

2024-
2025

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BILLINGS AMATEUR HOCKEY LEAGUE HANDBOOK

The Mission of the Billings Amateur Hockey League is to provide a safe, fun, educational environment for ice sports in our community.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide our users with the expectations, policies, rules, and values that guide our programming. The BAHL reserves the right to amend this handbook at anytime.



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BAHL HISTORY

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The BAHL was founded in 1977 and began operating out of Centennial Ice Arena (CIA) in 1982. For much of its existence, BAHL and CIA were kept operational through countless volunteers with a dedication to providing ice sports to our community. BAHL/CIA would not be where they are today without those volunteers. Today BAHL/CIA operates through limited paid staff, and members with a passion for carrying out the BAHL mission to provide a safe, fun, and educational environment for ice sports in our community.



GOAL:

The Billings Youth Hockey Program aims to empower young athletes by fostering essential leadership skills and strong work ethic. Our program strives to develop champions not only on the ice but also beyond sports in life. We are guided by the following core values:

- **Development**- We are committed to the holistic development of our athletes, both as individuals and as athletes, by providing them opportunities to grow and improve.
- **Accountability**- We emphasize the importance of taking responsibility for one's attitudes and effort. By holding ourselves accountable, we cultivate a culture of personal growth and continues improvement.
- **Respect**- We promote a respectful environment where everyone is valued and treated with dignity. We encourage our athletes to respect their teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, and all those involved in the sport.
- **Unity**- Hockey is a team sport, and we believe that success is best achieved when players work together harmoniously. By fostering unity, we not only enhance performance on the ice but also create a supportive and collaborative atmosphere off the ice.
- **Leadership**-Our athletes are encouraged to be leaders on and off the ice. We inspire them to uplift others, serving as role models and motivating their peers to excel in both sports and life.

Through our commitment to these core values, the BAHL Youth Hockey Program aims to shape well-rounded athletes who will thrive not only in the sport of hockey but in their future.



American Development Model (ADM)

USA Hockey, along with AHAI, has introduced the American Development Model (ADM). The program was implemented after an extensive international study by

USAH of educators, child development experts, coaches (from many different sports), physiologists and Nation Sports Federations. The ADM goal is to provide a very defined systematic (building blocks) approach to developing athletes starting from the earliest stages of participation, thus increasing the athlete's skill, enjoyment and proficiency.

The USA Hockey ADM is an all inclusive program starting from the 8U, Learn to Play (LTP) levels all the way to elite athletes competing at the Professional level. The ADM also addresses improved coaching techniques and Referee development. This program includes on-ice, off-ice, in-season and off-season curriculum for producing a well balanced complete athlete. It defines what it is to be emphasized at what age to ensure proper skill development for each age level. The ADM also defines how much and what kind of competition is needed at each level.

USA Hockey, Inc., is recognized as the National Governing Body for the sport of ice hockey in the United States. USA Hockey provides the foundation for the sport of ice hockey in America; helps people become leaders; fosters Olympic and Paralympic dreams; and connects the game at every level while promoting a lifelong love of the sport. The organization, which was born out of a shoebox in Tom Lockhart's New York City apartment in the fall of 1937, is today represented in all 50 states and includes more than one million players, coaches, officials, parents, and volunteers.

USA Hockey is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all participants and is divided into 12 geographical districts throughout the United States. Within USA Hockey's 12 districts, 34 affiliates provide the formal governance for the sport. USA Hockey's primary emphasis is on the support and development of grassroots hockey programs. Its renowned American Development Model (ADM) provides associations nationwide with a framework for age-appropriate athlete development. Always a leader in safety, USA Hockey is at the forefront in advancing efforts to ensure the best possible environment for all engaged in the sport, both on and off the ice.

While youth hockey is the main focus, USA Hockey also has vibrant junior and adult hockey programs that provide opportunities for players of all ability levels. The organization also supports a continually growing disabled hockey program, which today includes six discipline.

Beyond serving those who play the game at the amateur level, USA Hockey has certification programs for coaches and officials, inclusive of industry-leading education modules, to ensure standards are met that coincide with the level of play. Furthermore, a larger focus is put on parent education with equipment needs, rules of the game and parental roles in youth sports among common topics.

Members of the organization are entitled to many benefits, including a subscription to USA Hockey Magazine, the most widely circulated hockey publication in the world, excess accident, general liability and catastrophic insurance coverage; access to usahockey.com; and opportunities to participate in USA Hockey National Championships, player development camps and other signature events.



