

KAHA TRAVEL PROGRAM BYLAWS

Updated: May 2025

SECTION I – PURPOSE

The Smoky Mountain Wild Travel Program is an extension of the Knoxville Amateur Hockey Association (KAHA) and will mirror its mission of “providing the families of East Tennessee with a quality, visible, youth hockey program targeting continued population growth, skill development and stability for each skater and coach”. The program will provide advanced youth hockey players with an avenue to further develop their hockey skills and expand their leadership skills in a more competitive environment.

SECTION II – PROGRAM STRUCTURE, PLAYER CLASSIFICATION, AND TEAM INFORMATION

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Rooted within KAHA, the Travel Program will be foundationally based on the following:

- a. Coordination and management of the program will be the responsibility of the KAHA Hockey Director and the KAHA Travel Coordinator.
- b. Travel team registration will be managed by the KAHA Registrar.
- c. Travel team bank accounts will be managed by the KAHA Treasurer.
- d. Base travel team fees will be developed and communicated by the KAHA Hockey Director and KAHA Travel Coordinator with each Team Manager being responsible for collecting and submitting payments per the schedule provided.
- e. Overall program governance will be aligned with the following articles:
 - i. USA Hockey Rules
 - ii. SAHA Bylaws and Governance
 - iii. SYTHL, & SESCL, Bylaws
 - iv. KAHA Bylaws
- f. SAHA/SYTHL/SESCL meetings will be attended by the KAHA Hockey Director (Mandatory with KAHA covering hotel expenses) and the Travel Coordinator (if available – not mandatory; KAHA will cover hotel expenses).
- g. The fiscal year shall run from April 1 to March 31 of each calendar year.
- h. It is KAHA’s goal to provide Rec leagues and a High School League to all Travel Squirt (10U) through Midget (18U) and High School age groups at a discounted rate. Such leagues may vary depending on the number of players.

PLAYER CLASSIFICATION

The Travel Program generally adheres to the structure and player classifications as set forth by USA Hockey. The Travel program will be divided into "divisions," with at least one Travel team per division. Players will be enrolled in a division based on their age at midnight, January 1, of the prior playing season. The divisions are:

MIDGET 18U – 18 years old or younger.

MIDGET 16U – 16 years old or younger

BANTAM 14 years old or younger.

PEEWEE 12 years old or younger.

SQUIRT 10 years old or younger.

Players in the KAHA Travel program participate at the competitive level of play as defined by USA Hockey. Travel players may also have an opportunity to attend USA Hockey Select Camps.

“COMPETITIVE” - As defined by USA Hockey, "well qualified coaches teach higher level skill development for players who have the desire and ability for a competitive experience. A balance of winning and sportsmanship is stressed. Efforts are made to keep the amount of travel for competition reasonable. Team objectives can include local, league, state and national championships." The KAHA Travel program competes at this level. As a competitive level team, travel outings will focus more on winning than in regular House League Recreational play. Players on KAHA travel teams will attempt to compete at the highest level and win every game and tournament they compete in. This does not mean that travel teams will attempt to win at all costs, but it should be understood that competitive level teams are philosophically different than recreational teams in the House League.

TEAM INFORMATION

Teams:

It is the intention of KAHA to ice an “A” & “AA” travel team at each age group (10u – 14u) and one “A” or “AA” team at the 16U and 18U level. **Final determination will be made based on the volume and talent of players at tryouts.** If the tryout determines that there are not enough travel-level players at certain age groups, only one team will be formed.

Travel Team Level (AA, A, Prep) and National-bound teams will be decided after the try-outs. The KAHA Hockey Director KAHA Travel Coordinator and appropriate Head Coach will make such determination.

Travel level players (players participating on a travel team other than a “Prep” team) will not be allowed to join a prep level team for any reason.

Team Size:

A team will consist of a maximum of 18 players and 2 goalies. If there are less than 15 registered players in a division available for a prospective team, then the KAHA Board reserves the right to approve solicitation of additional registrants and will hold additional tryouts. The KAHA Board also reserves the right to approve teams of less than 13 players and 1 goalie at the Squirt to Pee wee age group, 15 players and 1 goalie at the Bantam level and older and under special circumstances, or to mandate an increase above the 13 / 15 players and 1 goalie minimum. The KAHA Board reserves the right to approve a team up to 18 players and 2 goalies in accordance with USA Hockey guidelines. If there is an insufficient number of qualified players available at a given age group to field a minimally competitive team based on the opinion of the Head Coach, tryout evaluators and ultimately the KAHA Board, then the KAHA Board reserves

the right not to field a team at the age group for that season and in a tryout situation, will declare the tryout over and refund any money collected for tryout fees less ice cost.

