

# Newark Ice Hockey Association

## Handbook 2024-2025



[www.NewarkHockey.com](http://www.NewarkHockey.com)

The Association's primary mission is to teach fundamental hockey skills, teamwork skills, and sportsmanship through competition, and to promote and further the development of ice hockey in Newark and the surrounding areas. NIHA supports the development of both self-discipline and an inclusive teamwork ethic.

Dear Families and Players,

The purpose of this handbook is to provide all members of the Newark Ice Hockey Association with information on the programs, policies, opportunities, and activities. The Newark Ice Hockey Association completely relies on the efforts of volunteers and contributions, mostly made by NIHA families, to keep the association operational. If you are not currently involved in the operations of a specific team or the overall association, check out the "volunteer opportunities" section of this handbook or contact one of the current board members.

Mission Statement: The Mission of the Newark Hockey Association is to teach the youth of central Ohio, sportsmanship, fair play, and respect for coaches, referees, players, and fans through the sports of ice hockey so that they can continue to be good citizens and enjoy the sport of ice hockey forever.

2024-2025 Newark Ice Hockey Board of Directors		
Position	Name	Email
President	Bryan Tonnessen	President@newarkhockey.com
Vice President	Brad Cook	VP@newarkhockey.com
Hockey Director	Jeff Laird	Info@newarkhockey.com
Secretary	Carla Smith	Secretary@newarkhockey.com
Treasurer	Ed Painvin	Treasurer@newarkhockey.com
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Registrar	Jocelyn Patton	Registrar@newarkhockey.com
Scheduler	Lindsey Brighton	Scheduler@newarkhockey.com
Web Communications/Marketing	Mike Eckhardt	
At Large/ Special Events	Jessica Lee	
At Large/Fundraising	Jeff Spiker	
At Large	Rachel Terlecky	

## Programs

The Newark Ice Hockey Association (NIHA) supports two basic programs, each of which has a different, though complimentary, purpose. NIHA Board of Directors must approve exceptions to any of the policies described herein.

## **Learn to Play Hockey**

House Hockey starts with the Hockey Academy, hosted by Lou & Gib Reese Ice Arena. This is ages 4-Graduation. This focuses on Skating skills and transitions to the basics of hockey. Once the player can skate well enough to play, they are welcome to join NIHA with the 8u team. NIHA's house hockey is an instructional league open to children ages 7 – 18 years old. The league is split into age brackets with distinct names 8u- Mite, 10u- Squirt, 12u- PeeWee, 14u- Bantam. House Hockey provides a combination of practice and instruction on skating, instruction on how to play the game of hockey, and intramural competition. This league meets weekly for instruction and plays games primarily on the weekend. Players will be afforded equal playing time. If you need assistance with gear, please contact a member of the board.

## **Travel Teams/High School Club**

Travel teams are open to youth ages 9 through 18 (Mite Select, Squirt, PeeWee, Bantam, Club High School). They are open to all youth who have achieved a basic skating competency. Competency is defined as being comfortable on the ice, having adequate balance, and displaying the basic mechanics of moving forward, backward, and stopping. Generally, travel distance and occurrence of travel increases as the player/team age increases. Travel teams practice several times weekly (on weeknights) and participate in weekend games. The number of games per team generally increases as players' ages increase. While the focus of teams at the Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee, and Bantam levels is to teach fundamental hockey skills, teamwork skills, and sportsmanship through competition, it should be recognized that travel teams play competitively. In addition, the focus at the high school level is to foster team success at the highest competitive level. Player attendance, effort at practice, and player behavior will influence individual player time during games at the coach's discretion. The travel teams are generally registered with a league and travel to play games with other league teams. Appropriate league participation will be determined by the board of directors before the season through consultation with the coaches and parents. NIHA teams may play in the Buckeye Travel Hockey League (BTHL), Metro Columbus Hockey League (MCHL), and the Ohio Scholastic Hockey League (OSHL), typically playing teams in Ohio, Kentucky, and/or Indiana. Approximately half of the games are played at Lou & Gib Reese Ice Arena. Parents are responsible for all travel costs and arrangements (these are not covered by NIHA fees, including, but not limited to, transportation, lodging, food, etc.).

