



Saugerties Youth Hockey Association

Player / Parent Handbook

2017 – 2018

SAUGERTIES YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

A message from the Board...

On behalf of the SYHA board, we would like to welcome you to the youth hockey season. Please take the time to acquaint yourself with the information shared within this handbook, as it will be invaluable. The purpose of this booklet is to familiarize you with the policies, procedures, expectations and guidelines of our youth hockey program so all players, coaches and parents have the opportunity to have a rewarding experience. Since parents/guardians and other family members are an integral part of that experience, it is important you have as much information as possible about the program.

As we begin this new season of youth hockey, we are especially proud of the hard work and dedication individuals have shown to help drive our program. There are countless volunteer hours invested by parents, board members, general members and numerous other volunteers. We also recognize that by working together our program can continue to be a success. We welcome feedback and suggestions at any time during the year but also ask that you respect our volunteers who work hard to make it happen. Have a great season!

Mark Signore
SYHA President

Saugerties Youth Hockey Association is an affiliate of USA Hockey and NYS Amateur Hockey Association (<http://www.nysaha.com/>). USA Hockey rules and policies govern the manner in which we manage the programs we offer.

Saugerties Youth Hockey Association Mission Statement

The Saugerties Youth Hockey Association (SYHA) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, sanctioned under the New York State Amateur Hockey Association and USA Hockey. SYHA conducts its programs at the Kiwanis Ice Arena located in Saugerties NY. In partnership with the parents, and coaches we strive to ensure that children are provided a meaningful, enjoyable, challenging and safe hockey experience. We are an athlete-centered organization that places the needs of children first. We give each player the opportunity to participate to the best of their ability and to develop as a young athlete. Together, we will nurture the physical and emotional well-being of all children in an environment that fosters and promotes a sense of community. We are guided by the values of good sportsmanship, honesty, respect for all individuals and personal integrity. SYHA is committed to the long-term growth and development of all levels of developing hockey player. Our success will be measured by more children who enjoy playing and participating in hockey in the future. <http://www.saugertiesyouthhockey.com/>

USA Hockey Mission Statement

USA Hockey encourages an environment in which children can learn the basic skills without the distractions that are often associated with an over emphasis on winning. Mastery of fundamental skills and the fun of playing are essential to the development of a lifelong interest in hockey. For more information on USA Hockey guidelines visit the web site at www.usahockey.com.

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SYHA will strive to provide...

- A chance to play hockey at an age appropriate level for each child
- A safe, fun, and rewarding hockey experience
- An environment that stresses skill development rather than competition
- A sense of pride deriving from membership and participation in our organization
- Positive adult role modeling - from coaches, parents and association representatives
- An economically feasible fee structure
- An opportunity for each participant to develop both individual and team skills
- A “no-tolerance,” “hockey by the rules” environment
- A setting where sportsmanship and good behavior are stressed at all times
- An environment in which politics, favoritism and preferential treatment is not tolerated
- An environment in which discipline and team work are learned, valuing the strengths of working together and learning as a team.
- An environment free from profanity, verbal or physical abuse and discrimination
- An environment in which sportsmanship, a sense of fair play, humility in victory and graciousness in defeat is stressed
- An environment to enjoy the sport of hockey regardless of financial positions
- Reinforcement of the golden rule: players, coaches and parents will treat others as they would expect to be treated
- Pursuit of excellence in which each athlete, coach and parent will seek to perform to the highest level of their ability
- A mentorship for players to become conscientious adults and hockey ambassadors

Saugerties Youth Hockey Fees

The cost to fund a player greatly exceeds the SYHA registration fees per player. Volunteer hours and fundraising efforts are essential to help keep costs reasonable and to ensure opportunities for the youth we serve now and in the future. Together, we continually evaluate ways to minimize the cost to participate and keep the opportunities for our youth strong.

Registration is conducted each spring and fall and must be completed prior to any player participating in any on-ice activities. Fees are due based on dates published at the time of registration unless other arrangements are made with the SYHA Board. In the event that past fees are owed, the player will not be allowed to participate in current or future activities until such fees are paid. Program fees vary based on the player's level and program of the participation. Late fees may be applied to late registrations.

If a player decides on their own accord to terminate participation, fees paid will NOT be refunded. If a player is removed/ terminated, fees paid will NOT be refunded. It is requested that player termination be submitted to the SYHA Board.

In the event of an injury in which a medical professional recommends that players should not or cannot continue play, the fees could potentially be pro-rated depending on date of injury. Any decisions would be considered case by case.

Registration fees must be paid before the season or tryouts begin at player's age level. If these fees have not been paid prior to the first day, please know that your child will not be allowed to skate. Pay fees by deadlines to ensure uninterrupted participation for your player.

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2017-18 Saugerties Youth Hockey House and Travel Programs

Learn To Play

Players born between 01/01/2012 - 12/31/2014 are eligible (Up to 10 years old if have not skated previously)

GOALS: Learn to Play is SYHA's beginner program. This is where we teach children between the age of 3 and 10 how to skate and play the game of hockey. The focus is on skating and puck handling skills. A progression of station-based practices that follow USA Hockey's age appropriate recommendations will be utilized by coaches throughout the season.

