Tri-County Hockey Association

2026– 2027

Operating Plan

Board Members

Executive Officers

Brandon Grote
President

Brendan Lewis
Vice President of Coaching and Team Affairs

Sara Ireland
Director of Hockey Operations

Joe Park
Treasurer

Ken Davis
Assistant Treasurer / Registrar

Lyndsey Stephan
Secretary

Non-Executive Members at Large (alphabetical)

Ryan Kalmar
Equipment Manager, High School Head Coach

Sarah Tolodzieski
Director of Recruitment and Publicity

Michael Geist
Member at Large

Heather Glennon
Member at Large

Revision 4, October 12, 2026

Operating Plan

This plan is meant to be a guideline for all Tri-County Hockey Association activities and supersedes the Tri-County Hockey Association Limited Code of Regulations when there is a conflict. Changes to this document can only be made by the active board and must have a majority vote. Any changes to this document during a season are to be highlighted, and a new revision is to be published within 15 days of those changes. A final copy for the upcoming season should be completed by April 1 to be active for the upcoming hockey season.

Programs

Tri-County Hockey Association season offerings will run from late *August 2026 through April 2027*. The association plans to offer teams and programs in the following areas. The season start date is the first team event with your team:

Local Area Instructional Programs

We are anticipating draw from multiple established programs in the future from both Garfield Heights, and KSU:

1) Kent State Ice Arena: Kent State Ice Arena reserves the right to cancel any program where there is insufficient enrollment. A full refund will be provided in this instance. Kent State Ice Arena traditionally offers programs for younger skaters, ages 4-8, to learn to skate.
2) Garfield Heights, Dan Kostel Recreation Center: Garfield Heights offers Beginner learn to skate and beginner hockey enthusiast programs for ages 3-13

Garfield Heights Beginner Learn to Skate & Beginner Hockey Enthusiasts

The Garfield Heights Municipal Hockey and Municipal Figure Skating Programs invite you to an introduction to the Sport of Ice Skating. The City of Garfield Heights has the most affordable fees for any of our skating programs in Northeast Ohio, and we are easily accessible and centrally located off of I-480. Whether your child progresses & grows to love the sport of hockey or figure skating, this is where they should begin, with any of our beginner lessons.

Registration, Instructional Programs (KSU):

Registration for instructional learn to skate programs is completed by the Kent State Ice Arena and will remain open until the program reaches capacity or the start date. These can be located at their website www.kent.edu/recservices/ice-arena. Staff supplied by KSU. As of 2026 season, KSU will no longer be offering Learn to Play hockey programs and referring all potential participants to the Tri-County Hockey Association House League.

Registration, Instructional Programs (Garfield Heights):

Registration for instruction programs is completed by the City of Garfield and will remain open until the program reaches capacity. Flexible starting times are also encouraged. It is best to contact them prior to the month of September to make sure you may be included in all opportunities of interest. For further information – call 216-475-7272 and follow the prompts, web page www.garfieldhts.org, (facebook) @GarfieldHtsRec

TCHA OPERATING PLAN

Tri-County Hockey Association Programs:

Tri-County Adult League: In 2024, Tri-County Hockey Association aided in bringing back adult league to KSU, primarily on Sunday evenings. Membership in adult league (i.e. participation or payment) does not include membership into the voting membership of the Tri-County Hockey Association. Only members associated with Tri-County Cyclones are voting members of Tri-County Hockey Association. While the adult league running out of Kent State University ice arena is hosted on the Tri-County Hockey Association website, and we assist in booking ice, this is a service Tri-County is providing to the adult league at Kent State ice arena, and this adult league is not an official part of the Tri-County Hockey Association.

Tri-County All Stars (PrePost Hockey): OHSAA pre-season and post-season optional teams. These programs are for those players enrolled in a high school which has an OHSAA ice hockey team and/or are not currently affiliated with any other club hockey team during the PrePost season. Programming will always be before (pre) and after (post) the OHSAA season to avoid conflicts of interest or eligibility issues with any OHSAA hockey program. Membership in Tri-County All Stars (i.e. participation or payment) does not include membership into the voting membership of the Tri-County Hockey Association. Only members associated with Tri-County Cyclones are voting members of Tri-County Hockey Association.

Tri-County Cyclones (Youth Hockey in the CSHL and NCHSHL): Includes 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, and High School. Teams are selected by an evaluation team approved by the board and assembled by the Coaching and Team Affairs Committee (CTA). The CTA will assemble an evaluation review committee that will be composed of coaches and board members to review evaluations daily and work with the evaluators to minimize any missed placements. Previous year coach's player evaluations may be used to assist this process. This program serves the needs of players with more advanced skills. Placement on a team is selective and will be determined by open player Tryouts, usually in April at the conclusion of the current season. The purpose of the tryout process is to evaluate a player's skating ability, hockey skills, commitment to teamwork, and situational/decision making ability in order to place players on a team that provides the best environment for improving self-confidence and enjoyment of the sport of ice hockey. Because roster spots are limited, it is possible not all players that participate in Tryouts will be offered positions. Players should also be aware that participation on a team requires a more significant time and financial commitment, and that league play will be at a more competitive level. Team formation and placement is determined by individual player evaluations that rank players using a common scoring metric.

It is our intention and plan to utilize both Kent State University and Garfield Heights Recreation Center as home ice facilities for the 2026-2027 season. Families should expect to have some practices and some games at both locations. If an arena does not open or has limited ice capacity available for any other reason, it is our intention to use just one arena as our sole home for the season.

The rest of this Operating Plan refers to Tri-County Cyclones Programs, and not the above-mentioned Adult League, or Instructional Programs offered through KSU or Garfield Heights.

