



Thunderbird Youth Hockey Handbook, Version 1.0

Effective Date: July 2026

Approved By the Board of Directors July 13, 2026

Parent & Player Handbook // 2026-27

This handbook provides an outline of Thunderbird Youth Hockey Association (TYH). Please take the time to acquaint yourself with the information shared within this handbook, as it will be invaluable to understanding policies, procedures, expectations and guidelines of TYH. Since players, parents, guardians, family members and volunteers are an integral part of our association, it is important you have as much information as possible about the program.

We are extremely excited for the upcoming season and look forward to a rewarding experience for all!

~ TYH Board of Directors

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PROJECTED 2026-27 SEASON TIMELINE

TYH Registration Opens	July 15, 2026
TYH Mites/Mini-Mites Rental Equipment Pick-up	Mid-end August 2026-check email & social media for date/time
Learn to Skate Sessions	September – October; November – December; January - February
2026-27 TYH Ice Contract Begins	September 29, 2026
2026-27 TYH Pre-Season Begins in Lake Delton	Week of Sept. 14, 2026
TYH Team Apparel Fundraiser Opens / Ends	Early October
TYH Squirt / Pee wee / Bantam Tryouts <i>*Eligible Mite players interested in trying out for Squirt level, must attend Squirt tryouts instead of Mite practice that week.</i>	Tryouts and Evaluations will take place in early October <i>*Subject to change</i>
DIBs Opportunities Begin	Summer 2026
TYH League Games Begin	First weekend in November
TYH Team Photos	Mid-November/Late December 2026
TYH Calendar Raffle Tickets Due	November 20, 2026 <i>*Date subject to change</i>
TYH Calendar Raffle Ticket Drawing	December, January, February – Monthly Winners – First Saturday of the month
TYH Board Nomination Notice	Late January 2027 (no more than 90 days out from annual meeting)
Battle for the Biscuit	January 8-10, 2027
Thunderbird Throw Down	December 4-6, 2026
WAHA Playdowns (Squirt/Pee wee/Bantam)	February 2027 Squirt A (3A 10U): Squirt B (3B 10U): Pee wee A (3A 12U): Pee wee B (3B 12U): Bantam A (3A 14U):
WAHA State Tournaments	Bantam A (3A 14U): February 27-28, 2027 @ Black River Falls Squirt A (3A 10U): Feb. 28-March 1, 2027 @ Reedsburg/WI Dells Squirt B (3B 10U): Feb. 28-March 1, 2027 @ Baldwin Pee wee A (3A 12U): March 7-8, 2027 @ Rhinelander Pee wee B (3B 12U): March 7-8, 2027 @ Hayward
TYH Ice Out	March 2027



ABOUT THUNDERBIRD YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Thunderbird Youth Hockey Association (TYH) is a non-profit hockey program, serving youth ages in preschool through 9th grade residing in Baraboo and Portage communities. TYH is a Division 3; Region 4 association of the Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association (WAHA) and plays in the Wisconsin State Tournament upon qualification.

MISSION

To provide a positive youth hockey experience for players of all skill levels and backgrounds, while developing lifetime skills of commitment, work ethic, teamwork and physical fitness.

CORE VALUES

(adopted from USA Hockey; guides the TYH in planning, programming and play)

Sportsmanship: Foremost of all values is to learn a sense of fair play, become humble in victory, and gracious in defeat. We will foster friendship with teammates and opponents alike.

Respect for the individual: Treat all others as you expect to be treated, including your coach and game officials.

Integrity: We seek to foster honesty and fair play beyond mere strict interpretation of the rules and regulations of the game.

Pursuit of excellence at the individual, team and organizational levels: Each member of the organization, whether player, parent, coach,

volunteer or staff, should seek to perform each aspect of the game to the highest level of his or her ability.

Enjoyment: It is important for the hockey experience to be fun, satisfying and rewarding for all participants.

Loyalty: We aspire to teach loyalty to the ideals and fellow members of the sport of hockey.

Teamwork: We value the strength of learning to work together. The use of teamwork is reinforced and rewarded by success in the hockey experience.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The TYH Board of Directors consists of 12 members who each serve a three (3) year term. An annual election takes place at the end of each hockey season. Four individuals make up the Executive Committee: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Executive Committee is elected annually by the Board. For additional detail about these positions please see TYH bylaws or reach out to a board member.

BOARD POSITION	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE	TERM EXPIRES
President	Greg Sarnow	president@thunderbirdyouthhockey.com	608-547-5498	2029
Vice President	Lauren Schomer	hello@thunderbirdyouthhockey.com	608-512-7885	2028
Secretary	Jessica Baldauf	jessica@thunderbirdyouthhockey.com	608-290-2516	2028
Treasurer	Stephanie Kimpfbeck	Treasurer@thunderbirdyouthhockey.com	608-477-3509	2028
Registrar	Kate Anger-Seep	Kate@thunderbirdyouthhockey.com	608-963-2846	2027
Culture Education Liaison	Emily Dreher	Emily@thunderbirdyouthhockey.com	608-963-7345	2029
Safety Officer	Jakob Haase	Jakob@thunderbirdyouthhockey.com	405-201-8645	2028
Member	Ian Crammond	ian@thunderbirdyouthhockey.com	608-770-3899	2028
Member	Aaron Stieve	Aaron@thunderbirdyouthhockey.com	608-745-2767	2029
Member	Kari Due	Fundraising@thunderbirdyouthhockey.com	608-547-4976	2027
Member	Kyle Ustianowski	Kyle@thunderbirdyouthhockey.com	608-393-2098	2027
Member	Joe Seep	Joe@thunderbirdyouthhockey.com		2027

GOVERNING BODIES

USA Hockey Inc., is the national governing body for the sport of ice hockey in the United States. As such, its mission is to promote growth of hockey and provide the best possible experience for all participants by encouraging, developing, and administering the sport. For more info, please visit: usahockey.com

Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association (WAHA) is the state governing body for the sport of ice hockey. WAHA sets forth boundaries and guidelines for all of Wisconsin Youth Hockey Associations in its membership.