SYHA has hockey equipment available for Learn to Play program participants. These "starter kits" for kids help parents avoid the cost of buying equipment. The starter kit covers your child from helmet to shin guards and comes in a nice carrying bag (excluding skates, neck guard, hockey socks, groin protection, mouthpiece & stick).

Skates are available from the Kiwanis Ice Arena rental window. They are free of charge for Learn to Play hockey players and must be returned after each practice.

You must provide a credit card deposit when borrowing SYHA hockey and skating equipment. Card will not be charged if equipment is properly returned.

8 Years Old & Under (8U or Mites) - Travel and House

Players born between 1/1/2009 – 12/31/2012 may be eligible*

Mite House Program:

SYHA's Mite program is for children who have participated in a Learn to Play hockey program. *If your skater has a 2012-09 birth year and has been in a Learn to Play hockey program for 1-2 years, they are likely ready to move into the Mite House program. The Mite program is usually comprised of boys and girls ages 5 thru 8.

- Practices and games will be held at the Kiwanis Ice Arena.
- Practices will be a combination of skating skills, stick handling, and puck control.
- The practices and games will embrace the ADM cross-ice concepts of dividing the rink into multiple mini rinks for games and stations for skill development.
- SYHA loaner equipment is only offered to skaters at the Learn to Play (LTP) with the exception of goalie gear.
- Skaters moving up from LTP to Mites will need their own equipment for the 2017-18 season.

Mite Travel Teams:

There will be two travel teams made up of 2009 & 2010 birth year players respectively. Tryouts will determine each team roster for the season.

- Mite Major: 2009 Birth year skaters.
- Mite Minor: 2010 Birth year skaters.

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USA Hockey's key focus for Mite age players:

- Help ensure our participants gain physical literacy
- Develop a passion for hockey in all our children (keep kids & families in the game)
- Encourage participation in a variety of complimentary sports to help our children maximize their ability to reach their genetic potential in hockey
- Develop on-ice balance, coordination, agility and speed
- Introduce basic puck control skills

SYHA GOALS: Beginning level to learn and develop basic hockey skills - skating, puck control, passing and shooting, and to have FUN. Practice plans based on and developed through USA Hockey and the American Development Model.

Squirt/ PeeWee (House) Development Program

This will be a House Development program for players who love the game of hockey but are unable to make the travel commitment. Teams will practice during the week and play games on weekends.

- Season runs from November 7, 2017 until March 15, 2018
- 2 Practices during the week
- Games on Saturday evenings

Squirt 10U Travel Teams

Players born between 1/1/2007 and 12/31/2008 are eligible

Teams at the Minor and Major levels will play league (TVHL) and non-league teams games and tournaments.

- Squirt Major: 2007 Birth year skaters.
- Squirt Minor: 2008 Birth year skaters.

USA Hockey's key focus for Squirt age players:

- Continue to develop physical literacy
- Continue to participate in 3 complimentary sports
- Participants at this stage should learn solid basic skills in skating and puck control
- There is no need at this stage to specialize at a specific skater position, however goalies may begin to focus on their position

SYHA GOALS: To improve the hockey skills of skating, passing, shooting, and positional play amongst playing groups of similarly skilled players. Also introduce players to competitive team play and to have FUN. Practice plans based on and developed through USA Hockey and the American Development Model.

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PeeWee 12U Travel Teams

Players born between 1/1/2005 and 12/31/2006 are eligible

The 12U level is designed to improve player development. This season one "A" and one "B" level team will be determined following the player evaluation process. Teams will be formed by the coaches through an evaluation process.

- PeeWee A: 2005/2006 Birth year skaters.
- PeeWee B 2005/2006 Birth year skaters.

USA Hockey's key focus for PeeWee age players:

- Continue to develop physical literacy
- Continue to participate in 3 complimentary sports
- Participants at this stage should learn solid basic skills in skating and puck control
- There is no need at this stage to specialize at a specific skater position, however goalies may begin to focus on their position

SYHA GOALS: To improve the hockey skills of skating, passing, shooting, and positional play amongst playing groups of similarly skilled players. Also give players the opportunity to continue to grow in competitive team play and to have FUN. Practice plans based on and developed through USA Hockey and the American Development Model.

High School (Junior Varsity & Varsity)

Players in the 8th grade and above from Ulster and Greene counties are eligible to play on the JV and/or Varsity teams. The JV/Varsity teams play in the Hudson Valley High School Club league. Games are played from November to the beginning of March.

Fillies/Girls Program

Fillies 13U House Program

This program will consist of teams made up of girls in the program. This program is designed to help players develop in house in a more relaxed, fun environment. Depending on numbers the house program should field at least 3-4 teams who will practice together but play against each other during games. Teams will be divided up according to skill level and the goal is to have like skilled players on the ice at the same time. 12U tournament team girls will also participate in this program. Games may also be played against the Mustangs house program if scheduling permits.