Registration and Program Fee Policy

Registration & Tryout Fee, Tri-County Cyclones Hockey Programs: (non-refundable w/o Executive Committee approval)

Online registration is required for all players for each season and parents must register first.

- Parents: no Registration fee. Required to register online before registering child, anytime of year (once)
- Players: Registration & Tryout Fee, payable online using, Master Card, Discover, American Express, or Visa prior to tryout ice sessions. Should be open in March for the following season each year.
  ○ Registration submitted after Tryouts will be considered late additions to the program, and enrollment is subject to availability after considering regular registrations and roster space availability. Late fee of $25 may be applied.
  ○ Must be paid before becoming eligible to be rostered with a Tri-County Cyclones team or officially cleared to play.
  ○ Includes the use of a practice jersey for the Tryouts. Tryout practice jersey is to be returned at completion of Tryouts. These may be reassigned to coaches for practice jerseys during the season and they determine how many of each color and sizes they want and may be changed throughout the season allowing coaches to run and change lines at practice. The jersey will then belong to that player.
  ○ All players will pay this fee regardless of their amount of participation in Tryouts, each season.
  ○ Players having an outstanding balance from a prior season will not be allowed to participate in Tryouts until that balance is paid in full.

Program Fees

Program fees will be established and published at www.cyclonehockey.org prior to Tryouts. Player program fees will be set to recover all fixed and variable costs (including ice time + referee costs + administrative overhead) based on the number of teams formed and the estimated number of players per team.

2026-2027 Season Program Fee Schedule							
LEVEL	*ANNUAL DUES (less Reg. & Tryouts)*	*Prior to Tryouts (Registration & Tryout Fee)[2]*	*48 hours from team assignment[3] (Commitment Fee)*	*9/30/2026 (Installment 1)*	*10/30/2026 (Installment 2)*	*11/30/2026 (Installment 3)*	*Total (less Reg. & Tryouts) w/ 1.9%[1]*
High School	*$1,650[1]*	*$120*	*$500*	*$383.33*	*$383.33*	*$383.34*	*$1681.35*
14u	*$1,430[1]*	*$90*	*$310*	*$373.33*	*$373.33*	*$373.34*	*$1457.17*
12u	*$1,330[1]*	*$90*	*$310*	*$40*	*$340*	*$340*	*$1357.27*
10u	*$1,330[1]*	*$90*	*$310*	*$340*	*$340*	*$340*	*$1357.27*
8u	*$930[1]*	*$90*	*$310*	*$206.66*	*$206.66*	*$206.67*	*$947.67*
House Teams	*$730[1]*	*$90*	*$130*	*$200*	*$200*	*$200*	*$743.87*

[1] 1.9% processing fees will be applied to anyone on the payment plan. This will be waived for anyone paying in full at the time of commitment.
[2] 1.9% processing fees applies to all registration, tryout, and other fees online unless noted otherwise.
[3] It is our intention to have all teams finalized within a week from tryouts. Commitment will be due within 48hrs of receiving team assignment.
[4] House may be split into two sessions and/or prorated for late entries. This price assumes two ice sessions per week on the weekends and includes a practice jersey. Uniforms are not required. No parking pass.

***Families with 2 or more players (paying full fees – families with goalie credits, on scholarship, or free/discounted tuition are excluded) in the organization receive a multi-player credit of $40 per player. This will automatically be credited to your final installment**.

Full Time Goalies (10U to 14U): will be responsible for Registration & Tryout Fee and the Commitment Fee per age stated above, and any additional team costs. Stipulations do apply. HS goalies follow standard plan stated above. No dedicated goalies at 8U.

Full-Time Goalies (10U/12U/14U/Highschool):

To maintain quality goalies The Tri-County Hockey Association offers reduced dues for all dedicated, full-time goalies in the organization. Full-time goalies are expected to dress as goalie for all practices, games, etc. for their assigned team. Full-time goalies are responsible for Registration & Tryout fees, as well as the non-refundable commitment fee along with any applicable transaction costs.

In the event a full-time goalie leaves the organization during the season, or the following season, they are responsible for paying the commensurate full season dues that a skater at their age would pay (discounted to 75%) prior to receiving any financial release to play for another association.

We intend to offer dedicated Goalie training and have invested in goalie training aides, at no additional cost. Goalie specific training attendance is often an optional bonus. When it is required, a minimum attendance of 75% is required to maintain the reduced dues for this season.

Part-Time Goalies (10U/12U/14U/Highschool):

Occasionally goalies may want to skate out as well as play goalie. When multiple goalies are on a team and have been approved to skate out on their team through the tryout process, or through approval of their head coach plus VP CTA approval, part-time goalies may receive a portion of the discounted rate above, pending these approvals. In the event a full-time goalie becomes a part-time goalie later in the season, additional fees may be assessed for skating out once approved. Part-Time goalies are always responsible for the non-refundable commitment fee and initially set up to be assessed with full dues. After part-time goalie approvals have been finalized, part-time goalie's balances may be reduced/credited.

In the event a part-time goalie leaves the organization during the season, or the following season, they are responsible for paying the commensurate full season dues that a skater at their age would pay (discounted to 75%) prior to receiving any financial release to play for another association.

We intend to offer dedicated Goalie training and have invested in goalie training aides, at no additional cost. Goalie specific training attendance is always optional for part-time goalies.

Additional Fees

The program fees published by Tri-County Hockey Association are intended to cover all mandatory charges for Tri-County Cyclone programs throughout the season. Typically, there will be a team meeting for players and parents at the start of the season where the Head Coach and Team Manager discuss voluntary add-ons including the purchase of additional ice time, scheduling extra games, and participation in tournaments. Teams need a majority vote to move on with any of these costs, at which point only those participating are required to pay the additional fees. Participation in any of these extraordinary purchases is strictly voluntary and may be handled through an account established by your team, not by Tri-County. TCHA (including officers and directors) provides no oversight or supervision to individual team accounts and does not guarantee funds collected will be used for their stated purpose.