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**USA HOCKEY MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER FOR BAHL
HOCKEY PROGRAMS**

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MAHA

TSL

Montana Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) is the Governing Body for the sport of hockey in Montana. As a sanctioned member of USA Hockey, MAHA subscribes to the rules, regulations and philosophy of USA Hockey. As such, its mission is to promote the growth of hockey in Montana and provide the best possible experience for all participants by encouraging, developing, advancing and administering the sport. With a membership of more than 3,000 ice hockey players, coaches, and volunteers, the Montana Amateur Hockey Association's primary emphasis is on the support and development of COMMUNITY_BASED programs throughout the state of Montana.

All BAHL youth hockey programming is subject to the rules regulations of MAHA.

The Montana Amateur Hockey Association sponsors the Treasure State League (TSL) made up of Montana High School/Big Sky High School , 16U, 14U, 12U, 10U, 12U Girls, 14U Girls, and 19U Girls teams. All BAHL Travel Teams participate in the TSL. All costs associated with TSL are separate from BAHL registration fees.



BAHL AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

- Learn to Skate-Hockey (LTS-H)- Players 4+ age by December 31st
- Learn to Play (LTP)- Players 4-12 years of age by December 31st
- 6/8U Recreation (Termites/Mites)- Players 5-8 years of age by December 31st
- 10U (Squirts)- Players 9 and 10 years of age by December 31st
- 12U (PeeWees)- Players 11 and 12 years of age by December 31st
- 14U (Bantams)- Players 13 and 14 years of age by December 31st
- High School (Montana High School and Big Sky High School)- Players who are or will be at least 14 years of age, but not older than 19 years of age before December 31st. All Players in the High School division must be attending High School. A player who is Bantam age and also attending High School may try out for High School team(s)

OUR PROGRAMS



Learn to Skate- Hockey

Learn to Skate- Hockey is a great way for aspiring hockey players to experience ice skating in a fun and safe environment, as well as give more advanced skaters an opportunity to improve their skills. These classes are designed for skaters of all abilities, from those just learning to stand on the ice to skaters that wish to advance their skills such as stopping and turning, as well as more advanced hockey skating skills.

- This is a 6-week program
- All participants will receive 30 minutes of group instruction per week.
- Children must be at least 4 years of age to participate.
- The cost per 6-week session is \$90. Skaters will also need to register with USA Hockey and pay the once a year membership fee that varies by birth year.

Learn to Play

The Learn to Play program is for boys and girls aged 4-12 years of age who wish to learn to play hockey. Hockey skills are the focus of these sessions, therefore it is REQUIRED that your skater pass LTS basic 3 before participating in the LTP program.

- This is a 6-week program
- Players must be 4 years old to participate in LTP.
- Rental gear is available for use with payment of a refundable deposit.
- LTP participants will receive 1 hour of ice per week
- The cost per 6-week session is \$90. Skaters will also need to register with USA Hockey and pay the once a year membership fee that varies by birth year.
- Players are encouraged to do more than one 6-week session before moving on to a team.

8/8U House Program

For skaters born 2016-2019

A. Objective:

Provide a SAFE, FUN, & EDUCATIONAL environment utilizing USA Hockey's ADM for age-appropriate practices and games within our resources. The termite/mite program is intended to provide skaters with an equal opportunity to enjoy the game of hockey and to develop personal and team cooperation skills. Although games are a necessary measure of achievement of team goals, in no case shall the desire to win on the part of the coaches or players overshadow or change the fair and equitable ice time opportunity for all players, regardless of ability.

B. Structure:

A minimum of 2 hours of on-ice sessions per week. 3:1 practice to game ratio. Games will be played cross-ice and/or half-ice at the coaches discretion. Games will be played in house with set rosters for house league games, but that may change if coaches deem necessary.

C. Fees

The 6/8U Program registration fee is \$200 for each 8 week season. There is also an additional \$145 fee for those that need jerseys and socks. This fee is required for those that do not have a jersey from a prior season. All fees associated with registration may be paid in full, or you may utilize the payment plan option provided at checkout.

E. Season:

The 6/8U Program will run in two seasons.

- Session one will begin in October and conclude in December
- Season two will begin in January and conclude in March

F. Travel:

The 6/8U division is designed to provide a recreational experience with limited cost. If however, a team would like to travel and such travel is supported by enough players, parents, and coaches, then that team may travel. Travel will be open to all players and advertised so all who wish can participate. The head coach along with assistant coaches will divide players into equally skilled teams if there are enough players for more than one team. This division is encouraged to limit tournament participation. Occasional 1-day scrimmages with outlying communities are also encouraged. Travel will be approved by the Hockey Director. All fees and expenses for travel, including tournament entry fees will be the responsibility of the team and its participants.



