

Pittsburgh Aviators Hockey Association
Handbook
2026-2027 Season



Dear Players, Parents/Legal Guardians and Coaches,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to welcome (and welcome back) each of you to the Pittsburgh Aviators Hockey Association (PAHA) for the upcoming season!

This Handbook serves to provide general information, organizational rules and codes of conduct, that are important to you and our organization. The Board reserves the right to revise this Handbook at any time so please reference our [website](#) for updates.

All players, parents and coaches are expected to understand the information herein and represent the organization accordingly.

At the end of the Handbook is an acknowledgment and receipt page that must be signed by the player, the parent/legal guardian, or non-parent coaches. The receipt page must be signed prior to the player taking to the ice for the upcoming PAHL season.

Have a fun and safe season. Let's fly!

Pittsburgh Aviators Hockey Association

INTRODUCTION

The Pittsburgh Aviators have a long rich history being part of the Pittsburgh hockey community since 2004. Through challenges with the closing of our home ice, our kids, parents, and coaches have risen to the challenge to make sure the Aviator tradition continues. Our Association continues to demonstrate growth and establish stability at our current home at Roy McKnight Hockey Center at Shady Side Academy.

Our organization is governed and operated under the auspices of Mid-American District Hockey (Mid- Am) and USA Hockey. USA Hockey was established in 1937 and is the national governing body for high school ice hockey organizations and clubs. USA Hockey coordinates and administers programs for players/coaches/referees. All players and coaches must have registered and paid for a USA Hockey membership before taking the ice for the current season.

Mission Statement

The mission of the **Pittsburgh Aviators Hockey Association** is to promote and provide a high-quality, affordable, and supportive environment where youth athletes can reach their full athletic and personal potential. We are dedicated to delivering a positive hockey experience that instills a lifelong passion for the game while promoting teamwork, dedication, and hard work. Beyond the ice, our program fosters vital life skills—emphasizing sportsmanship, leadership, perseverance, and discipline—to develop outstanding individuals, confident competitors, and responsible citizens.

Pittsburgh Aviators Board of Directors

The volunteers and staff who lead the Pittsburgh Aviators Hockey Association are dedicated to making the Aviators the best place to play hockey in Pittsburgh. The board of directions will hold monthly meetings. Please see our [website](#) for dates and times.

The Executive Board is composed of the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Scheduler, and Communications Director.

Additional board members include Coaching Director, Safe Sport Coordinator, Director of Player Development, Director of Managers, Equipment Manager, Fundraising Coordinator, and Ice Affiliate.

Guiding Principals of the Board of Directors

- Foster a hockey environment of collaboration, teamwork, and positivity.
- Cultivate strong future leaders, coaches, and board members who embody Pittsburgh Aviator values.
- Assure adherence to the rules, regulations, and guidelines set forth by PAHL, Mid-Am Hockey, and USA Hockey

Board members are eligible for reimbursement for the clearances required by PAHL and USA Hockey. Please submit receipts within two weeks of payment to the treasurer.

GENERAL TEAM RULES

- RESPECT OF FAMILIES, TEAMMATES, COACHES, ADULTS, AND OFFICIALS, REGARDLESS OF THE SITUATION IS MANDATORY. DISRESPECT TO ANYONE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
- DRUGS, ALCOHOL, OR ANY ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE IS FORBIDDEN on Shady Side Academy property.
- HARASSMENT OR HAZING IS OFF-LIMITS IN OUR CLUB.
- ALL PLAYERS WILL ADHERE TO THE USA HOCKEY “[ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY](#).”
- ACCEPT CRITIQUES FROM THE COACHING STAFF WITHOUT ARGUMENTS OR ROLLING OF THE EYES. THAT’S A QUICK WAY TO THE BENCH.
- BE SUPPORTIVE OF TEAMMATES.
- COMMIT TO BEING A COMPETITOR.
- ACT ACCORDINGLY WHEN IN A PITTSBURGH AVIATORS HOCKEY UNIFORM.
- THINGS ALWAYS ARISE AND SOME ADJUSTMENTS NEED TO BE MADE. MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW E-MAIL AND/OR THE TEAM SPORTSENGINE APP TO BE AWARE OF ANY CHANGES.