Based on the number of skaters involved, the KAHA Hockey Director and KAHA Travel Coordinator can decide not to hold a try-out for a specific level or add a second team at a specific level.

Eligible Prospects:

Any player can try out for the USA Hockey Division that coincides with his/her age level. Players must be registered with USA Hockey prior to the tryout (see “Players that Miss Tryouts”) and not have any outstanding balances with KAHA (see “Fees”).

Tryouts:

Travel Team tryouts will be held before any player selections are made. USA Hockey Certified Coaches will conduct a series of skill drills and/or scrimmage, as defined by the Selection Committee or Selection Committee-appointed player evaluators. The Selection Committee will appoint a team of five qualified observers for each age level. The KAHA Board will collect a fee to cover the cost of tryouts. Each player will be scored individually by the observers on each skill and/or scrimmage. The scores will be averaged, and the players will be ranked according to their average score. See “KAHA Tryout Policy”.

Play Up:

Players shall tryout and play in their respective divisions based on birth year and USA Hockey age classifications. The KAHA Board may consider player movement between age divisions from time to time on the basis of player numbers required for team formation. See “KAHA Play Up Policy”.

Team Selections:

The purpose of tryouts is to evaluate a player's skating ability, along with their hockey skills. These evaluations will be used to place him/her within a team that will provide the best environment for improving their self-confidence and enjoyment of the sport of ice hockey. See “KAHA Try-out Policy”.

Rostering:

The team's Head Coach retains the right to add new players to their roster during the year, assuming available roster space exists, and approval has been granted by the KAHA Hockey Director KAHA Vice-President and KAHA Travel Coordinator. Additionally, one of the following three scenarios must be met for additional players to be added:

- a. A new skater to KAHA is being considered. (new to the program is defined as any player who has never played for (KAHA) or has been inactive in the program for at least two full seasons).
- b. A current member of the KAHA Travel Team in question is relocating or has left the team.
- c. A current member of the KAHA Travel Team has sustained a long-term injury or illness that will limit/end their playing time for the remainder of the season.
- d. Any player added between formed KAHA travel teams for injuries, illness, and/or limited number of players.
- e. If a player in consideration is from a lower age level a Play-Up Request & Acknowledgement of Risk and Liability Form must be completed and submitted with the team roster to receive roster approval.

KAHA will accept players from other associations in situations when there is space available at that level. Players outside KAHA will be permitted to try out for a KAHA travel team only when the following criteria is met:

- f. Players must meet the appropriate SAHA, SYTHL, or SESCL transfer criteria.
- g. Players must receive a financial release from their original association.
- h. That player initial association has no team available at the player's age level.

SECTION III – FEES / PAYMENTS / REFUNDS

The KAHA Board will establish fees and a payment schedule before the first regular season practice. Fees are set to accurately reflect the costs of USA Hockey fees, league fees, practice time, game time, referee expenses, and miscellaneous costs. These parameters may vary from one age division to another, and the differences will be reflected in the fees.

PAYMENT POLICY

Members' fees for all programs must be paid in full each month per the KAHA payment schedule. Additionally, any balance remaining at the end of the season must be paid in full in order to remain in good standing.

KAHA can provide financial aid through the KAHA Fundraising Credit Program. This form can be found on the KAHA website. Requests shall be made directly to KAHA Registrar.

Extended payment plans due to financial hardship may be requested. Upon receipt of documentation supporting hardship circumstances, the Board of Directors will arrange and approve extended payment plans. Any default on the extended payment plan will result in all outstanding fees due in full immediately.

Any registered player who leaves KAHA without paying the entire program fee (unless granted release or refund per the Refund Policy) will be deemed as "not in good standing" with KAHA and USA Hockey.

Any member who does not satisfy an outstanding balance from any prior season will not be allowed to register for any KAHA program until the prior balance is paid in full.