Uniforms: Jersey's / Warmups / Socks Etc.

On-ice uniforms are required to be purchased through Tri-County Hockey Association approved suppliers

Jerseys & Socks - The purchase of game jerseys and socks are the responsibility of each player. Each participant will need to buy a Home and Away Jersey & Socks. These uniforms must be purchased though the association to assure everything is identical. Cost of this is approx. $200 per set. During Tryouts each participant will have the opportunity to be fitted for new uniforms for the upcoming season. After teams are selected and commitment fees are collected, these uniforms will be ordered for the upcoming season. This registration and payment will be separate from the team commitment. If at any time after the commitment fee is paid a player withdraws, they are still responsible for the purchase of these uniforms which they ordered. TCHA may not inventory extra Jerseys. If a new Jersey is needed during the season, it could take extended time and charges to produce.

Warmups - may be available for purchase during Tryouts too. They are optional, yet highly recommended. They can be purchased as a complete set (Jacket/Pants) or separately. Cost of a complete set is ~approx. $180. These too will be purchased after teams are selected and commitment fees are collected. Billing for this will be same as uniforms. If at any time after the commitment fee is paid a player withdraws, they are still responsible for the purchase of these warmups. TCHA will not keep inventory on Warmups. This will be the only time players are able to purchase warmups.

Coaches will be able to purchase warmups through this process too.

Jersey Numbers - TCHA has a number grid, each player will be asked to pick a number from that grid. No player within 2 years will have the same number to eliminate the possibility of them getting on the same team. For previous situations where the numbers are the same at same levels; the policy for this is that the player with the most seniority keeps his number the one with the less seniority will have to purchase new jerseys.

Jersey seniority is lost as soon as you leave the TCHA program, so if you choose to lose and come back, your current number may not be available, as soon as a player is released from our program, they are removed from the jersey Grid.

Program Fees & Payment Plans

Program fees are above and beyond the registration fees. Program fees are due in installments. A commitment fee to assure your position on the team, then equal payments will be required on the dates set at the above fee schedule which has been determined by the Board of Trustees.

The preferred method of payment is electronically via Master Card, Discover, or Visa at the Edit my Account tab at www.Cyclonehockey.org. **TCHA does not accept cash.**

When paying using the Installment Option, the following rules will apply:

- 1.9% processing fee will be added at the time of order. This is non-refundable.
- Payments must be paid by dates published. To streamline this, we will plan to offer an auto pay option on our website. A late fee of $25.00 will be applied to any payment MORE THAN 30 days past due. All accounts must be paid in full *by January 1, 2027.*
- All past due program payments will be reviewed at the January TCHA Board Meeting. Players with outstanding balances and no payment plan in place may be suspended until full payment is received or arrangements are made and approved by the Board of Trustees.
- Any player with an outstanding balance (as of January 1st) of any amount and payment arrangements have not been made, will not be allowed to return to TCHA or register for any subsequent seasons until all monies have been paid in full.
- Any player not paid in full or current on a payment plan will not be permitted to participate in tournaments or additional cyclone events (EMBRO, Etc,) after January 1, 2027.
- After January 1st, the Head Coach/Team Manager will be notified by TCHA's President, CTA or Treasurer that a player is not eligible to play or participate in any team functions until payment is received and acknowledged by the TCHA Treasurer or President. If there are exigent circumstances, it is the player's responsibility to contact TCHA's Treasurer in advance of the due date to request arrangements for an alternative payment plan. All special requests will be addressed by TCHA's Executive Committee who has been authorized by the Board to exercise discretion in granting alternative payment plans.
- Once a player has been suspended, they will be required to bring their accounts current. The TCHA President or Treasurer will contact the Coach/Manager via e-mail to confirm payment. Until official notice has been issued player may not participate in any other team function.

Returned Check Policy

As noted previously, the standard method of payment will be electronic. In the event a family pays anything by check including the additional processing and & handling fees, the following policy will be in effect: A returned check will result in a $50 Returned Check Fee being added to the players account in addition to any late fees assessed.

Late Registration Policy & Pro-Rated Program Fee

Any Player registering after Tryouts may be added to team rosters to the extent there is capacity. The board will have discretion in determining whether late additions to a team roster will improve the competitiveness of any team or enhance the overall experience of players already rostered. See Tryouts section for team placement.

Pro-rated program fees are handled on a case-by-case basis by the Treasurer with Executive Committee's approval.

Recruitment Bonus

To encourage participation from all families in helping to recruit new families into the Cyclones, we are offering a $40 recruitment bonus for bringing any new family into the Cyclones for the 2026-2027 season. This credit does not apply to a sibling of a current or previous Cyclone family.

Program Fee Withdraw Policy

TCHA does not allow temporary withdrawals (other than requests made pursuant to TCHA's Withdraw Policy) at all. The player's parent or legal guardian is responsible for the program fees based on the following schedule:

If a player withdraws from the Tri-County Hockey Association (to join any other local youth hockey organization) at any time during the first month of the season or after the first practice, a portion of the dues will not be refunded, thus being considered a withdrawal fee (or owed if all dues owed are not paid). The "Withdrawal Fee" will be one sixth of annual dues and will not be pro-rated.

