La Crescent Youth Hockey
2026 - 2027
Parents Code of Conduct

La Crescent Youth Hockey Association (LYHA) Board Member Policy on Sports Conduct:

LYHA Board members are expected at all times to uphold the highest standards of behavior at all functions related to Youth Hockey. They should not only be intently aware of the Code of Conduct but should lead by example. Any LYHA Board Member found to be in violation of any these codes will be asked to relinquish their position on the Board of Directors and be subject to additional disciplinary action per the Penalties and Violations section of the Parents Code of Conduct Policy.

Parents & Guardians

La Crescent Youth Hockey Association wants the hockey experience to be rewarding for your child, and your family. As a parent or guardian, you can help to ensure that it is in many ways.

- ***Volunteer*** to help with the many tasks required to make our programs and association successful.
- Be sure that your child wears ***properly fitting equipment***.
- Ensure that your child ***attends all practices and games***.
- Remember that the practices and games are ***for the children***, not the adults.

Preamble and Core Values

The La Crescent Youth Hockey Association is committed to upholding the Core Values of USA Hockey.

- **SPORTSMANSHIP** - Foremost of all values is to learn a sense of fair play. Become humble in victory, gracious in defeat. We will foster friendship with teammates and opponents alike.
- **RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL** - Treat all others as you expect to be treated.
- **INTEGRITY -** We seek to foster honesty and fair play beyond mere strict interpretation of the rules and regulations of the game.
- **PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE AT THE INDIVIDUAL, TEAM AND ORGANIZATIONAL LEVELS** - Each member of the organization, whether player, volunteer or staff, should seek to perform each aspect of the game to the highest level of his or her ability.
- **ENJOYMENT** - It is important for the hockey experience to be fun, satisfying and rewarding for all participants.
- **LOYALTY** - We aspire to teach loyalty to the ideals and fellow members of the sport of hockey.
- **TEAMWORK** - We value the strength of learning to work together. The use of teamwork is reinforced and rewarded by success in the hockey experience.

Parent Code of Conduct

LYHA strongly encourages parents and guardians to embrace and observe the Parent Code of Conduct endorsed by USA Hockey:

- Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desires to play their chosen sports. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
- Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit.
- Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- Know and study the rules of the game and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.
- Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat, and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice – it is destructive. Work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.
- If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about hockey – and volunteer.
- LYHA, consistent with USA Hockey's Zero Tolerance Policy, requires all parents/spectators to maintain sportsmanlike behavior and preserve the educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey sanctioned games and LYHA events (practices, meetings, etc.).

Expectations of Parents

La Crescent Youth Hockey Association recognizes that parents and guardians are an important part of the overall hockey experience. LYHA is dedicated to introducing the game of hockey to young individuals and their families. ***We expect the pursuit of hockey excellence will be accompanied by appropriate sports behavior and respect for every individual.*** Each parent or guardian is expected to be familiar with these values and their place in the organization, and to ***lead by example***. LYHA expects its members to be responsible for their guests.

La Crescent Youth Hockey Association fully realizes that differences of opinion on a range of matters can exist. Parents are welcome to convey their thoughts and feelings; however, LYHA insists that all parties do so in a respectful, adult manner.

Matters of Parent Discipline

There will be a "cooling off period" of 24 hours to allow all parties involved to approach situations with respect and composure. ***The head coach should initially handle parent behavior problems.*** The purpose is to address matters swiftly and before they escalate into larger problems. The head coach will respond by gaining an understanding of the facts from all involved parties. Depending on the circumstances or severity of the issue, the coach (or coaches) may issue a warning to any involved party (with notice to and approval from the LYHA President) or can immediately refer more serious matters to the LYHA President or Vice President.

The LYHA President or Vice President must then investigate the matter swiftly and fairly. A Hearing Panel of at least 3 reasonably impartial persons will be assembled for a presentation of the facts and determination of the remedy. The Panel will hear all disputes and choose the appropriate disciplinary action within 30 days of the infraction. The Panel will provide a minimum of a 7-day notice of the hearing date and location, and make reasonable efforts to convene the hearing in a location accessible to all parties. The notice will also include the process and rules that will be used during the hearing. A description of the grounds for the discipline, the consequences of an adverse finding, and issues to be resolved by the Panel will also be included in the notice. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with Article 6 of the Minnesota Hockey Handbook. Findings must be supported by a preponderance of the evidence that an applicable rule has been violated. The decision logic must be included in the written findings. The Panel will render this written decision within 5 days of the hearing and mail a written decision within 15 days of the hearing. The written decision will include the parties' right to appeal the decision to Minnesota Hockey District 9.