Magic City Youth Hockey Program (MCYHP)- Non Travel

For skaters born 2012-2015

A. Objective:

Provide skaters with an equal opportunity to enjoy the game of hockey without the financial obligations that travel hockey requires. The MCYHP will focus on development through use of USA Hockey's ADM, with qualified coaches who have a passion for the game.

B. Structure:

The MCYHP will have a **minimum** of 2 ice sessions per week. Games will be played in half-ice format. Games will be played in-house with set rosters that may change over the course of the season if coaches feel it is necessary in order to keep things equitable.

C. Season:

The MCYHP will run in two seasons.

- Session one will begin in October and conclude in December
- Season two will begin in January and conclude in March

D. Travel:

While there will be no overnight travel for the MCYHP, the league may schedule games that require limited day-trip travel to nearby communities such as Bozeman, Cody, Red Lodge, and Lewiston.

E. Equipment and Uniforms:

Jersey's and socks will be provided. Full gear is required for all practices and games. This includes a helmet with a full cage, gloves, shin pads, chest pad, elbow pads, mouth guard, and protective cup. Rental gear is available for \$75 per session, on a first come first serve basis.

F. Cost:

The cost per 8 week season is \$200.



Youth Co-Ed Travel Hockey

(10U-H.S.)

The Montana Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) (mthockey.com) is the governing body of amateur youth hockey in the state of Montana. MAHA sponsors the Treasure State League (TSL). The TSL is made up of the Montana High School League(MTHS), Big Sky High School League (BSHS), 14U, 12U, 10U, and girls divisions at age levels that are still TBD. All BAHL travel teams participate in the TSL. All costs associated with TSL are in addition to BAHL registration fees. Teams are encouraged to seek out sponsors to help off-set the additional costs. Please see your team manager for our team sponsor flyer.

A. Objective:

Provide an opportunity for players to advance into a more competitive environment where the focus will shift to an emphasis on competition. Multiple competitive teams in an age group will be dependent on registration numbers.

B. Structure:

- BAHL travel team structure will follow the recommendations of USA Hockey to the best of our ability. Given the variability of Billings youth hockey, travel teams will be formed based on registration numbers and SPRING player evaluations. Teams will be decided by the coaches at each age level with input from the BAHL Director and Coaching Director.
- Travel teams will not compete against our House Program teams.
- Players are required to attend SPRING evaluations to be placed on a team prior to the fall. Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the Hockey Director with input from the Executive Director and coaches at each age level.
- All travel teams will have a minimum of 2 practices per week.
- Additional games and/or tournaments outside of TSL may be scheduled at the coaches' and managers' discretion.

C. BAHL Registration Costs:

- 10U- \$900 (now includes MAHA bond and State Tournament Fee)
- 12U- \$1,200 (now includes MAHA bond and State Tournament Fee)
- 14U- \$1,400 (now includes MAHA bond, State Tournament Fee and Non-Parent Coach Stipends)
- H.S.- \$1,530 (now includes MAHA bond and State Tournament Fee)
- Girls' Hockey- \$300 (does not include MAHA bond, State Tournament Fee or coach stipend)

*a late fee of \$100 will be applied for players registering after August 1st.

*additional fees will apply, including but not limited to coaches fees, tournament fees, etc.

D. Team Composition/ Rosters

Roster sizes will be determined by coaches with input from the Hockey Director and Executive Director. Roster sizes and teams may vary from age group to age group. When there are enough players registered in a particular age group for more than 1 team, player evaluations will be used to split kids into multiple teams, and teams will be placed in the TSL division that coaches, with input from the Hockey Directors and Executive Director, feel is best for the collective team. In the event that there are not enough kids to safely roster a team, players will be invited to participate in our House Program. Players can be added or deleted from a team anytime before December 31st for MAHA and Tier teams. All additions and deletions to team rosters must be submitted to the Hockey Director, per guidelines above, and approved by the head coach. All roster changes must be submitted to the State Registrar by the Hockey Director a minimum of 14 days prior to a team playing with intended changes.

*Due to TSL deadlines for submitting teams, the deadline to register for the travel program is August 15th. Exceptions to this rule will be at the discretion of the Hockey Director.

*All teams will be rostered in accordance with requirements of USA Hockey and MAHA. For additional information on team and player rostering procedures and rules, refer to the most current USA Hockey Annual Guide.

E. Coaching Fees

10U-14U-A rostered head coach and up to one assistant coach without a player on the team will receive a \$1,250 stipend for TSL league (hotel, gas, food etc.). This stipend was included in registration and will be paid directly to the coaches by BAHL. All coaching fees outside of TSL play will be the responsibility of the team and must be stipulated by the Team Manager at the beginning of the season.