Fillies 12U Tournament Team

An all-girls tournament team that will take part in 4-5 tournaments throughout the season. Roster will be determined after a tryout that will take place in September. Girls that fit into the 10U category can also tryout for this team. Girls who make the tournament team will also take part in the **13U House Program**.

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Fillies 14U and 19U Travel Teams

These are all-girls travel teams that will play a travel/home schedule. These teams will play against other girls travel teams and will compete in special events and tournaments.

Clinic/Drop In Practice

MAC Goaltending Clinic - Bryan McDonald from MAC Goaltending will host a 10 week goaltending clinic. All Travel Mite and above SYHA registered goaltenders are included Free of Charge.

Hockey Hut Training Center Clinic- SYHA in partnership with the Hockey Hut Training Center are proud to provide 20 weeks of the very best skating & hockey skills instruction for all ages and level of players. Hockey Hut also offers the best strength & conditioning training for athletes of all ages. The cost for Hockey Hut clinics are built into most player registration costs. If not included, players can purchase these clinics at an additional fee of \$100.00 (includes all 20 weeks).

Mite (8U) -Drop In Practices - may begin 1-2 weeks prior to the season beginning. These drop in clinics are offered to allow beginning players the opportunity to get familiar with their equipment while getting a feel for the ice and surroundings. Players get the opportunity to meet their coaches and the other players they will spend the season with.

Squirt (10U), PeeWee (12U), and JV/Varsity-Drop In Practices– may begin 2-3 weeks prior to the season beginning. These are ice sessions geared towards returning to the ice from the off-season, working on individual skill development and taking part in competitive and fun practice sessions.

Player Team Assignment Policy

It is the goal of SYHA to assign each individual player to a birth year team (whenever possible) that gives them the best opportunity to continue in their individual skill development and in a team environment that will allow players to learn, grow and have fun. The best way to achieve individual player team assignments is to assess each player through an evaluation / tryout period. Coaches will observe and assess each player during drills and scrimmages throughout the evaluation / tryout period. At the end of the process, coaches will review the player assessment and place each player based on their performance and coaches observations.

Team Selections

Teams will be determined by birth year (whenever possible) and after an evaluation/tryout process under the supervision of a tryout committee. It is the goal to place each player into a team setting that will give them the best opportunity to continue their development. Players will be placed on a team based on the assessment level of each player as determined by coaches and committee members and according to their birth year (whenever possible).

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Playing Levels

SYHA is committed to placing players at their age specific/appropriate levels. We do not encourage players participating at older/higher levels than the age specific levels created by USA Hockey. Age specific playing levels have been created through extensive research.

Scheduling

Ice time for practices and games is determined based on the availability of ice at Kiwanis Ice Arena. Practices will be primarily on weekday evenings and weekends. There will not be any team activities scheduled during Thanksgiving or Christmas break. Multiple teams will also share ice time to allow for the best usage of limited practice time availability.

The number of individual team practices each week will be limited by ice availability. Practice times may fluctuate from day to day depending on ice availability and a number of other factors.

Game and Practice Schedules

Every effort will be made to post all game and practice schedules in a timely fashion. Schedules are posted at www.saugertiesyouthhockey.com. Game schedules will be posted by the completion of the team assignment period and are updated as any changes occur. We make every effort to keep game schedule changes to a minimum, but in working with a number of different communities and teams some changes will likely occur throughout the season. Please be sure to check the Weekly Arena Schedules often for updates.

Ice time is a valuable commodity. Players need to be completely ready to go on the ice before the practice/game starts. Coaches will inform players of what time they should arrive at the arena prior to practice/game times.

Communications

Several communication methods will be used to try to help keep people informed and to assist in having an enjoyable season and experience.

Youth Hockey Meetings – group meetings will be held throughout the year that will be open to all families and individuals registered in our program.

Team player and parent meetings – will be held following team assignments at the beginning of the year and as requested by team coaches or team managers.

Team Communications - Information related to individual teams will be handled by team coaches and team managers.

Email – some information will be sent out periodically by mass email to email addresses provided through the USA Hockey registration.

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Registration

All participants are required to provide the following, upon registration:

- Applicable fees
- SYHA registration form
- USA Hockey registration confirmation (must be completed on-line prior to local registration) -
A certified copy of each player's birth certificate as proof of age
- All required forms must be signed (as directed by USA Hockey, NYSAHA and SYHA.)

Commitments by Parents/Guardians and Families

Equipment

The following equipment is required to participate in youth hockey. Players not wearing the required equipment will not be allowed to play or practice.

- HECC approved helmet with face mask, neck and chin straps
- Mouth guard - must be colored, non-clear
- Neck guard
- Skates
- Stick
- Pants
- Gloves
- Elbow pads
- Shoulder Pads
- Shin Pads
- Pelvic protector (girls), Cup and supporter (boys)

Jerseys: A team jersey is provided for all players on Learn to Play and House teams. Mite travel players and above must purchase their own custom home and away and practice jerseys once teams have been assigned.

