



WAUPUN YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

2026-2027

PARENT HANDBOOK

www.waupunhockey.com



Table of Contents

Section	Page
President's Greeting	3
Mission Statement	4
Association Handbook	4
Executive and Board of Directors	5
Appointed Positions	5
Screening Policy	6
Authority	6
Work Hours Policy	6-8
Concession Stand	8
Zamboni Drivers	9
Additional Information & Policies	9-10
Equipment Policies	10
Public Skating	10
ProShop	11
End of year party Annual Meeting Youth Banquet	11
Fundraising	11
SCRIP	12
Coaches/Managers	12-13
Off Ice Officials	13
Director of Hockey Responsibilities	13
Tournaments	14
24-Hour Rule	14
Reporting Misconduct	15
Fair Ice Policy	15
Level of Play	16
Motivation/Discipline	16
Goalies	16



2026-2027 Waupun Hockey Association Presidents Greeting

Dear Members and Friends of the Waupun Hockey Association,

The 2026-2027 hockey season is upon us and I would personally like to welcome each skater, goalie, parent, coach, hockey fan, relative and friend to the Waupun Hockey Association. This year marks the 62nd year of our existence, and the 52nd year having the rink.

The Waupun Hockey Association has been around for this long due to the dedication of members and volunteers that help make it one of the finest in the state and one of the least expensive, in terms of operation and registration fees. Your Board of Directors have been working hard during the off season to make this one of the best hockey seasons yet. We are proactive in making sure our children have a place to learn this great game. Prior to the season we replaced the ammonia condenser for our cooling system. This will help the efficiency of our system and ensure we don't have a major mechanical failure for years to come. This year we are also starting a campaign to replace the in-floor cooling system. This will be a huge undertaking and comes at a very large expense. We will be doing more fundraising, seeking donations, and looking at every avenue to secure funding for this project. It will take everyone in our hockey family to make this a reality.

Team Managers will send out weekly practice and game schedules. You may also go to www.waupunhockey.com to view the game schedule and keep current with events. Ensure to check weekly emails for reminders on volunteer hours which are also listed on our website.

Fundraising is a big part of our association. Hockey Unlimited and our cookie sales were very successful fundraisers last year. A big "Thank You" goes out to each and every one of you for your help and support at these fundraisers. These events help us keep registration costs at one of the lowest levels in the State.

Remember the purpose of the Waupun Hockey Association (WHA) is to provide an affordable opportunity for children in the Waupun and surrounding communities to learn and play the game of hockey. We also strive to teach teamwork and sportsmanship, not only for our players, but for our parents as well. It is my hope that all parents and players show respect to opposing players, coaches, referees, and facilities as well as to our own. Keep in mind there are always "little eyes and ears" watching and listening not only at home in Waupun, but on the road as well. Encourage one another to make the Waupun Hockey Association an "example" that other associations strive to be like. If anyone has any questions, concerns or suggestions, feel free to contact me or any board member. We appreciate your input. Together, we can make this year the best hockey season yet!

Dana Kibbel

President



Waupun Hockey Association Mission Statement

The Waupun Hockey Association is a community-based, non-profit organization formed to instruct, promote and provide an affordable opportunity for our youth to compete in the sport of ice hockey.

As Board members, coaches, parents or players, we are committed, but not limited to...

Putting our children's interest first! Providing a positive and proactive environment of learning the great game of hockey. Promoting and developing mutual respect for our facility, for ourselves, our teammates, our coaches and our competition. Providing and promoting a safe environment for everyone Developing life skills through building character, self-reliance, teamwork, and the value of hard work and honesty Providing an environment where all members are welcome and encouraged to: ask questions, communicate concerns and offer suggestions. Striving for continuous improvement and forward thinking Remembering that we are only successful if our youth are having fun!

