

Parent Handbook 2006-2007 Hockey Season



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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to the 2006-2007 Hockey Season, the 20th year of incorporation of the BDHA. This handbook is an effort to keep you informed of the Policies and procedures of the BDHA. All of us need to remember this is for the kids to have fun and learn the game of hockey.

The one thing we need is more volunteers to help out on committees such as: Fundraising, Concessions, and Tournaments. The last thing I want to do is thank everyone for their help in the past and in the future, because without volunteers this association would be hard to operate. Thanks again and have a great hockey season.

Your President, Jim Szopinski

Board Members:

Officers: Jim Szopinski-President • Paul Uttech-Vice President
John Zanghi-Treasurer • Lori Uttech - Secretary
Bob Jones • Mike Murray • Fred Smith • Todd Ulrikson

TEAM CLASSIFICATIONS, SELECTIONS, AND ADVANCEMENT

1. Orientation:

All traveling team coaches, players, and parents/guardians at all age levels are required to attend an orientation before they will be allowed to dress for the first game of the season. Individuals should attend at their own age level but may attend any session if there are conflicts. Orientation will cover youth hockey policy and other relevant information.

2. Age Level Classifications:

Each player is classified in one of several age levels as determined by the USA and Wisconsin Hockey Associations. Each age level is restricted to those youth who are a given age as of December 31 of the year in which the hockey season begins. These established levels are:

Midget – 16 or older	16 years of age or younger on or before December 31st
Bantam	14 years of age or younger on or before December 31st
Pee Wee	12 years of age or younger on or before December 31st
Squirt	10 years of age or younger on or before December 31st
Mite	8 years of age or younger on or before December 31st
House League and Learn to Skate	10 years or younger
Girls U14	14 years of age or younger on or before December 31st

3. Team Classifications:

Within each age level classification, players will be selected to teams of the following classifications:

Pee Wee and Squirt Division 3 A & B

Bantam and Mite Division 3 A & B

The Mite through WAHA High School teams are known as traveling teams. Traveling teams are those whose game schedules require periodic travel to other communities. The parents of a traveling team player must be willing to share equally in providing transportation for out-of-town games and to provide for their player's expenses. The "Learn to Skate" and "House" league classification is strictly an in-house program and does not involve any travel.

4. Performance Level Classifications

Within each age level, the association determines a performance level classification for each player based on his/her selection to either an "A" or "B" traveling team, depending on the teams offered at that level. Generally, an "A" traveling team player demonstrates greater ability than a "B" traveling team player. Each traveling team player is expected to compete with players and teams of similar ability or performance level.

5. Traveling Team Selections:

Within each age level the team selections are handled as follows:

A. Each player is required to attend and participate in evaluation sessions that are conducted over a scheduled period by an age level evaluation coordinator selected by the Youth Hockey Committee. The evaluation coordinator will be assisted by a minimum of four other evaluators selected by the Youth Hockey Committee. The "assistant evaluators" may be head and assistant coaches who will be coaching at the age level being evaluated. A minimum of four evaluation sessions will be held during the evaluation period.

B. Evaluation sessions will consist of scrimmages and/or drills which will allow evaluators on and off the ice to observe and evaluate each player's level of proficiency in all basic skating and hockey skills, general understanding of the game and game rules, effort and energy put forth, and attitude towards other players and coaches. The use of scrimmages and/or drills will be determined by the Age Level Evaluation Coordinator.

C. The evaluation team at each age level observes and evaluates each player during the evaluation sessions. The evaluation coordinator meets with the other evaluators in order to discuss and receive their player observations and evaluations. The evaluation coordinator is responsible for ensuring proper placement.

D. After team selections are approved, each player is notified of his/her placement by their respective head coach or his/her designee.

E.. Any player, who becomes available to participate on a traveling team at his/her age level after traveling team selections have been approved, will be assigned by the Youth Hockey Committee to skate at practices and/or games of one or more skill levels to determine the proper placement of this player. The player will be observed and evaluated by one or more Youth Hockey Committee members or designees. The Youth Hockey Committee may consider input from coaches when making their decision. The committee, recognizing that this process differs from the regular evaluation process, will strive to balance the needs of the association with the indicated ability of the player.