Travel Jersey Care: Keep jerseys clean for games. It is recommended that jerseys be kept on a hanger. Wash in cold water in a detergent without bleach and air dry. If tears occur, mend immediately to prevent further damage. **DO NOT PUT JERSEYS IN A HOT DRYER.** Travel jerseys are recommended for game use only or at coaches' discretion for special events or circumstances as permitted.

Team Managers

Each team will have a volunteer parent/guardian, who is the team manager/rep. This person distributes schedules, organizes team volunteers, helps organize any social events or team meetings, and is a general information source for the team. It is recommended that each team has a rep at the board meeting. Also, parents will be required to volunteer as locker room monitors

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of questionable/stormy winter weather conditions, please check the following websites:

1. Saugerties Youth Hockey Association, Home Page www.saugertiesyouthhockey.com
2. Kiwanis Ice Arena www.kiwanisicearena.com

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SYHA and Kiwanis Facebook accounts and the SYHA Twitter account will provide additional cancellation and schedule change information.

For out of town hockey events, the weather cancellation procedures shall be as follows:

1. Team coaches and team managers shall make the initial decision if an out of town game will be cancelled.
2. A team coach or manager shall contact the host town to cancel the game and contact the scheduler about rescheduling the game(s) if possible.
3. The coach or team manager shall contact their team's families and inform them of the cancellation.
4. Parent/Guardians ultimately reserve the right to determine whether or not their child should travel to a hockey event out of town. No discipline will occur for missing a game or practice due to inclement weather.

In addition, coaches have the authority to cancel practices/games at their discretion. Parents/Guardians ultimately reserve the right to determine whether or not their child should participate in activities on a given day with inclement weather conditions.

*Parents/guardians please make sure the Ice Arena is open when dropping an older player off.

General Policies

NOTE: SYHA has adopted Zero Tolerance Policies for both Coaches/Managers and Player/Parent/Guardians. These Policies are included at the end of this Handbook and require signatures by all coaches, managers, players, and parents/guardians. The following general policies and Codes of Conduct are supplemental to our Zero Tolerance Policies.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use

The use, possession and/or knowingly being in the presence of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs are strictly prohibited. Any participant found in violation during participation in a SYHA program will be penalized as outlined.

**Possession is defined as a person knowingly and willingly possessing a beverage containing alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs.*

***In the presence of is defined as a participant knowingly or willingly remaining in the presence of others who are in the possession or using alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs. This would not include attending an event with participant's parents.*

- After confirmation of the first violation, the participant shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive events or two weeks of events, whichever is greater.
- After confirmation of the second violation, the participant shall lose eligibility for the next nine consecutive events or nine weeks of events, whichever is greater.

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- If a third violation occurs, the participant will lose eligibility for the next eighteen consecutive events or the next eighteen weeks of events, whichever is greater. Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with and throughout the participant's time in the SYHA programs.

**If a season would end during a suspension period, the penalty will continue into the next activity the participant registers for.*

***If a participant completes a treatment program during a suspension period they may be eligible to be re-instated upon review and after a minimum of nine weeks.*

Bullying

Bullying will not be tolerated in any SYHA program. Bullying and intimidation are actions that are contrary to the teachings of good sportsmanship and deprives individuals a safe, caring and fun environment.

"Bullying" is defined as any overt acts by an individual or a group directed against another individual with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate, or intimidate. Bullying includes but is not limited to physical intimidation or assault, extortion, oral or written threats, teasing, name calling, threatening looks, gestures or actions, cruel rumors, false accusations, and social isolation.

Upon an investigation, any participant confirmed in a form of bullying will be disciplined accordingly. Disciplinary actions will be determined on a case by case basis and may include verbal and/or written apologies, loss of privileges or suspension from practices and games.

Practice Attendance and Behavior

Practice attendance and behavior standards will be set by individual team coaches. Coaches, at their discretion, may discipline players who have unexcused absences from practice, behavior at practice that is not conducive to learning, disruptive or disrespectful behavior and/or actions, negative attitudes, and behaviors and/or actions that negatively impact the ability of other players to experience optimal practice or game play. Such standards should be stated at the beginning of the season and be applied fairly to all players on the team without regard for their playing ability. Coaches shall have the authority to discipline players for abuse of any rule, regulation, or other SYHA policy or procedure.

If you have any problems, or complaints that cannot be handled by your coach or coordinator please contact the SYHA Player/Parent Liaison.

Nacia Walsh, Player/Parent Liaison, SYHA Executive Board

Other Behavior Issues May Include but are Not Limited to:

- Not listening and/or being disruptive to coaches
- Degrading teammate(s), officials or competition
- Harmful teasing
- Arriving late for practices or games

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- Fighting
- Damage or disregard to locker rooms, benches, rink property
- Not wearing required equipment
- Abusive or foul language
- Theft
- Excessive Penalties (Major or Minor)
- Missing practice or game (unexcused) – Players/parents must call one of the coaches prior to practice or the game to let them know they will not be able to attend. Events to be viewed as excused absences: school related, such as band or choir; family functions; illness: a note from a parent or physician may be required if someone misses an inordinate number of practices or games.