## **Tournaments**

If teams choose to participate in tournaments outside of their league, tournament registration fees and travel obligations are the responsibility of parents. The level of competition may determine player participation in non-league tournament play. Coaches may elect to hold tryouts for special tournaments. For extra-curricular (non-league) tournaments, players have the option not to participate. The selection of tournaments should be determined through a meeting of parents, coach(es), and players. Most travel teams participate in at least three tournaments. Some tournaments require specific hotels to be used and parents are expected to comply with tournament requirements. Funds must be collected by the team before the NIHA treasurer releases a check for tournament fees. All refunded tournament fees

must be returned to the NIHA treasurer. All tournaments must be conducted through NIHA, as the association's USA Hockey affiliation is used. Preference should be given to eligible and capable players within the age division's roster(s). The tournament level of play should be reviewed by the Hockey Director before entry.

## **Policies**

NIHA is affiliated with USA Hockey and abides by the USA Hockey defined age groupings; all players will be registered with USA Hockey as part of their registration with the Newark Ice Hockey Association. The following age classifications are in effect for the 2024-2025 hockey season: Your age as of January 1st of the current year.

<https://membership.usahockey.com/>

Mite	2016-2018
Squirt	2014-2015
Peewee	2012-2013
Bantam	2010-2011
High School	2006-2009

NIHA welcomes both boys and girls on its teams. It is also recognized that parental supervision is often needed for children in the Mini-mite, Mite, and Squirt teams, as they need assistance to dress in appropriate hockey gear. When players reach the Pee Wee age division and above, boys and girls must use separate rooms while changing into and out of hockey gear. Once a player reaches the Pee Wee Level and squirt, parents will not be permitted in locker rooms. Team meetings and team business should not occur until all members of the team are present.

## **General Guidelines for All Players**

- Please plan to arrive at the rink early enough to allow your child to get ready to take the ice at the scheduled time of each practice (Normally 20 minutes prior) or game. Individual coaches may have team-specific requirements as to when you should arrive. No player shall take the ice until a coach, assistant coach, referee, or other designated adult is on the ice and has given permission to take the ice.
- Players are shall follow the directions of coaches, coordinators, officials, and parent chaperones.
- Warm up properly before practices or games.
- Participate in practices, drills games, and other activities to the best of your ability. If you're unable to compete for any reason, you should remove yourself from the ice as to not disrupt your team.
- Notify your coach of any injuries, whether they are sustained at our home rink or while playing ice hockey elsewhere.
- Be a gracious winner and loser. Line up and shake hands after each game before leaving the ice.

- Leave the ice as soon as you are directed to do so by coaches or referees at the end of practices or games.

### **General Guidelines for All Parents/Guardians**

Parents are expected to model appropriate behavior for youth. If parents fail to meet these guidelines, the NIHA Board may bar the parent(s) from NIHA activities or have their child expelled from the program. It is expected that parents:

- Abide by the Parent Code of Conduct. A copy of the code of conduct can be found at [www.newarkhockey.com](http://www.newarkhockey.com) under the resources tab.
- Support the development of all players in the NIHA program.
- Encourage your child/children to abide by the player guidelines described above.
- Notify the coach (24 hours in advance, when possible) when the player is unable to participate in practices or games.
- Do not interfere with the coach in the performance of his/her duties. Parents with concerns must wait 24 hours before launching a complaint with the coach or Hockey Director. All complaints should be made respectfully. If a parent is dissatisfied with the performance of a coach and the 24-hour waiting period has passed you may launch a concern with the NIHA Board of Directors by sending an email to [Secretary@newarkhockey.com](mailto:Secretary@newarkhockey.com).
- Assume responsibility for following through on player travel commitments. Communicate directly to the coach or team manager as soon as possible if you are unable to participate.
- Assist the association in some capacity such as fundraising efforts, volunteering, running the clock, or keeping scores or stats.
- You must remain current with dues associated with the participation of your child/children in NIHA. If you need additional assistance with the payment plan, please contact the registrar. Failure to keep your account up-to-date could result in your child being suspended from ice activities until your account is made current.
- Players and parents are expected to behave responsibly in and around Lou & Gib Reese Ice Arena and other facilities where they play. This includes cleaning up after themselves in locker rooms, parking lots, or other facilities they use. This is our home, please treat it as such.
- Do not use profanity or verbally abuse players, coaches, other fans, officials, or others at any NIHA activity.
- Parents, players, and coaches should not participate in any NIHA game or practice while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

## **Formation of Teams**

Online registration shall be open to all of the association members in June/July. The first season payment is due at the time of registration. You will have the option to pay for the season in full or set up a payment plan. If you set up a payment plan, each consecutive payment will be automatically withdrawn on the 14<sup>th</sup> of every month until your registration fees are satisfied.