WAHA exists to; encourage, improve, and promote the standards and extent of ice hockey in the state of Wisconsin; conduct ice hockey tournaments and to select representative teams for competition in regional and national tournaments; to encourage youth in the development of high school hockey; and to do any and all acts necessary or desirable in the furtherance of the foregoing purposes. For more info please visit WAHA.

LEVELS

LEARN to SKATE / ages 3-8

This level is designed as a learn-to-play-hockey program. Early development is essential for acquiring fundamental movement skills. The learn to skate program provides practice-based opportunities for players so they become comfortable and confident while on skates and wearing hockey equipment.

MITE /6U 8U

This level is designed to refine fundamental movement skills and begin to acquire basic hockey skills. The cross-ice games emphasize fun and vary in levels of competitiveness. Scoring is uncommon at the earlier phases of the age group and may be present at the more advanced levels of the group. Teams, consisting of “red”, “white” and “blue” groups, will generally play 20 games in league and compete in tournament-style play.

SQUIRT / 10U

This level is designed for coordination development and fine-motor control. There is more focus on positioning, puck control and greater skating control. Players should begin to transfer skills and concepts from practice to games. Checking is not permitted, but competitive contact is taught and encouraged. Teams will generally play 25 to 35 games.

PEEWEE / 12U

This level is designed for accelerating coordination development and increased fine-motor control. Group interaction, team building, competition and a balance of practices and games promotes continued development and mastery of skills. Checking is not permitted, but competitive contact is refined and encouraged. Teams will generally play 30 to 40 games.

BANTAM / 14U

This level is designed for increased competition, emphasized training and the continued development of speed, strength and stamina. Practices and games continue to develop hockey-specific skills along with both individual and group tactics. Checking is permitted at this level, so players are taught when checking is appropriate during the course of play, how to check correctly and how to take a check safely. Teams will generally play 35 to 45 games.

(teams are subject to change based on participation numbers and levels, evaluations required for Squirt, Peewee & Bantam levels)

REGISTRATION

Every player who desires to participate in the TYH program must register annually. Please visit our website for further information and registration information by visiting www.thunderbirdyouthhockey.com. All registration forms must be completed at time of registration. Please note, a player will not be allowed on the ice unless these forms have been completed.

USA HOCKEY REGISTRATION

TYH requires all players to be registered with USA Hockey online at usahockey.com. USA Hockey charges a yearly registration fee. Once completed, a registration number is given which is required to register players for any TYH program, camp, or clinic as proof they are registered and insured.

TYH REGISTRATION

The goal of TYH is to provide the best program at the most reasonable cost to its participants. Each player who wishes to participate in a TYH program must pay a registration fee as determined by the Board of Directors. These fees work to cover some of the cost associated with ice time for tryouts, practices and games. Payment of registration fees can be made online with a credit card, checking account or savings account. Registration fees can be paid in full or in a payment plan. If payments do not process for any reason during the season, families MUST rectify the payment immediately or the skater may be subject to removal from the ice until the account is rectified.

Learn to Skate // \$75/session

MITE // \$325

SQUIRT // \$500 **PEEWEE** // \$525 **BANTAM** // \$525

GIRLS ONLY // \$225

Season runs from October - early March.

IMPORTANT NOTES // WAHA rules regarding player eligibility are based on residency. Any desire to transfer in/out of designated association requires Tier II Player Release form completion. It can then be presented to the TYH Board of Directors for consideration and board approval. The player release form can be found here: [Tier II Player Release Form](#)

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Each player is personally responsible for wearing protective equipment for all games, warm-ups and practices. Such equipment should include gloves, shin and elbow pads, shoulder pads (chest protector), padded hockey pants (breezers), protective cup, tendon pads plus all head protective equipment as required by USA Hockey. It is recommended that all protective equipment be designed specifically for ice hockey.
- All protective equipment, except gloves, padded hockey pants, helmet/facemask and goalkeeper's leg guards, must be worn under the uniform.
- All players, including goalkeepers, are required to properly wear a HECC approved helmet as designed by the manufacturer and with no alterations and chin strap properly fastened.
- All players, including goalkeepers, are required to wear a facemask certified by HECC, plus any chin protection that accompanies the facemask.
- All players, including goalkeepers, at the Peewee and Bantam level are required to wear a colored (non-clear) internal mouthpiece that covers all the teeth of one jaw, customarily the upper. It is strongly recommended, in all classifications, that all players wear a mouthpiece form fitted by a dentist.
- USA Hockey requires that players wear a neck laceration protector, choosing a design that covers as much of the neck area as possible.

EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS and RENTAL

SKATES // All participants must wear hockey skates. The use of any other type of skate is prohibited.

STICK // Sticks shall be made of wood or other material approved by USA Hockey guidelines. The end of a hollow shaft must be fully covered. Adhesive tape of any color may be wrapped around the stick at any place for the purpose of reinforcement or to improve control of the puck. While holding the stick vertically with the blade touching the ground, the hollow end of the stick should 1) be level to the nose when player skates are off 2) be level to the chin when player skates are on.

GOALTENDERS (PRE-APPROVED) // Equipment is provided by TYH at the Mite and Squirt levels.

MINI-MITE & MITE LEVELS // All necessary equipment (except sticks) is available on a rental basis of \$50/season. Equipment and practice jerseys must be cleaned and returned in good condition at the end of the season to the Equipment Rental Coordinator. Any questions regarding Rental Equipment reach out to our Equipment Manager.