Members who do not maintain their accounts on a timely basis will be suspended from participation. Any player with an outstanding balance more than 10 days past a scheduled due date will not be allowed to return to his or her respective team until the balance is paid or satisfactory arrangements have been made with the KAHA Treasurer.

Members with payment delinquencies or returned charges that aren't immediately satisfied will be subject to immediate suspension from all program activities until the delinquency matter is settled.

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until KAHA has received written notification from the member of its termination in such time and in such manner to afford KAHA a reasonable opportunity to act on it. Cancellation of this authorization shall not terminate any of the member's payment obligations pursuant to the current KAHA hockey program registration or their authorization to charge their credit card.

Members agree to pay all program fees according to the Card Issuer Agreement and these terms.

REFUND POLICY

KAHA operates under a “no refund policy” for any fees and / or payments associated with KAHA activities and programs. However, KAHA acknowledges that some special and rare circumstances may develop and will be addressed according to the policy listed below.

No refunds will be issued for voluntary discontinuation.

Program fees will not be refunded for any player who accepts a position on a team then opts for another organization/team thereafter. Releases will not be granted until the member’s balances are satisfied in full.

All program tryout fees are not refundable or transferable under any circumstances.

All program registration fees are not refundable but are transferable to commitment fees once offers are made for travel teams.

Program fees are non-transferable from season to season.

Once a position on a team is accepted, the parent or the legal guardian assumes financial responsibility for the entire season fee.

If the KAHA program is suspended and/or ends due to closure of facilities due to a pandemic or similar occurrence out of the control of the KAHA, the KAHA will refund a prorated amount based on related association and team expenses to that date.

After registration, each member has a 48 hour “Right of Rescission” that must be submitted in writing to the KAHA President within two days of payment, upon which full refund will be granted, less applicable \$55 administration fee.

Refunds for season-ending, extended injury or medical condition shall be considered on a case-by-case basis. The KAHA Board of Directors and/or committee designated by the Board of Directors shall review any such refund requests. All refund requests must be made in writing to the KAHA President and/or Treasurer and have physician or other documentation supporting suspension or termination of season. Refunds granted will be a prorated portion of the season for time missed.

Refunds for financial hardship requests shall be considered on a case-by-case basis. The KAHA Board of Directors and/or committee designated by the Board of Directors will review refund requests for financial hardship. All refund requests must be made in writing to the KAHA President and/or Treasurer and have appropriate documentation to support suspension or termination of season.

Any program refund is subject to a \$50.00 Administrative Fee. In no case will greater than 75% of any program fee be refunded. No refund requests will be considered past November 31.

Any policy and/or procedures mandated by USA Hockey and/or the Southern Amateur Hockey Association, which KAHA is a member, shall be incorporated into the KAHA Refund Policy.

Any player suspended for disciplinary / removal from the KAHA travel team will be responsible for the full amount of the season fees.

The KAHA Board of Directors and/or a committee designated by the KAHA Board of Directors may also review requests for refunds for other extraordinary circumstances at their discretion.

End of Season refunds will be completed after all expenses are paid and all team members have paid in full. The Treasurer will work with team managers to reconcile the bank rec tab of the team workbook and to allocate what refund (if any) may occur. Refunds will be distributed as follows:

- a) The treasurer will move funds to either fundraising account (to cover refunds of FRC's) or to the travel account (for checks to be written by the registrar) after refunds are determined.
- b) Any amount of FRC utilized by the family will be refunded as FRC first, any amount over the utilized FRC will be refunded as a check.
- c) If a refund amount is under \$10 it will be refunded as FRC credit and not as a check.
- d) If a player has a change of address in the season it is up to that family to alert KAHA of the change so the refund can be mailed to the correct location.

DISCOUNT POLICY

Goalie Discounts:

Players registered as full time goalies in the Travel / Prep program will receive a 50% discount after rosters are finalized and fees are paid in full. This applies whether a team has one (1) or two (2) rostered goalies. Players who are registered as player /goalie are not eligible for this discount.

Parent Head Coach Discount:

Any Parent Head Coach is eligible to receive a 100% discount for their player team season fees.

A decision must be made before the team budget is finalized. This applies to only one roster spot if multiple players are from the same family. With this discount, the Parent Head Coach is not eligible for a coach's stipend.