LOCKER ROOM RULES

The locker room is an important part of the hockey program – it is here that important coaching, socializing, and team building takes place. These are some of the guidelines you must follow to maintain the privilege of the locker room:

- Players – Coaches respect that this is your locker room. Have pride in your locker room. Put trash in the garbage cans. Do not dispose of tape, papers, empty bottles, etc. under your bench. Leave your area cleaner than you found it.
- Be respectful of all locker room equipment.
- Treat the rink staff with due respect. Show your appreciation for the work they do to ensure there is a quality hockey facility for your use.
 - We are welcomed guests of every rink at which we will play. They have communicated to our Board members they expect appropriate conduct over the upcoming season. Please do not jeopardize our relationship with our key partners who continue to support the Aviators.
- Take pride in your game jerseys. They should be on hangers and should hang when not in use. Jerseys should NEVER be placed on the floor.
- Take care of your equipment. Equipment left in a bag with moisture and heat will produce mold and mildew.
- Wrestling, throwing objects and related behavior is unacceptable in the locker room.
- No one besides team members, coaches, and properly certified and credentialed team or league personnel are permitted in your locker room. If you see someone you don’t believe should be in your locker room, report them to your Coach or Team Manager.
- Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, are not permitted to be used in the locker rooms. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room.

PRACTICE PROTOCOL

The coaching staff wants all practice sessions to be a fun learning experience for the players yet see them as vital to team growth. Fun in the games is a result of the work done in practice. Players are expected to ask questions and will be measured to show improvement each week during the season. Coaches will help meet these expectations by doing what is necessary to ensure each player is giving his/her best for the team to reach its goal.

- Practice may include off-ice conditioning and video/chalk talk as well as on-ice.
- Full and/or proper equipment is required.
- No players are permitted on the ice without a Coach present.
- When the whistle blows during practice, all players are to stop any activity and immediately listen for the Coach's instruction. Always.
- Hustle is expected.
- While the Coach is talking, LISTEN, pay attention, and learn.
- Water breaks will be offered during instructional periods between drills. Water breaks are not typically taken during drill time as it will cause a break in the flow of the drill.
- All Coaches will be available after practice to speak individually with parents and/or players as needed.
- Respect for the facilities and related staff will be shown always.
- Be on the ice on time.
- Off-ice and meetings are held to the same standards.
- Do not shoot pucks while Coaches are talking. It's dangerous and disrespectful.
- Goaltenders are to practice the same as everyone else.

GAMEDAY PROTOCOL

Game days are the opportunity to showcase the individual and team skills developed during practice time. Players, parents, and Coaches need to take game situations seriously with the understanding that the team comes first in all situations regarding game time. Game time preparation is critical to perform at peak levels.

- Be at the rink at least one hour before game time for warm-ups – unless otherwise instructed.
- Off-ice warm-up gear is required. If you can't warm-up you may lose playing time.
- Captains will conduct a Coach approved pre-game off-ice and on-ice warm-up (Note: Captains may be established at the 14U and up age group).
- All players will be half dressed 30 minutes prior to the game.
- Fully dressed 15 minutes prior to the game.
- All electronic devices are shut off when in the locker room.
- When Coaches are speaking, no one is doing anything but listening.
- If you forget any equipment or part of the uniform, you may get a replacement before the game starts.
- Playing time is not guaranteed. If you aren't happy with your playing time, bad attitudes will affect your ability to gain more playing time. During games is the wrong time to address playing time questions. You are expected to maintain a positive attitude for the team's sake. Any player causing distractions will be asked to leave the bench for the rest of the game.
- During the game, ice time for players may not be equal. Game situations will determine how much on-ice time each player receives. Decisions are at the sole discretion of the head coach and are expected to be made to benefit the team.
- During the game, good sportsmanship will be the driving force for the team. Players will be

disciplined by the Coaching staff for demonstrating poor sportsmanship, taking selfish penalties, and showing disrespect to other opponents, Coaches, officials, or teammates.