Waupun Hockey Association Handbook, Policies & Codes of Conduct

We provide this handbook to all WHA members to help with frequently asked questions. This book is located on our website and will not be handed out in a hard copy form. Any associated policies and codes of conduct are also located on our website. When registering players at the start of the season you are required to sign off that you have read and will abide by all applicable policies, procedures, codes of conduct and this handbook. Any infractions or violations may be subject to review and determination of the discipline committee.

While the policies and procedures are both reviewed and revised on an annual basis, the board still reserves the right to make changes or revisions after the handbook has been released. We will keep you informed of any changes or revisions that may occur.

Any policy, procedure or code of conduct not listed in this handbook shall be individually listed on our website. Including but not limited to team placement and player evaluation, codes of conduct, social media & electronic communications, player move up request, locker room policy, complaint form, disciplinary policy, concussion info & protocol, abuse policy, etc..



Waupun Hockey Association Board of Directors

Position	Name	Phone #	Term Ends [Spring]	E-mail
President	Dana Kibbel	920-979-1117	2028	waupunhockeypresident@gmail.com
Vice President	Tyler Loomans	920-296-2841	2028	mloomans21@gmail.com
Secretary	Kylie Tank	920-583-6442	2028	waupunhockeysecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Alec Brown	920-296-5587	2029	treasurerwaupunhockey@gmail.com
Director of Hockey	Adam Pulda	920-296-2274	2027	pulda.aj@gmail.com
Director	Lucas Dawson	608-617-6924	2027	dawson098@gmail.com
Director	Kyle Heckl		2029	kyheckl@icloud.com
Director	Nick Sanchez	262-822-1993	2027	Nicholas.sanchez32@gmail.com
Director	Brittany Falk	920-219-0931	2029	blynn213@gmail.com
Director	Angela Voigt	920-948-9869	2029	Angelak2@live.com
Director	Nick Tank	920-904-3416	2029	tanknick1316@gmail.com
Director	Ashley Duchac		2028	
Director	Kelly Docta		2028	
Director	Chris Huebel	920-319-0227	2027	chrish26@hotmail.com
Director	Kyle Giese	920-382-3599	2027	kylegiese0@gmail.com
Director	Mike Frieze	920-583-0540	2028	mwfrieze@gamil.com
Director	Cassidy VanBever		2027	cassidymeyermiszewski@gmail.com

** Election nominations and voting occur at the end-of-the year Banquet

2026-2027 Board Appointed Positions

Appointed Position	Name	Contact Info
Ice Scheduler	Lucas Dawson	608-617-6924
Tournament Director	Chris Huebel	920-319-0227
Recording Secretary	Kylie Tank	920-583-6442
Registration/Registrar	Kylie Tank	920-979-1117
Scrip Coordinator	Tiffany Schultz Kelly Docta	920-904-2260
Referee Coordinator	Mike Frieze	920-583-0540
Director of Hockey	Adam Pulda	920-296-2274
Concession Stand Manager	Nick Sanchez	262-822-1993
Banner Sales & Ice Advertising	Kylie Tank	920-583-6442
Rink Maintenance & Zamboni	Kyle Giese	920-517-1756
Compressor Maintenance	Brett Pribbenow	920-948-6512
Discipline Committee	WHA Board	920-979-1117
Equipment Manager	Nick Sanchez	262-822-1993
Work Hours Tracking	Tiffany Schultz Kelly Docta	920-904-2260
Pro Shop Attendant	Brittany Falk	920-219-0931
Youth Events	Brittany Falk	920-219-0931
Hockey Unlimited	Justine Koehoorn Angie Voight	920-296-8888 920-948-9869



Screening Policy

All board members, coaches and managers must conduct yearly Safesport training modules and pass a USA Hockey background check every two years. No person will be allowed to hold any of these positions without completing both. WHA has Adopted the USA hockey policy for Affiliate Screening Policies.

Authority

Authority Managers and Coaches, while acting in their official roles, are acting as an extension of WHA board members. They act as a liaison between members and the board. Their notifications, warnings and any disciplinary actions are authorized by the WHA board in accordance with all WHA policies, procedures and codes of conduct.