SQUIRT, PEEWEE & BANTAM LEVELS // As TYH colors are Navy and Gold, players must wear black padded hockey pants (breezers) or black breezer covers and black helmets for all games, as well as TYH issued socks and jerseys. Color coordination does not apply to practice equipment, but coaches may require you to wear a light or dark colored practice jersey.

MITE, SQUIRT, PEEWEE & BANTAM LEVELS // Game jerseys and socks must be purchased. Mites will not purchase jerseys.

Equipment Rental Policy

Rental Fees

Full Gear Rental

- \$50 per season
- Available for Mite ages and below (limited availability for larger sizes).
- Includes standard equipment required for participation.
- Does not include neck protector, mouth guard, or stick.

Individual Item Rental

- \$10 per item, per season
- Available for participants who do not require full gear.

All rental fees must be paid in full prior to receiving equipment unless approved under the Financial Hardship Provision.

Goalie Equipment Rentals

- Due to limited availability, goalie gear is **not available for full-season rental during the Regular Season**, but may be borrowed for game days.
- During the **Spring/Summer Season**, goalie gear may be rented:
 - On a first come, first served basis
 - At \$25 **per week** for the full set (Spring/Summer Season only).

This allows multiple players the opportunity to try the goalie position and helps ensure equipment availability for as many participants as possible. Although pickup and drop off times will be limited due to rink staff availability.

Equipment Invoice

A \$200 invoice will be issued if:

- Not returned
- Returned with excessive damage beyond normal wear and tear
- Returned incomplete (missing items)

Equipment Care & Responsibility

Participants are responsible for:

- Proper care and maintenance of rented equipment
- Returning all equipment by the designated return date
- Reporting damaged or malfunctioning equipment immediately

Normal wear and tear is expected. However, damage resulting from misuse, neglect, or loss may result in partial or full forfeiture of the deposit.

Return Policy

All equipment must be returned at the end of the season on the assigned return date.

Failure to return equipment may result in being invoiced \$200 replacement cost

Financial Hardship Provision

Our organization is committed to ensuring all participants can play regardless of financial circumstances.

Families experiencing financial hardship may submit a confidential request to rent equipment at no cost.

Approval of no-cost equipment rental is **not automatic** and is granted solely at the discretion of the Board. The Board reserves the right to approve or deny requests based on individual circumstances and available resources.

Equipment Liability Waiver

By participating in Thunderbird Youth Hockey (“TYH”) programs and by accepting the use of TYH-owned equipment, the player and the player’s parent/guardian acknowledge and agree to the following:

TYH provides equipment on a rental basis as a convenience to participants. While TYH strives to maintain equipment in good working condition, TYH makes no guarantees or warranties—express or implied—regarding the condition, performance, or protective capability of any equipment provided.

Hockey is a physical sport that involves inherent risks, including but not limited to collisions, falls, contact with pucks, sticks, the ice surface, and other players.

accept that injuries, including serious bodily harm, may occur even when equipment is used properly and in good condition.

- By using TYH-owned equipment, the player and parent/guardian agree that TYH, its coaches, volunteers, officers, and affiliates shall not be liable for any injury, bodily harm, or damages arising from or related to the use, failure, or insufficiency of the equipment, whether due to wear, defect, improper fit, or any other cause.
- The player and parent/guardian accept full responsibility for inspecting the equipment before each use and for notifying TYH of any concerns, defects, or improper fit. Continued use of the equipment constitutes acceptance of its condition.
- The player and parent/guardian agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless TYH from any claims, demands, or actions arising out of participation in TYH activities or the use of TYH-owned equipment.

PLAYER EVALUATION

All players have the option to participate in the player evaluation process. If a player chooses not to participate, they will be placed on the lowest level team for their age level. All players must be current with registration requirements and comply with TYH guidelines in order to attend evaluations. The Evaluation Committee is not allowed to provide any special consideration. If a player misses evaluations because of late registration or other reasons, team placement will be determined by TYH’s online “Missed Tryout Policy”.

Questions regarding placement should be submitted in writing to the Evaluation Committee. Evaluation Forms are not available for player or parent review. Upon request, a summary of the players’ performance and comments will be provided. Review and discussion will be limited to the individual’s own evaluation and placement.

Preliminary team rosters are due to WAHA by November 15, 2026 and final rosters are due by December 31, 2026 by the TYH Registrar for Squirt, Peewee and

MITE

Team placement occurs in early November after the players have had time to practice. The process will involve the mite level coaches. Other TYH coaches may give additional input on player placement.

SQUIRT & PEEWEE

Player evaluation and team placement occurs mid to late October. Dates will be announced once established by the Board of Directors and Evaluation Committee.

Players will be assigned a numbered pinnie to wear throughout the evaluation process. The Evaluation Committee, and assigned evaluators, will be responsible for the evaluation and placement of each player on a team based on the individual player's skill level and current age. Hockey skills evaluated include: forward skating, backward skating, passing/stickhandling, shot strength/accuracy, player awareness/positioning, level of play, engagement/work ethic. Upon completion of the placement process, final rosters will be compiled and all players will be notified within 24 hours.

BANTAM

Player evaluation and team placement will follow the Squirt and Peewee process. However, if any Bantam player tries out and is selected for the WIAA high school team, the following procedure will take place:

- After thorough review of the number of players per Bantam team, if openings exist, the TYH Evaluation Committee will determine which player(s) move up a level. Moving up a level will be based only upon the numerical placement / rankings determined by the evaluation process.

MOVING UP

TYH follows WAHA guidelines for a Mite (8U) playing at a Squirt (10U) level. Players moving up must attend player evaluations. Requests are due to WAHA by November 15 by the Evaluation Committee and Registrar.

Placement is conditional on WAHA approval.

TRY OUT PRESSURE

Try out week can be an exciting and stressful time for hockey players and parents/guardians. As all players work extremely hard to make a team, added pressure can lead to nerves that aren't typically experienced during a practice or game.

