



Oshkosh Area Youth Hockey Association
Membership Handbook
2023-24 Season

Table of Content:

[OAYHA Mission Statement](#)

[Purpose of this Handbook](#)

[Oshkosh Area Youth Hockey Association - Who are the “Warbirds”?](#)

[Philosophy and Core Values](#)

[Team Commitment](#)

[Game Philosophy](#)

[The Organization](#)

[Season Program Summary](#)

[Tournaments](#)

[Board of Directors](#)

[OAYHA Volunteer Time](#)

[Registration](#)

[Registration Policy](#)

[Fundraising Participating](#)

[Teams](#)

[Team Selection](#)

[Goalie Guidelines](#)

[Player Movement Between Age Groups](#)

[Transfer Policy](#)

[Disciplinary Policy](#)

[Grievance Policy](#)

[Code of Conduct](#)

[Sign off Forms](#)

[Social Media](#)

[YMCA Rules](#)

OAYHA MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Association is to build appropriate age level hockey skills but also to teach the importance of individual goal setting, self discipline, good sportsmanship and teamwork. We strive to support and build physical, mental, emotional, and social skills of our youth through participation in the sport of ice hockey.

PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

We provide this handbook to all OAYHA members to help assist with frequently asked questions. This book is located on our website and will not be handed out in a hard copy form.

While the policies in this book are both reviewed and revised on an annual basis, the OAYHA still reserves the right to make changes or revisions after the handbook has been released. We will keep you informed of any changes or revisions that may occur.

If you have any questions concerning the information provided in this handbook, please contact your Team Manager or a Board member. The OAYHA Board of Directors observes an open door policy and encourages members to communicate any concerns or comments to a member of the board.

Oshkosh Area Youth Hockey Association - WHO ARE THE “WARBIRDS”?

The OAYHA is a member of the Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association ([WAHA](#)), and follows the rules and guidelines of [USA Hockey](#). OAYHA is a non-profit organization, which relies on player fees, sponsor donations and fundraising to meet expenses. OAYHA is run solely by volunteers including: the Board of Directors, committee heads, coaches, team managers and members..

The OAYHA offers traveling youth hockey to boys and girls ages 4 -15, residing within the OAYHA boundaries (primarily - Oshkosh, Winneconne, Ripon, Omro, and Berlin.) The OAYHA utilizes local ice facilities for practices and home games. Games are primarily scheduled on weekends from October through March. Travel is required and distance is dependent on the team schedule.

PHILOSOPHY AND CORE VALUES

The OAYHA follows the philosophy of youth hockey as dictated by the USA Hockey American Development Model Guidelines, which can be found in detail at the [USA Hockey](#) website. The hockey experience should be fun and rewarding.

The OAYHA supports good sportsmanship and fair play in victory and defeat. Respect for all individuals and the pursuit of excellence at both the individual and team levels is a focus of the OAYHA. The OAYHA strives to develop coaches that exemplify these expectations, and build these skills through training and development programs.

TEAM COMMITMENT

Hockey is a team sport and it is essential that each skater be on time for every practice and game. Attendance at all practices is highly encouraged so that the skill level of each skater can improve and team play can be developed. The OAYHA will establish team policies with respect to attendance and clearly communicate this policy at a team meeting prior to the season. Due to the importance of practice, excessive/unexcused practice absences may impact playing time of players. The number of home games played during the year will depend on the age group. Tournament play is at the discretion of the coaches and parents and will result in additional expenses. State Tournament play is dependent on qualification. Teams that qualify are expected to participate and will have additional fees. Each team manager is responsible for scheduling tournaments.

GAME PHILOSOPHY

It is the objective of the Association that all players shall, during equal strength situations, obtain reasonably equal ice time in every regular season game. Every coach shall have sole discretion with regard to the use of players in penalty and power play situations, during which the reasonably equal ice time rule shall not apply. During tournaments, each player must obtain some ice time in each period, the amount of which is at the discretion of the coaches, based upon the circumstances at the time. U14 coaches have the ability to distribute playing time based on the best interest of the team during their regular season games and tournaments. Coaches of younger ages must weigh the good of the team with their responsibility to ensure a positive experience for all players. Skill development and skater enjoyment will always be a major objective of the Association but so will learning the importance of team play.