Waupun Hockey Association Mandatory Work Hours Policy

Work hours accumulate May through April each season. Work hours not completed will be billed at \$50 per hour at the end of April and must be paid before the start of the next season or your child will not be allowed on the ice. Please see expectations in each below work hour category that pertain to families with more than one child registered in youth hockey. You may donate hours worked to another family, but this must be noted on the sign in/sign out sheet.

	Atoms	Cross Ice	Squirt, PeeWee, Bantam	Buyout / Penalty for all levels
Hockey Unlimited (HU)	0	4 or \$75 donation	4 or \$75 donation	
Mandatory Work Hours for 1 child	4 hours to be worked at Public Skate only and 2 additional hours at any regular season tournament	22 hours total; 4 hours must be at a Special Event and 2 hours at any regular season tournament	30 hours total; 4 hours must be at a Special Event & 2 hours at high school games, additional hours based on needs of child's tournament	\$30 per hour for buyout or \$50 for any unworked
Mandatory Work Hours for 2 children	4 hours to be worked at Public Skate only and 2 additional hours at any regular season tournament + other appropriate level required hours.	30 hours total; 4 hours must be at a Special Event and 2 hours at any regular season tournament	40 hours total; 4 hours must be at a Special Event & 2 hours at J.V. or Varsity game additional hours based on needs of child's tournament	\$30 per hour for buyout or \$50 for any unworked
SCRIP	0	\$200 in gift cards	\$200 in gift cards	\$75



Mandatory Work Hours

Can be completed doing any of the following: glass cleaning, rink set up, ice painting, board take down, concessions, maintenance, home tournaments (other than your child's), board of director sub-committee, etc. Atoms are required to work 4 hours at public skate per family, other levels can still use public skate as volunteer hours, however Atoms will receive first choice.

Regular Season Tournament

Atoms and Cross Ice parents must work 2 additional hours at any regular season youth tournament, Squirt, Pee wee & Bantam parents will work all remaining hours of their child's tournament divided up amongst the team.

Hockey Unlimited Work Hours

Four (4) additional hours at our Waupun Hockey Unlimited (HU) Fundraiser event typically held in October. Families are required to work the event, solicit or contribute an auction item valued at \$75 or more. This is our fundraiser event that helps keep registration fees low.

Special Event Hours

Each family (squirt, pee wee, bantam) is required to work 4 of the mandatory work hours at one of the special events; Playdowns, State Tournament & alumni game(s) when hosting. (Celebrate Waupun & Ice Fest weekend also count)

J.V. and Varsity Games

Each family (squirt, pee wee, bantam) is required to work 2 of their mandatory hours at either an J.V. or Varsity game.

Note: Helping out with the time clock, score sheet, penalty box during your child's game does not count towards these hours. All parents are expected to take turns helping in those areas during their child's game.

Recording of Work Hours

- Each family will have a log sheet to record their work hours. These sheets will be kept in a binder in the downstairs office.
- When recording your hours, please print legibly. If the hours cannot be read, they will not be credited.
- Each family is responsible for scheduling their own work hours. Opportunities for work hours are usually posted on our website or will be sent out via email.
- It is the responsibility of each family to have a current email address on record with the registrar. **A Board member should verify and initial your sign in/out sheet to be credited the hours worked.



Buy Out Option

You may buy out your hours at \$30.00 per hour, which must be paid by September 1st. After September 1st hours may still be bought out at a rate of \$50.00 per hour.

Concession Stand Information

The Waupun Hockey Association is proud to offer quality skating programs at a reasonable cost to the youth in our area. Our concession stand provides a valuable and cost-effective opportunity to contribute to the funding of these programs. As all skaters benefit from this resource, we require each hockey family to contribute by assisting the association with the staffing of the concession stand throughout the season.

The concession stand schedule will be set up on our website. A copy will also be found in the concession stand.