6. Advancement by Selection:

The association may allow a player to advance to a traveling team at any age level higher than his/her actual age level classification if he/she demonstrates ability that results in selection to play on the "A" traveling team at the higher age level. Consideration for advancement is subject to the following:

1. The player and his/her parents must provide a written request for advancement consideration to the Youth Hockey Committee at least seven days prior to the first evaluation session. The Youth Hockey Committee shall consider the request and determine if consideration should be granted, subject to the needs of the association
2. If consideration is granted, the player is required to participate in evaluation sessions held for both his/her actual age level classification. This is to assure a fair and comparative appraisal of the player's ability at both age levels. At any time up to and including team selections, the Evaluation Coordinator at the higher age level may determine that advancement is not warranted.
3. Advancement is ultimately achieved if the player has met these stated requirements and has been evaluated as one of the "top" skaters on the "A" traveling team at the higher age level.

7. Advancement by Invitation:

The Youth Hockey Committee may, with the prior approval of the coaches at the affected age levels, invite a youth hockey player to advance to an age level traveling team higher than his/her actual age level classification if there are insufficient numbers of players available to fill a team roster at the higher age level. Invitation shall be made in writing by the Youth Hockey Committee and is subject to written acceptance by the player and his/her parents.

TEAM PLAY

1. Start of Team Play:

No game may be played by a traveling team until one week after the announcement of the traveling team selections by the Evaluation Coordinator at that age level.

2. Team Size:

The maximum size of any traveling team is eighteen (18) players plus two (2) goaltenders for a total of twenty (20) on the team roster. The recommended minimum size of any traveling team is ten (10) players plus one goaltender for a total of eleven (11) on the team roster; variations will be approved at the discretion of the Youth Hockey Committee.

3. Team Practices:

No more than four (4) team practice sessions are held each week. Although player attendance at all team practice sessions is not required, player absence may affect eligibility to participate in games.

4. Games Per Season:

The number of games in which a team may play is subject to age level limits. Invitational tournament, regional playoff, and state tournament games do not count toward the traveling team game limits. Each team may play in up to four invitational tournaments including three tournaments requiring overnight travel. The age level game recommendations are:

Mite: 30 games **Pee Wee:** 40 games **WAHA High School** 45 games
Squirt: 35 games **Bantam:** 45 games

5. Games Per Day:

No Team may play more than two games per day except when played in a tournament.

6. Games Per Day and Borrowing Players:

A. No individual player may play more than two games per day except:

1. When played in a tournament, or
2. When a player is asked to skate for another team with prior approval from the player's coach & parents.

B. When borrowing players the following directions apply:

1. Approval from the player's parents and coach must be received prior to game play
2. A team should not borrow players unless they have less than 10 skaters and 1 goalie for a game.
3. The rostered team takes priority for both the player and the borrowing team.

GAME GUIDELINES

1. Game Travel

The association schedules ECHO league and Midget games for teams regardless of the travel distance from Beaver Dam. The association may schedule other games for each team within a 75 mile travel distance from Beaver Dam. Scheduling of games that are more than 75 miles travel distance from Beaver Dam requires the prior approval of a majority of a team's parents. Regional playoff and state tournament games that are more than 75 miles travel distance from Beaver Dam, are excluded from the parental approval requirement.

2. Game Eligibility:

The player's game eligibility depends on his/her attendance at scheduled team practice sessions. Unexcused absence from team practice sessions may be cause for limiting a player's weekend game eligibility. It is the responsibility of the player's parents to notify the head coach before the player's absence from a scheduled team practice or game.

3. Game Participation:

It is the goal of the association and its coaches to provide each player the opportunity to play a reasonable portion of each game. However, absolute equity of playing time for all players on a team is both impractical and impossible to control.