- Positive reinforcement for one another is expected. A player criticizing a teammate is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Only the Captain, Alternate Captains (14U and up) and Coaches will speak with officials. Contact with referees and linesmen by players and/or a parent is forbidden by USA Hockey, PAHL, and the Pittsburgh Aviators Hockey Association (PAHA).
- After each game, all players are expected to line up and shake the hand of the opposing team.
- 24 Hour Rule. For the 24 hours following the conclusion of a game, parents/guardians are not to approach any member of the Coaching staff to discuss specific player issues. During this time, parents/guardians should discuss any concerns with the determined Team Manager.

Captains and Alternates – Selection Criteria (14U and up only)

In the event that teams choose to utilize a captain and alternates, a new team captain as well as two (2) alternate captains may be chosen by the team and coaching staff each season. Criteria for selecting the captain and alternate captains – A player that:

- Works hard during all ice time.
- Inspires the team.
- Knows the rules of hockey.
- Leads by example.
- Knows when it is time to be serious and focus.
- Can communicate with referees in a mature, polite manner.
- Pushes the team to be the very best.
- Continuously reinforces positive effort.
- Communicates with the coaching staff in a mature manner.
- Obeys all team, community, and parental rules and guidelines.
- May not necessarily be the most talented player on the team.

Scheduling

Games and practice schedules will be set according to the ice time slots available as provided pursuant to the terms and conditions of the ice time with the facility. Schedules will be distributed by your Team Manager, and Crossbar. Schedules are subject to change.

Equipment

Players and Coaches must comply with USA Hockey, Mid-Am, and PAHL guidelines whenever they are on the ice or on the bench. This includes the use of mouthpieces, neck guards, helmets, etc. at all levels of play; mouthpieces need not be attached to the facemask of the player's helmet. Failure to comply with any rule, regulation or policy regarding equipment will result in disciplinary action.

Purchase and maintenance of game jerseys and socks, and shells are the sole responsibility of the player and parent/legal guardian. A player may be required to purchase new jerseys and socks to maintain uniformity within the PAHA. Teams may, if parents/legal guardians mutually agree, purchase additional apparel for team use.

Communications

It is the responsibility of a player's parent/legal guardian to submit questions, concerns or other material issues to his/her Team Manager. In the event of a blatantly insufficient, conflicting interest, or non-answer, the issue then will be submitted to his/her Team Liaison. The Team Liaison will then submit the query to the Board. It is the goal of the Board to address all reasonable questions, concerns and other material issues of all members.

Although the PAHA Board of Directors will attempt to informally address questions, concerns and material issues, formal action may be taken only upon written request to the Board. The PAHA will not respond to anonymous questions, concerns, or accusations.

The PAHA Board will keep you informed of team activities and celebrate accomplishments throughout the season. You can expect to receive many updates via email and social media. If your team and/or player have something positive to share, we encourage you to coordinate those communications through your Team Manager or at-large board member for all to enjoy.

Team Manager

In many ways, the Team Manager takes on the hardest job for the season. Please remember your Team Manager is a volunteer and fellow parent who will serve in many capacities to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants. He/she will be your communication conduit with the Coach and will provide information regarding ice scheduling, fundraising PAHA functions. With the Coach, the Team Manager will coordinate information and activities regarding tournaments.

It is vitally important for parents/legal guardians to assist Team Managers as scorekeepers, penalty-box attendants, admissions and time-clock managers. It is expected that all parents/legal guardians assist as may be necessary.

Team Liaison

Your Team Liaison will be your unbiased bridge for *individual* issues between your Team and the Board. Please remember your Team Liaison is a volunteer and fellow parent who will serve in many capacities to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants. The Team Liaison is the second line of contact in resolving individual concerns. As previously stated, parent/guardians initial contact will be with your Team Manager. He/she will be your communication conduit with the Board and will provide informal submissions of interest or concern.

Financial

Satisfaction of all financial obligations to the PAHA is the sole responsibility of the player and his/her parent/legal guardian. Upon acceptance of a roster position, accounts in Crossbar have been set for all players, which note the payment amounts and due dates for the season. Any financial obligation is deemed unfulfilled if delinquent for a period more than two (2) weeks. Any unfulfilled financial obligation shall be the basis of denial of access to all practices, games, tournaments, and other PAHA functions until the obligation is fulfilled.