TEAM SPONSORSHIPS / DONATIONS

Sponsorships:

Any team-specific sponsorship **WITH** the expectation of collateral materials must be approved by the KAHA Board of Directors and is subject to a 5% fundraising fee to KAHA.

Donations:

Any team-specific donations **WITHOUT** the expectation of collateral materials must be reported to the KAHA Board of Directors and is subject to a 5% fundraising fee to KAHA.

SECTION IV – PROGRAM GUIDELINES

COACHES AND TEAM MANAGERS

Coach Selection:

Coaches will be selected annually by the KAHA Board for all KAHA Travel teams being formed that season. The Coaching Selection Committee will interview and thoroughly vet each candidate and the KAHA Board will review, confirm the selection process and approve on all coaches.

If the lack of qualified candidates warrants one Head Coach to coach multiple Travel teams (AA & A), the KAHA Board of Directors must approve the selection to multiple teams.

Selection Criteria:

The Coaching Selection Committee will be taking a broad view to finding the best all-around candidate for each team. The best coaches are those that can fulfill the goals of KAHA to provide a fun environment in which players develop their character and their hockey skills.

KAHA Coaches Selection Committee shall be composed of:

- KAHA President (Chair & Facilitate),
- KAHA Vice-President
- KAHA ACE Coordinator
- KAHA Travel Coordinator KAHA Hockey Director
- Two Independent evaluators (secured by the KAHA President, KAHA Vice-President and KAHA ACE Coordinator).

A replacement delegate can replace a committee member with approval by the other committee members.

Coaching Applications:

Applications for coaching staff positions for all teams shall be made available to any member of the Association before April 1st.

Applications for position(s) on the coaching staff of a travel team must submit a coaching application form found on the KAHA website (wildhockeyTN.com) by the date communicated. Any application not received by that date will not be considered.

The Committee shall be responsible for reviewing applications, conducting interviews (as necessary) and the recommendation to the KAHA President for the position of Head Coach.

No member of the committee shall participate in the selection process of any team for which he/she has a personal conflict of interest. A personal conflict of interest shall include (but not be limited to) the following situations:

- a) if he/she has applied to be the head coach of the team for that given season
- b) if he/she is related to a person who has applied to coach a team
- c) if he/she has a child who has played for or who may reasonably be expected to try out for a team

The committee member in conflict shall ONLY be excluded from participating in the selection process for the specific team(s) to which the conflict relates and shall be able to participate in the selection process of all other teams. In the case where the Travel Director is the member in conflict, he/she shall be replaced (for the selection process for the specific team(s) for which he/she is in conflict) by another member of the committee, with priority in the order listed above in the committee composition section.

The KAHA Board will inform all candidates of the decision made regarding the filling of the Head Coaching roles.

An announcement will be made to the KAHA Membership announcing the Travel Head Coaches immediately following each candidate being informed of their disposition with the selection process.

Assistant Coaches and Managers:

The Head Coach will propose up to three Assistant Coach(s) and one Team Manager to the KAHA President, KAHA Travel coordinator, ACE Coordinator and KAHA Hockey Director for approval, prior to confirmation with the Assistant Coach(s) and Team Manager candidates. The KAHA Board, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to approve or reject all Assistant Coaches and/or Team Managers.

Any individual selected as the Head Coach for a travel team is permitted to assist in a secondary - or assistant - role with another travel team provided such activity does not conflict with said coach's primary team responsibilities. Further, no coach may act as the head coach of more than one travel team, unless granted express permission by the KAHA Board.

The KAHA Board reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to permit or reject a request by any Assistant Coach or Team Manager requesting to serve dual roles and serve similar or the same positions on another travel team.

Mandatory Requirements for ALL Coaches:

Anyone that coaches or assists on the ice or on the bench must comply with the following requirements:

- a) All coaches and team managers must be registered with USA Hockey.
- b) All coaches must be certified at the level required for their age division, including their age specific modules as stipulated by USA Hockey and SAHA (including SafeSport). KAHA will reimburse the coaches for the cost of USA Hockey Coaching certification.
- c) All coaches must comply with mandatory or random background checks, as may be required by KAHA, SAHA and USA Hockey. In the case of a KAHA-initiated background check, strict confidentiality will be maintained.
- d) Manager must register on USA hockey as a volunteer, complete a background check, and complete the SafeSport training as a volunteer.
- e) Locker room monitors must register for USA hockey as a volunteer, complete a background check, and complete the SafeSport training as a volunteer.

