after each practice or game.

Coaches must notify the practice scheduler in advance regarding any practice cancellations. Practice trades with another team are allowed only if coaches mutually agree. When trades are made, the practice scheduler must be notified immediately.

## **GAMES:**

Start and Finish Times:

Games must start and end on time! There are time limits for each game. If your game is in jeopardy of not ending on time, you must go to run time. The start time is when the puck is to be dropped at the start of the game; it is not when warm-ups begin. The finish time is when the teams are to leave the ice and the Zamboni is to start resurfacing. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Coaches are not to schedule or cancel any games without the permission of the Head Game Scheduler.

Playing time:

All players should be provided with approximately an equal amount of game time throughout the course of the season. If a player receives minimal playing time in one game, the coach must ensure the player receives additional playing time in a subsequent game.

The goal of SWCYHA is to treat all teams fairly with regard to home games. Home games are scheduled at the beginning of the year with an objective of having 9-10 home games per team (Squirt through Bantam). Throughout the course of the season, some home games may be cancelled by our teams or other associations due to tournaments, bad weather, last minute schedule changes, sickness, or other unforeseen circumstances. During the youth hockey season, filling weekend ice for games is an association priority. If weekend ice time becomes available on short notice, the Head Game Scheduler evaluates the situation, finds out what teams are available, which SWCYHA team needs more home games and what team can come to play a game(s). If and when the head game scheduler has exhausted all of her/his resources to fill the ice time with a home game for any SWCYHA team, the available ice may be used for practice.

## **COACHES SELECTION:**

All coaches will be selected by the coach's selection committee. Coaching qualifications are based on experience, current certification, coaching philosophy, desire, availability, professionalism, and demeanor.

All coaches must be current with their USA Hockey Coaching Education Program (CEP).

All coaches are expected to abide by:

- USA Hockey Coaches Code of Conduct
- USA Hockey Coaches Code of Ethics
- USA Hockey Sexual and Abuse Policy
- WAHA Coaching Requirements
- SWCYHA Coaching Guidelines and Policies

## **COACHING PHILOSOPHY:**

Coaches are leaders, teachers, and a friend of the player. The coach as a leader will depend on your ability to:

- Create a social atmosphere that will allow and encourage your players to play their best hockey.
- Motivate and bring out the best performance that your team members are capable of exhibiting.

The primary function of coaching is to teach all players all aspects of the sport of hockey including fun, skill, and knowledge. As stated in the USA Hockey Coaches Code of Conduct:

*"Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one.  
Care more about the child than winning the game."*

## **SWCYHA COACHING GUIDELINES:**

Coaching is a privilege. Coaching privileges can be revoked at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

The coach has the responsibility of abiding by rules set forth by the SWCYHA Board of Directors.

The coach is responsible for conducting himself/herself in a sportsman like manner and for setting forth a good example for his/her team at all times.

The coach will treat players fairly and be a positive reinforcement.

The coach should provide all players with experience as equally as possible both in practice and in games. Coaches should resist the temptation to rigidly categorize players with a specific position. No player should have the opportunity to participate diminished at the expense of providing other players on the team individual opportunities or in the interest of "winning the game". The exception being a player who voluntarily offers to play a specific position for a majority of the season that other players are not interested in playing (i.e. goalie).

The coach has the right to expect respect from the players and parents of his/her team.

A coach has the right to expect that player or parent concerns be brought to his/her attention in an appropriate place and manner. If the concern continues, the team liaison Board member should be contacted for help in resolution of the problem.

Coaches have the right to set policy regarding locker rooms. Each head coach will decide if he/she wants parents and/or non-team members in the locker rooms before and after games or practices.

It is the coach's right to expect all players to be present and ready to go on the ice at the time he/she has specified, both in practice and game situations. If a player is unable to attend a practice or game, it is the player's responsibility to contact his/her coach and inform them of their absence.

The coach has the right to expect that he/she will be supported by the SWCYHA Board of Directors in decisions the Board has given him/her to make.

### **SWCYHA COACHING GUIDELINES (Continued):**

Each head coach is required to hold a team meeting with parents and players regarding expectations and policies he/she has for the team and team members. All team meetings are to be conducted prior to the first scheduled game. Meetings can be held in the Rec. Center Office, where a TV and VCR are available. We highly recommend the video "Hockey Parents" be viewed by everyone.

Coaches should remind the parents that no one is allowed to stand behind the player boxes or score box during a game.

Participation in a Sunday morning game or during inclement weather will be left to the discretion of the parent.