THE ORGANIZATION

Bylaws - [Complete Bylaws](#) that govern OAYHA can be obtained on our website.

OAYHA Website - www.oshkoshyouthhockey.org

Board Meetings - Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at the 20th Street YMCA. Any necessary changes to the location or date are sent via email and posted on the [OAYHA website](#). Meeting minutes are posted on the [OAYHA website](#). Members should consult the [OAYHA website](#) for updated information.

Board members are elected to a two year term. All board members, as well as most of the board member at large positions, are 100% volunteer positions. Anyone interested in volunteering or learning about any opportunities to become involved with the club, please email OAYHA Administration at boardOYHA@gmail.com.

Name	Position	Term
Lucas Burger	President	2023-2025
Tom Breunig	Vice President	2023-2025
Jenny Hunt	Secretary	2023-2025
Tracie Schneck	Treasurer & Fundraising	2023-2024
Dave Martell	Member at Large	2022-2024
Bobby Anderson	Member at Large	2023-2025
Jen Berg	Member at Large	2023-2024

Committees - A listing of Standing Committees, Chairpersons and their function can be found [here](#).

Director of Hockey Operations - Oversees the coaches and development of the ice hockey program for the OAYHA. Ensures all coaches are compliant with safe sport USA hockey registration and age level certification.

Coaches - Head Coaches and assistant coaches are needed for each team. Additional information is found [here](#).

Team Manager - A Team Manager is named for each team at the start of the season. This person's role is defined in more detail [here](#).

All Coaches, Team Managers, Age Level Directors, and any volunteers with regular, routine, and frequent contact MUST follow WAHA and USA Hockey certification requirements.

Volunteers - Volunteers are what make the organization. A minimum number of volunteer units are required from each member of OAYHA. (DO NOT NEED Certification)

Season Program Summary

Schedule

- A complete annual practice schedule will be available prior to the start of each season.
- Practice times will be established based on availability of ice time and the number of teams. (While we do everything possible to maintain this schedule, changes will occur)
- Team practices will end with the State Tournament for each level. Teams not qualifying for state will end one(1) week (Sunday night) prior to their State Tournament. Mite level will be completed one week prior to the U10 State Tournament.
- OAYHA structures its program with the following guidelines
 - U10 12 Home games
 - U12 14 Home games
 - U14 15 Home games
- Games are scheduled before the start of each season by the OAYHA Scheduler.
- Additional away games may be scheduled by team managers in conjunction with coaches. However, please note: teams are not allowed to pay for ice for an away game, I.e. Pay to Play, in order to get more games. Any cost of additional away games will need to be covered by the host association.
- After the game schedule is released, team managers are responsible for all changes/modifications with approval from the Scheduler.
- The scheduler may change or revise the schedule based on the needs for each team.
- Games canceled due to weather will try to be rescheduled (if possible)

Tournaments

- The number of tournaments is at the discretion of each team (we recommend no more than 2). The OAYHA believes tournaments are a positive experience and helps to grow hockey skills, as well as team unity. They also come with added costs and weekends away from home.
- Tournament fees and expenses are the responsibility of the players/parents and are not included in the annual fees. All fees will be equally divided by all players on a given

team. Teams with multiple family members on the same team will have to pay for each skater. All fees associated with tournaments must be paid a minimum of **1 week prior to tournament** or player(s) **will not be eligible to play** in the tournament.

- Non-Relative rostered coaches will have accommodations necessary for tournaments included in the expenses of the team.
- OAYHA will pay for the tournament in advance to reserve a spot in the agreed upon tournament. The families of the skater('s) will pay OAYHA.
- The Association reserves the right to prohibit skaters from participating in any OAYHA event if any fees or commitments are fulfilled.