It is recognized that the "Midget" program (aka WAHA High School) is comparable to an interscholastic high school program. As such, the coaching staff of the "Midget" program is awarded considerable discretion in determining game playing time. While the "Midget" coaching staff is encouraged to provide playing opportunities for all players, they will not be held to the same standard as the coaching staffs of younger age levels, as described above.

4. Game Awards, Recognition, & Incentives:

The Association's philosophy on youth hockey emphasizes that the experience of the game is more important than its outcome, that the team is more important than the individual, and that personal growth is a better measure of success than awards and honors. In support of that philosophy, the association's policy on game awards, recognition, and incentives is:

A. The game awards offered by the association are only those sanctioned by USA Hockey. These include the Zero Award for goaltenders and the Hat Trick and Playmaker Awards for players.

B. Published news releases and game summaries are to emphasize the team's performance and deemphasize individual player recognition.

C. No coach or parent is to offer an individual incentives as a means of motivating greater player performance.

COACHES

1. Coach Selection:

Selection of coaches - head and assistants - shall be the responsibility of the Youth Hockey Committee. It should be emphasized that all coaches are volunteers whose primary objective is to help our youth enjoy a positive team experience while learning the sport of hockey. The coaching selection process should be conducted as follows:

- A. The selection process will include a review of a candidate's qualifications and coaching philosophy as provided on a coaching application form provided by the association. The Youth Hockey Committee may conduct personal interviews as part of the selection process. Additional information may be considered in making final selections, e.g., resumes, references, parent surveys, or other formal materials. It is not a requirement that selected coaches have a given level of hockey playing or coaching experience.
- B. The pool of coaching candidates will be created by surveying coaches from the previous season to determine their interest, and by soliciting applications from any other interested candidates.
- C. To the extent practical, the Youth Hockey Committee will attempt to make coach selections prior to the start of the upcoming season.
- D. While the head coach of each team has primary responsibility for conducting practice sessions and determining game strategy, the assistant coaches are to be an integral part of coaching and team development. Assistant coaches are an important part of the coaching team and shall be present at practices and on the bench for all games. In the event the head coach is not present for a practice or game the assistant coaches will conduct all team activities.

2. Coaches Responsibilities and Rules:

Coaches shall set a high example for our youth and shall not expect more from the players than they do from themselves. They shall use speech and actions which reflect good judgment and maturity. Players who make mental or skill mistakes shall be coached in a manner which reflects adult maturity and calmness. Coaches shall not use angry or abusive speech when communicating with the team or individuals. Long pre-game "pep talks" are discouraged. No tobacco products are allowed in locker rooms or bench area. Coaches shall follow much the same code of conduct as the players and shall follow the Association's Coaches Rules:

- A. Coaches shall enforce the Athletic Code and Player Rules and to report any infraction to the Youth Hockey Committee as soon as possible and absolutely no longer than 72 hours after the infraction occurred.
- B. Coaches shall maintain self control during and after all games and practices. No yelling or swearing at referees, coaches, or players is acceptable.
- C. Upon final determination of team rosters, there shall be no transferring, borrowing or trading of players for a game without prior consent of a player's coach and parents. (Note: Coaches may only borrow skaters when they have less than 10 skaters and 1 goalie for a game) Permanent transfer of players from one team to another shall require prior approval of the Youth Hockey Committee.

COACHES (CONT'D)

D. Coaches shall allocate game time in a manner which provides each player the opportunity to play a reasonable portion of each game, as described previously in this policy under GAME PARTICIPATION. If a player has an unexcused absence from a practice, team meeting or game, he/she shouldn't expect coverage under this policy.

E. Coaches shall abide by USA Hockey Rules and any penalty imposed upon them must be reported to Executive Committee as soon as possible and absolutely no longer than 72 hours after the infraction occurred.

F. Coaches are authorized to handle all situations that require disciplinary action whenever a team is gathered for an association event.

G. Coaches at the Mite, Squirt, or Pee Wee age levels are to encourage the rotation of players among various playing positions.