- Members that do not sign up willingly will be assigned hours by the scheduler.
- It is the responsibility of each family to ensure that the WHA has the most updated email address.

A WHA Board Member (Rink Manager) will be there to open the stand for you. If you are the first person scheduled for the day, please do not hesitate to ask questions. When working the stand, please check the list of shift duties and/or closing procedures posted on the back of the door. The procedure for depositing money is posted by the cash drawer. There is NO free food, drinks, or IOU's.

If you cannot work your scheduled time, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. If you do not show up for your scheduled time the following will take place:

1. The Concession stand scheduler will confirm the "no show".
2. A fee of \$50.00/hour missed will be assessed. Your child will not be allowed to skate games until this fee is paid.
3. The time not worked will remain even with the fee paid.

Note: For safety concerns, it is important that a parent be present for the entire shift. During busy times, such as High School games and tournaments. Children will not be allowed in the stand on weekends, tournaments, or during High School games.

****Please contact the Concession Stand Manager with any other questions.***

Rink Managers are responsible for opening the concession stand as well as providing communication and assistance as needed. If you have any questions regarding stand policies or procedures, please feel free to contact a board member/rink manager.



ZAMBONI DRIVERS

Each team is **REQUIRED** to have **AT LEAST ONE** Zamboni driver (ie. squirt A - 1 driver, squirt B - 1 driver etc.) to resurface the ice before or after practices and games. Each resurfacing is equal to 30 minutes of mandatory volunteer hours. If you zamboni for sold ice games, it will be communicated to all trained drivers which games are sold ice, drivers will be paid \$15 for each time they zamboni. If paid for any time on the zamboni you can not count that as volunteer hours. WHA will not pay zamboni drivers for any regular season WHA games, sold ice only unless approved by the board.

If you are interested in learning how to operate the zamboni, please contact your team manager or a board member and we will get you set up for training.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & POLICIES

Waupun Hockey Association Board of Directors

The WHA board members oversee club operations. There are a total of 15-18 board members who are elected by the association members at the annual meeting. Executive officers of the Association consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. These positions are elected by the Board of Directors.

Any individual elected into the Board of Directors as the President must have previously held a board position for one full term prior to their President election.

Board of Director Meetings are open to all association members and attendance by the general membership is encouraged. Board meetings are typically held the third Wednesday of each month. Please feel free to contact any board member to inquire about the location or for more information.

Volunteer Screening

All board members, coaches, officials and team managers must complete proper Safesport training and pass a USA Hockey Background check. WHA does not approve any of these members to hold their position without a passing USA Hockey background check and completion of appropriate Safe Sport training module(s). This does not apply to general WHA members conducting normal volunteer hours.

Rink Clean Up

It is important that we respect and maintain our facility throughout the season. You and your team may be assigned rink clean up duties which include, but not limited to, removal of garbage, sweep or mop the bleachers, locker rooms and Pro Shop. Schedules and details will be communicated through team managers.



Safety Policy

Your safety and that of your children is very important to WHA. To provide and promote a safe environment for everyone, all members and visitors are required to follow all of WHA policies, procedures and codes of conduct. WHA is not responsible for watching/babysitting any minor children. It is the responsibility of all parents/guardians to watch over minors under their care.

All injuries within the WHA facility must have a physical report filled out immediately following the event. These report forms are found in the office binder. If a concussion is suspected, the concussion protocol must be followed.

All required safety equipment must be worn by WHA members under the age of 18 while on the ice during WHA related events. This applies to ice officials and coaches as well. No exemptions.

Equipment Policy

To help keep your costs down, WHA does have a limited supply of used equipment that may be checked out this year. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to see that the equipment is kept in good shape and returned at the end of the season. It is your responsibility to report any broken equipment and wash all equipment throughout the year and just prior to returning it. WHA reserves the right to financially bill families for equipment not returned on time or returned at all.