In Addition, if a player withdraws from the Tri-County Hockey Association (to join any other youth hockey organization) at any time **after** the first month of the season (30 days from the first team practice), no dues will be refunded and the entire amount of dues for the season will be due immediately before a release is granted. *Unless the change is a direct situation to the relocation of the family dwelling (i.e., a move from Kent to New York which allows them to play for another organization).*

This policy applies in all cases where the player leaves the team/association other than injury (i.e., school, moving, loss of interest, etc.). Injured players withdrawing based on medical advice are eligible for a prorated refund based on the percentage of the season that the player misses after withdrawing. Players may be required to provide evidence of medical advice not to play and requests will be reviewed on a case by case by the TCHA Board. The Board reserves the right to refuse to grant a prorated refund if it is not satisfied with the evidence provided to it. There are no refunds of registration fees.

Injury withdrawal - A player unable to play for a period of 30 consecutive days (one month) or more will be subject to a "refund" of dues if requested for the time in which a player is unable to play. This would include but no limited to injury, surgery, prolonged illness, relocation, or other non-controllable situations.

To determine the drop date of a player, a written request must be presented to the TCHA Treasurer for their signature and date. An e-mail to the TCHA Treasurer is enough to establish a date and time of the request for release. In any event, either the signed & dated (or emailed) request for release to the TCHA Treasurer, or the date of last participation in any team event, whichever is later, will be considered the date of the drop. A team event is defined as any game, practice, workout, or any other team gathering in which was on the team's schedule that the dropping player attended. Once the drop date is determined, an official CSHL Player Release form will need to be completed and signed by an executive officer of TCHA's Board of directors.

Any player with an outstanding balance will not be allowed to return to the TCHA or register for any subsequent seasons until all monies have been paid in full.

Scheduling

While TCHA Board understands and appreciates that parents and players prefer to have regular set schedules established in advance for the entire season, the reality is that this is only possible if we are willing to significantly constrain the number of teams to achieve this objective. Moreover, we do not believe elevating a preference for fixed schedules above creation of participation opportunities reflects an optimal prioritization of objectives nor is it in the best interests of Tri-County Cyclones and its members.

- Team schedules will start with priority claims from KSU & GH Ice Arenas, High School game schedules, or holiday/school vacation schedules. Adjustments to individual team schedules will be made such that day/time changes and ice take-aways are not disproportionately experienced by any single team or division. While this may result in some month-to-month variability in team schedules, Tri-County Cyclones will seek to minimize disruptions and provide members with as much advance notice as practical.
- Tri-County Cyclones will seek greater efficiencies in utilization of shared ice opportunities in a manner consistent with adoption of the American Development Model (ADM) and to keep the cost of programs offered affordable.
- Each team at the same level will get the same amount of ice touches to the best of our ability. Touches are determined by scheduled session, not full or half ice, as most of our teams will have shared ice time for practices. Older teams will often get more full sheets periodically.
- Teams wishing to obtain additional ice must go through the CTA committees prior to going to the Ice scheduler – once approved by CTA committees they may go to Scheduler to obtain ice at their cost. If ice is canceled or not used that team will be responsible for fees associated with that ice time.
- During the month of February, teams that qualify for playoffs may be given 2 practices a week until they are eliminated for the playoffs, other teams may be given 1 practice a week to prepare for early March tournaments. If a team is not participating in early March tournament practices will end in early February at the conclusion of the CSHL season. No team will be given practice ice past the CSHL finals unless it is at their own costs, or pre-approved by the Executive Committee.
- All Ice Scheduling, or Dryland Practices, or Cancellations is to go directly through TCHA Ice Scheduler, not directly to any ice arena or facility. These items include but are not limited to:
    - Party Room
    - Rec Rink during early season for Dryland
    - Additional ice for games or practices
    - Summer Ice
    - Additional facilities for any use of official cyclones business
- A representative from each team is expected to be at CSHL Preseason scheduling and Regular season scheduling.
    - Scheduling Guidelines will be handed out to each Head Coach prior to this meeting.

Competitive Program Descriptions

To keep player fees affordable and maintain predictable scheduling to the greatest extent possible, we will utilize shared ice for most practices. Please reference the section on Ice Schedules for a more detailed explanation of TCHA's planned approach to scheduling.

Cleveland Suburban Hockey League Play

All 8u, 10u, 12u, 14u, and teams will participate in the Cleveland Suburban Hockey League (CSHL) and schedule games according to rules set forth by CSHL officials. Head Coaches/Team Managers will be expected to attend a mandatory CSHL Scheduling meeting that will be scheduled sometime in September for Preseason Scheduling meeting and then again for regular Season Scheduling meeting.

Rosters

The CSHL will require each Cyclones team to have a certified roster from Mid-AM. This can be obtained from the Cyclones Registrar. Each team may have a certified USA hockey roster and a tournament roster (May have additional players from lower levels). Coaches must be current to be listed on the roster, nobody is to be on the bench or ice unless they are a current, rostered coach, and Managers are not permitted on the player's bench or ice, per USA hockey. No player will be permitted to play or practice with Cyclones teams if they are not part of our program. No players besides females are permitted to be on other rosters that would conflict with Cyclones schedules. Tri-County Cyclones should be player's priority before any additional hockey team's player are registered with (example, Girls teams, AAU, tournament, etc.). Cyclones players are not permitted to skip any Cyclones season event for any other hockey activity without CTA approval, except as noted in this operating plan, doing so is considered a code of conduct violation.

Teams

TCHA is projecting that demand for competitive travel team play will continue along the same lines as the previous season. Demand for travel play remains robust in NE Ohio, players in the 10u – 14u age divisions appropriately view progression through travel programs as the gateway to High School Hockey and more advanced levels of play.