PRACTICES

Player age, time of day, coach availability, religious commitments, holidays, total number of teams, WIAA Games or TYH games etc. are taken into consideration while scheduling practices.

Prior to evaluations, members are notified of their player's level-specific practice schedule. Once evaluation and team placement occur, a season-long schedule with designated practice days and times for each age level is communicated. Variations in the practice schedule occur occasionally due to WIAA games, TYH or other special events.

Learn to Skate // expect approximately forty-five minutes of on-ice practice, several times per week
MITE // expect approximately 1 hour on-ice practice, 2 times per week
SQUIRT // expect approximately 1-1.5 hours on-ice practice, 2 times per week

PEEWEE & BANTAM // expect approximately 1.5-2 hours on-ice practice, 2-3 times per week

**Final practice schedules will be released once teams have been finalized and are subject to change*

All TYH practices are designed to include: fun, constant decision-making, motivating challenges, puck touches and game-like opportunities. These elements are woven into practice planning through warmups, station-based drills and games. All players should expect practices that work on developing and fine-tuning hockey skills that can eventually be transferred to games.

Players are expected to attend all practices on-time. Absences must be communicated, via Crossbar, to the entire coaching staff prior to the missed practice, in order to be considered excused. Head coaches may determine a policy for their own team to deal with late arrivals and unexcused absences.

After all practices, each team is responsible for cleaning up the player benches and locker rooms, including restrooms and showers, if used.

Practice ice MAY NOT be used for paying private coaches/instructors to work with a player. Practices are designated times for teammates and current TYH coaches.

GAMES

As several other groups utilize the ice, games must start and end on time by adhering to limits or going to run time. Start time begins when the puck is dropped for the opening faceoff; not when warm-ups begin. Finish time is when the teams are to leave the ice and the Zamboni is to start resurfacing. There will be no exceptions. Throughout the course of the season, home games may be canceled by TYH or other associations due to a variety of reasons.

HOME GAMES

MINI-MITE // expect Saturday morning home games at 9:00 a.m.

MITE // expect approximately 75% of morning home games on Saturday morning

SQUIRT, PEEWEE & BANTAM // expect approximately 10 home weekend game opportunities

FORMAT

MINI-MITE/Learn to Skate // Will be dictated by the coached and communicated with families

MITE // typically three 12-minute periods, with 4-5 skaters and one goalie playing cross-ice

SQUIRT // three 12-minute periods, with five skaters and one goalie playing full ice

PEEWEE & BANTAM // three 15-minute periods, with five skaters and one goalie playing full ice

GUIDELINES

- Players should arrive prior to the game start time at the coaches discretion.
- A maximum of 20 players, in which no more than 18 are skaters, shall be permitted to play in a game.
- Players can expect equal playing time during regular season play with coaches having the option to play specific players in areas of special play. This may include short-handed situations, overtime, and power play during home and away tournaments including Play-Downs and the State Tournament.

TOURNAMENTS

Each team, Mini-Mite through Bantam levels, will receive a one tournament stipend for tournament entry fees. Team tournaments for Mite, Squirt, Peewee, and Bantam teams will be determined by that team's ability to solicit for and secure a team sponsor. All tournament registration fees, beyond the acquired team sponsorship, are the team's responsibility. Tournament entry beyond the initial schedule must be discussed with and voted upon by all team coaches and parents/guardians prior to entry into an additional tournament.

After all home games, each team is responsible for cleaning up the player benches and locker rooms, including restrooms and showers, if used. After all away games, each team is responsible for cleaning up after themselves on the player benches and locker rooms.

AWARDS

Awards will be presented to players at the end of the season. The awards are earned following the guidelines below. A player can only earn one award for the Hat Trick, Playmaker or Zero category per season.

HAT TRICK PATCH // given to a player who scores three goals in one game as evidenced on the score sheet.

PLAYMAKER PATCH // given to a player who has three assists in one game as evidenced on the score sheet.

ZERO PATCH // given to a goalie that gives up no goals during a game. A goalie must be solely responsible for holding the opposition scoreless to be credited with a shutout.

COACHES

Through WAHA, our coaches have partnered with Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA). The commitment is to place character education at the top of TYH's objectives. By creating a positive coaching culture, our players will develop emotionally, socially and physically, experience challenges and have fun. Coaches will be responsible for teaching players the skills and strategies of hockey, as well as respect for the tradition of the game. Honoring the Game is a PCA principle regarding sportsmanship that stands for respecting: Rules, Opponents, Officials, Teammates and Self. All coaches will be selected and voted on by the Board of Directors based on recommendations from the Director of Hockey and Program & Player Development Lead(s). Coaching qualifications are based on experience, current certification, coaching philosophy, desire, availability, professionalism, and demeanor. All coaches must be current with their USA Hockey Coaching Education Program (CEP).

REQUIREMENTS

All coaches need to express their interest and register through Thunderbird Youth Hockey's website. Before a coach can be on the ice they must be registered with USA Hockey, pass a background check, complete SafeSport training and complete the Age specific modules on USA Hockey's website.

GUIDELINES

The Board of Directors will provide support to TYH coaches and the decision they make, if approved. All TYH coaches will:

- Work with the Director of Hockey, Program & Player Development Lead, Evaluation Committee, Board of Directors, and other TYH members throughout the season to ensure player and program success. The Director of Hockey position will be onboarded during the '26-'27 season and existing coaches are expected to remain flexible during the transition to a new structure.
- Collaborate with team managers and schedulers to provide support for players and families. Coaches must notify the Practice Ice Scheduler and Team Manager in advance regarding any practice cancellations or practice trades. Practice trades are allowed if coaches mutually agree. Coaches must communicate with the Game Ice Scheduler and Team Manager regarding any desire to schedule or cancel a game.
- Facilitate a team meeting, or multiple, with parents and players to outline expectations, policies, procedures, dynamics of the game, concussion protocol and other pertinent information. If multiple meetings are held, the first meeting must be held prior to the first game of the season.
- Have the right to expect respect from players and parents/guardians. Player or parent/guardian concerns should first be brought to the coaches attention in an appropriate place and manner. If the concern continues, the Team Liaison board member should be contacted. Occasionally, Head Coaches may be asked to support players and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) while working with the Conduct Committee.
- Expect that players will be present and ready to work both in practice and game situations at the times specified. If a player is unable to attend a practice or game, it is the family's responsibility to message all coaching staff of the player's team, via the Crossbar app, and inform them of their absence.