High School and Travel Team tryouts for the following season take place in April. Interested players must register and pay the tryout fee and acceptance fee at [www.newarkhockey.com](http://www.newarkhockey.com). Evaluations will be conducted by NIHA coaches. For more information on the tryout process, please see our website

## **Equipment**

Mandatory hockey gear includes gloves, shin pads, shoulder pads, elbow pads, hip pads or padded hockey pants, protective cups (jock or jill), plus all head protective equipment as required by USA Hockey rules. Mouth guards and neck guards are mandatory equipment for all age groups and are the responsibility of the player/parents to purchase.

All equipment should be sized appropriately and helmets should not be used if past the expiration date listed.

USA Hockey Rule Book governs stick regulations; for more information go to <http://www.usahockeyrulebook.com/page/show/1084398-rule-301-sticks>

NIHA has a limited amount of hockey equipment available to help families who are having problems affording gear. Priority will be given to children playing their first season of hockey. Although there are various sources for equipment throughout the association, complete protective gear is ultimately the responsibility of the player/parent. If you need help with gear, please speak with your coach or a board member.

## **Jersey Policy/Practice Jersey's**

All teams are required to use NIHA-approved Jerseys and socks for all games. Player numbers are issued by the register. If you are new to the association, you must email [Registrar@newarkhockey.com](mailto:Registrar@newarkhockey.com) to obtain a number. Numbers are determined by who already has the number, and if there is a 3-year spacing to ensure there are no duplicate numbers on teams. These jerseys and socks should be purchased at <https://www.newarkhockey.com/program/jersey-orders/4828> before the beginning of the season to ensure they are received before games start. If your socks become damaged, we have these in stock for purchase and you can purchase them at the same website above. For practices, you will be expected to wear a NIHA-issued practice jersey. This jersey is free of charge and must be returned at the end of the hockey season. The full practice jersey policy can be viewed at <https://www.newarkhockey.com/>.

## **Locker Room Policy**

The following Locker Room policies apply to both HOME and AWAY games, all practices, and NIHA activities. All players are required to always wear a minimum base layer in the locker room. The base layer is defined as “shorts” for boys and “shorts and top” for girls. Exceptions are allowed for high school players showering, following practice or games outside of the restricted bench coach period (as defined below). Only bench coaches for the game about to be played and rostered players are permitted in the locker room 45 minutes before a game. Immediately after a game, only bench coaches from that game and rostered players can be in the locker room. Nobody else may enter the locker room until a Coach comes out of the locker room and gives the “OK” to enter the locker room. Beyond the restricted bench coach period, players and parents are individually responsible for their behavior in the locker room. Expectations for behavior are detailed in the NIHA code of conduct. Players arriving late must dress themselves or arrive dressed. Arriving late does not grant access to the locker room during the restricted bench coach-only times.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

There are ways parents and others can become involved in the Newark Ice Hockey Association.

Coaching- If you are interested in coaching a team, please see a member of the board for more information. Please see the attached link for additional info regarding coaching  
<https://www.newarkhockey.com/coaching-resources/coaching/4622>

Team Manager- Duties include organizing the parent meeting at the beginning of the season, communicating the expectations of the organization to parents and players, collecting any necessary paperwork for the registrar, handling the distribution of the practice jerseys, fielding any parent complaints, and communicating them to the coach, coordinating parents to run the clock, scoresheet, and penalty box for home games and any team parties. Travel team managers are also responsible for coordinating tournaments and setting up hotels for the team.

Travel Treasurer- Responsible for making sure all fees are paid to the travel team, keeping track of all payments on a log to be able to submit to the board for proof of where funds are being used.