HS- Due to the history of success in fundraising by our HS program, these coaching fees will not be included in registration fees, and rather these will be continue to be paid by the team through the means of fundraising efforts.

Youth Girl's Hockey

(Ages 5-18)

Girls hockey is one of the fastest growing youth sports in the United States. The BAHL is committed to providing a place for girls to develop and succeed regardless of their skill level. In addition to the house and travel co-ed teams, girls will have the opportunity to participate in a weekly girls-only practice, and may be rostered on an all-girls team in addition to their co-ed teams, when we have enough girls to register a team.

The MAHA Treasure State League (TSL) plans to include 12U, 14U, and 19U girls' divisions for the 2023-24 season. The BAHL will roster teams in any and all divisions in which they have enough girls to roster a team. These teams may include girl's from outside our organization in order to have enough players for a team. Our BAHL players will always be given priority in the event that roster spots become limited. All BAHL travel teams participate in the TSL. All costs associated with TSL are in addition to BAHL registration fees.

A. Objective:

Provide an opportunity for girls to advance their hockey skills in an environment that fosters development, social interactions, personal growth.

B. Structure:

- BAHL girls' team structure will follow the recommendations of USA Hockey to the best of our ability. Given the variability of Billings youth hockey, travel teams will be formed based on registration numbers. Teams will be decided by the coaches at each age level with input from the Hockey Director and Executive Director.
- Players are required to register for the girls' program in order to participate in any on-ice activity including practices and games.
- Additional games and/or tournaments outside of TSL may be scheduled at the coaches and managers discretion.
- All travel fees, including but not limited to TSL fees, tournament entry fees, hotels, gas, food, and coaches travel expenses will be the responsibility of the team.
- Non-Parent coaches are an asset to our travel program. When traveling to games, each team is responsible for the lodging and travel expenses of the non-parent coaches. This is not included in the BAHL registration fee.

C. BAHL Girls Hockey Registration Costs:

- Girls' Hockey- \$300

This fee will cover the cost of practice ice.. Any additional costs associated with team play will be the responsibility of the parents. Teams are encouraged to seek out sponsors to help off-set the additional costs. Please see your team manager for our team sponsor flyer.

D. Team Composition/ Rosters

Roster sizes and age division declarations will be determined by coaches with input from the Hockey Director and Executive Director. Roster sizes and teams may vary from age group to age group. In the event that there are not enough kids to safely roster a team, players will be invited to participate in our weekly girls practice. Players can be added or deleted from a team anytime before December 31st for MAHA and Tier teams. All additions and deletions to team rosters must be submitted to the Hockey Director, per guidelines above, and approved by the head coach. All roster changes must be submitted to the State Registrar by the Hockey Director a minimum of 14 days prior to a team playing with intended changes.

*Due to TSL deadlines for submitting teams, the deadline to register for the travel program is August 15th. Exceptions to this rule will be at the discretion of the Hockey Director.

*All teams will be rostered in accordance with requirements of USA Hockey and MAHA. For additional information on team and player rostering procedures and rules, refer to the most current USA Hockey Annual Guide.

E. Coaching Fees

A rostered head coach and up to one assistant coach without a player on the team will receive \$100 per day for travel weekends. This can be used for gas and food. Additionally, their hotel costs will be covered. All coaching fees will be the responsibility of the team and must be stipulated by the Team Manager at the beginning of the season.

GENERAL LEAGUE INFORMATION

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General Information

1. Team Fundraisers- A team may hold a fundraiser to raise money to help cover coaches' travel expenses, tournament entry fees, and team apparel. Money earned through fundraising may not be used to reimburse parents for their travel expenses. The Hockey Director must be apprised of the team fundraising efforts. For a list of team fundraising options, contact your team Manager.
2. Tournaments- Each season the Executive Director along with the Hockey Director will determine a tournament schedule and determine which age divisions will host such tournaments. All parents/guardians must participate in the planning and execution of their age division's tournament.
3. Financial Assistance- The BAHL offers a limited number of scholarships each season for those that need help with their registration fees. Scholarships amounts are limited to a maximum of on-half of your registration fees. Players seeking a scholarship should contact the Executive Director, prior to registration.
4. Membership- All participants of our youth programming must obtain a BAHL membership and pay the yearly fee. The membership fee is \$15 and will be automatically applied during registration. Members receive priority registration and admission to our most popular events, a monthly newsletter, and 2 free public skates per season. All funds collected through membership will be used to provide scholarships to youth ice sports participants in the community.