- Abide by the rules and conduct set forth by the TYH Board of Directors. Coaching privileges can be revoked at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Playing Time Policy

The goal of this policy is to support individual player development, team cohesion, and long-term enjoyment and retention by aligning playing time expectations with age and developmental stage.

Coaches should communicate expectations and the rationale behind playing time decisions with both players and parents, particularly when disparities arise.

U8: Equal Playing Time //

- All players will receive equal playing time in all games, including tournaments.
- No special teams (e.g., power play, penalty kill) will be utilized.
- Coaches will focus on giving all players opportunities in various positions and situations to support overall growth and confidence.
- Exception to playing time would be disciplinary actions.

U10: Introduction of Equitable Playing Time //

- It is understood that playing time may naturally vary by position (e.g., defense vs. forward or goalie rotation) due to the structure of line changes or special teams. Coaches are expected to manage these differences fairly and transparently.
- Coaches will focus on giving all players opportunities in various positions and situations to support overall growth and confidence.
- Special teams (e.g., power play, penalty kill) may be introduced, but coaches should rotate participants across the season to offer developmentally appropriate opportunities for all players.
- Exception to playing time would be disciplinary actions.

U12: Equitable Playing Time //

- Playing time will remain approximately equal, but coaches may begin considering effort, attitude, attendance, and behavior when determining ice time.
- This is guided by the principle of “equal play for equal effort.”
- All players must be given meaningful playing opportunities in every regular season game.
- Special teams (e.g., power play, penalty kill) allowed, but coaches should rotate participants across the season to offer developmentally appropriate opportunities for all players.
- Equitable playing time should be balanced over the course of the entire season, not just a single game. This is to allow flexibility for different developmental needs, player growth, game contexts, and positional responsibilities.
- Development remains the priority, yet preparation for higher levels of play is introduced.
- Exception to playing time would be disciplinary actions.
- It is also understood that playing time may naturally vary by position (e.g., defense vs. forward or goalie rotation) due to the structure of line changes or special teams. Coaches are expected to manage these differences fairly and transparently.

U14 and Above: Equitable Playing Time //

- Coaches may fully adopt equitable playing time based on effort, attitude, attendance, and behavior.
- Players should continue to receive meaningful ice time throughout the season, with a stronger

emphasis on accountability and competition.

- Expectations around effort and commitment should be clearly communicated, and reduced playing time must be supported by coach feedback.
- Special teams (e.g., power play, penalty kill) will be utilized, but coaches have discretion to rotate participants across the season.
- Exception to playing time would be disciplinary actions.

Playdowns and State Tournament //

- While player development remains critical, there may be increased focus on competitive performance during playdowns or state.
- Coaches are encouraged to use discretion, while ensuring opportunities for all players.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

TYH expects all players to uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship, respect, effort, and personal responsibility. This Code of Conduct outlines three levels of expectations and consequences. Coaches and the TYH Board of Directors have final authority in interpreting and enforcing these standards.

LEVEL ONE: PERSONAL CONDUCT

As a TYH hockey player, I will:

- Stay positive and show good **sportsmanship**.
- Always try my best and give full effort in practices and games.
- Respect teammates, coaches, referees, and opponents—on and off the ice.
- Avoid swearing, taunting, or using rude gestures.
- Follow team rules and listen to my coaches.
- Never argue with referees; I will let my coaches handle concerns.
- Go directly to the penalty box if I receive a penalty.
- Attend all games and practices or notify my coach if I cannot attend.

Possible consequences (Coach and/or Board review):

- Sitting out part or all of a game (player suits up and sits on the bench).
- Written reflection on behavior and improvement.
- Verbal or written apology.
- Extra team duties (e.g., helping with equipment).
- Temporary loss of leadership roles or privileges.

LEVEL TWO: UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

I will NOT:

- Damage, misuse, or disrespect equipment or facilities.
- Steal from teammates, coaches, or anyone associated with TYH.
- Fight, bully, threaten, or harass others in any way.

Possible consequences (Coach and/or Board review):

- Suspension from one or more games (player suits up and sits on the bench).
- Written reflection and/or apology.
- Community service within the association (e.g., helping younger teams).
- Responsibility for repair or replacement costs.
- Behavior contract outlining expectations and consequences.
- Parent/Coach meeting to discuss next steps.
- Referral to the Board for further action, including longer suspension or removal from TYH.

LEVEL THREE: DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO

Absolutely NO use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.

Violations result in immediate suspension and Board review. Additional consequences may include:

- Suspension from one or more games or the entire season.
- Required meeting with player, parents, coach, and Board representative.
- Written reflection and behavior contract.
- No refund of membership fees.
- Possible permanent removal from TYH.
- Reinstatement (if applicable) must be approved by the Board before the next season.

TYH ENCOURAGES PLAYERS TO:

- Support teammates by attending games.
- Learn by watching players of all ages.
- Be a positive role model on and off the ice.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This Code of Conduct is meant to guide players toward the highest standards of sportsmanship, teamwork, and respect. TYH is committed to creating a positive environment where every player can grow, compete, and enjoy the game. Coaches and the TYH Board of Directors have the final authority in interpreting and enforcing these expectations. Serious or repeated violations may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the association.