Players Expectations of Coaches

Players have the right to:

- Be informed of requirements needed to successfully participate on the team
- Be protected from verbal or physical abuse by coaches or other players
- Be disciplined or reprimanded in private, if possible.

Parent or Spectator

Unwarranted involvement or actions of a parent or spectator can result in suspension from arena(s) for a specified length of time. Before suspended person can regain privileges a written letter of apology must be submitted to necessary parties.

“24 Hour Rule”: Parents may not directly approach a coach with any complaint without first waiting 24 hours from the time of incident. Parents should then set a meeting time with the coaches to discuss the issue.

Discipline Guidelines

The following will be used as a basic guide by teams for handling specific problems that may occur during the year. Each coach may deviate from this guideline by substituting and enforcing their own set of rules, provided that they have informed participants of such rules and have enforced such rules consistently and fairly with all participants.

The following is the hierarchy for discussion among parties to resolve issues. If a resolution cannot be attained by the first group, then the next group will attempt to find a resolution, etc.

1. Coaches and player
2. Coaches, player, and parents
3. Coaches, player, parents, and SYHA Parent/Player Liaison.

Coaches

Coaches will communicate time for players to arrive at the arena for all practices and games. Coaches will be on time and present for practices and games. Coaches will complete USA Hockey registration, CEP clinics and modules, Safe Sport training and required background screening by designated dates. Coaches are fully accountable to the SYHA Executive Board.

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Note: SYHA exists for the development of skills, attitude and self-esteem of the athletes. Our Hockey and skating programs are intended to enhance the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of the youth players. Hockey should be a FUN activity for the players. Parents are encouraged to be positive and supportive with team players, coaches and fellow parents.

Player, Parents and Coaches Codes of Conduct

The purposes of this Code of Conduct are to help players, parents and coaches to be informed of the standards of behavior, conduct and appearance that is appropriate for those involved within SYHA and our community.

Sanctions for Violations of Code of Conduct

Upon receipt of a possible violation or incident, the SYHA Executive Board may elect to investigate the violation. If the Board determines, in its sole and exclusive discretion, that a violation has occurred, the Board may impose sanctions ranging from a written warning, a temporary suspension or expulsion from youth hockey activities. The SYHA Executive Boards' decision regarding sanctions shall be final.

Locker Room Policy

In addition to the development of our hockey players and enjoyment of the sport of hockey, the safety and protection of our participants is central to SYHA's goals. SYHA adheres to USA Hockey's SafeSport Program as a means to help protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse and other types of misconduct, including emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing. To help prevent abuse or misconduct from occurring in our locker rooms, SYHA has adopted the following locker room policy. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms.

At the Kiwanis Ice Arena locker rooms are available for our program's use. Each of the locker rooms has its own restroom and shower area. A coach or locker room monitor will be responsible for obtaining a locker room key(s) from the Rink office, and properly securing their team's locker room prior to the start of all home practices and games. Head Coaches will also assure that visiting teams receive a key to their assigned locker room(s) as well.

Some teams in our program may also occasionally or regularly travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, rest rooms and shower facilities will vary from location to location. At arenas for which you are unfamiliar, parents should plan to have extra time and some flexibility in making arrangements for their child to dress, undress and shower if desired.

Locker Room Monitoring

SYHA has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., generally 30-45 minutes before and following practices and games). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this would likely make some players uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion. We conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive, and if the coaches are not inside the locker rooms, either a coach or voluntary locker room monitors (each of which has been screened) will be posted directly outside of the locker rooms and changing

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areas during periods of use, and leave the doors open only when adequate privacy is still possible, so that only participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room.

Parents in Locker Rooms

Except for players at the younger age groups (10U and below), we discourage parents from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a player needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear, if the player is or may be injured, or a player's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that parents let the coach know beforehand that he or she will be helping the player. Naturally, with our youngest age groups it is necessary for parents to assist the players getting dressed. We encourage parents to teach their players as young as possible how to get dressed so that players will learn as early as possible how to get dressed independently. In circumstances where parents are permitted in the locker room, coaches are permitted to ask that the parents leave for a short time before the game and for a short time after the game so that the coaches may address the players. As players get older, the coach may in his or her discretion prohibit parents from a locker room.

Mixed Gender Teams

Some of our teams consist of both male and female players. It is important that the privacy rights of all of our players are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. Where possible, SYHA will have the male and female players dress/undress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single locker room before the game or team meeting. Once the game or practice is finished, the players may come to one locker room for a team meeting and then the male and female players proceed to their separate locker rooms to undress and shower, if available. If separate locker rooms are not available, then the players will take turns using the locker room to change. We understand that these arrangements may require that players arrive earlier or leave later to dress, but believe that this is the most reasonable way to accommodate and respect all of our players.