Projected Travel Team Formation

	# Teams	Est. Skaters per Team	Max Capacity Per Roster
8U	1 - 5	9-15	15
10U	1 - 3	11-16	18 (16+2 goalies)
12U	1 - 2	11-16	18 (16+2 goalies)
14U	1 - 2	13-18	20 (18+2 goalies)
High School (grades 9-12)	1-2	13-30	30 (27 + goalies)
Totals	**5-15**		

Using player date of birth information from the previous Fall/Winter registrations, TCHA projects there will be enough demand to field 11-15 travel teams at the minimum roster size. TCHA reserves the right to increase or reduce the number of teams in any Travel division for reasons of insufficient demand or because a team proves to be non-viable. If more players are present than positions, they will be placed on a waitlist until all positions have been accepted and offered a position if one becomes available.

Substitute Players –Tournaments, Preseason and Regular Season

The official policy for this is below:

Tournaments

- Any player skating on a team must be officially rostered on that team prior to the game starting. To roster an additional player, that new roster should be sent to the Registrar (cyclonesregistrar@hotmail.com).
- A "Tournament roster" would be the normal roster for the kids with the addition of other players that might need to be called up. This help to avoid any last-minute needs. This would be in addition to the regular roster.
- Must meet all Tri-County Criteria.

Preseason

- To skate a player on another team for Preseason is allowable.
- CSHL does not have a limit on number of times a player can skate on another team during preseason.
- Must meet all Tri-County Criteria.

Regular Season

- Player must come from a division or level below.
- An Asterisk must be placed by the name of the substitute on the roster / Score sheet.
- CSHL only allows this if there are less than 10 skaters.
- Players listed on any AA roster are not eligible to be substitute players.
- A Substitute player that has played with a team they are not CSHL rostered with more than 3 games will be permanently moved to that roster per CSHL rules.
- Must meet all Tri-County Criteria.

Tri-County Criteria

- Players within the same age group (10, 12U..), as well as kids within one birth year younger of that age group can be rostered on a team.
- For any consideration, player must be active in the Tri-County Program – No player form outside our program will be permitted to play with one of our teams.
- The requesting coach / manager needs to get approval from player's current coach. Please copy registrar and CTA (cyclonesvpcta@hotmail.com).
- Even if the player is rostered, all skate up requests (for each game) need to be sent to (Registrar and CTA*)*. This needs to happen before the game or tournament start.
- At no time will a player be allowed to skate up if it conflicts with the current team's activities / games.
- Teams can skate/have on the bench players up to the number of players on the original roster (except CSHL regular season)

Any deviation from the above due to extraordinary circumstances needs to be presented to the VP of CTA, before a decision will be made. Only the rarest of circumstances will be considered.

Example: If you have a tournament or game (current players and additional support) and your team only has 9 skaters, you must first send an email to *VP of Coaching and Team Affairs and Cyclones Registrar*, and the coach of that team. Then you can pull one addition player from that roster to help the team. You can continue to add players from that roster until you reach the maximum number of skaters: 10 for CSHL games, and up to standard roster size for preseason, tournament, or non-CSHL games.

Tryouts:

Team Tryouts

All team Tryouts will be scheduled and administered by an outside evaluation team selected by the Board. Players that have not registered with TCHA from prior years or in advance will be required to furnish a waiver of liability signed by a parent or legal guardian to participate in Tryouts.

Tryout Process

Our Evaluation process consists of independent evaluators who typically have no children in the program but have extensive knowledge of hockey and the tryout and team selection processes. Jerseys are provided to each participant at the start of Tryouts with a randomly assigned number (color has no meaning either). These jerseys are to be returned at the end of Tryouts.

Evaluators will be looking for the fundamental aspects of ice hockey:
Skating: acceleration, speed, mobility, agility, balance, stride, crossovers, pivots, acceleration into and out of turns, quick feet.
Passing: receiving and giving passes, passing decisions, touch passing, giving good targets
Puck Control: level passing, soft hands, puck protection, small area puck control, puck control in traffic.
Shooting: power, accuracy, quick release, shooting in motion, rebound control
Positional play: ability to perceive developing plays both offensively and defensively, puck support, anticipation, discipline, understanding of short-handed and power play strategies.
During Scrimmages: Hustle, Battle for the Puck, Decisions with the Puck, Positioning without the puck, Hockey Sense, Teamwork, Leadership.

Daily evaluation scores will be reviewed with the board appointed evaluation team (previous coaches may be part of this team); the purpose of this review is to minimize errors on player placements. Evaluators will never be given names of players, nor if the evaluation team thinks the player is over or under rated. At the conclusion of Tryouts, scores will be compiled, and teams will be assembled from top score to bottom score. Scores will be composed of the evaluators 3-day scores and previous coaches season end evaluations. New players to Tri-County will not have the coach's scores and be based only on 3-day evaluation score.

Missed Tryouts

All players expecting to be placed on a team should attend all sessions of Tryouts.

Some conflicts may be unavoidable. When a potential conflict arises, it is required to communicate these in advance to a member of the CTA Committee, to determine prior to Tryouts if this will be considered an excused or unexcused absence. Placements for excused absences will be considered on an individual basis by the CTA and approved by the board.

Unexcused

All unexcused absences will result in a placement on the lowest team without the opportunity to move up, unless team rosters sizes dictate a change that would be beneficial to most. If a spot is deemed available by the board, the player movement policy (post Tryouts) may be followed.

Excused

All excused absences will result in a placement on a team determined by the following:

- **Missed all of Tryouts (non-relocation):** A place may be held on the lowest team at the player's age level, with the opportunity to be moved to a higher-level team, once the season has started, if a roster spot is available, per the Player movement policy (post Tryouts) below.

- **Missed all or part of Tryouts (relocation):**
  If a player relocates to the area (and attends none or some of Tryouts) the player may be placed on the lowest team, if a roster spot is available. Once the season has started, the opportunity to be moved to a higher-level team, if a roster spot is available, may be taken at the discretion of the board following the Player movement policy (post Tryouts).