Should it be necessary for the PAHA to initiate a suit to recover any unfulfilled financial obligation, the PAHA is entitled to all interest, costs, penalties and attorney's fees as permitted under applicable law. No fees are refundable and no financial obligation due the PAHA may be waived.

Should a family sustain some documented financial "hardship", upon written request to the PAHA Treasurer, the PAHA Board of Directors may consider some compromise of financial obligation including individual payment plans.

Treasurer's Notices:

All registration and commitment fees are due and must be paid in full to the PAHA before any player can participate in practice, games, tournaments and other PAHA functions. All other payments are due on dates as specifically scheduled by the PAHA Treasurer.

Crossbar may charge a fee for any returned payments. Until payment of any unpaid check, as well as the fee associated therewith is made, the player will be deemed to have an unfulfilled financial obligation, which shall be the basis of denial of access to all practices, games, tournaments and other PAHA functions.

Photography/Video

Pittsburgh Aviators may photograph, video record, or otherwise capture images at events, programs, and activities for use in promotional materials, social media, websites, newsletters, and other communications. By participating in our events or programs, you acknowledge and agree that your image or likeness may be used by the Pittsburgh Aviators without compensation. If you prefer not to have your photo or image used, you are responsible for notifying us in writing prior to the start of the season. Please contact your team manager and team social media coordinator to opt out. We will make reasonable efforts to honor all opt-out requests.

CODES OF CONDUCT



Coaches Code of Conduct

The Pittsburgh Aviators Hockey Association (PAHA) expects Coaches to set the example and conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner.

1.0 Policy

PAHA coaches will adhere to the policies and procedures set forth by USA Hockey. Our Coaches code of conduct policy is as follows:

- Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one. Care more about the child than winning the game. Remember, players are involved in hockey for fun and enjoyment.
- Be a positive role model to your players. Display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of players.
- Be generous with your praise when it is deserved; be consistent and honest; be fair and just; do not criticize players publicly; learn to be a more effective communicator and coach; don't yell at players.
- 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; teach players the basics.
- Organize practices that are fun and challenging for your players. Familiarize yourself with the rules, techniques and strategies of hockey; encourage all your players to be team players.
- Maintain an open line of communication with your players' parents. Explain the goals and objectives of your association.
- Be concerned with the overall development of your players. Stress good health habits and clean living. To play the game is great, to love the game is greater

Coaches should also be in compliance with USA Hockey's Coaching Ethics Code:

[COACHING ETHICS CODE](#)

2.0 Compliance

Failure to comply with the PAHA Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary actions. Compliance with the Coaches Code of Conduct will be subject to Coaches on the Bench and observations by Board members and Team Managers.

3.0 Disciplinary Actions

The violations and disciplinary actions are at the sole discretion of the board and do not need to be sequential or consecutive. In other words, depending on the severity of the violation, a Coach may receive any level of discipline.

4.0 Documentation & Records Management

All violations will be recorded through written correspondence delivered to the Coach and the Board. Compliance will be enforced through the SafeSport Director, Board member.

Coaches Compensation Structure

1.0 Head Parent Coaches

A parent head coaches' first player receives free tuition. Each subsequent player receives a \$200 sibling discount unless the subsequent player is a goalie. In the case the subsequent player is a goalie no additional discounts are given.

2.0 Head Paid Coach

Head coaches that are not parent coaches will be paid by the association the amount equivalent to the current year player tuition. Any additional costs associated with the paid coaches "salary" will be covered by the team.

3.0 Assistant Coaches

Each team may have up to 3 assistant coaches who receive a \$200 stipend to be paid out in December.

Coaching Jackets

Each head coach and up to 3 assistant coaches will be given coaching jackets upon joining the Aviators. Every 2 years coaches are eligible for a new coaching jacket.

Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct

1.0 General

The Pittsburgh Aviators Hockey Association (PAHA) expects parents and spectators to conduct themselves in a respectful manner. Parents and spectators will treat other spectators, players, family members, Coaches and team administrators with respect and dignity.

At a minimum, the PAHA will adhere to the policies and procedures set forth by [USA Hockey and Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League \(PAHL\) rules](#). Any offense will be dealt with the PAHA Board and/or PAHL Rules Committee.

Hockey is an emotional sport. The physical battles that occur as players fight for control of the puck can spill onto the bench and stands and create strong reactions from the players, Coaches, parents and other participants. This intentional emotional aspect of hockey is one of the reasons it is such an exciting and entertaining game.

For parents and spectators, it is important to separate the game's emotions from the best interests of their child's sport development. For this reason, a 24-hour rule has been adopted by the PAHA as a "cooling off" period. Our 24-hour rule stipulates that no parent, spectator, Board member or Coach should discuss any try-out related situations, game, or game incident or situation that occurred during the event that has provoked an adverse emotional response or hostile situation until at least 24 hours after the fact.

The intent of this rule is to move an emotional and confrontational discussion away from the presence of any player, spectator, Coach or Board member. This allows the parties involved to "cool off", compose themselves, and put the provoking incident or situation into perspective before meeting to discuss it.

NOTE: this "cooling-off" rule does not apply to any SafeSport or other Player Safety issues requiring prompt evaluation. As safety is paramount, any situation, as such, should be directed to our SafeSport Director or any other member of the Board of Directors immediately so they can be adequately addressed.

2.0 Policy

Our parent/spectator code of conduct applies the USA Hockey "[Zero Tolerance Policy](#)" as follows:

- This Zero Tolerance Spectator Conduct Policy (hereinafter "Policy") aims to eliminate inappropriate, disruptive and abusive behavior by spectators directed at game officials, players, coaches, spectators and other participants during PAHA sanctioned events.
- A spectator shall include any parent, sibling, family member of a participant or fan of a Pittsburgh Aviators team or Association (hereinafter "Spectator"). Should any Spectator be removed from a USAH sanctioned event or later be found to have used inappropriate, disruptive and abusive behavior (described below in Items 1 through 3, hereinafter "Abusive Conduct") towards officials, players, coaches, spectators or other participants at a USAH sanctioned event, that Spectator shall be subject to disciplinary action as prescribed below.
 - 1. Use of obscene, profane, or abusive language or gestures towards officials, players, coaches, spectators or other participants.
 - 2. Taunting of officials, players, coaches, spectators or other participants by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
 - 3. Throwing any object in the spectators' viewing area, players' bench, penalty box or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.
- The game will be stopped by game officials when parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game.
- The game officials will identify violators to the Coaches for the purpose of removing

parents/spectators from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced, and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body (i.e., PAHL).

Spectators shall be subject to the following disciplinary action whether the removal is by a game official, security personnel, facility personnel, or Association personnel, or if the alleged Abusive Conduct is investigated after the fact by the Association and or USAH and found to be true in accordance with the following evidentiary standard. If, after removal or upon investigation after the fact, such alleged Abusive Conduct is found to have occurred by a preponderance of evidence, the following disciplinary action shall be imposed on the Spectator(s) that were removed and/or found to have committed Abusive Conduct during a USAH sanctioned event.

3.0 Compliance

Compliance will be enforced through the SafeSport Director Board member.

4.0 Disciplinary Actions

- First Offense - a suspension from all events involving the Association for a minimum of fourteen (14) days to a maximum of thirty (30) days;
- Second Offense - a suspension from all events involving the Association for a minimum of thirty (30) days to a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) days
- Third Offense- a suspension from all events involving the association until a decision has been rendered from an USA Hockey Affiliate hearing.
- All suspension periods shall run from the date of the incident in question.
- Further, if a parent/spectator continues to receive minor violations at frequency or number that are perceived to be excessive by the Board; the parent/spectator may be referred to PAHL for investigation. The procedures within PAHL require attendance at a PAHL Rules Committee hearing(s) and can include fines of \$250.00 and suspension from games. Any fines issued are payable to PAHL.