A member's level of cooperation during an investigation may be weighed in the Hearing Panel's ultimate decision. If during the investigation process the member would fail to cooperate, it would be considered immediate cause to issue a Class I penalty (in addition to the initial infraction) by the Panel (penalties and violations indicated below). ***All disciplinary decisions are final.***

Appeals of Disciplinary Action

Any member, team, league or local association who has a standing in the matter has the right to appeal the decision of the Hearing Panel. The appeal is to be made in writing to the LYHA Board and the Minnesota Hockey District 9 District Director within 10 days of the decision rendered by the Hearing Panel. The appeal must be sent to the attention of the Minnesota Hockey District 9 District Director. The appeal must include the rationale behind the appeal, citing the applicable rule or regulation, as to why the action should be modified or overturned. Further explanation of the appeal process can be found in Article 6 of the Minnesota Hockey Handbook.

Penalties and Violations

Class 1:

Class I violations carry a penalty of up to a one (1) week suspension from all practices, games, and/or any team activity. The suspension begins when the LYHA President's Hearing Panel has reached a decision on the issue; however the LYHA Board has the authority to immediately suspend the offender until the investigation is complete. This time will count towards the overall suspension period.

Class I violations include, but are not limited to:

- Use of obscene or vulgar language or gestures to anyone at anytime
- Abusive or coercive language (toward players, coaches, parents, volunteers, board members, rink employees, officials, other players, and spectators), including e-mails and social media
- Taunting of players, coaches, officials, or spectators by means of baiting, or ridiculing
- Addressing a coach, official, player or volunteer in an unsportsmanlike, discourteous, or threatening manner
- Aggressively questioning the coach(s) coaching during or after practices or games
- Questioning the referees during or after games
- Approaching a coach or referee immediately following a game to voice a complaint
- Failure to cooperate with a disciplinary hearing panel investigation
- Any use of alcohol in the arena during meetings, practices, games or tournaments
- Entering a dressing area/locker room without the coach's authorization, or blocking access to said area. (Exceptions on locker room entrance may exist where coaches grant permission to Mite and Squirt parents/guardians that may need to assist their child with dressing/undressing.)
- Entering the officials' dressing area, lingering outside their immediate area or making complaints to the officials.
- Engaging in malicious gossip or behavior that is designed to create discord for others in the La Crescent Youth Hockey Association.

Class II:

Class II violations carry a penalty of a thirty (30) day suspension from all practices, games, and/or any team activity. The suspension begins when the LYHA President's Hearing Panel has reached a decision on the issue; however the LYHA Board has the authority to immediately suspend the offender until the investigation is complete. This time will count towards the overall suspension period.

Class II violations include, but are not limited to:

- Threats of physical violence towards any player, coach, parent, official, LYHA volunteer, or spectator
- Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, players bench, penalty box, in the locker room, or on the ice surface, that in any manner creates a safety hazard
- Intentionally shoving or striking a player, coach, or official during any LYHA function, whether in the locker room, on the ice, or at any time the team is getting together
- Public disparagement of other members (if allegations made are found to be false)
- Making misleading or untrue statements to a coach, board member or hearing panel member.
- Second class I violation of the same offense or third or subsequent Class I violations.

Class III:

Class III violations carry a penalty of a one (1) year minimum suspension from the program to permanent termination from the LYHA organization. The suspension begins when the LYHA President's Hearing Panel has reached a decision on the issue; however the LYHA Board has the authority to immediately suspend the offender until the investigation is complete. For Class III violations penalties will require ratification by a 2/3 majority of the LYHA Board of Directors, at a meeting where there is a quorum of the LYHA Board.

Class III violations include, but are not limited to:

- Use of illegal drugs at the arena or official team function (this does not apply to consumption of alcohol at a restaurant, hotel, or home after scheduled games or practices)
- Physical abuse of a player, coach, parent, official, LYHA volunteer, LYHA board member, or spectator
- Activities that violate State or Federal Laws which create a safety risk to any member of the organization
- Multiple class I violations in conjunction with any class II violation.
- Second class II violation of the same offense, or third or subsequent Class II violations.

Parent Notification

- Parents will be informed of this Policy on Sports Conduct before the beginning of the season. ***Parents/guardians are required to acknowledge (by signature) that they received a copy of the Policy before their child may participate in USA Hockey sanctioned games.***

La Crescent Youth Hockey
2026 - 2027
Parent/Guardian Signature Form

Player Name_____

(NOTE – ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS MUST SIGN!!)

As a parent or guardian of an LYHA youth participant, I acknowledge that I have reviewed the LYHA Handbook including Parents Code of Conduct and understand the behavior expected of me, and the consequences for violating the Code of Conduct. LYHA Handbook and Parent Code of Conduct can be found at www.lacrescenthockey.com.

I am also stating that I understand what is expected of me in regards to equipment rental, volunteer hours and fundraising responsibilities.

_____

Parent Signature Date

_____

Parent Signature Date

_____

Parent Signature Date

_____

Parent Signature Date