Public Skating

The ice rink is typically available for the public skating on Friday nights from 5:15pm- 6:45pm and Sunday nights from 4:45pm-6:45pm. On certain occasions, there may be additional public skating dates added. The dates and times of public skating will be posted on the website and are subject to change without notice.

Fees for Public Skating:

- Students - \$5.00
- Adults - \$5.00

****Price includes skates***

Due to the increase in the number of children attending, it would be appreciated if parents would remain to supervise their children. Public skating has a **ZERO** tolerance for bad behavior. If such behavior is observed the person will be asked to leave the facility.



Pro Shop Policy

WHA keeps several items and apparel for sale in the Pro Shop. WHA typically does not purchase and keep an inventory on most items. WHA utilizes multiple 3rd parties to stock the ProShop. They keep the inventory and we pay out for any sales accordingly. If items are not entered into the cash register properly or stolen WHA is responsible for the loss. WHA is not responsible for any unsold items as they belong to the 3rd party business.

WHA does require any 3rd party business to be a legitimate business with at least an LLC. No single individuals or parents etc. are allowed to sell homemade items in the pro shop. If a business would like to sell their products in the pro shop they can request to do so by contacting the board. No competing businesses, selling the same items, will be allowed in the pro shop.

End of the year party | Annual Meeting | Youth Banquet

This is an informal gathering for all members of WHA just prior to the ice going out. It typically consists of a “potluck” and the last opportunity to skate on the ice. This is also the time for Board member nominations. Coaches speak about and award players and teams. Board member elections take place. It typically occurs in late February or early March. Further information will be emailed and posted on the website toward the end of the season.

Fundraising

Fundraising efforts are a vital part of our organization. Rink operations and maintenance costs are extremely high, and to keep registration fees at a minimum, it is the responsibility of all members to actively participate in fundraising activities. Some of the programs that WHA participates in are:

Hockey Unlimited [HU]

This is an annual social event that typically involves a meal and fundraising opportunities, such as an auction and raffles, and occurs in the fall. The money raised at this event goes towards the rink's general operating costs. This helps keep yearly registration fees lower than other area rinks.

Cookie Sales

Each year players/parents are sent home with a cookie sales sheet to sell cookie dough. This brings money to the rink and to the player/parent. The money for the player/parent can be used for any registration fees and game socks. If a balance remains at the end of the player's youth career they can request a payout for any remaining balance via check payment from WHA.

Celebrate Waupun

Each year WHA participates in the “Celebrate Waupun” annual event and volunteers as bartenders etc.. This counts as part of your volunteer hours for the rink and also any tips made at the event goes to WHA. Currently any money raised/earned is going to our rink floor fundraiser.



SCRIP Program

To keep registration costs low, the Board of Directors has made SCRIP participation mandatory. Each family is required to purchase \$200 in SCRIP during the 2026-2027 season. Our hope is that once members start using SCRIP, they will continue purchasing gift cards through this program to save on next season's registration, as well as raise funds for WHA's rink maintenance. Instead of adding another major fundraiser like Hockey Unlimited, we have decided to focus our efforts towards making SCRIP a bigger fundraising program of Waupun Hockey Association.

- SCRIP participating retailers sell gift cards to the Waupun Hockey Association at a discount.
- Members buy the cards for full face value and redeem them at face value.
- WHA keeps half the discount as revenue and half goes into an account for your family, which may be used to offset your registration fees.
 - SCRIP account can be "cashed out" at any time with completion of the form submitted to the SCRIP Coordinator.
- Failure to participate in SCRIP will result in a \$75 buyout.
- Please see the Waupun Hockey website for more information or contact Tiffany Schultz, SCRIP coordinator, at whascrip@gmail.com or 920.904.2260.