5.0 Designation Of Spectator Monitor

- Each Team in PAHA shall be required to designate a volunteer(s) to serve as a parent/spectator monitor during all USAH sanctioned events. This designated monitor will address inappropriate spectator behavior prior to the situation escalating to the point it has an impact on the game by notifying security personnel and/or facility personnel.
- This designated monitor shall have the full support of PAHA and may call on facility management and/or game security to remove any spectator in violation of this Policy.
- The team manager shall be responsible to oversee the parent/spectator monitors for the Association.

6.0 REPORTING

Allegations of Abusive Conduct shall be reported using the attached Incident Report Form. The identity of reporters will be kept confidential. However, reporters must provide their name and valid contact information. Anonymous reports, especially those presented without corroborating evidence such as video, may not be to be acted upon at the sole discretion of PAHA.

- The PAHA will forward all Spectator Incident Report Forms to the Mid-Am District (administrator@midamhockey.com) for establishment of a record regarding the incident alleged.
- [Pittsburgh Aviators Zero Tolerance Spectator Incident Report - Google Docs](#)

7.0 References

Parents are strongly encouraged to review the information on USA Hockey's web site. In particular:

[USA Hockey Parents Code of Conduct](#) States - Do not force your children to participate in sports but support their desires to play their chosen sports. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.

- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, 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. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all its participants, your child will benefit.
- Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- Know and study the rules of the game and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.
- Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat, and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice - it is destructive.
- Work toward removing the 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.
- If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about hockey - and volunteer.

Player Code of Conduct

1.0 General

The Pittsburgh Aviators Hockey Association (PAHA) expects players to conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner. At a minimum, the PAHA will adhere to the policies and procedures set forth by the governing hockey body. Poor conduct leads to unsafe conditions and can result in discipline by the Board, the Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League (PAHL) and/or USA Hockey.

2.0 Policy

Our player code of conduct policy is as follows:

- No swearing or abusive language on the bench, in the rink or at team functions.
- No Lashing out at any official - no matter the call.
 - Coaches will handle all matters pertaining to officiating.
- Any player receiving a penalty will skate directly to the box.
- Fighting will not be tolerated.
- Players are expected to conduct themselves in a befitting manner in all facilities (ice rink, hotels, restaurants, etc.) during all team functions.
- Players will refrain from comments or behaviors, which are disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist or sexist.
 - Behavior, which constitutes harassment, abuse or bullying, will not be tolerated.

Any behavior/conduct that is deemed unsafe, irresponsible or unbecoming of an Aviator will not be tolerated.

3.0 Compliance

Compliance will be enforced primarily through the SafeSport/ Discipline Director but may be handled by PAHA executive board members. Failure to comply with the PAHA Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary actions.

4.0 Disciplinary Actions

Violations and disciplinary actions are at the sole discretion of the board and do not need to be sequential or consecutive. In other words, depending on the severity of the violation, a player may receive any level of discipline. Further, if a player continues to receive violations at frequency or number that are perceived to be excessive by the Coaches and/or the Board; the player may receive disciplinary actions up to and including team suspension.

5.0 Documentation & Records Management

All violations will be recorded through written correspondence delivered to the player and parent(s)

SafeSport & Player Safety

1.0 General

Pittsburgh Aviators Hockey Association (PAHA) places the safety and security of all our athletes in the highest regard. We adhere to the policies and procedures as prescribed by USA Hockey. Our organization applies these procedures through our SafeSport Director (SSD). The association's SSD is in place to assist in all facets of the Safe Sport program, to include communication, training, reporting and serve as the single point of contact for any related Safe Sport issue. The SSD works to ensure our kids operate in an environment that is free from all forms of abuse.

Our SSD role is expanded to include overall player safety which includes attention to our children's overall physical and emotional health. Our SSD is available to any player, parent, Coach, or manager across the entire program either through direct confidential contact or through any Board member. PAHA SafeSport policy is as follows:

- Required training for those that have regular, routine, or frequent access to or supervision over youth participants (e.g., board members, Coaches, managers, trainers, team administrators) across all levels of the Association.
- Are responsible for enforcing child abuse and misconduct policies.
- Are in managerial or supervisory roles.
- Are employees or volunteers.