Board of Directors

Board members are listed on the team website

Term of office : The Board of Directors has annual elections with three positions elected in even years and four positions elected in odd years. Directors hold office for two years.

Duties - The principal duties of the general officers can be found in the OAYHA bylaws.

Standing Committees: These committees and appointments shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors and shall then commence their duties and responsibilities immediately. Each Standing or Special Committee shall be headed by a Chairman who shall be appointed by the President upon recommendation by the Board. The Chairman shall serve as head of his/her respective committee for the term of such committee or for the skating year which shall be determined by the Board. The term of committees shall be for one year.

Marketing: Said committee shall handle all social media and other publicity and keep a list of all printed materials for the club. This committee is also in charge of all digital communication on behalf of the club, and official publications through social media outlets.

Fundraising: Said committee shall be responsible for planning fundraising events for the club. All fundraising must be guided through this committee.

Competition: Said committee will consist of at least five (5) members, of which two (2) must be on the Board of Directors. All committee members will follow USA Hockey and WAHA hockey rules and ethics. Said committee shall make recommendations to the Board for approval on the following: team coaches, team selections, disciplinary issues, working with the

Director of Hockey Operations on coaching issues, team numbers, etc. Said committee shall hold at least monthly meetings during the hockey season.

Bylaw/Handbook: Said committee shall regularly review and revise bylaws and parent handbook to stay current and relevant to the needs of the club.

OAYHA Volunteer Time:

In order to run our organization effectively, a volunteer commitment is necessary for all members. Each family is responsible for putting in a minimum number of hours throughout the season. For the 2022-23 season, returning families are responsible for completing 15 hours, including 2 credits from a 'Spread the Word' event (ie. Farmers Market, THFF, Brat Barn). New families are responsible for completing 10 hours. The volunteer time will accumulate from April 1 to March 31. If a family does not meet their volunteer commitment, they will be billed \$35 per hour for any time not worked. **This fee must be paid to be eligible to register for the ensuing season. Bantam Level players - must have all hours earned/paid by January 1st. Failure to fill the volunteer commitment or pay the \$35/hour by January 1st will result in the player not being eligible to participate. If a player/family earns their volunteer credits after paying for unfulfilled time, a refund of funds will be paid.**

It is the responsibility of the member to make sure their hours are recorded (by signing in/out of volunteer events) and to discuss any discrepancies with the Volunteer Hours Coordinator as soon as possible.

Volunteer time can be earned by:

- Working at any function that is earning money for the club (i.e. Brat Barn)
- Working at any function that is promoting youth hockey or OAYHA (Approved by Board)
- Skater participation in the July 4th parade
- Chairing or Co-Chairing a committee
- Organizing an activity such as fundraiser or promotional event
- Coach, Assistant Coach or Team Manager of any OAYHA team
- Serve on the Board of Directors
- Maintain OAYHA bulletin board
- Maintain OAYHA Website
- Other opportunities as they arise during the season
- On-ice volunteering at Try Hockey for Free or HIP sessions
 - All skaters helping at lower levels need to be actively involved in helping the kids on the ice.
 - High school skaters can assist with all levels

- Peewees can help with Squirts, Mites, and HIP
- Squirts can help with HIP, but only if their parent/coach is on the ice with them. The parent/coach needs to be in the same drill with their kid.

The club will be notified as volunteer opportunities arise throughout the year via email or the Facebook Parent/Player page.

Volunteer time will not be given for running the time clock, score sheet, music, or penalty boxes at your own child's regular season games. If teams are not able to fill those spots, the team managers may ask other people within the association to work those spots, for which volunteer credit would apply for the time worked.