DIB & VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

WHAT IS A DIB? // A DIB is a volunteer shift for working at a TYH affiliated event.

Each registered family must fulfill service hours (DIBs) for the 2027-26 season. Service hours are based on the family's oldest player and will be posted to our website under the volunteer section.

Volunteers must be 14 years old to earn service hours. On ice monitors must be at least 16.

LEVEL	HOURS TO WORK	Invoiced if not completed
1 st Session Learn to Skate Players within Portage/Baraboo School district with new USA hockey number	0	0
Returning Learn to Skate (per session)	6	\$150
Cross Rostering Girls all primary teams (<i>additional 8 hours or \$200 will be added during registration of CoEd team</i>) for a total of 20 hours or \$500	12	\$300
Secondary Teams or No cross rostering girls only teams	15	\$300
All Primary Teams: Mite - Bantam	20	\$500

By completing registration, each family acknowledges and agrees that **any required service hours not fulfilled will result in a financial obligation equal to the amount listed in the service-hour table above. Hours will not be prorated.** TYH will issue an invoice for the outstanding amount at the end of the season, and families agree to remit payment in full upon receipt.

TYH functions and is entirely run by volunteers who are essential in assisting in the full operation of the association and are necessary to run a non-profit, youth sports association.

This year's DIBS items will include (but are not limited to) the following:

HOURLY DIBs	FIXED DIBS
Concession Workers Trained Zamboni Drivers	Approved Head & Assistant Coaches Concession Managers Cultural Education Liaison DIBs Coordinator Equipment Rental Coordinator Event Coordinators/Leads IT/Systems Administrator Marketing Coordinator Registrar Safety Coordinator Schedulers Team Managers

The "Hourly DIBs", as stated above, have a credit value loaded into Crossbar. The credit value will define the hours expected to work for that specific event and those credits will apply directly to the 16 total hours needed for the season. DIB "items" are on a first-come, first-served basis. Changes or additions to the system will be introduced to members as soon as possible.

When signing up for a shift, be on time and stay until everything for that shift is completed.

DIB BUYOUT OPTION // Although discouraged, TYH offers a DIB buyout option. **For the 2026-27 season, full buyout is available for the amount of \$500.** That payment is due at the beginning of the season and is granted only upon successful processing of the payment.

CONCESSION WORKERS

Concession DIBs are one of the largest DIB items. DIB shift is available for each home weekend league game. Several DIB shifts are available for games. "Concession Workers DIBs Sign-In Sheet" completion is required for all concession workers.

TYH APPROVED TASKS

Must have approval prior to doing the task by the TYH Board of Directors.

On occasion, the THYA Rink Manager will need volunteers to complete various tasks at the rink.

COACHES & TEAM MANAGERS

Head Coach (one (1) per team, full DIBs), Assistant Coach(es) (full DIBs, with a maximum of two (2) per team), and Team Managers (full DIBs, with a maximum of one (1) per team)

VOLUNTEER CRITERIA

USA Hockey SafeSport policies allow TYH to ensure a safe and positive environment. All volunteers, designated locker room supervisors, coaches, managers, and board members must complete the SafeSport Certification. Training must be completed before a person begins having regular contact with minor athletes, or if they do not have regular contact with minors, no more than 45 days after beginning the role that requires them to complete training. Anyone with regular contact with players must complete the following:

1. SafeSport Program as required by USA Hockey
2. Background check as required by USA Hockey
3. Notify the TYH Registrar of completed components

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

TEAM OPEN SKATE DUTIES

All TYH teams are assigned to a rotating open skate detail. No DIBs will be given for open skate duty. Team managers work with the teams to ensure weekly open skate duties are being fulfilled. If teams fail to comply, a verbal warning will be administered by the Conduct Committee. Further failure to comply with duties will result in the loss of practice ice for the offending team.

LEAGUE GAME DUTIES

During home games, team managers will work with families to either assign or have a sign up for required game day duties. These are not for DIBs and are Locker Room Monitor (SafeSport required), Time Clock, Scorekeeper, and Penalty box.

TOURNAMENT DUTIES

Any team hosting a home tournament is expected to contribute to the successful running of their home tournament. No DIBs will be given for duties, unless prior approval is given by the Board of Directors. Complete the online age-specific modules for the age level of play you are coaching. Find, register and attend the required certification clinic.

FUNDRAISING

As a non-profit organization, TYH's ability to hold the line on registration fees is related to budgeting significant proceeds from fundraising activities. Last season's ice rental cost was upwards of \$7,000, game officials' payments were over \$9,000, as well as over \$50,000 in operating fees. Other expenses included coaches' certification, insurance, printing, advertising, trophies, and more. In order to meet these aggressive goals, TYH must have the assistance of every family's time, skills, passions or monetary support.

CONCESSIONS

Concession income is essential in helping offset the operating cost. During the 2025-26 season, our hardworking families raised over \$16,000!

RAISERIGHT

RaiseRight is a platform that connects our organization and our members to retailers and brands through gift cards. Participants earn money each time they use RaiseRight gift cards when purchasing or reloading gift cards. The percentage back is 50% to the member and 50% goes back to TYH. As this is a newer venture for our organization, last season, TYH's kick-back was upwards of \$1,500, while over \$1,900 was distributed to twenty (20) active RaiseRight families! For more info on how to get started and the code to join, email our RaiseRight Coordinator at fundraising@thunderbirdyouthhockey.com subject line; ATTN: RaiseRight.

RAFFLE'S

Each member of the association is required to participate in one of the following raffles. The two options are the Sportsman's Raffle or the Calander raffle. Each association member will be required to sell a minimum of \$200 worth of tickets. Team managers provide tickets during the season. Stubs and money will be collected at a later date prior to the raffle drawings.

DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIPS

TYH is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, which means contributions may be tax deductible. Every donation to

TYH is greatly appreciated and supports all skaters. If you would like to contribute to the success of our program, TYH's "Sponsorship Form" is available at <https://www.thunderbirdyouthhockey.com/donate>. Monetary gifts should be directed to: TYH, Attn: Donor Relations, P.O. Box 207, Baraboo, WI 53913 with the memo line filled out with where the contribution should be designated. (i.e. Team Sponsor, Scholarship Sponsor, etc.)

FINANCIAL AID REQUEST

Financial Aid Commitment

Thunderbird Youth Hockey Association (TYHA) believes every child should have the opportunity to participate in hockey, regardless of a family's financial circumstances. We are committed to helping reduce financial barriers by connecting families with scholarship and assistance programs whenever possible.

Available Financial Assistance

TYHA encourages families experiencing financial hardship to apply for available scholarships and assistance programs. Financial aid opportunities may include:

USA Hockey Membership Relief Fund

Wisconsin Affiliate Assistance Fund

All Kids Play

Play Pass

Other community and partner scholarship programs as they become available

Current scholarship opportunities, eligibility requirements, and application information can be found on the TYH Scholarships page:

<https://www.thunderbirdyouthhockey.com/parent-resources/scholarships/131335>

These programs are administered by outside organizations and may have their own eligibility requirements, deadlines, and funding limitations.

Confidentiality

All requests for financial assistance are treated with respect and confidentiality. Families are encouraged to reach out early if they anticipate needing assistance, so they have adequate time to complete scholarship applications before registration deadlines.

Questions

Families with questions regarding registration costs, scholarship opportunities, or available resources are encouraged to contact Thunderbird Youth Hockey Association Board of Directors or visit the Scholarships page for the most up-to-date information.

Thunderbird Youth Hockey Association remains committed to creating an inclusive environment where every child can learn, grow, and enjoy the game of hockey.

POLICIES

TYH DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION POLICY

TYH has adopted the USA Hockey Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy. USA Hockey is committed to fostering a welcoming environment through a diverse, equitable and inclusive game. We celebrate every race, gender and background to unite as one community. We believe meaningful action can positively affect important changes in our sport and carry over into our everyday lives.

TYH ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

TYH has adopted the USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy and Procedures. USA Hockey is committed to creating a safe and fair environment for all participants. Respect for the game, the opponents, coaches and officials is a critical part of the environment that is created. This Zero Tolerance Policy summarizes required actions to be taken when violations occur. For more information on these policies visit

www.thunderbirdyouthhockey.com.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

The Resolution Committee will consist of the Safety Officer and at least two of the following: President, Vice President, Past President, Treasurer, Secretary, or Board member. No committee member who is involved in the complaint or has a child on the team from which the complaint originated shall serve on the committee. Should the child of the safety officer, the safety officer themselves or the team of the Safety Officer's child be involved, another board member will take the lead of the committee. If it is not directly the Safety Officer's child or the Safety Officer themselves, the Safety Officer may be present at the committee meeting regarding the team their child is affiliated with but will not be a voting member of final decisions.

TYH PROCEDURE FOR CONFLICTS/ISSUES (INCLUDING APPEALS PROCEDURE)

Identifying and addressing problems or concerns can be challenging. Therefore, we have established this procedure to resolve conflicts/issues as well as to appeal disciplinary decisions. TYH also follows the "24 Hour Rule" for coaches, parents, players, and fans. The 24 hour rule is complainants must wait 24 hours before approaching personnel they may have a complaint against. NOTE: This rule does not apply to time-sensitive incidents that may require law enforcement intervention.

EXAMPLE: If a parent has an issue with a coach's decision in a game or at practice, the parent may not approach the coach with the issue until at least 24 hours have passed since the incident.

CONFLICT/ISSUE RESOLUTION

TYH encourages parents to take the initiative in resolving conflicts that they or their player may have with other team members, parents, and/or coaches through respectful communication directly with those involved. If the issue cannot be resolved, the team manager is the first line of official communication for all parents and players. The complaint must be presented to the team manager, who should notify the Head Coach, TYH Secretary, and Safety Officer for information purposes only. At this point, the Head Coach is responsible for resolving the issue within the team.

If the problem is such that the Head Coach is unable to resolve the conflict, it should be escalated to the Coaching Director for resolution. The Coaching Director may seek advice from the appropriate Head Coach, Manager, and/or other board members. If the incident still cannot be resolved by the Coaching Director, the following guidance will be followed:

- The matter may be brought to a formal resolution committee for the specific event, formed of Board Members with the least attachment to the incident being resolved. The committee's duties will be to investigate the allegations and weigh the founded information against TYH Guidance, WAHA Guidance, and USAH Guidance.
- Each instance will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Resolution Committee members will weigh all information into the final decision.
- If TYH receives a letter from WAHA requesting a response to a zero-tolerance violation by a coach, player, parent, or fan, TYH will form a Resolution Committee for that specific incident.
- The Resolution Committee will review the matter in a reasonable time frame (usually within 48-96 hours after notification) and provide next steps for the parties involved.

- If requested, the individual(s) against whom the complaint has been filed shall appear before the Resolution Committee and be asked to respond to the matter.
- The Resolution Committee, acting in the best interests of TYH and the youth they support, will further investigate the complaint as deemed appropriate and is authorized to enforce disciplinary actions as appropriate. These actions may include, but are not limited to, written warnings and/or temporary or permanent suspension from the program.
- All actions taken by the Resolution Committee will be communicated only to the individuals involved during a closed session or by an official letter or email.
- The individual(s) against whom the complaint has been filed may appeal the decision once to a formal Resolution Committee. The Resolution Committee will have at least two board members who were not on the original resolution committee that issued the initial decision on the incident being appealed. The appeal complaint must be submitted to the President and Vice President in writing.
- Any conflicts or violations of the code of conduct should be reported to the TYH Board members by completing the appropriate form at Youth Hockey Complaint Form.