Training is available to all at no cost. A membership number is required, but those not registered with USA Hockey may do so at no cost by registering as a manager/volunteer. Access the training at:

<http://www.usahockey.com/safesporttraining>

Documentation & Records Management

Participants are responsible to complete their own training and provide documentation to the PAHA Safe Sport Coordinator and Registrar prior to the start of each season. Participants that do not complete training or provide documentation must be restricted from participating in related PAHA activities.

2.0 Locker Rooms

Locker room supervision is one of the most critical elements to reducing risk of abuse or misconduct. Our organization plays at a number of rinks, using various locker rooms, rest rooms, and showers. As such, parents should plan for extra time and flexibility in planning for their child to dress, undress and shower if desired. Our team organizers will attempt to provide information on the type and condition of the facilities in advance. PAHA locker room supervision policy is as follows:

- Requires at least one properly screened and trained adult with access to the locker room – (two adults are preferred when available).
 - Avoid situations where an adult is alone with minor participants.
- Conduct a sweep of the locker room and changing areas prior to PAHA use.

- Coaches and team administrators may prohibit parents in locker room (subject to common sense or rink rules).
- Cell phones and recording devices/cameras may not be used in the locker room.
 - This includes the player's cell phones.
- Players, Coaches, and team administrators shall be courteous guests of the facility in which PAHA plays and abide by their rules and policies.
- Team personnel will secure the locker room appropriately during times when the team is on the ice.
- Coaches and team administrators are responsible for compliance.

3.0 Parents in Locker Rooms

Except for players at younger age groups, we strongly discourage parents from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a player needs assistance with his or her uniform, or gear, if the player is or may be injured, or a player's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that parents let the Coach know beforehand that he or she will be helping the player. Also subject to rink rules.

4.0 Cell Phone and Other Mobile Recording Devices

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, are not permitted to be used in the locker rooms. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room.

5.0 Social Media, Mobile and Electronic Communications Policy

Our association emphasizes participant safety. As such, communications involving our minor participants should be appropriate, productive and transparent. The use of mobile devices, web-based applications, social media and other forms of electronic communication increases the possibility for improprieties and misunderstanding and also provides potential offenders with unsupervised and potentially inappropriate access to participants. Adherence to the Social Media, Mobile and Electronic Communications policy helps reduce these risks. PAHA Social Media, Mobile, and Electronic Communication Policy is as follows:

- All electronic communication between Coach and players must be for the purposes of communicating information about team activities.
- All content between Coaches and players should be readily available to share with the public or families of the player.
- Communication involving participants should be appropriate, productive, and TRANSPARENT.
- Social media should be used for communicating team activities; not personal.
- Communications should be readily available to share with the public or families of the player or Coach.
- If the player is under the age of 18, any email, text, social media, or similar communication must also copy the player's parents.
- Coaches, team administrators, and the Director of Communications are responsible for compliance.
- The Director of Communications is also available for coordination/questions as necessary.

7.0 Resources

Clayton Eyler SafeSport Director

safesport@pghaviators.com

Pittsburgh Aviators Hockey Association Handbook Receipt Page

We have received and read the Pittsburgh Aviators Hockey Association Player/Parent/Legal Guardian Handbook and agree to adhere to the policies, rules, and regulations therein. Further we acknowledge that it is our responsibility to understand and participate in the organization per the policies, rules and regulations as outlined in the Handbook.

We also understand that any violations of the policies, rules and regulations referenced may result in disciplinary action including the administration of penalties such as suspension, expulsion, forfeiture of PAHA membership and/or participation in practice, games, tournaments and/or other PAHA functions.

PLAYER STATEMENT—As a player, I understand that by signing this document I accept my position on the team and will follow the principles, standards and regulations as set forth in this Handbook as well as the intent and purpose of all the policies of the PAHA. I do hereby agree to abide by the policies in this document and agree to the standards set forth by the association. I understand that non-compliance may negatively affect my participation as a player during the 2026-2027 season.

Player Signature: _____

Date: _____

Player Printed Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Printed Name: _____