

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 I:

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
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Parent Signature	Date
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Parent Signature	Date
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Parent Signature	Date
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