Registration

Every child who wishes to participate in the OAYHA hockey program must register annually with OAYHA and pay a fee determined by the board. Each year OAYHA will review the registration fees and determine the fees for the upcoming hockey season based upon the projected operating expenses and the other income. Registration fees generally cover most of the following expenses: practice ice time, game ice time, referee fees, Association related expenses, and [WAHA](#) dues. **It is expected that all registration fees be paid in full prior to the start of the season.** ([USA Hockey](#) registration is required but not included in season fees.)

All expenses related to travel such as hotel expenses; food, etc. are the responsibility of the skater or skater's parents/guardian. Tournament play is **not part** of the registration fees and expenses are **not covered by OAYHA**. The Association reserves the right to **prohibit skaters from participating** in any OAYHA event if fees are unpaid. (Skaters cannot start practice/games until fees are paid in full) Special payment plans and financial assistance may be available; however, it is entirely at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Association.

Registration deadlines will be established to allow for preparation of the season, game scheduling with other associations, coach selection/accreditation and reserving ice time. Ice reservations need to be made within the time frame established by the YMCA. If you know your child will be skating next season, your support through early registration would be appreciated. The number of teams, and the maximum number of players on each team for the upcoming season will be determined in September. Player evaluations and team selection may be necessary based upon the number of registrants or if there are multiple interests in a goalie position.

Registration Policy and Guidelines

Skaters participating in OAYHA must register annually and pay fees determined by the Board of Directors.

- A. At the time of registration the family will be digitally signing Code of Conduct for players and parents, consent to treat, concussion protocols, and details regarding the handbook.
 - a. The skater will **not be allowed on the ice** for OAYHA functions if the required forms are not signed and submitted to the OAYHA registrar accordingly.
 - b. Online registration with USA Hockey (Fee Required) is required before the skater will be allowed on the ice.

- B. The Association reserves the right to **not accept a skater's registration** application if the skater or family is **not in good standing** with the OAYHA. The board of Directors will review the application and make a determination.

- C. Team Selection
 - a. The Board of Directors, with the recommendation from the Competition Committee, will determine the number of teams within a time frame in accordance with the signing of the ice contracts.
 - b. If player selection/evaluation is needed, a fee may be charged to cover the ice costs for evaluations.
 - c. An evaluation process may be necessary if there are enough players to form multiple teams at any level. All skaters at that level who wish to be considered for the team selection must participate. If a skater/parent at a U10 level and up chooses not to participate in the evaluation process, he/she will be placed on the lowest team within their specific age level.

General Guidelines for Registration Fees and Payments

- A. Registration fees are set based on projected operating expenses for the upcoming season.
 - a. The fees cover practice and game ice time, referees, WAHA dues.
 - b. Other expenses such as equipment, jersey replacement, training, clinics, supplies, postage and any other operating expenses are raised through fundraising, donations, and major sponsors.
 - c. Expenses related to travel; hotel, food, etc.... Are the responsibility of the skater or skater's parents/guardian. Invitational Tournament play is optional and the fees are an additional cost to members. State tournaments are **NOT optional**

and fees are **not included** in annual dues. It is the team manager's responsibility to collect tournament fees and submit to the Treasurer one week prior to the tournament date.

- B. Registration time frame - deadlines must be established to allow for preparation of the season, game scheduling and ice reservations.
- a. Acceptance of registrations after the deadline are on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
 - b. Consideration will be given to the number of skaters already registered at the specific age level.
 - c. Exceptions will be made for those who recently relocated to the area.
 - d. Late registrations will result in an increase in fees which will be required and fees to be paid in full at the time of registration.
 - e. Online registration with [USA Hockey](#) (Fee) is required before the skater will be allowed on the ice.
- C. Payment of Fees.
- a. Fee collection is done online through electronic payment options. - Additional options must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to registration.
 - b. A non-sufficient fund fee of \$35.00 will be applied to all returned/declined payments.
 - c. Registration fees must be paid in full prior to the start of the season - as set by the Board of Directors.
 - d. A payment schedule (monthly payments) are offered as an option to avoid lump sum payments. Payment options will be available for review prior to registration.
 - e. The skater will not receive a jersey and will not be allowed on the ice until full payment is received unless an agreed upon plan is reached with the OAYHA Treasurer and approved by the OAYHA Board.
 - f. When money is due to the OAYHA from past seasons, any player from that family will not be allowed to register or participate in any OAYHA activities until all money is paid; any account that is more than 60 days past due may be referred to a collection agency.
 - g. OAYHA reserves the right to assess late fees for payments that are past due.
- D. Special payment plan
- a. The Treasurer - with Board approval - has the authority to establish a special payment plan for those needing assistance. The payment plan will be monthly installments. Your online, check, or money is due on the date agreed upon. **No post-dated** checks will be accepted.