- **Missed part of Tryouts (non-relocation):** If a player is absent from a part of Tryouts, that player is subject to only a partial evaluation which may affect the overall scoring of the player. As a result, the player will be placed on a team that is commensurate with the partial score, along with evaluator's notes, coaches' evaluations from the previous year, and CTA Committees Approval. Once the season has started, the board may ask the player to move teams per the Player movement policy (post Tryouts) below.

Player movement policy (post Tryouts):

This movement, if any, will be made once members of the CTA Committees, or an independent evaluator, along with the coaches at the highest-level team, have had the opportunity to evaluate the player. The player's previous coach(es) may also be consulted if a returning Cyclone. Once the process is complete, the player may be asked to move to the higher-level team and this decision, if any, will be made at the sole discretion of the Tri-County Board and subject to roster availability. The player may decline to move, in which case, if needed, the board may ask the next player ranked from Tryouts the same opportunity to move teams. At times roster sizes may change, as a result CTA with board approval may request a player to move down teams to make sure teams are not skating short, these moves if approved by the family, will be considered permanent until further notice.

The Tri-County Cyclones Board reserves the right to discuss all situations internally to decide outcomes of absentee placement.

Team Selection

The number of teams will be determined by the number of players participating, the number of players per team will be determined by similar skill level, and not all teams will have the same number of players. Our coaches are asked to evaluate each player at the beginning and end of each season; these evaluations will be referenced when needed by the evaluation team for players that are on the border line of one team or another to assure they are placed correctly.

The goal is to have these teams arranged 2 weeks from conclusion of Tryouts.

These teams will be determined by the ranking from the evaluation of the Tryouts.

Team Commitment

Online commitment response must be completed within 48 hours of receiving, whether you are accepting OR declining the team placement offered.

If you do not complete the online commitment (either accepting or declining the position) within 48hrs, the team roster spot offered will not be held for your child and may be offered to another player.

Commitment fee is due within 48 hours of receiving commitment letter, Payment is due then.

If you fail to pay the commitment fee by the deadline provided, your player will forfeit their position on the team for the seasons. Special exception requests may be sent to Cyclones President or Treasurer, who will work to plan with the family. Paying this fee later if space is available will result in a late fee.

Embro Policy/ Selection:

Embro participants will be chosen by the following process:

- Those that participated in the previous year's event are asked first.
- Siblings of those that participated in the previous year's event are then asked to participate as well
- Players from Team 1 are then offered, if Embro team is not fulfilled
- Players from Team 2 are then offered, if Embro team is not fulfilled
- Players from Team 3 are then offered
- 8U are to be Players in their last 2 years of 8U, players younger than that may not be asked to participate.
- Players must be part of Tri-County Cyclones and registered though USA Hockey
- Each team needs to have a roster supported by USA Hockey
- Players not in good standing are not eligible to participate in this event
- As of 2024, clubs started financial reciprocity for this event. The hosting club incurs all costs for the event. We are estimating that the cost per Tri-County player for 2027 will be approx. $300 (subject to change).

Team Formats & Specifics:

8U (Birth Years 2016 and under)

8U will typically be on the ice 2 days per week for 60 minutes per session.
Tri-County Cyclones will remain in compliance with the Mid-Am ADM Rules.

Tri-County Cyclones ADM Structure

Red Team *(Top Level Team)*	White Team *(Mid-Level Team)*	Blue Team *(Lower-Level Team)*

• Play games 4v4 with Goalie.
  ○ Team may have fulltime Goalie.
• Play in CSHL, Red strong/mid/weak Division (Greater Cleveland Area)
• Practice 1-3 times per week
• Includes Skills Sessions
• Dues paid Directly to Tri-County Cyclones Organization
• Purchase of Cyclones Jersey required.
• Jersey provided for practices.
• Coached by Cyclones appointed coach – USA Hockey Certified.
• Game Format
  ○ Season is Mid Aug-Early March
  ○ Participate in Preseason
  ○ Approx.: 10 home games and 10 away games
  ○ Will participate in local and out of town tournaments.
  ○ Play 3, 14 Minute periods.
  ○ Home games ½ ice
  ○ Keep Score
  ○ Games managed by USA Hockey certified official
	• Play games 4v4 with Goalie.
	  ○ No Full Time Goalie (rotate)
	• Play in CSHL, White strong/mid/weak Division (Greater Cleveland Area)
	• Practice 1-3 times per week
	• Includes Skills Sessions
	• Dues paid Directly to Tri-County Cyclones Organization
	• Purchase of Cyclones Jersey required.
	• Jersey provided for practices.
	• Coached by Cyclones appointed coach – USA Hockey Certified
	• Game Format
	  ○ Season is Mid Aug-Early March
	  ○ Participate in Preseason
	  ○ Approx.: 10 home games and 10 away games
	  ○ Games will be festival format.
	  ○ May participate in local and out of town tournaments.
	  ○ Play 3, 14 Minute periods.
	  ○ Home Games ½ ice
	  ○ Keep score
	  ○ Games managed by USA Hockey certified official.
	• Goalie–Players will rotate weekly (dress for practice)
		• Play games 3v 3 with player as Goalie.
		  ○ No Goalie
		• Play in CSHL, Blue Division (Greater Cleveland Area)
		• Practice 1-3 times per week
		• Includes Skills Session
		• Dues paid Directly to Tri-County Cyclones Organization
		• Purchase of Cyclones Jersey required.
		• Jersey provided for practices.
		• Coached by Cyclones appointed coach – USA Hockey Certified
		• Game Format
		  ○ Season is Mid Oct-Early March
		  ▪ Games begin Mid December
		  ▪ Practices will be combined with KSU Lil Cyclones
		  ○ Approx.: 6 home games and 6 away games
		  ○ Can participate in local tournaments at team's discretion.
		  ▪ Participate in MLK tournament with Cyclones Organization
		  ○ Play 2, 20-minute halves.
		  ○ Home games played cross ice on ½ ice.
		  ○ Do Not Keep Score
		  ○ Games managed by coaches

10U (Birth Years 2017 & 2016) & 12U (Birth Years 2015 & 2014)

10U and 12U will typically be on the ice 2-3 times per week for 1-hour sessions.