Fundraising- Individuals can volunteer to serve on the Fundraising Committee of the Board of the Association. Typically, each member volunteers to coordinate one fundraising activity of the association. New fundraising ideas and volunteers are always welcome. For more information on fundraising activities and opportunities, contact the board-appointed Fundraising Coordinator.

NIHA Board- Any NIHA parent or guardian of a player currently in good standing (defined as having a child/children who play on an NIHA team and who are current with dues or have a payment plan in place) is eligible to be elected or appointed to the board of directors. All board positions are listed in the back of this handbook with a brief description. Executive officers are elected each spring at the annual meeting of the association in April and assume office May 1. NIHA encourages officers to have prior service in the association as a coordinator or in a team management position, but anyone is eligible.

Publicity/Recruitment- Throughout the year opportunities abound in the area of publicity/recruitment. Some examples of publicity/recruitment activities that have been done in the past include radio broadcasting, parades, school fliers, and partners with rec. departments.

If you are interested in promoting NIHA by organizing or participating in a publicity or recruitment event, contact an active member of the board or attend a scheduled board meeting to discuss your ideas.

### **Financial Policies:**

Local financial policies (dues and fees) are available on the NIHA website. All fees are subject to change with the revised yearly budget.

Returned check or insufficient fund fees are \$40.00 and the Registrar will notify you via email and charge a \$40.00 Non-Sufficient Fund fee which will be added to your account automatically.

Delinquent Accounts- Members who are 30 days delinquent without an agreed-upon payment arrangement with the registrar may be brought before the Code of Conduct Committee. Members who register for the season and have outstanding fees from the previous season may have their children restricted from getting on the ice until the account is current. Failure to keep your account current may result in your child being restricted from ice activities until the account is made current.

### **Scholarships**

The Newark Ice Hockey Association recognizes that some children are unable to participate due to economic hardship. NIHA offers a scholarship program that provides financial assistance to reduce fees. In exchange for financial aid, members will be expected to complete volunteer hours. Failure to complete hours will negate future eligibility for scholarships.

Applications for the scholarship are available on the Newark Ice Hockey Association website. All applications must be completed and turned in to the NIHA Treasurer on or before 9/30.

Each application will be reviewed by the scholarship committee. The committee reserves the right to limit the amount of financial aid awarded to a player. A maximum of 90% of the total house registration fee for an approved scholarship applicant may be awarded.

For more information regarding scholarships and the guidelines, please go to <https://www.newarkhockey.com/parent-resources/scholarships/5238>.

### **Code of Conduct**

The purpose of the Newark Ice Hockey Association is to provide a meaningful opportunity to participate in ice hockey for players of various abilities from age 4 to 18 years. The program is designed to develop skating and ice hockey skills and to promote teamwork and sportsmanship. Players participating in all programs are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct. Parents, coaches, and spectators are expected to behave as role models and encourage the children to abide by the code. Any family who has a child registered with NIHA, agrees to abide by the NIHA Code of Conduct. This agreement is completed during



online registration. In addition to the below NIHA guidelines, players, spectators, and fans are subject to the rules and regulations of USA Hockey, including the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program, any league that NIHA is affiliated with, and facilities where NIHA plays games or conducts practices. Code of conduct violations (by players or parents) in the current season may make parents ineligible to hold board positions the following season. Violations and eligibility will be managed on a case-by-case basis.

### **Code of Conduct Committee**

A conduct committee chaired by the vice president of NIHA and including the president, secretary, treasurer, and past president of the NIHA Board will adjudicate matters of player/parent/coach/spectator and behavior. In a situation where the case being reviewed involves a child of a member of the committee, a board member appointed by the vice president will replace that member. In a situation where the case being reviewed involves a child of the vice president, the president of the NIHA Board will assume the duties of the chairperson.

As a USA Hockey affiliate, NIHA must comply with the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program Policies (<https://www.usahockey.com/safesportprogram>) including any reporting requirements. Please note that all members of NIHA, under the Safe Sport Authorization Act, are considered mandatory reporters. This means that all members of NIHA are required to report, any such facts which give reason to suspect that a child has suffered an incident of child abuse, including sexual abuse, as soon as possible to a member of the NIHA Safe Sport Coordinator and the NIHA Code of Conduct Committee so that it may be reported to USCSS, USA Hockey, and any appropriate authorities.