COMPENSATION:

KAHA Head Coach and Team Manager Stipend:

A stipend will be provided to all KAHA Travel Head Coaches as a measure of gratitude for their dedication and commitment to our teams and children. This stipend is set up to help defray the personal costs of serving as a Head Coach and to help encourage participation by those whom the Smoky Mountain Wild feel are excellent candidates. It will be the goal of the KAHA Board to use the head coach stipend, in conjunction with the KAHA Mission Statement, to help secure high-level coaching personnel.

A stipend is provided to all KAHA Travel head coaches, by the Smoky Mountain Wild Hockey club, regardless of whether or not they have a child on the team. Travel Head Coaches will be provided with a stipend of \$2000 per season and Team Manager will be provided \$500 per season.

Any Head Coach and/or Team Manager suspended for disciplinary actions or removal from the team will be responsible to payback and/or forfeit stipend.

This amount will be payable 1/2 December 1st and 1/2 March 1st of each season.

This amount will be subject to review prior to each season.

KAHA Head Coaches Travel Reimbursement:

Head Coach and/or Assistant Coach (Non-Parent):

Transportation / Mileage (Non-Parent)

Head Coach and/or Assistant travel coaches are reimbursed for travel to and from their away Smoky Mountain Wild hockey games where competition lies outside the greater Knoxville Metropolitan boundaries. Reimbursement is \$.28 per mile driven based on Google Maps published travel distances. KAHA will only pay for 1 vehicle unless there is prior approval from the KAHA Travel Coordinator. Any other transportation (Airfare, Rental Car, etc.) must be approved by parents for the added budgetary cost. No receipts are necessary for, but mileage must be indicated on the KAHA Reimbursement Form. Any approved transportation must be accompanied by Receipts and attached to the KAHA Reimbursement Form.

Lodging (Non-Parent)

Lodging is based on dual occupancy unless otherwise approved by the KAHA Travel Coordinator. One room per night will be covered by the Association. Head Coach and/or Assistant Coaches are reimbursed for lodging at face value of hotel rates based on a reasonable hotel selection. Reimbursement is authorized based on the reasonable necessity of lodging for any away competition including games and tournaments. Teams budget hotel rooms for each league / tournament with the understanding that many league weekends / tournaments will have complimentary rooms which they should receive. Receipts are necessary and are to be attached to the KAHA Reimbursement Form. Meals (Non-Parent)

Meal reimbursement is set at a per diem rate of \$50 per day and must be accompanied by at least one overnight stay. If a coach's team plays one full game or more per any given day, and is accompanied by an overnight stay, he/she shall receive a meal reimbursement for that day. No per diem is to be paid for day trips. No receipts are necessary but must be indicated with date on the KAHA Reimbursement Form.

Head Coach and/or Assistant Coach (with child on team):

In the event a family or a parental relationship exists within the team, the coach's per diem, lodging and transportation fees shall **not** be the obligation of the team unless decided otherwise by all parents of the team.

Complimentary Lodging: Hotel room for each league weekend / tournament with the understanding that many league weekends/tournaments will have complimentary rooms which they should receive. Any complimentary rooms that are received should be applied to the Head Coach. The criteria for complimentary lodging shall not apply when a non-parent coach is on staff.

Receipts are required for reimbursement.

This amount will be subject to review prior to each season.

PLAYERS PLAY-UP POLICY

It is KAHA's intent that each registered player will play in his/her age group as established by USA Hockey. KAHA recognizes that in some cases it may be appropriate and even beneficial to a participant's development for him or her to play-up to the next age classification. However, a fine balance needs to be maintained to avoid placing the desire of a participant above the legitimate opportunity for that participant to be successful in an older age classification. In such instances, individual requests to play up shall be considered on a case-by-case basis by the KAHA Travel Coordinator and the KAHA Hockey Director and an allowance for a player to participate in an older age classification may be granted.

Except in rare and specific cases, a participant will not be permitted to move up more than one year in age. For example, a first year 10U cannot be moved to the 12U level, but a second year Squirt may advance to Pee wee. This will apply at 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U levels.