BAHL has partnered with Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) to develop a positive youth sports culture. PCA's mission is to change the culture of youth sports so that every kid, regardless of social or economic circumstance, has access to a positive youth sports experience.

Through our partnership with PCA, parents will be required to participate in a web-based workshop aimed to provide the best possible experience for our players.

PCA workshops impact:

- Coaches' ability to support life skills development and social emotional learning
- Sports as fun
- Parent-coach relationships
- The ability to teach life lessons through sports
- Coach and athlete turnover

2 web-based workshops will be available in the fall. Parents who do not attend a workshops will not be permitted to attend practices or games during the season.

Parents who receive Zero-Tolerance or Code of Conduct violations may be required to take additional workshops at their own expense.



Visit PositiveCoach.Org for additional resources

BAHL Code of Conduct

Players

We desire to create a safe, fun, and educational atmosphere. Youth sports play an important role in promoting the physical, social, and emotional development of children. It is vital that players support the BAHL values: development, accountability, respect, unity, positive reinforcement, and leadership. I therefore pledge to be responsible for my words and actions while attending or participating in BAHL events, including but not limited to games, practice, evaluations, team meetings, fundraisers, and team functions and shall conform my behavior to the following code of conduct:

- o I will be a good sport (win or lose), be honest, fair, and always show good sportsmanship.
 - I will respect teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, spectators, and administrators at all times.
 - I will put my personal goals aside for the betterment of the team.
 - I will not engage in any violence or verbal threats or use any profanity.
 - I understand that all hockey events including games and practices are educational experiences and opportunities.
 - I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - I will model good sportsmanship for all youth participants.
 - I will not gossip about, belittle, or ridicule my teammates, coaches, administrators, or staff.
 - I will treat everyone with respect.
 - I will adhere to all BAHL/ CIA and USAH policies.

Parents/Spectators

We desire to create a safe, fun, and educational atmosphere. Youth sports programs play an important role in promoting the physical, social and emotional development of children. It is vital that parents encourage the support of BAHL values, development, accountability, respect, unity, positive reinforcement, and leadership. Moreover, adults involved in BAHL should be models of these values and should lead by example. As we strive to create a positive club culture it is important that you all remember the role you as parents play.

I therefore pledge to be responsible for my words and actions while attending a BAHL event, including but not limited to games, practice, evaluations, parent meetings, fundraisers, and team functions and shall conform my behavior to the following code of conduct:

- o I will put the emotional and physical well-being of youth participants ahead of a personal desire to win.
 - I will respect players, coaches, officials, spectators, administrators and families at all times.
 - I will respect the decisions of officials, coaches, managers, administrators, and staff.
 - I will not engage in any violence or verbal threats or use any profanity.
 - I will not coach my child during a game or practice from the stands.
 - I will model good sportsmanship for all youth participants.
 - I will not gossip about, belittle, or ridicule anyone involved in BAHL event—in public, private, in-person, or online.
 - I will do my part to keep sports fun and positive for every youth participant.
 - I will adhere to all BAHL/ CIA and USAH policies.

Code of Conduct violations will be handled through our Directors.

Zero Tolerance Policy

The USA Hockey Board of Directors has developed a Zero Tolerance Policy regarding the verbal abuse of officials and inappropriate spectator behavior. This Zero Tolerance Policy has been unanimously endorsed by the Billings Amateur Hockey League, it's Board of Directors and Staff.

To make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, the USA Hockey Board of Directors has instructed the Officiating Program to adhere to certain points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship. These points were written and implemented to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey sanctioned games. This includes parking lots for the rink.

PLAYERS

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

- Openly disputes or argues about any decision by an Official.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language, including swearing, in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time, even if it is not directed at any person.
- Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with any Official's decision, in a manner that openly embarrasses the Official and/or challenges his judgment.

Any time that any player persists in any of these actions, he/she shall be assessed a Misconduct Penalty. A Game Misconduct shall result if such player continues.

COACHES

A Bench Minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

- Openly disputes or argues about any decision by an Official.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an Official's decision, in a manner that openly.
- embarrasses the Official and/or challenges his judgment. This includes standing on the boards or standing in the bench doorway with the intent of inciting the Officials, players, or spectators.

Any time that a Coach persists in any of these actions, he/she shall be assessed a Game Misconduct Penalty.

SPECTATORS

On-ice officials will stop the game when the parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or participants of the game. The on-ice officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectators viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced, and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the BAHL. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

- Using obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Taunting players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threatening physical violence, or physical violence.
- Throwing any object in the spectators viewing area, players' bench, penalty box, or the on-ice surface, that in any manner creates a safety hazard.