- b. Payment plans developed will require the final payment to be paid no later than December 15th of the current season. These requests should be communicated (in writing/email) to the Registrar prior to the final registration deadline.
 - c. If a payment is not received by the identified date in the plan the skater will not be allowed to skate in OAYHA practices or games until the balance of the fee is paid in full. It is the Board's responsibility to notify the skater's family that they are not allowed to skate.
- E. Financial Assistance program is available, via donated funds, to reduce the burden of hockey costs for families experiencing a financial situation.
- a. Awards are based on an exhibited financial need. Primary consideration will be given in circumstances that involve a change in financial status, recent death of a parent, or a parent losing employment.
 - b. Awards are based on availability of funds calculated by a sliding fee scale.
 - c. Those awarded financial assistance are expected to fundraise to help raise funds for the organization.
 - d. Written requests should be submitted to the Board prior to the registration deadline.
- F. Refunds
- a. In the event a team is not fielded at a child's specific age group, 100% of the fees will be returned if there are no other alternatives for the skater within our program. **(Not USA Hockey Fees)**
 - b. In the event of a change of residence outside of the OAYHA boundaries or a season ending injury verified by a letter from a Medical physician the refund guidelines below will be followed.
 - c. All other refunds will be on a case by case basis at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
 - d. If a refund is warranted:
 - i. The refund is based on the date the Treasurer is notified in writing, not the date the skater withdraws.
 - ii. The amount of the refund will be prorated
 - iii. Refunds will **NOT** occur after December 31st.
 - iv. Refunds will not be given if the requesting player or any other player in their family owes any other fees to the association.
 - v. Refunds will be given minus any and all administrative fees (ie. SportsEngine fees).
 - e. Refunds will not be given if disciplinary suspension or removal has occurred. **No Exceptions!**

Fundraising Participation

It is encouraged that each skater's parents or guardian donate their time for Association fundraising events. **Mandatory** fundraising events may be scheduled throughout the season. OAYHA has kept registration costs down. The total cost of the Association **cannot** be fully funded through registration fees alone. The Association actively seeks out business sponsors and must rely heavily on the fundraising efforts of the Association membership in order to keep registration fees at an acceptable level. Fundraising is not the sole responsibility of a few members and the Fundraising Committee. Fundraising events are scheduled throughout the year so that your participation will be easier to schedule. The Team Manager and the Fundraising Committee will provide you with information on fundraising events. Your involvement is necessary for the well-being of the Association and for the enjoyment of your skater.

Teams

Age Levels and Teams

- U6 - Skaters 6 & Under
- U8 - (Mites) 7 & 8 Year Olds (Red, White, Blue)
- U10 - (Squirts) 9 & 10 Year Olds
- U12 - (Peewee) 11 & 12 Year Olds
- U14 - (Bantam) 13 & 14 Year Olds

The OAYHA will field the appropriate number of teams at each age level based on early registration numbers and projected number of qualified skaters at the time it is required to sign an annual Ice Usage Contract with the Oshkosh YMCA. Since this is usually several months prior to the start of the season, early registration is extremely important to the successful estimate of the numbers of teams that will be fielded.

USA Hockey, WAHA, and the OAYHA value practice. Practice time is so valuable to player development that while coaches work to balance playing time for all players, failure to attend practices may result in limited playing time for the player.