Applicants shall comply with the following guidelines when submitting a request to move a participant into an older age classification.

- a. Requests must be submitted in writing to the kaha Hockey Director and KAHA Travel Director by the participant's parents or legal guardians to be considered. This request must be submitted at least 14 days prior to the team try-out. Requests should be emailed to the KAHA Travel Coordinator, informing him or her of their intentions.
- b. A player requesting an opportunity to play-up must cover the cost of the team's tryout fees. For example, a 10U level player who is granted a play-up request to 12U must register and try-out for both 10U and 12U level teams. In such cases, a try-out registration fee shall be required.
- c. A player requesting an opportunity to play-up must also try-out for his/her actual age level. For example, a 10U level player who is granted a play-up request to 12U must register and try-out for both 10U and 12U level teams.
- d. The participant's parent(s)/guardian must sign a specific Risk Acknowledgment and Liability Waiver, in the required form acknowledging the risks associated with playing outside of a participant's proper age classification. This form must be returned with the submitted request.

Criteria for allowing a skater to play-up will be based on the evaluation of the participant's skill and ability to contribute to the older team and the number of players at each level. Play-up will only be allowed if the requested skater is evaluated through the try-out by the Travel Selection Committee as the #1 goalie; Top 3 forwards; or Top 2 defense. If the participant is not projected to be one of the top participants on the team, then it is highly questionable whether the move up is truly in the best interest of that participant.

If the participant is not projected to be one of the top participants on the team after the first day of tryouts defined by the Travel Selection Committee. The participant will be dropped from consideration and return to his/her actual age level.

The Travel Selection Committee will make the final decision on allowing a participant to play-up based on their recommendation.

If a player is allowed to play-up, that player may also be rostered on the age-appropriate team based upon the recommendations of the evaluators with the approval of the head coach of the age-appropriate team.

In some instances, a participant may be accepted as a practice player on an older age group team. This opportunity may be extended to a lower age division participant at the discretion of the head coach of the older team and includes participation in practice sessions only. This participation is intended as bonus time for the player for skill development. In this case, play up approval per this policy is not required.

Any approval granted for play-up is valid only for a single season. Subsequent seasons will be evaluated per this policy upon receipt of a new request.

Per the SAHA Bylaws, in no case may an 8U player who is under the age of eight, for purposes of age classification at the beginning of the season, be permitted to play in an older age group.

A player requesting to play-up must be selected to play for the highest-level team only. Players requesting to play-up are not eligible to be selected for lower team, if applicable.

Combined Teams:

In frequent circumstances due to insufficient numbers of participants, it may be necessary to consolidate player classifications to create competitive level teams. When that occurs, upon approved by the KAHA Hockey Director

KAHA Travel Coordinator and KAHA President, the team will carry the name of the oldest player classification and those players that are part of the younger age group will be required to fill out a Play-Up Request & Acknowledgement of Risk and Liability Form. This will be done solely to acknowledge the risk of playing with older players and the criteria for players to be “projected to be among the top players” will be excluded.

TRY-OUT POLICY

Travel Team Try-out date(s) for the ensuing hockey season will be announced through e-mail to all KAHA members by April 1st of the current year. Specific dates will be identified by the KAHA Hockey Director and approved by the KAHA Travel Coordinator prior to being communicated by the KAHA Registrar and KAHA members.

A Travel Selection Committee will be formed including:

- Travel Team Head Coach (AA team)
- Travel Team Head Coach (A team, if applicable)
- KAHA Travel Coordinator
- Independent Evaluator #1
- Independent Evaluator #2

Independent Evaluators will be selected by the KAHA President, KAHA Vice-President, KAHA Travel Coordinator, and KAHA ACE Coordinator

A replacement delegate can replace a committee member with approval by the other committee members.

The Chair and Facilitator for the Selection Committee will be KAHA President. KAHA Vice President, KAHA Hockey Director and KAHA Ace Coordinator will also participate in the final selection process to provide further guidance and support.

NOTE: If the child of a KAHA Board member, evaluator, and/or head coach is trying out for a travel team, that KAHA Board member, evaluator, and/or head coach will not be able to grade his/her child nor participate in any roundtable discussions that involve their child. That child’s evaluation grade will be determined by the remaining members of the selection committee.