Any violators will be escorted from the facility and not allowed to return until the next day.

In addition to the USA Hockey sanctions the Billings Amateur Hockey League has implemented the following rules:

Zero Tolerance Policy

CONSEQUENCES

PLAYERS- Our organization upholds high standards of behavior. In the event that a player receives game misconduct for Zero Tolerance abuse directed towards an official, the following disciplinary actions will be taken:

1. First Offense: If a game suspension is administered, our organization, in consultation with the player's coach, may deem it appropriate to impose an additional one (1) game suspension on top of any existing suspension the player is serving.

2. Second Offense: If a player commits a second offense of the same nature, the organization will extend the suspension by an additional three (3) games beyond any existing suspension.

3. Third Offense: A third offense will result in immediate suspension from the Bahl, and the player will not be eligible to participate in Bahl activities until they have applied for reinstatement before the Discipline Committee.

These measures underscore our commitment to maintaining a respectful and sportsmanlike environment within our organization.

All above violations have a right of appeal through the Discipline Committee.

COACHES- For a first Zero Tolerance violation, we as an organization will impose a match suspension to the suspension the coach is already serving. If there is a second offense of the same nature, that coach will receive a permanent suspension from the Bahl.

PARENTS/SPECTATORS- First Zero Tolerance offense will result in a thirty (30) day suspension. Second offense will result in a sixty (60) day suspension and a third offense will result in a permanent suspension from the Bahl. They will not be permitted to return until they apply for readmission to the Bahl through the Discipline Committee. To clarify suspension, we mean you will not be able to watch your child skate at all.

That includes all practices, practice games, league games and tournaments. All the above violations have a right of appeal through the Executive Director.

Any disciplinary action taken or upheld by the Executive Director will be reported to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors in a timely manner, for awareness purposes.

Every skater and each of their parents must sign a Zero Tolerance Policy Statement. It confirms that they have read and agree with the policy. Skaters are not allowed to participate in league or practice games until they and their parents have signed zero tolerance statements.

- Additional Bahl/CIA Policies may be found on our website. CentennialIceArena.com



Registration Policy

Please read the BAHL age classification to determine which program your player is eligible for. All BAHL youth hockey registration is taken through the CIA website, www.centennialicearena.com . All BAHL players must be registered with USA Hockey before participating in any hockey activity at Centennial Ice Arena. This registration can be completed at www.usahockey.com.

1. You must register in the proper age group. See below for move-up policy.
2. A BAHL registered player may only be rostered on one USA Hockey rostered travel team unless approved by the Hockey Director. At no time can a BAHL registered player or team belong to more than one USA Hockey association, unless approved by the Hockey Director.
3. No registration is complete unless the following items are received in addition to completing the online registration:
 - a. Payment of any remaining unpaid debt to BAHL.
 - b. Signed Zero Tolerance Policy, BAHL League Handbook, Player/ Parent Code of Conduct, and Consent to Treat.
4. Multiple payment options for registration fees are available including payment plan.
5. All fees must be paid according to the payment option you chose at the time of registration. Any skater whose fees are not paid according to the chosen payment plan will not be allowed to participate in the activities of the league including practice, games, tournaments, and travel. Questions regarding fees, balance due and payment plans should be directed to the Executive Director.
6. There is no prorating or refunds of fees with the exception of a season ending injury or other major medical condition or an individual moves an unreasonable travel distance away from the rink.
7. In order to qualify to register for play in the BAHL, the skater must be enrolled in school or home school program.

Player Move-Ups

Player move ups will be handled on a case by case basis. Those requesting a player move up must reach out to the Hockey Director to submit an application form. Decisions will be based on the player's skill, maturity, safety, and numbers at each age level and will be made in collaboration with the Hockey Director, Executive Director, and Lead Coach representing both age levels at play.

Affiliation With Other Programs

A major goal of the BAHL is to develop hockey skills both for individuals and for teams representing the BAHL. A factor in meeting this goal is the commitment of BAHL participants to playing for BAHL teams rather than teams representing other organizations, to the extent that they choose to play travel hockey. For that reason- no player rostered on a non-BAHL travel team that participates in MAHA, WAHL, or any other League Association may be a player on any BAHL team (rec or travel) unless BAHL does not offer a comparable type of team. Non-BAHL players are NOT permitted to attend any BAHL team practice. Players may be rostered on state/regional select teams and still participate in the BAHL. These players must play on their respective BAHL travel teams. Select Teams are defined as teams that have equal opportunity tryouts to make the team. The BAHL will not roster ad-hoc travel teams that are exclusionary of BAHL members. Requests for exceptions must be submitted to the Hockey Director annually and will be reviewed by the Hockey Director and Hockey Director on a case by case basis.