Team Selection and Player Evaluations

Why?

To provide the players with the greatest opportunity to improve their hockey skills. The teams will be selected based on an evaluation of the player's skills. The teams formed by the skill

evaluations will promote the advancement of hockey skills by allowing players to develop their skills with players of equal skills.

How?

Player skill evaluations will have at least two (2) sessions that consist of drills and/or scrimmage evaluations. The exact format of the skill evaluations will be available to all players prior to the skill evaluation session.

Who has to be evaluated?

All players desiring to be considered for the A team are required to go through skill evaluations when there are enough players to have more than one (1) team. Players unable to attend a session of their respective tryout process will **not be given a makeup session**. Placement on a team will be made based on their performance during the session(s) attended. If for some reason a player is unable to make it to the skill evaluations the Association Board of Directors and the Competition Committee must be notified at least one week in advance of the first session. After being notified the Association Board of Directors and the Competition Committee will make a decision on how the player will be evaluated and placed. A player who is physically unable to play will complete upon their return a two-week skill evaluation and tryout with the appropriate team during which time they will only be allowed to practice with the team. At the end of the two weeks the coaches will make a recommendation to the Competition Committee as to the placement of the player. The Competition Committee will make the final decision on the placement of the player.

Who will be the judges and how will skaters be judged?

The judges of the evaluations will be qualified individuals appointed by the Competition Committee to make a minimum number of four (4) judges. The players may be judged against the clock and each other during the time trials and skill drills. During the scrimmage, the judges will be rating the players' on the following:

1. Compete/Work Ethic
2. Game knowledge
3. Individual Skills
 - a. Skating
 - b. Passing
 - c. Puck Support
 - d. Shooting

The Board of Directors will **not** be judging the skaters.

How will the players be notified of the results?

No more than forty-eight (48) hours after the evaluations are complete, an email will go out to the membership to notify them that the evaluation results are available on our [website](#).

Goalie Guidelines

The association has goaltender equipment available for use during the season for the age groups of U8 and U10. If a player wishes to make a team solely as a goaltender they must try-out in goaltending equipment. If a player makes the team solely as a goaltender they are guaranteed a minimum of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the team's games as the goaltender.

U8 and U10

At these entry-level age groups, it is essential that each player develop the complete skill set necessary to be successful in the sport. If multiple skaters desire to play the goalie position, they will be accommodated on a rotating game and practice basis. However, when not playing goalie (either at practice or in a game) each skater must skate out and participate playing other positions. Please keep in mind that this skating out requirement is in the best interest of the skater, as they will develop better hockey skills by developing their skating and stickhandling abilities. Typically the more successful goaltenders are the better skaters and stick handlers. During tournament play, the coach reserves the right to choose the starting goalie based on demonstrated skills. The equal playing time will **not apply** during tournament play, but will attempt to be balanced out by the regular season games. It is recommended that goalies attend all clinics during the season.

U12

Beginning with the 2021-22 season, OAYHA will provide 2 sets of gear for this level of play to accommodate players who are interested in playing the position. Other players that wish to play goalie more frequently will provide their own gear. Coaches will still attempt to provide all players who wish to play goalie, the opportunity to play the goaltending position. During tournament play, the coach reserves the right to choose the starting goalie based on demonstrated skills. The equal playing time will not apply during tournament play, but will attempt to be balanced by the regular season games. It is recommended that goalie attend all clinics during the season.

U14

At this level, goaltenders are expected to have their **own equipment**. Coaches will still attempt to provide all players who wish to play goalie, the opportunity to play the goaltending position. During tournament play, the coach reserves the right to choose the starting goalie based on demonstrated skills. The equal playing time will not apply during tournament play,

but will attempt to be balanced by the regular season games. It is recommended that goalie attend all clinics during the season.