CONCUSSION & SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

Thunderbird Youth Hockey Association (TYH) follows all Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association (WAHA) requirements regarding concussion and sudden cardiac arrest education, removal-from-play procedures, documentation, and return-to-play clearance. This policy reflects WAHA rules and TYH's commitment to player safety, coach accountability, and compliance.

Required Distribution of Information Sheets

At the beginning of each season TYH must distribute the WAHA Concussion & Head Injury Information Sheet to every coach and every participant. If the participant is **12 years old or older**, TYH must also distribute the [WAHA Sudden Cardiac Arrest \(SCA\) Information Sheet](#).

Required Signatures Before Participation

No player or coach may participate in any WAHA-sanctioned activity until:

- The required WAHA information sheet(s) are signed by the participant.
- If the participant is **under age 19**, the form must also be signed by a parent or guardian.

Removal From Play

A coach, official, or health care provider **must remove** a participant from any practice, game, or off-ice activity if:

- The participant exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or head injury, **or**
- The coach, official, or health care provider **suspects** the participant has sustained a concussion or head injury.

Required Reporting

If a participant is removed due to suspected concussion:

- A [WAHA Concussion Reporting Form](#) must be completed.
- The form is available on the WAHA website.
- TYH's Safety Officer must be notified to ensure proper documentation and follow-up.

Return-to-Play Requirements

A participant removed for suspected concussion **may not return** to any youth hockey activity until:

1. They are evaluated by a licensed health care provider.
2. They receive **written medical clearance**.
3. The clearance is provided using the [USA Hockey Return to Play Form](#).
4. The form is submitted to the TYH Safety Officer and Head Coach.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) Requirements

For participants age 12+:

- SCA information sheets must be distributed and signed before participation.
- Any participant showing symptoms of cardiac distress must be removed immediately and evaluated.
- Return-to-play requires written clearance from a licensed health care provider.

Coach & Volunteer Responsibilities

- Coaches must review concussion and SCA procedures during preseason team meetings.
- Coaches and volunteers must follow removal-from-play rules without exception.
- All incidents must be reported promptly to the Safety Officer.
- Coaches must support families through the return-to-play process and communicate expectations clearly.
- All coaches must sign and return [WAHA Coach Concussion and SCA Acknowledgement Form](#).

Parent & Player Responsibilities

- Review and sign required WAHA information sheets.
- Report symptoms immediately.
- Follow medical guidance and submit required clearance forms.
- Support safe return-to-play progression.

Additional Resources

More information, forms, and educational materials are available on the [WAHA website](#).

LOCKER ROOM POLICIES FOR PRACTICES & GAMES

It is the policy of TYH, that at least one SafeSport Certified adult (which may include coaches, managers or other volunteers) is present at all times. They are tasked with monitoring the locker room during all team events to supervise conduct and assure that only coaches, players, approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room. While it is not always possible, two locker room monitors are preferable, as having a second monitor may help prevent allegations of impropriety by a monitor alone in the locker room. All coaches and managers will work together to ensure that locker room monitors are in place at all appropriate times. No players may be unsupervised in a locker room at any time. place at all appropriate times. No players may be unsupervised in a locker room at any time.

SEPARATE LOCKER ROOM NEEDS //

TYH will try to accommodate the needs of any team for a secondary locker room upon request. All locker room policies remain in place for any alternate locations.

PARENT & GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

Parents and guardians play a vital role in creating a positive, safe, and development-focused hockey environment. This Code of Conduct reflects TYH's mission, core values, USA Hockey's **Zero Tolerance** policy, and WAHA safety requirements. All families must uphold these expectations to ensure a rewarding experience for every athlete.

Expectations for Conduct

Sportsmanship & Respect

- Demonstrate **good sportsmanship** at all times.
- Treat all players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.
- Applaud effort, teamwork, and positive play from **both teams**.
- Avoid yelling, taunting, profanity, or negative cheering.

Support for Coaches & Officials

- Allow coaches to coach; do not contradict instructions or interfere during practices or games.
- Support officials and respect their judgment; criticism only harms the game.

- Follow the **24-hour rule** before approaching a coach or official with a concern.

Positive Game Environment

- Remember that youth hockey is for children, not adults.
- Maintain a calm, respectful presence in the stands.
- Do not pound on the glass, throw objects, or engage in disruptive behavior.
- Respect locker rooms as private areas for players, coaches, and officials.

Safety & Well-Being

- Advocate for a safe and healthy environment for all TYH athletes.
- Comply with WAHA concussion and SCA information-sheet requirements.
- Support TYH's concussion protocol, removal-from-play procedures, and return-to-play requirements.
- Remain alert and aware of surroundings to help prevent accidents.

Player Development

- Emphasize skill development, effort, and enjoyment over wins and losses.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules and lead by example.
- Support your child's experience by being a positive fan and reliable participant.

Community & Volunteerism

- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches and staff.
- Support team and association volunteers and contribute when able.

Spectator Expectations

- Display respect and sportsmanship at all times.
- Cheer positively; avoid booing or taunting opponents.
- Support referees and coaches by trusting their integrity and judgment.
- Be supportive after games, win or lose, and recognize good effort.

Enforcement

Violations of this Code of Conduct or USA Hockey's Zero Tolerance Policy will be addressed according to TYH procedures:

- **First Offense:** A coach, team representative, or board member will speak with the parent/guardian and review the concern.
- **Second Offense:** The parent/guardian must appear before the TYH Board of Directors.
- **Third Offense:** The parent/guardian will be suspended from all TYH practices and games for the remainder of the season.

Serious or repeated violations may result in removal from TYH events or, when necessary, removal from the association.

TYH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