Cell Phones and Other Mobile Recording Devices

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, **are not permitted to be used in the locker rooms**. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

SYHA prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook. Participants, employees or volunteers in SYHA may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these locker room policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse or that violates the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies. Reports of any actual or suspected violations, you may contact the SYHA President or Vice President, or email USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or call 1-800-888-4656.

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Electronic Communications Policy

As part of the USA Hockey's emphasis on safety, communications involving any participant, and especially our minor participants, should be appropriate, productive and transparent. Effective communication concerning travel, practice or game schedules, and administrative issues among coaches, administrators, players and their families is critical. However, the use of mobile devices, web-based applications, social media, and other forms of electronic communications increases the possibility for improprieties and misunderstandings and also provide potential offenders with unsupervised and potentially inappropriate access to participants. The improper use of social media, mobile and electronic communications can result in misconduct. Adherence to the Electronics Communications Policy helps reduce these risks. All electronic communication between coach and player must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Coaches, players and all team personnel must follow common sense guidelines regarding the volume and time of day of all any allowed electronic communication. All content between coaches and players should be readily available to share with the public or families of the player or coach. If the player is under the age of 18, any email, text, social media, or similar communication **must** also copy or include the player's parents.

Social Media

Social media makes it easy to share ideas and experiences. USA Hockey recognizes, however, that social media, mobile and other electronic communications can be especially concerning where minor participants are involved. Coaches are prohibited from having players joined to or connected through their personal Facebook page or any other similar social media application. To facilitate communication, an official organization or team page may be set up and players and parent may join the official organization or team page and coaches can communicate to players through the site. All electronic communication between coach and player, including use of social media, must be non-personal in nature and be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team oriented motivational purposes. Inappropriate postings should be reported to the SYHA executive Board.

Email, Text Messaging and similar Electronic Communication

Coaches, team managers and players may use email and text messaging to communicate. All email and text message content between coaches/team managers and players must be non-personal in nature and be for the purposes of communicating information about team activities. Email and text messages from a coach to any minor participant **must** include a copy to the player's parents. Where possible, a coach should be provided and use the organization website email center for all communications with the team, players and player's parents, where applicable.

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PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

1. I will learn the rules of hockey and the policies set by my coaches and the SYHA, NYSAHA and USA Hockey.
2. I will encourage GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP from fellow players, coaches, officials, and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship myself.
3. I will attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coaches if I can't attend BEFORE the practice or game.
4. I will do my best to LISTEN and LEARN from my coaches.
5. I will treat other players, coaches, officials, and fans with RESPECT, regardless of RACE, CREED, COLOR, SEX, or ABILITY and I will expect treatment accordingly.
6. I will not engage in any kind of UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT with any official, coach, player, or parent such as: booing, taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
7. I deserve the right to have fun and will tell my parents and coaches if hockey stops being fun.
8. I will refrain from use of social media outlets in any negative or harmful ways in regard to my team, organization, opponents and officials.
9. I will demand a sports environment for myself that is free from DRUGS, TOBACCO, and ALCOHOL, and refrain from their use at all times.
10. I will remember that sports are an opportunity to LEARN and HAVE FUN.
11. I promise to be positive about my experience in SYHA and accept responsibility for my participation by following the PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT.
12. I have read the SYHA Players Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth. I understand that failure to follow the rules set will result in disciplinary actions.

SAUGERTIES YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

1. I will remember that children participate to have FUN and the game is for the youth NOT THE ADULTS.
2. I will learn the RULES of the game and regulations set by the SYHA and USA Hockey.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or teammates.
4. I will not engage in any kind of UNSPORTSMANLIKE conduct with officials, coaches, players and others in attendance, such as: taunting, loud behavior or use profane language or gestures.
5. I will not encourage behavior that would endanger the health and well-being of any player.
6. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility, violence or name calling.
7. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with RESPECT regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
8. I will teach my child that “playing hard” and “doing one’s best” is the most important thing” so that the outcome of a game or their performance will never defeat them.
9. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
10. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of all the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
11. I will refrain from use of social media outlets in any negative in regard to the team, coaches, opponents and officials.
12. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from DRUGS, TOBACCO, and ALCOHOL, and refrain from their use at all SYHA sporting events.
13. I will respect the OFFICIALS and their authority during games and will not confront them.
14. I will NEVER question or confront coaches or staff AT ANY ARENAS, and will take time to speak with them at an agreed upon time and place that is at least 24 hours after any incident. I will resolve any issues first through the coaches and then through the coaches and SYHA.
15. I will refrain from COACHING MY CHILD or other players during games and practices unless I am an official, coach of the team or have been ASKED by an official coach to help.
16. I have read the SYHA Parent Guidelines and agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth.

