WAYZATA YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Assessment Fee FAQs 2026-2027

November 2026

For the 2026–2027 season, the association made adjustments to how assessment fees are collected and managed. This change was driven by several factors, including reducing the collection, handling, storage, and transfer of family funds by individual member volunteers; and bringing the association's financial and operational practices more inline with those of other athletic organizations of comparable size. The Travel Player Fee Guide remains the most up to date explanation of the different fees and their purpose. Below addresses more detailed questions that have been asked this season.

Q: How were the assessment amounts determined?
A: When establishing assessment fees for the first year of this new approach, the association intentionally selected a *below average assessment amount within each level's historical range.* While historical assessments provided a range of potential costs, the decision to use the lower end reflects a deliberate effort to minimize the financial impact on families while transitioning to a shared association-wide funding model.

Q: How does the association plan for a team's overall season plan (tournaments and games/practices)?
A: Considerable time and effort is put into identifying and securing tournament opportunities, and keeping game/practice allocations as consistent as possible across the association.

The goal of tournament allocation is to provide as consistent an experience as possible across all teams, with a target of four tournaments per team. Additionally, league game counts and home practice ice counts are used to collectively provide a consistent number of scrimmage/game experiences across each level.

In some cases, teams received fewer than four tournaments because an appropriate tournament for their competitive level was not available.

Ultimately, differences in tournament schedules reflect the availability of appropriate competitive opportunities at each level, rather than an intentional difference in association-funded benefits.

Additional tournaments arranged independently by teams are paid by the team's Discretionary Fund, and are not part of the standard association allocation.

Q: Who pays for teams with paid non-parent coaches and how is this handled differently than in previous years?
Historically the association covered half of the paid coach fee and the other half was assessed to the families of the team with the paid coach(s). In the new model, the full paid coaching expense is absorbed across the association. Teams with paid coaches are still responsible for funding Paid Coach travel expenses from their team Discretionary Fund.

Travel coaches are exempt from the association's volunteer-hour requirements (* see the Volunteer Policy for detailed information). However, teams with paid coaches do *not* receive credit for the 10-hour exempt hours for paid coaches. In other words, if a family typically fulfilled this requirement from coaching and is now on a team with a paid coach, they are now responsible to fulfill their volunteer hours through other association-volunteering opportunities.

Q: Why did the association make these changes?
A: As we continue to grow, expecting parent member volunteers to request, collect, and manage a significant amount of funds is not a sustainable or safe way to manage association revenue. Moving to a model similar to other athletic associations of our size is a preferred operational model to support the long-term financial health of the association and reduce the administrative expectation of parent volunteers.

Q: I have feedback on the assessments. Where should I send my comments?
A: We are always looking to understand member input and recommendations. Comments can be provided here (Assessment Feedback) for consideration as we continue to evolve and improve our operational model.