14U (Birth Years 2013& 2012)

14Uwill typically be on the ice 2-3 times per week for 1-hour sessions.

Cyclones AA option – (10U through 14U)

In an attempt to retain the higher caliber players at Tri-County, we will offer our AA caliber teams the ability to play additional competitive games against non- CSHL teams.

- Teams can have the option to obtain this status only if they are AA caliber and have board approval. Head Coach will submit request.
- With board approval that team would be assessed additional fees to be paid December 15 in addition to the fees they already are obligated to.
- These fees would be divided equally between each player on that team.
- These fees will cover up to 8 additional home games (ice and 2 refs) -team can get additional away games if able to schedule a home and home, but referees for away games and ice are not included.
- All home ice scheduling needs to be done with our scheduler and will be given after primary teams are allocated ice.
- If ice is not available at KSU additional ice may be obtained at other facilities, price of ice at additional facilities needs to be comparable to ice at KSU.
- This distinction would allow those teams to schedule against teams outside the CSHL. These teams would be higher caliber teams (Barons, Jacks, Blue Jackets, etc.,).
- Team Manager and Head coach are responsible for scheduling all teams, referees, ice, etc., this is not part of our board's regular duties.
- Parents should understand there will be additional costs and travel associated with a team playing at this level

PrePost (U16/U18)

The organization, at the discretion of the board, may sanction PrePost teams. Due to the nature and make-up of these teams, it is very possible that these teams are selected without open Tryouts or placements, since OHSAA rules only allow for 5 players from a school on a team. Each player will be registered through our system and be held to the high standards and Code of Conduct that we hold all our teams. Additionally, any disciplinary action that may arise is handled by the board in the same manner and fashion as any other team in our organization. Any child not registered and/or child not in good standing will not be added to the certified roster until they are registered and in good standing.

It is very possible that these teams just play tournaments (both pre and post). The board reserves the right to base the financial structure of the dues, if any, around the playing time of each individual team (for example: if the respective team is only playing tournaments, it is possible that the board votes to not charge dues and only charge tournament fees and respective ice time for practices) as a courtesy for these players.

It is the board's intention to have the make-up of these teams (or most of these teams) be Tri-County Alumni players who are currently in High School. It is a way to continue to improve the organization and continue to attract kids into the organization by being able to offer these kids a team to continue to improve and fine tune their skills before (Pre) and possibly after (Post) their High School season.

Cyclones High School Team (9^{th}-12^{th} Grade)

This Team was developed to provide players that attend a High School that does not offer Ice Hockey. And to give players that have played for Tri-County an opportunity to keep playing through High School. This team will participate in the North Coast High School Hockey League, part of the CSHL. They will be governed by Tri-County Cyclones just like all other teams. Tryouts will be run separately.

Girls Hockey

Girls participating in TCHA programs will be given equal opportunity to make teams at all levels within our organization. Girls skating on all girls' teams in addition to TCHA teams will be asked to provide those details upfront and are required that their commitment to the TCHA team is priority. It is our intention to continue to build and offer girls within our program an opportunity to play with all girls until such time that we have enough players of like skill and interest to play on an all-girls team within the CSHL.

Coaches

A large majority of our coaching staff is made up of parent volunteers. Each potential coach will apply, which will be reviewed by the Cyclones Board. To prevent any potential placement conflicts, we did not select coaches prior to Tryouts. Head Coaches will be announced after Tryouts conclude and we are sure where their child has been placed. They will then choose their assistant coaches from the pool of applicants received.

Each Team will be allowed up to 3 additional rostered Assistant coaches, to be chosen by the Head coach. These coaches will be from the pool of applicants, no coaches should be chosen that have not submitted applications, unless there are not enough qualified applicants then the coach may ask the board for permission to have an additional coach provide an application. TCHA Board will reimburse up to 4 coaches for their certifications required by USA Hockey with the submission of a receipt. A head coach may request an additional practice-only coach with approval from the board and meeting all USA Hockey coaching qualifications. In addition, coaches from one Cyclones approved roster may assist at practices of another team, with head coach approval, and proper USA hockey modules complete.

If a family is new to TCHA and the potential coach did not have the opportunity to complete a coaching application this should be completed during the evaluation period, so they can be considered for a position.

To be considered for a coaching position for the upcoming season, potential coaches must submit a coaching application. These applications may be available in early March for the upcoming season and must be submitted prior to Tryouts before given deadline.

The board may ask for an additional application if a team is created due to evaluations and no qualified head coach has applied for that team, otherwise prior to Tryouts the application process will be closed. The Board will limit that you can only be Head coach of 1 team in our organization.

Head coaches may only be Head Coach for 1 TCHA team.

Team Manager

Team Managers will be chosen by the Head coach of each team. This person will be required to be certified as a volunteer though USA hockey, meaning they are required to pass a background check and SafeSport. Team managers will be responsible for tying all lose ends together and communicating weekly with the team. They will act as a liaison to the board. Members will only be permitted to be Team Manager for one Team. Refer to the Team Managers' Manual for more information.

Players Bench

Only USA Hockey registered players and Coaches are permitted on the benches. Team Managers and Parents are not permitted on the benches. This is a USA Hockey rule and will be strictly enforced. Anyone on the Bench must have coaching certification and be current with CEP. No Parent will be permitted on the bench just to open doors etc.