SAUGERTIES YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

1. I will remember that children participate to have FUN, learn and develop and are the most important part of the program. The game is for the youth not the adults.
2. I will follow the RULES of the game and regulations set by the SYHA and USA Hockey.
3. I will be a positive role model for my players and encourage SPORTSMANSHIP by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating POSITIVE SUPPORT for all players. I will praise my players for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my players feel like WINNERS.
4. I will not engage in any kind of UNSPORTSMANLIKE conduct with officials, coaches, players, and parents such as: taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
5. I will not encourage any behaviors that would endanger the health and well-being of any of the players.
6. I will demand that my players treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with RESPECT regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
7. I will teach my players that “playing hard” and “doing one’s best” is more important than winning” so that the outcome of a game or their performance will never defeat them.
8. I will refrain from use of social media outlets in any negative or harmful ways in regard to my team, organization, opposing teams and officials.
9. I will never ridicule or yell at my players or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition. I will treat all players in a professional and fair manner.
10. I will emphasize SKILL DEVELOPMENT at practices and how they benefit my players, over winning a game.
11. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of all the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my players to win.
12. I will demand a sports environment for my players that is free from DRUGS, TOBACCO, and ALCOHOL, and refrain from their use at all SYHA sporting events. All under age coaches will adhere to State and Federal alcohol and tobacco laws.
13. I promise to be positive about my players experience in SYHA and accept responsibility for my participation by following the COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT.
14. I have read the SYHA Coaches Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth. I understand that failure to follow the rules set will result in disciplinary actions.

SAUGERTIES YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Zero Tolerance Policy **Coaches/Managers** **2017-2018 Season**

I. Introduction

In an effort to make ice hockey a more enjoyable and rewarding experience for all participants, the Saugerties Youth Hockey Association (SYHA) has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy with respect to the behavior of the players, coaches, parents, managers, and guardians who are members of the SYHA. The adoption of this policy essentially means that everyone involved in SYHA shall act in a respectful and sportsmanship like manner. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and loss of control is NEVER acceptable. **All SYHA Coaches/Managers must submit this signed Zero Tolerance Policy form each year.**

The Zero Tolerance Policy affords all participants direction in developing self-discipline, leadership, integrity, character, commitment, teamwork and a healthy attitude and respect for rules and regulations. We expect and require that before, during, and after any event in which a team participates, the following standards of behavior are observed:

II. Zero Tolerance Policy

Coaches shall not:

1. Openly dispute or argue with an official's decision.
2. Use obscene, vulgar language **or racial comments** at any time.
3. Make any aggressive physical contact with any player, parent, coach, referee or any other individual.
4. Taunt any other player, parent, player, coach, referee or any other individual. Even if not directed at any particular person.
5. Removing your team from the ice or failure to resume play, for the remainder of any game, without referee authorization.
6. Engage in any inappropriate actions towards players, parents, opponents, coaches, referees or others, relative to texting or through the use of social media.
7. Exhibit any behavior where law enforcement is required to settle disputes or action.

III. Enforcement, Sanctions, and Consequences of Violations.

Enforcement may be determined by the game official but will be subject to further review by the SYHA Board. Violations or alleged violations of the Zero Tolerance Policy shall be considered and reviewed by the SYHA Board. Penalties shall be assessed based upon the following classifications. Each case may also be reviewed, and further discipline may be issued, by USA Hockey.

Class 1 -- A first-time offense of a relatively basic nature, but which shall not include a violation under Class 3, will require a review by the SYHA Board. Penalties may include reprimands and/or up to a three-game suspension including all team activities until the third game is complete. **Any player who is assessed a game misconduct for fighting shall serve an automatic three game suspension. Any second game misconduct (for any reason) will require a hearing before the SYHA Board and the player must not play with his team until**

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a hearing decision is rendered. Any team whose player(s) receives three or more game misconducts for fighting, the head coach will be required to attend a hearing with the SYHA Board. Any coach who receives a game misconduct penalty will have the situation reviewed by the SYHA Board to see if any further action or sanctions are warranted.

Class 2 -- Any repeat offenses, any violation which requires the police or other authorities to become involved, any physical contact involving adults, **racial comments** or any incident which endangers others, or a public display detrimental to the League will require a review by the SYHA Board with a possible three-game to a thirty-day suspension from all team activities or up to and including expulsion from SYHA.

Class 3 -- The most serious violations involving threats, physical harm, repeated Class 2 violations or any other event determined extreme by the SYHA Board will require an automatic suspension and require a reinstatement hearing before being accepted back to SYHA.

Any person wishing to appeal against a disciplinary committee decision shall file a notice of appeal in writing within 7 calendar days after the Committee decision. Contact the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson for detailed information on this process.