Player Movement Between Age Groups

Player movement between age groups (i.e. U8 to U10, U10 to U12, etc) is generally **discouraged** and the decision to move a skater to another age group must be approved by the Association Board of Directors and the skater's parents/guardian. To provide all skaters the opportunity to skate at the level that meets his/her skating ability, players may be given the opportunity to move up one age group. The association reserves the right to disallow movement between age groups if it finds it isn't necessary to do so.

Any player requesting to move down one age group will also need a written letter from a doctor stating reasons why the player should be allowed to move down and should submit in writing to the Board the player's intent to do so. This doctor's letter needs to be submitted to the Board by the September meeting. The OAYHA Board will in turn be required to get approval from WAHA for the player to play down one age group.

General Criteria that must be met before player movement:

- A. Parents or guardians must notify the Association Board of Directors and the Competition Committee with written notice upon final registration of the skater/goalie that the skater/goalie is attempting to move up one age group. The [OAYHA Petition to Move Levels](#) should be completed along with a \$50 processing fee submitted. If a player qualifies and moves up to a higher level team, the increased fees will be paid by December 1st.
- B. The age level from which the skater/goalie is attempting to move from must have the minimum number of skaters/goalie required to field a team as recommended by the competition committee and decided on by the Board of directors.
- C. Skater/goalie must also go through tryouts at their original age group so as to be appropriately placed in their own age group if movement to a higher age group is not achieved.

Option 1 - Club needs additional players at a higher age group. (i.e. the U12 needs 3 more players to make 2 teams. The U10 program has enough players to field 2 teams after they give up 3 players.)

- All players in the final year of their current age group who wish to "play up" may try-out.
- The top players needed to fill the team are taken.

- Players may be on the A or B team at the higher level. If a skater is moving from Mites to Squirts, they must be placed on the lowest team at the higher level, per WAHA.
- Players could be dual rostered under this Option

Option 2 - A player feels their skills and experience need the extra challenge of a higher level.

- The player must be in their final year of eligibility in their current age classification.
- The player must evaluate on the top line of the A team (3 Forwards, 2 Defense, 1 Goalie) of the higher level.
 - In order to move to the next evaluation the following thresholds must be met:
 - Evaluate in the top 8 players after evaluation #1
 - Evaluate in the top 5 players after evaluation #2
 - Evaluate in the top 5 players at the final evaluation
 - If the player is attempting to move up from Mites to Squirts, they must evaluate in the top 4 skaters of the Squirt A team per WAHA guidelines.
 - This cannot cause the team they are leaving to not have enough players to fill the same number of teams they would have had if the player had stayed.
 - A player may NOT be dual rostered under this Option

The Board of Directors of the Association reserves the right to deny movement between age groups if in its sole discretion it decides there isn't a need to do so and it is not in the best interest of the Association or skater/goalie to grant movement between age groups. The Board of Directors will make all final decisions on player movement between age groups based on the recommendation of the Competition Committee and the above criteria.

Dual Rostering Policy and Procedure

Moving kids between teams is generally discouraged, but at times, it is necessary. Players are moved to other teams to fill roster spots when players are missing and/or when we have small team sizes.

See Policy 003 - [Double Rostering Policy](#) for further details of this process.

OAYHA & WAHA Transfer Policy

It is the general policy of the OAYHA to **not grant** waivers for play outside the OAYHA. We hope to build our program as a community based program.

No player who permanently resides within the boundaries certified by WAHA as the Oshkosh Area Youth Hockey Association may play for any other association, except:

1. A player may play for a team from the nearest association offering a Division 1 team, provided the association serving the player's place of residence is of a lower classification. The player must be selected by that nearest association to play on their highest classified team. For example: a squirt from a Division 3 association "B" team could play for a Division 1 association provided the player is selected to play on the association's "A" team. The player could not play for any association classified as Division 2, 3 or 4 or on any team other than the highest classified team of a Division 1 association. If a player is not selected to play on the highest-level team, the player must return to their home association. (NOTE: Players accepted under Section F- 1 at all times shall be considered as an out-of-district player while rostered with any team of any association except the association serving their place of residence.) (Note 2: All players who skated up with any non-home Association not classified as Division 1 during the 2013-2015 season and before, shall be declared grandfathered with the non-home Association they are skating up with for as long as they continue skate on the highest level team in the appropriate age level. If they do not play on the highest level non-home Association team, they must return to their home Association and must comply with all transfer rules.)
2. Players may transfer from one association to another, regardless of classification, only with written consent of the releasing association.
3. For further clarification, consult the WAHA Guide Book, Article 1, Section G and H. The family requesting a waiver to play for another WAHA Association will complete the following:
 - a. Request in writing the desire to transfer their skater to another association. **All requests must be submitted by September 1st.**
 - b. Submit a \$50 non-refundable Waiver Consideration Fee
 - c. Obtain a letter from the Board of Directors of the transferring to association detailing why they wish this player become a member of their association.
 - d. Appear in person before a closed session of the Oshkosh Area Youth Hockey Association Board of Directors at the September Board Meeting, detailing why they are requesting to leave the association. The Board will review and vote on all such requests, regardless when received, at the regular September Board meeting. The President will provide each member requesting such a waiver with written confirmation of the Board's decision within ten(10) calendar days of the meeting at which the waiver request was voted upon. The decision of the Board of Directors will be final and binding.

Disciplinary Policy

Any actions or behaviors that are unacceptable can result in suspension from games, and practices, with complete financial responsibility, no refunds. A head coach has the right to sit a player for a shift, period, or game for competitive, performance or disciplinary reasons. The coach will communicate in advance with skaters and parents/guardians regarding your expectations and consequences for lack of performance or poor behavior and when discipline is necessary.

Grievance Policy

The OAYHA provides an orderly procedure for the discussion and resolution of all problems, concerns, and formal grievances. **The objective is to resolve issues at the most immediate level.** The key criteria and quick resolution of an issue is in the best interest for the respective player, his or her team and of the OAYHA. Problems or concerns that have to do with the coaching of the team, such as playing time, positions, practices, etc. should be taken to the coach or team manager of the respective team first. If the problem cannot be resolved at that level and a 24 hour cooling off period has been observed, the grievance form found [here](#) should be completed and placed in the OAYHA Mailbox found just inside the entrance to the YMCA Ice Arena. The grievance should outline an accounting of the incident; include the parties involved, and names of witnesses. Once received the competition committee will meet to review and discuss the grievance and find resolution to the situation. If unable to resolve the grievance the Competition Committee will make a recommendation to the OAYHA Board of Directors for the final resolution. Decisions by the Board are final and will be delivered within fourteen(14) days. There are no appeals. If there is a grievance with another organization, the Competition Committee and OAYHA Board should be notified and the Competition committee will meet to discuss the next steps. The CC will offer a recommendation to the OAYHA Board. The board will then choose the course of action, including but not limited to, reaching out to other organization(s) or filing a complaint with WAHA. The OAYHA Board will communicate with the party that filed the original grievance.

Code of Conduct

[OAYHA Sportsmanship Code](#)

- [Player](#)
- [Coach](#)
- [Team Manager](#)
- [Parent](#)

Code of Conduct - Sign off Forms

- [Player](#)

- [Parent](#)

Social Media Expectations

Social media is an ever growing part of our organization. Social media posts are expected to reflect positively on the Association and team members. Negative comments directed at players, coaches, teams, the Association, or other parents will **NOT** be tolerated.

Negative posts will be treated like other Zero Tolerance infractions and may result in player consequences up to and including missed playing time and or suspension of the player.

Parents posting negative posts may result in the suspension, or loss of play for their player.

YMCA Rules Supported by OAYHA

A complete [listing](#) of the YMCA Locker Room Rules (that are supported by OAYHA)

The YMCA is a family oriented facility and the Association expects its members and skaters to be respectful of the goals and objectives of the YMCA at all times.