KAHA are responsible for establishing the rules and formats associated with the tryout sessions. To be eligible for tryouts and/or travel team, a player must:

- a) Be registered in advance online at (www.wildhockeytn.com).
- b) Submit any fees to cover the cost of the try-outs.
- c) Be in good financial standing with the association.

Players or families that have overdue fee balances from prior seasons will not be allowed to try out until outstanding balances have been paid in full or satisfactory payment arrangements have been made with the association's Treasurer and President.

A KAHA Board-approved evaluation committee using the prescribed scoring system will evaluate skating ability, hockey skills and game awareness at each level during scheduled tryout sessions. All levels will include a scrimmage component as part of the evaluation process.

Additional input to a player's respective hockey abilities and understanding of team concepts will be provided by on-ice coach(es). The evaluations are confidential. At no time will the evaluations be shared or witnessed with any non-approved Board member including parents or players.

If a player's inability to attend the tryouts because of a family-related conflict, illness and/or injury, the player may request in writing that they be evaluated later prior to the team's scheduled tryout. Reserved for extreme cases only, later evaluations are not guaranteed and will only be considered once a written request has been submitted to The KAHA Hockey Director as well as the KAHA Travel Coordinator.

Any player that does not attend the official tryout sessions is still eligible to join an established or forming KAHA Travel Team if all the following circumstances apply:

- a. The team has less than 18 skaters and 2 goalies
- b. The player could not attend due to illness or injury (doctor's note required), due to a death in the family, or for some other KAHA Board approved absence.
- c. If the player is transferring from another organization, a letter is provided stating the players previous status with the organization. (Financial Release)
- d. The player receives the approval of the team, KAHA Hockey Director, KAHA Travel Coordinator, and KAHA Vice President

If these circumstances are met, the player will be granted a separate or supplemental tryout session. A tryout fee will be required prior to the session.

If a player is deemed ineligible, that decision is binding throughout that KAHA season.

A mandatory parent's meeting will be conducted immediately before each try-out with the parents to communicate the try-out process and resolve any questions.

Each Travel team will be selected by the Selection Committee with final decisions being made by the Head Coach. The KAHA President or KAHA Vice-President will facilitate the selection process at each age level.

The goal of the KAHA Tryout process is to fairly evaluate players and place them on the best team that matches their skill level and ability in the fairest way possible, using many 'checks and balances. KAHA recognizes that there is no perfect process and that there will always be players and parents who will disagree with the decisions. This will always exist in the case of a selective tiered (1, 2, 3...) system. We believe that our process is reasonable and fair, providing a player with the opportunity to play on a team that is matched to that player's overall ability. Decisions by the Selection Committee are considered final. No appeals will be considered.

Every player trying out will be evaluated and considered for placement on the highest team, regardless of the prior season team placement or age.

If two players are considered for the last spot on the same team and both have been evaluated and determined to be of equal skill, the second-year player will be placed ahead of the first-year player.

Specific team assignment requests are generally not permitted and should only be made in cases of extreme hardship. All such requests must be submitted in writing to the KAHA Travel Coordinator detailing the need for the placement.

Requests will be considered only if the request is for participation on a lower-level team within the player's age bracket. Placements will not be made if it would significantly impact the makeup and skill level of a lower-level team.

Due to shifting numbers of players in any age group and the talent level of the incoming, younger age group, a player may remain stationary or, in some instances, drop down.

Once the Head Coach has selected his/her team, the results will be posted on the KAHA website. An interview with the released skater is available upon request.

If a player is offered a spot on a KAHA travel team (first picked "AA" or second picked "A"), they will have a specified time (approximately 48 hours) to pay KAHA administrative fee and register for the upcoming season to secure their spot. If the player who is offered a spot does not register within a specified window, the spot will be considered declined and another player will be offered the spot.

The deposit will only be processed by KAHA if your child accepts and registers for a roster spot. The final roster will be solidified at the conclusion of the specified window. Each skater could face one of the following two results following the specified window:

1. Placed on the final roster with KAHA processing the deposit immediately.
2. Released from consideration. The deposit will be shredded or returned to the family.