COACHING/MANAGERS

Application and Selection Procedures for Coaches and Managers

- The Hockey Director solicits volunteers for coaching candidates. The Hockey Director functions as a liaison between the WHA Board, the coaches, and the Hockey Development Committee.
- Anyone is welcome to apply for a coaching or manager position. At the time of application a background check form (USA Hockey/Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association Sexual and Physical Abuse Policy) must be completed. Once the background check is passed the applicant will be added to the list of potential coaches or managers.
- The Board will consider USA Hockey coaching level attained, years of coaching experience, general hockey experience, and other relevant factors when making selections. Coaches and Managers are governed by the WHA Board of Directors with input from the Hockey Director.
- The Director of Hockey will recommend coaches for each team and the WHA Board of Directors will approve coaches and team managers by voting at a Board Meeting. Coaches are strongly encouraged to express their interest in coaching to the Hockey Director before the September meeting.



Student Coach

- WHA will also allow the use of student coaches per the USA Hockey Policy. The student coach must follow the USA Hockey Policy including SafeSport requirements. WHA requires the student coach to be registered with USA Hockey and can only coach two levels or more below their current level (i.e. 14U/Bantam > 12U/Peewee > 10U/Squirt > 8U/Mite). Student coaches must be approved by the Director of hockey and will not hold a position of “Head Coach”.

Off-Ice Officials

- The Penalty Box Operator, Game Timekeeper, and Official Scorer are official USAH off-ice duties. These off-ice officials are considered an extension of the on-ice officiating team. Every family is expected to contribute time serving in off-ice roles, managers will be in charge of ensuring each family participates. Off-ice officials are expected to familiarize themselves with their duties before the game. Team managers will provide training to those who are learning their responsibilities. Off-ice officials are held to a higher standard than the fans in the stands and shall not dispute the rulings of the on-ice officials, disrupt the game or criticize players, coaches, or on-ice officials. They also may not coach or cheer for players from the scorer’s bench or the penalty box. The minimum age for an off-ice official is 18 years old.

Director of Hockey / Hockey Director

A Director of Hockey / Hockey Director will be appointed by the Board of Directors whose duties will include:

- Organize and develop, at a minimum, two coaching meetings for all coaches and instructors prior to the start of the season and regular meetings during the season.
- Evaluate and/or supervise coaches by offering constructive criticism at a minimum, two practice sessions per team. First evaluation to be held before December 31st, with follow up evaluation(s) at “ACE” Coordinators discretion. The Hockey Director will intervene if he perceives there to be a problem.
- Plan, Develop and Organize Specialty Clinics. The Hockey Director may recruit help in administrative duties, camp, clinics, and workshops; however, any monetary settlement rendered to specialists recruited must be pre-approved by WHA Board of Directors.
- Establish and maintain an association resource center for coaches, instructors and players.

Although the Hockey Director serves as support and a resource to all coaches and instructors, the WHA Board of Directors retains full control in selection of coaches.



Tournaments

- Tournament Director will be appointed by the President and responsibilities will include:
 - Set dates for Home Tournaments
 - Schedule games
 - Purchase awards and patches
 - Register teams
- Fees charges for home tournaments will be determined by level.
- Tournament Clean-Up
 - Team/teams hosting tournaments are responsible for rink clean up throughout the weekend and following Sunday's last game.
- The WHA away tournament allowance for each team is **\$1,000 per season**. [1 per team Cross-Ice - Bantam] If a team wants to register for a tournament that exceeds the amount, they must first get approval from the board. If they register prior to approval the difference in cost will fall back on the individual who registered with the team.

Note: If a team does not host a tournament that is scheduled for them, WHA will not contribute towards an away tournament and that expense will fall on the coaches and parents of that team. This applies to Squirt, Peewee and Bantams. WHA will sponsor 1 away tournament for A.T.O.M.S. and Cross Ice/Mite level teams with no home tournament requirement, these teams must get executive board approval prior to registering for any tournament.

24-Hour Rule

WHA has adopted a "24-hour rule" in that coaches, team managers, parents, spectators will not discuss a game or situation until at least 24 hours after it occurs. Parents or spectators should take this time to "cool off" prior to submitting a complaint. This important rule does two things. First, it moves the discussion away from the presence of the players. Second, it allows all parties to have time to put things into perspective and "cool off" if necessary.