Required Equipment

USA Hockey Rules: Mandatory equipment must be worn at ALL practices, scrimmages, and games: HECC approved ice hockey helmet, shoulder pads, shin pads, elbow pads, hockey pants, skates, hockey stick, gloves, mouth guard, neck guards, and protective cup for boys. Girls may choose to wear a pelvic protector, but it is not required.

BAHL/USA Hockey SafeSport and Locker Room Policy

In addition to the development of our hockey players and and enjoyment of the sport of hockey, the safety and protection of our participants is central the BAHL's goals. BAHL adheres to USA Hockey's SafeSport Program as a means to help 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, the BAHL adopted the following locker room policy. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in our locker rooms. The SafeSport Manual is available on the USA Hockey website.

At Centennial Ice Arena there are five boy locker rooms and one girls locker room available for our programs use. Some teams in our program may also occasionally or regularly travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms 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-Centennial Ice Arena locker rooms must be monitored at all times when they are occupied by youth players. For 10U and older divisions, a locker room monitor (coach, team manger, or SafeSport parent) must be in the room, or just outside the door, with the players at all times. The monitor is also responsible for ensuring that the team leaves the locker room clean after practice/game. This monitor must complete the USA Hockey background screening prior to contact with players. Completion of SafeSport is required. SafeSport monitors are afforded the same authority of a coach; that is to say when they give reasonable instructions in the locker room, the players must comply, or discipline may be handed out as outlined in the Disciple Policy. Any incidents in the locker room must be reported to the coach and the BAHL Director. **Violations of this policy may result in a \$250 fine for the team, for each violation.**

Parents in Locker Rooms- Except for players at the younger age groups (8U and younger), we discourage parents from entering the locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a player needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear, if the player is or ay be injured, or the player's disability warrants assistance, we ask that parents let the coach know beforehand that they will be helping the player. This parent MUST be SafeSport Certified to enter the locker room. Parents of the opposite sex are only allowed in the locker rooms for 8U and younger groups. Naturally, with our youngest age groups it is necessary for parents to assist the players getting dressed. In circumstances where parents are permitted in the locker room, coaches may ask that the parents leave for a short time before a game and for a short time after a game so that the coaches may address the players. As players get older, the coaches in his or her discretion prohibit parents from the 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 our players are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. The BAHL will have male and females players dress/undress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single locker room before the game for a team meeting. The coach or team manager will ensure there are arrangements for separate changing areas when out of town. 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 separate locker rooms are not available, the team manager will ensure a change room for both sexes is arranged. We understand that these arrangements may require players to arrive earlier or leave later to dress, but this is the most reasonable way to accommodate and respect all of our players.

Cell Phones and other Media Recording Devices- Cell phones and other media devices 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- BAHL prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook. Players, parents, employees, and volunteers in the BAHL may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these locker room policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse or that violates USA Hockey SafeSport Policies.

****Violations of this policy may result in a \$250 fine for the team, for each violation.**

For reports of any actual or suspected violations, you should notify BAHL SafeSport administrator, Megan Davis at centennialdirector@outlook.com or 406-702-6897 and/or may email USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or may call 1-800-888-4656

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

While the Billings amateur Hockey League (BAHL) and Centennial Ice Arena (CIA) do operate through limited paid staff, support from Bahl families is essential to the success of our programs and our facility. To ensure this success, each family and player (14U and older) is required to complete a predetermined number of volunteer credits per year. The 2024-2025 volunteer year will begin on May 1, 2024 and end on April 30, 2025.

VOLUNTEER OBLIGATION BY AGE GROUP

Age Group/Program	Required Credits
6U/8U	10 credits per season*
MCYHP	5 credits per season*
Travel Program (10U-HS)	20 credits per season*
Girls Program	15 credits per year*

* Players 14U and older must have at least 5 credits completed by the player themselves.

* Additional volunteer hours may be requested by the Team Manager, including home tournaments.

FEES

- Buyout – Families may buy out of the volunteer requirements. The cost for buyout is \$25 per credit and must be paid in full at the time of registration. Players 14U and up MUST complete their required 5 credits regardless of if the family chooses to buyout the remaining 15 credits.
- Incomplete Credits – Volunteer credits that have not been completed by April 30 of each year will be invoiced at a rate of \$25 per credit. Players will not be eligible to register for the following season until those fees are paid in full.
- Alternate Arrangements – If your family is unable to complete the volunteer credits or pay the fees, a request for alternate arrangements must be submitted to the Hockey Director.