SECTION V – ADDITIONAL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

SELECTING JERSEY NUMBERS

Numbers are assigned with the intent to avoid overlap – so players do not have to change numbers (and uniforms) from one year to the next:

- a) An existing Travel uniform from the previous year takes precedence over all else.
- b) A number cannot be selected if it is used by players on the same team, same division, or IN ADJACENT YEARS, or two years adjacent. The KAHA Travel Director will define the set of available numbers for each team.
- c) If two players on the same team somehow have the same number on an existing jersey, or want the same number, the older player gets the first choice.
- d) KAHA will only use number 1-98 and no number 69.

PRACTICE PLAYER POLICY

It is intended that practice/dual rostered players be used on a travel team, but only on an as needed and temporary basis. It is understood that any player that is affiliated with another team must realize that his/her first obligation is to his/her primary team. No practice/dual rostered player shall play and/or practice with a travel team without the prior approval of the KAHA Travel Coordinator. The following rules apply to such practice/dual rostered players:

- a) A specific practice fee will be charged for each practice at the following rate: \$20/per practice and \$20/per game.

- b) Unregistered practice players, (players participating on teams outside of KAHA), may participate with a Travel Team at the discretion of the Head Coach. Players outside of KAHA can only participate within the Skills sessions that are established by KAHA and not at any regular scheduled team practice. A specific practice fee will be charged for each skills session at the following rate: \$30/per practice.
- c) Any KAHA practice players added to a travel team as a full member of the team will be assessed a prorated fee due for the remainder of the season. The team budget will be adjusted to accommodate the added player.
- d) All fees collected will be applied to the Travel Team's account.

REGIONAL TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS

For a team to participate in a tournament located more than 500 miles from Cool Sports, at least three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the team's tryout registrants must have indicated "Yes" to being willing to travel such a distance when accepting a roster spot. If this threshold is not met, an additional vote must be conducted. This vote must result in at least three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the current team families affirming their willingness to travel over 500 miles for the tournament in question for it to be added to the season schedule.

If a team wishes to participate in a second tournament located more than 500 miles from Cool Sports within the same season, an additional vote must be conducted by the KAHA Travel Coordinator via email. This vote must result in a unanimous decision among all team parents in favor of the additional travel for the tournament to be approved and added to the season schedule.

SPRING/SUMMER TEAM POLICY

All Spring / Summer Teams on a per team basis, organized by the team coaches & managers individually. All rostered individuals are under the KAHA governance, and team roster registrations are as followed:

- a) Request for tournament roster must be submitted to the KAHA Board of Directors at least one (1) month prior to the event with roster being finalized 10 days prior to the event.
- b) Must have a current USAH membership
- c) A specific administration fee will be charged to all unregistered KAHA players at the following rate: \$20 per player. (Half of admin fees collected rewarded to KAHA Registrar in the form of FRCs)
- d) Non-community-based Spring/Summer teams may be formed using a Rec Roster however they must register through KAHA Registrar. These teams may be comprised of players from multiple communities within and outside KAHA.
- e) FRCs are NOT permitted for Spring / Summer Teams.
- f) SMW Travel Team funds are NOT transferable to Spring / Summer Teams.

SECTION VI – REVISION OF THESE KAHA TRAVEL BY-LAWS

These KAHA Travel Program Bylaws must be reviewed by the KAHA Travel Coordinator, KAHA Hockey Director and KAHA President after each Travel season. Any recommended changes must be drafted and approved by the KAHA Travel Coordinator, KAHA Hockey Director and KAHA President prior to being implemented into practice.

SECTION VII – AMMENDMENTS

1. June 1, 2021 – Complete rewrite and construction of KAHA Travel Program Bylaws.
2. May 20, 2022 – Refund Policy; Discount Policy; Players Play-Up Policy; Try-out Policy; Selecting Jersey Numbers; Spring/Summer Teams Policy.
3. August 7, 2023 – Sponsorship/Donation Policy; Coach Selection Policy; Regional Travel Considerations Policy.
4. May 30, 2025 – Program Structure, Team information, Payment Policy, Refund Policy, Discount Policy, Coaches and Team Managers, Compensation, Player Play-Up Policy; Tryout Policy; Selecting Jersey Numbers, Practice Players, Regional Travel, Regional Spring/Summer Teams Policy, Revision of These KAHA Travel Bylaws.