

# Bozeman Amateur Hockey Association

## Membership Handbook

*Updated: 6/10/2025*

### I. General Overview

#### **BAHA's Mission Statement**

The mission of BAHA is to provide quality, affordable, and disciplined competitive and recreational hockey.

#### **BAHA's Philosophy**

BAHA is committed to providing everyone the opportunity to have fun learning the skills of skating and the game of hockey while affording them the environment to achieve their highest level of play. As a team sport, hockey affirms the importance of commitment, self-discipline, and sportsmanship. For the players who participate in BAHA's youth hockey programs, we seek to develop not only hockey skill, but also to instill values that will have a lifelong benefit to them and to society.

#### **Core Values**

**Respect** – Our players, coaches, managers, and families are taught to respect teammates, opponents, officials, and facilities at all times.

**Development** – We challenge our players to consistently learn, both on and off the ice. We encourage each player to become a better person and build new life-skills, which will lead to success in all aspects of their lives.

**Enjoyment** – We want coaches, players, and families to enjoy their time with our program and the game of hockey. We teach everyone to enjoy the process and not just focus on the final goal.

**Teamwork** – Our players are coached to always support their teammates and to help each other become the best version of themselves. There is an emphasis on maintaining a good attitude and giving maximum effort while being accountable to everyone on the team.

### II. General Policies

#### **Administrative Fee**

Any cancellation or refunds of a Youth or Adult full season program comes with a \$75.00 administrative fee.

#### **Alcohol Policy**

There is absolutely no outside alcohol allowed within the facility. Any alcohol purchased inside the rink must be consumed while still on the premises. No alcohol is allowed on the benches, or in the penalty boxes and scorekeepers' box.

#### **Disciplinary Committee and Procedure**

If the comments, actions, and/or behavior of any player, parent, coach, consultant, employee, or board member constitute a violation of BAHA policies as described in the Membership Guide or otherwise adversely affects the operation or standing of BAHA, they shall be required to appear before the BAHA Disciplinary Committee. The BAHA Disciplinary Committee shall consist of the BAHA Adult Hockey Director, Youth Hockey Director, and Adult or Youth Commissioner.

Based on the facts and circumstances evidenced during the meeting, the Disciplinary Committee will evaluate incidents on a case-by-case basis and can impose ANY sanctions it deems appropriate (e.g., probation, suspension from games/practices, exclusion from other activities or expulsion from the organization).

## **Refunds**

Any player injured while playing hockey for BAHA, in either a game or a practice is entitled to a refund that will be prorated for the missed time extending beyond 4 weeks. A doctor's certification is required for a player to return to play. The Board will exercise reasonable judgment regarding refunds for injuries that occur outside of hockey.

All other refund requests will be on a case-by-case basis.

## **III. Youth Policies**

### **Team Fundraising**

Icedog teams can raise up to \$1,500 during their respective Bozeman Cup home tournament. If extra money is raised, the team will have the option to donate the additional proceeds to: Gallatin Ice Foundation, youth scholarships, or the Gloves off Gala. Fundraising can be used for: team party, coach/player gifts, team meal, and bus trips. Any other reasons must be approved by the Youth Hockey Director.

*\* A team may raise an additional \$1,000 during a state tournament if they are the host.*

### **Cell Phone Policy**

Cell Phones are not allowed to be used in the rink or during team functions without permission from a coach. The only music allowed is a speaker with one player's phone connected. If a text or call is needed to be made, players are asked to go to the rink entrance or outside.

If players are caught on their phones, they will be given a verbal warning. If the issue persists – the coach will hold on to the phone until the practice or event is over. Further violations may result in a meeting with the Youth Hockey Director.

### **Dispute Resolution Policy & Chain of Command**

Problems or concerns regarding the coaching of a team, such as playing time, positions, practices, etc., should be taken first to the Head Coach and then to the Youth Hockey Director. Problems or concerns outside of the team need to follow the same chain of command. Under no circumstances should a parent reach out directly to someone in MAHA or an affiliated association.

### **Parent Code of Conduct**

Both parents of an Icedogs player must sign and be held accountable to the Parent Code of Conduct.

### **Player Code of Conduct**

All Icedog players must sign and be held accountable to the Player Code of Conduct.

### **Play Time**

BAHA believes in a policy of "equal play for equal effort" which means that over the course of a season all players who are giving equal effort on the ice at practice/games, have good attendance at team events, display a good attitude both on the bench and in the locker room, and conduct themselves as good citizens should play approximately an equal amount of time.

However, if a player is not giving good effort, is causing disruption to their team on or off the ice, not listening to the coach, missing team events, taking bad penalties, playing selfish hockey, not following team rules, etc., they may be

subject to discipline which can include “sitting” the player. It is expected that any discipline will be applied in a consistent manner to all players on the team.

### **Player Move Ups**

BAHA prefers that all players play at their appropriate age levels as established by USA Hockey. The decision to place players with an older age group will be made at the sole discretion of the Youth Hockey Director and is very rare.

### **Rostering with Another Team**

Icedogs players are allowed to roster with another team in Montana, if that team is pre/post and doesn't interfere with the TSL schedule (i.e. Montana Wolves). If a player wants to roster with an additional AA or AAA team out of the state, they will need written permission from the Youth Hockey Director.

We don't allow players to cross-roster with another Icedogs team. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis by the Youth Hockey Director.

### **Tryout Evaluation Process**

- The purpose of the player evaluation process is to place each player on a team commensurate with their skills and to keep the selection process fair, standardized, and as impartial as possible.
- Jerseys will be provided by BAHA during Tryouts and must be returned.
- During the tryout process, it is essential that there be no unnecessary contact or communication between parents and the evaluators, on-ice volunteers, and coaches.
- Players will only be allowed to tryout if they have paid in full their registration fees, tryout fees (if applicable), and any prior year's outstanding dues.

BAHA uses this general formula in the evaluation of players:

1/3 – Evaluation at the tryout

1/3 – Previous coach's input (if applicable)

1/3 – Future coach's input

The Youth Hockey Director will have the final say in selecting players for teams.