VOLUNTEER TRACKING

- Credits completed through team functions such as games and practices will be recorded by the Team Manager and submitted to the Hockey Director monthly.
- Volunteer credits outside of team functions (i.e. rink maintenance, events, summer projects, etc.) will be available on Sign-Up Genius and recorded by the Executive Director. These opportunities will be available regularly through the Sign-Up Genius link on the CIA website.

SAFESPORT CERTIFICATION

Many volunteer roles require completion of USA Hockey SafeSport Training. All parents are strongly encouraged to complete the training. Additionally, locker room monitors must complete a background check every two years. Connect with your Team Manager to learn how to complete these requirements.

SCHEDULE OF CREDITS

Volunteer Activity	Credits
Locker Room Monitor	0.5
6U-10U Scoreboard, Scoresheet, Penalty box	1
12U-HS Scoreboard, Scoresheet, Live ScorePenalty box	1.5
Concessions Shift	1
Rink Events (Skate with Santa, Glow Skate etc.)	1
Ice Install	1
Rink Clean-Up	1
Committee Member	5
Coach or Manager	EXEMPT

Fundraising

Required Player Fundraiser:

During the 2024-2025 season all BAHL youth participants (excluding MCYHP participants) will be required to sell 5 coupon books. The funds raised through this fundraiser will be used as general funds to help cover rink and program costs through the year.

***Fundraiser subject to change based on vendor availability**

Fees:

Buyout- Families have the option to buyout their fundraising requirements. The cost will be \$20 per coupon book not sold and must be paid before the team's final game of the season.

Alternate Plans- If your family is unable to complete the fundraising requirements or pay the fees, a request must be submitted to the Hockey Director.

Optional Team Fundraisers:

Our Philanthropy Committee has put together a list of optional team fundraisers. These fundraisers can be used to help cover costs associated with travel such as, coaches' fees, tournament entry fees, apparel, etc. These fundraisers will be organized and communicated by the team manager.

Team Sponsors:

BAHL will provide the opportunity for teams to sell joint sponsor packages as outlined in our Team Sponsor Flyer, available through centennialicearena.com. Centennial Ice Arena will be responsible for the costs of advertisements sold through joint sponsorship.



CONCUSSION AND INJURIES

Be Aware

Accidents and injuries can occur in the course of playing any youth sport. If you suspect that your player has suffered an injury or concussion, your athlete should be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an injury and/or apparent head injury or concussion without medical clearance.

Billings Amateur Hockey requires that an Accident/Injury Report Form be filled out if your player is injured and/or has suffered an apparent head injury or concussion. This should be filled out promptly after the incident with the assistance of your Team Manager and/or Coach. Please see below.

50% - Of concussions go undetected.

28% - Reinjured after returning too soon.

70% - Of concussions occur during games.

CONCUSSION SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

It's better to miss one game than a season.

What The Coaches Can See

·Appears dazed or stunned

Is confused about assignment or position

·Forgets sports plays

·Is unsure of game, score, or opponent

·Moves clumsily

·Answers questions slowly

·Loses consciousness (even briefly)

·Shows behavior or personality changes

·Can't recall events prior to hit or fall

·Can't recall events after hit or fall

What the Player May Feel

·Headache or "pressure" in head

·Nausea or vomiting

·Balance problems or dizziness

·Double or blurry vision

·Sensitivity to light

·Sensitivity to noise

·Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy

·Concentration or memory problems

·Confusion

·Does not "feel right"

ACTION PLAN

If you suspect that a player has a concussion, you should take the following steps:

1. Remove athlete from play.
2. Parents: Ensure your athlete is evaluated by an appropriate health care professional. Do not try to judge the seriousness of the injury yourself.
3. Coaches: Inform athlete's parents or guardians about a known or possible concussion.
Athletes can return to play only with written permission from an appropriate health care professional.

Reporting Procedure

1. All accidents requiring medical attention to participants should have an Accident/Injury Report Form thoroughly completed within 24 hours. See your Team Manager or Coach for a copy of this form.
2. Coaches are required to complete this form for an injury to themselves and any player-related injury. The lead staff member is required to complete this form in the event of a spectator injury.
3. In the event of a catastrophic injury, the BAHL will notify USA Hockey.
Claims Filing Information

Secondary Medical Coverage for an accident requiring medical attention may be obtained by contacting USA Hockey at 719-576-USAH or on-line at www.usahockey.com.