H. Coaches shall not change ice times without prior approval from the Master Ice Scheduler.

PLAYER'S RULES

1. Sportsmanship:

Players shall display good sportsmanship and respect for officials, fellow players, coaches, and opponents at all times. Players shall conduct themselves according to the association's Athletic Code and Player Rules.

2. Athletic Code:

Rules in effect for Beaver Dam Hockey Association youth hockey players are:

- A. No use or possession of tobacco or tobacco products at any time.
- B. No consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages.
- C. No unauthorized use or possession of drugs at any time.
- D. No attendance at any party or gathering where alcoholic beverages or drugs are being illegally consumed or used.
- E. No verbal or physical display of disrespect for any official, coach, or other player.
- F. General conduct on and off the ice is to create a favorable image of the player, the team, the association, and the community.

4. Midget Academic

The Beaver Dam Hockey Association (BDHA) hereby adopts a policy regarding the application of academic standards as an eligibility requirement for participation on Beaver Dam Youth Hockey Association traveling teams. This policy applies to players who are of high school age.

Accordingly, the player's eligibility for participation on a Beaver Dam Hockey Association traveling team will be determined by the requirements for participation and eligibility in place at the school where they are currently enrolled. Players who are home schooled will be subject to participation/eligibility requirements of their residency school district.

It is expected that players and parents will be responsible for accurately representing the player's and parents will review academic eligibility with their respective coaches, including the review of the school-issued grade report. Any issues of eligibility shall be brought to the attention of the Youth Hockey Committee for review. Should a player be deemed ineligible, they will be expected to continue to participate in practices. It is expected they will attend scheduled games, but shall not participate in those games until they have restored eligibility as would be provided for under the eligibility criteria in place at their respective school.

In the event that a player is (or has become) ineligible, parents may request a meeting with the Youth Hockey Committee for a review of the application of this standard. The Youth Hockey Committee shall then make a formal recommendation to the Board of the Beaver Dam Hockey Association, which shall then make a final decision.

PLAYER'S RULES (CONT'D)

5. Player Rules:

Each player represents the team and the association at practices and games. The association expects players to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and to observe the following player rules.

A. Respect - Players shall respect all coaches, officials, spectators, teammates and opponents at all times. They shall not argue with referees, linesmen, timekeepers, scorekeepers, spectators or coaches. Disrespect to others may be cause for disciplinary action.

B. Profanity – use of profanity on the ice, the bench or anywhere else in the arena is strictly forbidden. Repeated use of profane language will result in disciplinary action.

C. Equipment – uniforms shall be kept clean and well repaired. Use of team uniforms is restricted to games. Game jerseys may not be worn at practices or as part of every day dress. Purposely tearing or damaging uniforms or equipment will result in disciplinary action.

D. Behavior on Trips – Players shall conduct themselves as ladies & gentlemen when away in motels, restaurants, or public places. Players are representing the team, association, and the community both at home and away. Let's leave people with a good impression of us.

E. Conduct on the Ice – If a player receives a game misconduct or gross misconduct penalty, USA Hockey Rules will apply and both the player and parents will be required to appear before the Executive Committee to determine if additional disciplinary action should be taken. Flagrant or continued misconduct penalties may be reviewed and disciplinary action taken at the discretion of the executive committee.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND CODE

1. Parent's Responsibilities:

- A. Parents shall stay away from the players' bench before and during games.
- B. Parents shall not be in the dressing rooms prior to games except when asked by the coach to assist with getting younger players ready for the game, or because of some other request the coach might have.
- C. Problems parents might have with a coach should be dealt with up-front and privately. Unresolved conflicts shall be taken to the age level coordinator. If not resolved at that point, the issue would be discussed with the Youth Hockey Committee. The final arbitrator will be the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

2. Parents' Code: (Taken from USA Parents Introduction to Youth Hockey)

There are many benefits to playing youth hockey. Boys and girls learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. They learn to work together, how to sacrifice for the good of the team, how to enjoy winning and how to deal with defeat – while becoming physically fit and healthy children.