Safe Sport Violations – occurs within a context that is reasonably related to hockey -- Mandatory Reporting required (jurisdiction over investigation and resolution lies with USCSS).

Examples include, but not limited to:

- Sexual or Gender-related Harassment
- Non-consensual Sexual Contact
- Non-consensual Sexual Intercourse
- Sexual Exploitation
- Bullying or hazing or Other Inappropriate Conduct of a sexual nature, including:
  - an adult participant engaging in an intimate or romantic relationship where an imbalance of power exists.
  - an adult participant intentionally exposing a minor to imagery of a sexual nature,
  - an adult participant intentionally exposing private areas, or inducing another to do so, to an adult where there is an imbalance of power, or to a minor, or
  - an adult participant engaging in inappropriate physical contact with a Participant where an imbalance of power exists.
- Any illegal activity beyond those laid out above.

- Abuse of drugs and alcohol – USA Hockey prohibits use by any participant of alcohol or drugs.
- Physical Misconduct - any intentional contact or non-contact behavior by a Participant that causes, or reasonably threatens to cause, physical harm to another person.
- Emotional Misconduct - any conduct by a participant including (a) Verbal Acts, (b) Physical Acts (c) Acts that Deny Attention or Support, (d) Criminal Conduct and/or (e) Stalking. emotional misconduct is determined by the objective behaviors, not whether harm is intended or results from the behavior.
- Bullying - any repeated and/or severe behavior(s) that is (a) aggressive (b) directed at a minor, and (c) intended or likely to hurt, control, or diminish the minor emotionally, physically, or sexually.
- Threatening - any written, verbal, physical, or electronically transmitted expression of intent to physically injure or harm someone else. A threat may be communicated directly to the intended victim or communicated to a third party.
- Harassment - any repeated and/or severe conduct that (a) causes fear, humiliation or annoyance; (b) offends or degrades; (c) creates a hostile environment; (d) reflects discriminatory bias in an attempt to establish dominance, superiority or power over an individual or group based on age, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, national origin, or mental or physical disability; or (e) any act or conduct described as harassment under federal or state law. Whether the conduct is harassing depends on the totality of the circumstances, including the nature, frequency, intensity, location, context, and duration of the behavior.
- Hazing - any conduct that subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, humiliate, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of joining or being socially accepted by a group, team, or organization. Purported consent by the person subject to hazing is not a defense, regardless of the person's perceived willingness to cooperate or participate.
- Stealing - Stealing, encouraging others to steal, associating with others who steal, or possessing stolen property are prohibited.
- Possession of a weapon - Possessing, handling, or concealing any object that may inflict serious injury is prohibited.
- Abuse of property - Vandalism or other abuse of property is prohibited.
- Fighting - Fighting on the ice or off the ice is prohibited. If self-defense (not retaliation) can be established; sanctions for fighting may be modified.
- Discrimination – Any form of discrimination about a person (player, coach, referee, parent, board member, fan, etc.) on the grounds of race, religion, politics, gender, or otherwise is incompatible with belonging to and participating with Newark Ice Hockey Association.
- Abuse of Referees - Players complaining about officiating is unacceptable. Only the captain or assistant captain may talk to the referee and then may only ask questions.

## **Code of Conduct Violation Procedure**

This procedure is intended to summarize and not conflict with Bylaw 10 in the USA Hockey Annual Guide

- In the case of a reported Code of Conduct violation, the vice-president who serves as chair of the Code of Conduct Committee (COCC) may convene the COCC (or a quorum) to review the situation. It is up to the COCC to determine if interim measures need to be implemented. Any Code of Conduct violation that is managed by a coach should be emailed to the vice president with the notification of the conference including the player's name, the violation, and the time and date of the conference.
- The first offense can result in an immediate suspension, but each violation will be managed by the conduct committee on a case-by-case basis. A meeting with the COCC must occur before the lifting of any immediate suspension.
- All violations will result in a conference. The vice president convenes a meeting of the COCC with the coach of the player involved (if applicable), the player/parent/coach/fan involved and any other board members as appropriate. Any party present may present facts related to the incident.
- The conduct committee will meet privately after discussing the situation with the coach/player/parent/fan to determine sanction(s). The conduct committee may determine a sanction up to and including expulsion from the program.
- The vice president will report the decision to the involved parties (coach/player/parent(s)/fan) copying the president of NIHA.
- The second offense may result in immediate suspension and the above procedure will be implemented.