Note: This rule does not apply if there is reason to believe without notification or actions taken immediately it may result in additional harm, physical or mental, or the incident is illegal and/or a required reportable offense.



Reporting Misconduct

Alleged improper conduct by anyone, including spectators, players, parents, and coaches, on or off the ice, is subject to review by the Disciplinary Committee. If an alleged violation occurs the first step is to report it to the head coach or team manager of the team, either verbally or in writing by text or email.

If violations continue or involve a coach or manager, a formal complaint form must be delivered to an executive Board member by the complainant, as soon as possible following the 24hr rule of the alleged violation.

The Board will then meet to review the complaint and decide on a course of action to be taken. If any violations are substantiated, action will be taken per the Disciplinary Policy.

Violation(s) of misconduct are taken seriously by the board and it is the Board's preference to handle any complaints internally unless the level of the violation needs/requires outside party involvement.

Complainants have the right to submit complaints to WAHA or SafeSport if the board fails to address the violation(s), or if the violation(s) involve a board member. The board encourages the complainant to, at minimum, notify the board when submitting a complaint to WAHA or SafeSport. Submitting complaints to WAHA or SafeSport is a right to the parent/guardian and WHA will not prevent, discourage or retaliate against the complainant. We only ask to be notified when complaints are filed.

Similarly, if a situation arises at another rink or involving a team or member from outside of WHA a complaint form should be filled out and sent to a WHA board member. The board will meet and decide on a proper course of action. No one other than a WHA board member should be contacting another association regarding a complaint.

"FAIR ICE" POLICY

Meaning of "Fair Ice"

"Fair ice" does not mean "equal ice" in each game. The flow of the game, penalties, power plays and penalty killing may occasionally result in unequal playing times in a particular game. In addition, some teams may carry two lines of defense and three lines of forwards that will obviously result in different playing times between defensemen and forwards. Further, coaches may choose to use certain players during the last few minutes of a close game to give the team its best chance to win. This could result in some players finishing the game with more ice time than other players. Coaches are, however, encouraged to fully use all players as "specialty" situations (e.g. power play, penalty killing, etc.) develops players and is strongly encouraged. For these reasons, ice time may not be equal in each and every game.



Level of Play

The level that a team plays may also have an impact upon playing time. “Cross-Ice” level teams should have nearly equal ice times among all players. On the other hand, “Bantam” level teams may be in more games where ice times differ among players and may require the stronger players on the ice more at the end of some games. However, even among the older teams, the goal remains to give all players fair amounts of ice and a variety of game experiences, taking into account the competitive nature of play.

Motivation/Discipline

Motivation and discipline may also affect ice time. Coaches may use a player’s ice time as a motivation/disciplinary tool, either for violations of team rules, repeated failures to follow directions or lack of “hustle” during a game. When this occurs, the coach should explain to the player how he/she failed to meet the coach’s expectations and the impact that this will have on the player’s ice time. As is always the case, motivational/disciplinary actions should be applied consistently and without reward to the perceived “importance” of a player to a team. A coach may suspend a player for up to one game at his or her discretion. However, any such disciplinary action by the coach beyond one game must be approved by the WHA board. Coaches may address other issues, such as misbehavior and assess other discipline tactics such as requiring community service hours to a player. Coaches should confer with the board with any “new” forms of motivation/discipline prior to implementing them.

Goalies

In general, the “fair ice” policy applies to goalies. However, it is left to the coaches to decide how to rotate goalies on teams with more than one. Coaches may choose to play both goalies in one game. The coach may also choose to play goalies game-by-game. In the latter situations, coaches are not required to play goalies in alternating games. Coaches may choose to play a goalie in consecutive games so long as the games played during the course of the season roughly even out between the goalies. This is not considered disciplinary action, as discussed above, and will not normally involve the WHA Board.