- A. Parents should support their child. How many of these benefits a player achieve is very much the responsibility of parents. IN order for the child to get the most out of the amateur hockey program, it is important that parents SUPPORT their children by giving encouragement and showing an interest in their team.
- B. Parents should be positive. Parents are not participants on their child's team, but contribute to the success experienced by the child and team. Parents serve as role models for their children. Parents' attitudes are often exhibited by their children who look to them for advice and approval. Become aware of this situation and strive to POSITIVE MODELS. That includes, most importantly, showing good sportsmanship at all times. Parents are to maintain self control during and after all games and practices. No yelling or swearing at referees, coaches, or players is acceptable.
- C. Parents should be enthusiastic and supportive, remembering that their child is PLAYING hockey. It is important to let the child establish goals and play the game for himself/herself. Parents should help their children establish and achieve the goals he/she sets, being careful not to impose their own standards and goals on the child.
- D. Parents should let the coach-coach. Parents should not put too heavy a burden on a child to win games. A recent survey revealed that 72% of children would rather play a losing team than ride the bench for a winner. The most important part of a child's youth hockey experience is that the child learns about himself/herself while ENJOYING this exciting sport. A healthy environment that encourages learning and fun will develop a more positive self-image which can be an invaluable asset all through the child's life.
- E.. Parents should show their child positive reinforcement. The best way to help children achieve their goals and reduce their natural fear of failure is through positive reinforcement. No one likes to make a mistake, and when children make one, it should be remembered that the child is still learning. Parents should encourage a child's efforts and point out the things he/she did well. As long as children give their best, parents should make them feel like winners.

WORK CREDITS

1. Work Credits

A. Work Credit Opportunities (listed below)

The amount of work credits is determined by the age level of your skater, as well as how many skaters your family has in the association. Your total work credit will have been calculated at time of registration. Each hour of work is credited with a “dollar” amount respective to the amount of responsibility assigned to the task. The skater’s family does not receive this dollar amount. Instead, it is credited towards your balance due. It is the responsibility of each family to ensure that by the end of each season, all work credits have been earned. It is also the responsibility of each family to record all work credits as the year progresses. You will receive a bill at the end of the year if you have not completed all of your work credits.

Mites: \$120 Bantams \$200
Squirts \$140 WAHA High School \$220
Pee Wees \$170

(Multiple skaters in one family receive a discount on the 2 or more skaters)

B. Committees:

Committees exist to aid the goals of the association. Each committee has a specific task. As a member of a committee you will receive \$10 per hour of work. The following committees are always looking for and in need of assistance: Concessions, Skater’s Unlimited Banquet, Vegas Night

Credit \$5.00/hr	Credit \$10.00/hr	Credit \$15.00/hr
Working Concessions	Committee Member	Committee Chair
Zamboni (per time)	Assistant Coach	Head Coach
Clock & Scorekeeper	Team Manager	Master Scheduler
Penalty Box	Age Level Coordinator	Special Projects
Maintenance/Cleaning	Director Meeting	Officer Meeting
Rink Manager	Team Manager	

2. Team Work Requirements

A. Weekend Duties - On the weekends teams are assigned a Work Day in which they are responsible for the rink. The work schedule is determined by the Head Scheduler and is rotated equally between the teams. The tasks involved in maintaining the rink include working concessions, maintenance and cleaning, and rink manager. The duties involved in maintaining and cleaning of the rink are listed on the peg board next to concessions. If a team is responsible for the rink on a Saturday, that team is responsible for cleaning the rink Friday evening. If a team is assigned rink duties on Sunday, they are responsible for cleaning the rink on Sunday evening.

B. Tournament weekends and the work hours associated with a tournament are not included in your seasonal work credit fees. Tournament work hours are determined by the number of hours games will be played multiplied by the number of job duties throughout the weekend, divided by the number of families from the teams in our association who are playing that tournament weekend. (example: most tournament director determines it will take 120 hours of work to put together and there are 24 families whose skaters are playing, each family will be responsible for 5 hours of working. A work schedule will always be posted on the wall in the rink. Please remember it is imperative that all families work together to create a smooth tournament for all involved.