The SYHA President and/or Vice President(s), and/or Disciplinary Committee (acting on the Executive Boards' behalf) may alter, amend, increase or decrease any disciplinary action with proper cause.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received, read, understand and agree to comply with the Saugerties Youth Hockey Association Zero Tolerance Policy along with ALL other SYHA policies and procedures outlined above.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY - FILL IN ALL INFO

PLEASE CIRCLE A LEVEL OF PLAY

Learn to Play, Mite, Squirt, PeeWee, Bantam, Midget, JV/Varsity, Fillies Program

Coach/Manager

Name: _____ Signature _____

Home

Address: _____ City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Date _____

SAUGERTIES YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Zero Tolerance Policy **Player-Parent/Guardian** **2017-18 Season**

I. Introduction

In an effort to make ice hockey a more enjoyable and rewarding experience for all participants, the Saugerties Youth Hockey Association (SYHA) has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy with respect to the behavior of the players, coaches, parents, managers, and guardians who are members of the SYHA. The adoption of this policy essentially means that everyone involved in SYHA shall act in a respectful and sportsmanship like manner. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and loss of control is NEVER acceptable. All players and parents/guardians must submit their signed Zero Tolerance Policy form prior to the beginning of their respective hockey season.

The Zero Tolerance Policy affords all participants direction in developing self-discipline, leadership, integrity, character, commitment, teamwork and a healthy attitude and respect for rules and regulations. We expect and require that before, during, and after any event in which a team participates, the following standards of behavior are observed:

II. Zero Tolerance Policy

A. Players shall not:

1. Openly dispute, argue with, or protest a decision made by an official.
2. Use obscene or vulgar language **or racial comments** at any time, even if not directed at any particular person.
3. Make any physical contact with body, puck, stick, or equipment of another player after the whistle has blown.
4. Taunt any other player, coach, referee or any other individual
5. Be involved in any fighting, on the ice, off the ice, before or after a league scheduled game.
6. Engage in any inappropriate actions towards teammates, opponents, or others, relative to texting or through the use of social media.

B. Parents and Spectators shall not:

1. Use obscene, vulgar language, **or racial comments** at any time.
2. Verbally dispute, argue with, or protest an official's decision or conduct themselves in such a way as to taunt or ridicule officials.
3. Taunt, ridicule, provoke, bait, or threaten players, coaches, officials, or other spectators.
4. Throw any object inside/outside the rink or its surroundings which would create a safety hazard or create a delay in the game.
5. Exhibit any behavior where law enforcement is required to settle disputes or action.
6. Engage in any inappropriate actions towards your player's teammates, opponents, coaches, referees or others, relative to texting or through the use of social media.

III. Enforcement, Sanctions, and Consequences of Violations.

Enforcement may be determined by the game official but will be subject to further review by the SYHA Board. Violations or alleged violations of the Zero Tolerance Policy shall be considered and reviewed by the SYHA Board and penalties shall be assessed based upon the following

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classifications. Each case may also be reviewed, and further discipline may be issued, by USA Hockey, Tech Valley Hockey, Hudson Valley Hockey and/or Hudson Valley High School Leagues.

Class 1 -- A first-time offense of a relatively basic nature, but which shall not include a violation under Class 3, will require a review by the SYHA Board. Penalties may include reprimands and/or up to a three-game suspension including all team activities until the third game is complete. **Any player who is assessed a game misconduct for fighting shall serve an automatic three game suspension. Any second game misconduct (for any reason) will require a hearing before the SYHA Board and the player must not play with his team until a hearing decision is rendered.**

Class 2 -- Any repeat offenses, any violation which requires the police or other authorities to become involved, any physical contact involving adults, **racial comments** or any incident which endangers others, or a public display detrimental to the League will require a review by the SYHA Board with a possible three-game to a thirty-day suspension from all team activities or up to and including expulsion from SYHA.

Class 3 -- The most serious violations involving threats, physical harm, repeated Class 2 violations or any other event determine extreme by the SYHA Board, will require an automatic suspension and require a reinstatement hearing before being accepted back to SYHA.

Any person wishing to appeal against a disciplinary committee decision shall file a notice of appeal in writing within 7 calendar days after the Committee decision. Contact the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson for detailed information on this process.

The SYHA President and/or Vice President(s), and/or Disciplinary Committee (acting on the Executive Boards' behalf) may alter, amend, increase or decrease any disciplinary action with proper cause.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received, read, understand and agree to comply with the Saugerties Youth Hockey Association Zero Tolerance Policy along with ALL other SYHA policies and procedures outlined above.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY –FILL IN ALL INFO

PLEASE CIRCLE A LEVEL OF PLAY

Learn to Play, Mite, Squirt, PeeWee, Bantam, Midget, JV/Varsity, Fillies Program

Player's
Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Home
Address: _____ City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Parent Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

SAUGERTIES YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Saugerties Youth Hockey Association Executive Board

Mark Signore, President

Donny Haberski, Vice President – Administration

Mike Pedersen, Vice President - Hockey Director

Barb Carlson, Treasurer

Shannon Varner-Renckens, Secretary

Laura Swanson, Ice Scheduler

Jamie Kesick, Booster Club Liaison/Fundraising

Nacia Walsh, Player/Parent Liaison

Chelsea Noe, Fillies/Girls Program Coordinator

Pat Caffrey, Registrar

Doug Little, ACE Coordinator

Contact information for all Executive Board officers are located on our website