## **Other violations**

In addition to those express violations listed in the foregoing paragraphs, the NIHA Board is further empowered to take appropriate actions in other situations not specifically listed when the board deems such action to be in the best interest of the NIHA. Such action may include expulsion from the program.

## **Penalties and Restitution**

- Failure of parents to abide by sanctions set by the Code of Conduct Committee will result in further sanctions and may result in suspension from play for their players.
- Failure of players to abide by sanctions set by the Code of Conduct Committee will result in further sanctions and may result in expulsion.
- In cases of expulsion for violations of the Code of Conduct, no refunds of fees will be made.
- In cases of abuse of property, players/parents may be required to make restitution.

Exceptions to any policy must be approved by a majority vote by the board of directors.

## **Coaching in NIHA**

Each year coaches are nominated by the board of directors based upon interest as stated by potential coaches or others within the association.

All coaches and assistant coaches are subject to background checks (as required by USA Hockey) and are required to have an appropriate level of USA Hockey certification (the Association routinely pays the tuition cost for volunteers to attend required training, but other expenses are not covered), have completed Safe sport training, concussion training, and Lindsay's Law training.

Coaches in NIHA may be required to attend a coach's meeting before the beginning of the season in which the NIHA will lay out expectations. Coaches are subject to the rules and regulations of USA Hockey, of any league with which NIHA is affiliated, and facilities where NIHA plays games or conducts practices.

In some cases, NIHA may choose to compensate a coach for his/her work. In such a case, the details of compensation will be approved by the board and confirmed by the current president with each coach. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the coach unless explicitly agreed to otherwise.

## **Responsibilities of the Coach**

- Provide overall leadership to the team's efforts.
- Provide instruction and coaching to players and the team.
- Educate players about the "Player Expectations" of NIHA, encourage players to abide by the Code of Conduct, and discipline players who fail to abide by them.
- Supervise all activities of the team while involved in NIHA activities; when the players are under the coach's supervision and not under parents' supervision.
- Establish a procedure for assessing players' performance and provide constructive feedback to players on their performance throughout the season.
- Select (with board approval) and supervise one or more assistant coaches.
- Remove (with board approval) assistant coaches from their positions.
- Attend coaches' meetings.

## **Expectations for Coaches**

- Serve as coach for the duration of the season. Seasons typically run from September to March, including academic breaks.
- Respect the fundamental rights, dignity, and worth of all participants.
- Model appropriate behavior for players.
- Act in such a manner to avoid harm to players.

- Abide by the USA Hockey Code of Ethics and report any violation of the Code to the NIHA Board of Directors.
- Be certified as required by USA Hockey.
- Complete the USA Hockey background check before the first game of the season.
- Be knowledgeable about the rules of USA Hockey and the policies of NIHA.
- Always represent NIHA responsibly and professionally and honor all commitments made to and on behalf of NIHA.
- Develop an effective working relationship with parents/guardians and work closely with the team's off-ice coordinator. In addition to enforcing the responsibilities and expectations listed in the foregoing paragraphs, the NIHA Board is further empowered to take appropriate actions in other situations not specifically listed when the board deems such action to be in the best interest of the NIHA, which may include expulsion from the program.

### **Website**

The Newark Ice Hockey Association has a website, a Facebook page, and an Instagram page. To access the website, go to <https://www.newarkhockey.com/>, and for Facebook and Instagram and search our name. Throughout the year we like to share team stories, game updates, player/team pictures, etc. All of these things can be submitted to the current website coordinator or any member of the executive board to be published online. The site is utilized to help pass information to all players/parents. Players and parents/guardians should check the site for updates to schedules, practices, travels, etc. Please be sure to bookmark these pages and check them frequently.