



## LAKES AREA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

### Goalie Policy 2026-2027 Season

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to encourage players within the Lakes Area Hockey Association (LAHA) to explore and develop in the goalie position while providing support through equipment access, development opportunities, and clear expectations for players and families.

This policy promotes goalie development, improves retention at the position, ensures player safety, and provides a fair process for determining goalie placement when multiple players are interested in playing the position.

#### **Goalie Equipment**

LAHA will provide goalie equipment for players at the following youth levels when available:

- Mini-Mite / Mite
- Squirt
- PeeWee

Association-provided equipment may include:

- Leg pads
- Catch glove
- Blocker
- Chest protector
- Goalie pants
- Goalie stick
- Goalie Helmet

This equipment is intended for **shared team use** and must be returned to the association at the end of the season unless other arrangements are approved by the Board.

At the **Bantam and High School levels**, players are generally expected to provide their own goalie equipment, although limited association equipment may be available if needed. Players and families are responsible for ensuring equipment is properly cared for and returned in good condition.

#### **Goalie Selection Per Team**

LAHA will roster **a maximum of two (2) goalies per team** whenever possible.

If **two or fewer players** express interest in playing goalie at a given level, those players will be designated as the team's goalies for that season.

## **Goalie Tryout Policy**

If **three (3) or more players express interest in playing goalie at the same level**, a goalie evaluation will be conducted to determine the **two goalies who will roster for that team for the season**.

The evaluation process may include:

- Goalie-specific drills
- Game situation evaluations
- Coach feedback and observations
- Overall player readiness for the position

Evaluations may be conducted by:

- Team coaching staff
- Hockey Director
- Additional evaluators if necessary

Players not selected as one of the two goalies may:

- Be rostered as a **skater**, or
- Be considered for goalie placement on another team if appropriate.

The **LAHA Board of Directors and Hockey Director retain final authority** regarding goalie placement decisions if special circumstances arise.

## **Practice Rotation for Younger Levels**

At the **Mini-Mite and Mite levels**, LAHA encourages players interested in the goalie position to have opportunities to try the position during practices.

Coaches are encouraged to allow players to **rotate through the goalie position during practices** when appropriate and safe to do so.

The goals of this approach are to:

- Introduce players to the goalie position
- Encourage interest in future goalies
- Reduce early specialization pressures

Players rotating into the goalie position must wear appropriate goalie equipment and receive basic instruction.

## **Goalie Fee Reimbursement**

Due to the specialized nature of the goalie position and the additional equipment and development requirements, the **Lakes Area Hockey Association will offer a goalie registration fee reimbursement for Squirt level and above goalies**.

To qualify for reimbursement, the following conditions must be met:

- The player must be designated as one of the **primary goalies for the team for the season**.
- The player must play the **goalie position for at least 40% of their total ice time during the season**.
- Eligible goalies will receive **75% reimbursement of their Travel Hockey registration fee**.

In addition, the player's family must remain in good standing with the association:

- The family must **complete all required volunteer points**, or pay the required **volunteer buy-out fee**.
- The family must **complete all required fundraising obligations**, or pay the applicable **fundraising buy-out**.

**Goalie reimbursement will only be issued at the conclusion of the season once the association confirms that all volunteer and fundraising requirements have been satisfied.**

If a player changes positions during the season and no longer meets the **40% goalie participation requirement**, the reimbursement may be reduced or revoked at the discretion of the **LAHA Board of Directors and Hockey Director**.

### **Goalie Commitment Requirement**

To ensure fairness within the program, **players may not declare the goalie position solely for the purpose of receiving the goalie fee reimbursement**. Players designated as goalies are expected to demonstrate a genuine commitment to developing and playing the position throughout the season.

### **Goalie Development**

LAHA will work to support goalie development through:

- Goalie-specific instruction during team practices
- Goalie training sessions when available
- Encouraging participation in goalie clinics and development programs

Coaches are encouraged to incorporate goalie development drills into team practices whenever possible.

### **Equipment Care**

Players using association-owned goalie equipment are responsible for:

- Proper care and storage of equipment
- Reporting damage immediately
- Returning equipment at the end of the season

Families may be responsible for repair or replacement costs if equipment is lost or damaged due to negligence.

### **Policy Review**

This policy may be reviewed and updated by the LAHA Board of Directors as needed to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the association and its players.