### **BACKGROUND VERIFICATIONS:**

SWCYHA strives to ensure a safe and positive environment for all players, coaches, and volunteers. Although it is unfortunate, all coaches and other volunteers who have routine contact with the players will be subject to a background investigation. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

### **SWCYHA EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY:**

It is the policy of SWCYHA to aid by the intent and requirements of all appropriate State and Federal Laws regarding equal opportunity for all participants and applicants. To that end, SWCYHA will endeavor to include on an equal basis, all youth who express a desire to participate in the youth hockey program. SWCYHA will also extend this policy to include other active members, coaches, and board members. Persons desiring more information regarding this policy or wishing to file a complaint regarding this policy should contact a board member.

## **USA HOCKEY ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY:**

SWCYHA endorses and enforces the zero tolerance guidelines of USA Hockey as follows:

In an effort to make Ice Hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, the USA Hockey Youth Junior and Senior 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 to maintain a sportsmanlike and education atmosphere before, during, and after all USA Hockey sanctioned games. Thus, the following points of emphasis will continue to be emphasized by all On-Ice Referees and Linesmen:

Players	<p>A Minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Openly disputes or argues about any decision by an official.</li><li>2. Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at anytime including any swearing, even if it is not directed at any particular person.</li><li>3. Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an Officials decision.</li></ol> <p>Any time that any player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a Misconduct penalty. A Game Misconduct shall result if such player continues.</p>
Coaches	<p>A Minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a Coach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Openly disputes or argues about any decision by an official.</li><li>2. Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at anytime.</li><li>3. Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an Officials decision, including standing on the boards or standing in the bench doorway with the intent of enticing the Officials, players, or spectators.</li></ol> <p>Any time that any coach persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a Game Misconduct penalty.</p>
Officials	<p>Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, and non-vindictive 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.</p> <p>On-Ice Officials are ambassadors of the game and shall always conduct themselves with that responsibility in mind.</p>
Parents/Spectators	<p>The game will be stopped by on-ice officials, when the parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators of the game. The on-ice officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectators 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at anytime.</li><li>• Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.</li><li>• Throwing of any object in the spectator viewing area, players bench, penalty box, or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.</li></ul>

## **SWCYHA ZERO TOLERANCE PHYSICAL & VERBAL ABUSE POLICY**

A hockey game may be stopped by on-ice officials when the parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators of the game. The on-ice officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the 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 SWCYHA Board of Directors.

This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

- Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time
- Taunting players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of verbal baiting, ridiculing, intimidation and even threat of 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

All individuals associated with SWCYHA shall conduct themselves in a proper manner and proper conduct at all times. Improper conduct is defined as behavior deemed detrimental to the philosophy and objectives of SWCYHA, as well as any action which produces results detrimental to member(s), team(s) or individual player(s) of SWCYHA.

### **SWCYHA Zero Tolerance Policy for Outside of the Rink**

As we all know, the Internet and email can be a great place to obtain information and communicate between members, coaches and parents. Unfortunately, some individuals perceive the internet and email as a safe haven to unload gossip, insults and out right lies about good people that volunteer their time and skills to SWCYHA. Internet and email users have been "flaming" others on the Internet for years. "Flaming" means posting messages "intended to insult and provoke." In other words, someone posts a message for others to read which insults and/or provokes readers against another person or group. "Flaming" can negatively affect someone's reputation or some group's reputation (SWCYHA).

"The Internet is not your personal stump to beat up people."

Daniel Perry, Orange County judge

These Internet and email "postings" can damage and sometimes destroy our association's public image and in most cases, these postings consist of statements that are completely unfair, one sided or untrue.

The SWCYHA Board of Directors believe there is a distinct difference between asking specific questions or writing messages in a constructive and positive manner to specifically state concerns or seek answers versus the action of "Flaming," and negative gossip. Recurrent "flaming" and negative gossip should not and will not be tolerated by any member of our association. Recipients of "flaming," negative emails and verbal insults should report that behavior to any board member for review.

For enforcement of these policies, see Parental Code of Conduct.

## **PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

Parents are a great asset to youth hockey organizations and to an individual hockey team, as well as a positive influence on the children around them. SWCYHA realizes that parents have many responsibilities and we encourage that these responsibilities be carried out in a positive, encouraging, and exemplary fashion. Please be a positive role model for our youth and fellow members in our association.

Sportsmanship and conduct are a primary concern at every SWCYHA event. Proper sportsmanship and attitudes must be maintained at all times.

It shall be the responsibility of the SWCYHA Board of Directors to administer the following Parent's Code of Conduct.

### **Parents will:**

Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players in recognizing each individual's special and unique gifts and contributions to their team.

Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for coaches, game officials, and other fellow parents both within and outside of SWCYHA. Treat others with respect.

Place the physical and emotional well-being of their child and the other children in the organization ahead of their own personal desire to win.

Remember that the game is for the children and not the adults.

Encourage their child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.

Show a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants. Your child will benefit.

Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit their young athletes. Parents will de-emphasize games and competition in the lower/very young age groups.

Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat, and enforce the positive points of the game.

Never yell, verbally, or physically abuse their child after a game or practice - it is destructive. Parents will work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse in youth hockey.

Refrain from discussing crucial and emotional game situations with coaches or SWCYHA board members for at least 24 hours after a game. Take the time to find out all sides of the situation.

Provide only positive support for the coaches working with their child to ensure a positive, enjoyable, and fun experience.

Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of their child and the sport. Communicate with and support all coaches. If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about hockey - and volunteer.

Know and study the rules of the game, and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the improvement of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.

Communicate (phone, verbal and written) in a positive, appropriate and mature manner to SWCYHA board members, parents, coaches and referees.

Contact a board member if they feel their child is not playing on a safe and positive environment.

## **PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT (Continued)**

Be able to appropriately deal with an irate fan or parent by asking someone to leave the premises. When situations become serious and disciplines are seriously breached, a SWCYHA board member should be notified as soon as possible for follow up.

Pay hockey players fees including registration and fundraiser obligations as set by SWCYHA board of directors. Failure to meet payment deadlines will result in loss of ice time. Non-flagrant violations of this type will require restitution before allowing sign up and on-ice practice the next season. Repeat offenders will be fined. Financial hardship cases will be considered by the board on an individual basis and will be kept confidential. Flagrant violations will be considered a parental code violation that will be reviewed and handled by the board of directors.

Abide by the volunteer hours requirements set forth by the SWCYHA board of directors. Failure to meet the yearly volunteer hour requirements will require restitution before allowing sign up and on-ice practice the next season.

Support the rules and regulations that will be set forth by SWCYHA. This includes the USA Hockey **Parents/Spectators and Zero Tolerance** and SWCYHA **Zero Tolerance Policy for outside of the rink** which are designed to ensure a mature, sportsmanlike, and educational atmosphere.

### **Parents will not:**

Embarrass their child or any other child, team, or coach by yelling in a negative manner at other players, coaches, or parents.

Force children to participate in sports, but support their desires to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.

Pretend that they know more than the certified officials do. Parents will refrain from making calls from the stands

Yell, scream, or bang on the glass in a negative manner or in a negative connotation towards any player or referee.

Smoke or drink (alcohol) within the SWCYHA rink during any practice, game, or event.

Enforcement of the SWCYHA Parent Code of Conduct matters vitally to the Association. Not following the Parent Code of Conduct can cost the Association dearly. It undermines all of our reputations and what is best for our youth. For these reasons, violations of this Code of Conduct may lead to a SWCYHA Executive Committee evaluation and review. Depending on the outcome of the Executive Committee evaluation and review, recommendations may be made to the entire SWCYHA Board of Directors. Recommendations may include, but are not limited to, a formal warning, suspension, exclusion, and even expulsion. Formal suspension, exclusion, and expulsion from SWCYHA can only be accomplished if a majority vote is achieved from the entire SWCYHA board. These disciplinary actions are considered last resorts. Every effort shall be made to resolve problems before matters reach these levels.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **GRIEVANCE POLICY/PROCEDURE:**

SWCYHA strives to manage our hockey teams and activities in as harmonious a manner as possible. However, we recognize that there will be occasional disagreements on how issues are decided or activities are conducted. Grievances are generally limited to misconduct of a player, team, or coach. In most cases, we encourage members to discuss their concerns with either a member of the Board of Directors or the entire Board of Directors in a meeting format. However, if the member prefers, they may submit a grievance for consideration by the "Grievance Committee".

The Grievance Committee is established each hockey season by the SWCYHA Board of Directors. The committee consists of five (5) members as follows:

1. President of the Board of Directors
2. Administrative Coach
3. First Year Board Member
4. Second Year Board Member
5. Third Year Board Member

Grievance forms may be obtained from any current board member. The form should be submitted to the President of the Board of Directors. The President will then call a meeting of the entire Grievance Committee and proceed according to policy. Further details regarding grievance procedures can be obtained by contacting a current Board member.

## **AWARDS:**

The following are awards that players can earn. Awards will be presented to the players at the end of the hockey season. It is very important for players as well as parents to understand that not all players will receive an award. The awards must be earned following the guidelines below:

Hat Trick	A hat trick is awarded to a player who scores three (3) goals in one game as evidenced on the score sheet.
Playmaker	A playmaker is awarded to a player who has three (3) assists in one game as evidenced on the score sheet.
Shutout	A shutout is awarded to a goalie that gives up no goals during a game. If two (2) goalies play during a shutout game, only the goalie who played the majority of the game will receive the shutout award.

**\*\*\*Note: A player can only earn one award per category per year\*\***