Practice

Practices are for the players that are rostered on a team; unfortunately, **younger** siblings are not permitted to skate with other teams during practice without written approval in advance from the board. This will be strictly enforced unless prior approval has been given by the board. At no time will a player more than 1 year removed be allowed to practice with an older team. If older siblings are granted permission to help with younger sibling's teams, they must be listed as a student coach through the student coach process. They are to be on the ice assisting, not practicing themselves or this privilege will be removed.

AAU & USA Hockey

Neither AAU nor USA hockey allows players to register on more than 1 team under their affiliation, and as of 2023 USA Hockey considers an AAU team as another roster, and players may not be dual rostered. All TCHA teams will be registered with USA hockey; no player will be allowed to register with another USA hockey Team, or AAU team.

Skate-up Requests

All requests must be made electronically and presented to the Tri-County Cyclones Board of Trustees **no later than the board meeting prior to Tryouts**. Requests after this meeting will not be considered. The written request must include a statement (from the parents) of understanding and acceptance of the increased risk that can result while skating at a higher age level.

The TCHA Policy on skating up is that a player cannot be moved up more than one year in age. For example, a first-year 10U cannot be moved to the 12U level. A second-year squirt may advance to 12U(or other like skate-ups) provided the following criteria are met: The board must approve all requests for a skate-up try-out and for the final determination to participate at the requested skate-up level.

Players must demonstrate the skill and the mental maturity required to move up and play for the team at the highest skill level. For example, a 10U player requesting a skate-up must be able play for the highest skill level 12U team (most often this is an 'AA' team) the player's ability will be reviewed by the Coaching and Team Affairs committee. The previous seasons coach will be asked if the player will benefit more from skating up than staying at the current level.

Because the previous year's coach is contacted; it is assumed the player would make the highest team at their current level; they will only be required to skate for level they are trying out, not both levels.

The player's ability to participate at the highest skilled team within the requested skate up level will be reviewed by the Coaching and Team Affairs committee. Upon the review of the player's ability, the Coaching and Team Affairs committee will make a recommendation to the board. The board will then vote for final determination of the skate-up request. If team space becomes an issue, no age-appropriate player will be bumped from their level to make room for the skate-up player.

The Board reserves the right to reverse its decision if the player has trouble with the move. In this event, the player will then be placed on a team at his correct age level based upon the player's ability and team availability. NO player will be bumped from a team to make space for a returning skate-up player.

Locker Room Policy

In addition to the development of our hockey players and enjoyment of the sport of hockey, the safety and protection of our participants is central to TCHA goals. TCHA adheres to USA Hockey's SafeSport Program to help protect its 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, TCHA has adopted the following locker room policy. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms.
At Kent State Ice arena there are 6 locker rooms available for our program's use. 4 of the locker rooms have their own restroom and shower area, 2 do not they require the use of the public restrooms. Teams in our program may also occasionally or regularly travel to play games at other arenas, and those locker rooms, rest rooms and shower facilities will vary from location to location. At arenas for which you are unfamiliar, parents should plan to have extra time and some flexibility in planning for their child to dress, undress and shower if desired.

There is a separate Locker room for female players that should be used in all cases by female coaches or players. No player should dress or undress in the lobby of the ice arena.

Locker Room Monitoring

TCHA has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., generally 30-45 minutes before and following practices and games). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this would likely make some players uncomfortable and may even place our parents/coaches at risk for unwarranted suspicion.

A sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before players arrive, and if the coaches are not inside the locker rooms, either a coach or voluntary locker room monitors (each of which has been screened) will be posted directly outside of the locker rooms and changing areas during periods of use, and leave the doors open only when adequate privacy is still possible, so that only participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room. Team personnel will also secure the locker room appropriately during times when the team is on the ice.

Parents in Locker Rooms

Except for players at the younger age groups (8U & 10U), we discourage parents from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a player needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear, if the player is or may be injured, or a player's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that parents let the coach know beforehand that he or she will be helping the player.
Naturally, with our youngest age groups it is necessary for parents to assist the players getting dressed. We encourage parents to teach their players as young as possible how to get dressed so that players will learn as early as possible how to get dressed independently. In circumstances where parents are permitted in the locker room, coaches are permitted to ask that the parents leave for a short time before the game and for a short time after the game so that the coaches may address the players. As players get older, the coach may in his or her discretion prohibit parents from a 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. Where possible, TCHA will have the male and female players dress/undress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single locker room before the game or team meeting. 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 available. If separate locker rooms are not available, then the players will take turns using the locker room to change. We understand that these arrangements may require that players arrive earlier or leave later to dress but believe that this is the most reasonable way to accommodate and respect all our players.

Cell Phones and Other Mobile Recording Devices

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, 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. [it may be permissible to have team manager collect phones]

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

TCHA prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook. Participants, employees, or volunteers in TCHA may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these locker room policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse or that violates the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies. Reports of any actual or suspected violations, you may email USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or may call 1-800-888-4656

Any immediate concerns should be reported to TCHA VP of Coaching and Team Affairs at cyclonesvpcta@hotmail.com

Financial

Financial Assistance

TCHA is committed to providing exceptional hockey opportunities for the youths. TCHA understands that hockey may be considered an expensive sport and strives to keep the cost of participation as low as possible. TCHA also understands that from time to time, financial challenges may arise with our members that make the cost of hockey prohibitive.

Because of the dedication of our members and other supporters of youth hockey, TCHA may offer limited financial assistance (scholarship) to its members who are registered (and have paid the registration fee) to play hockey in the current season. These scholarships are based on financial needs, and only offered if funds are available.

Scholarships are available based in need and will be submitted to the Scholarship Committee no later than September 15th for review. To be eligible for a scholarship you must meet the financial criteria listed on the application. If a scholarship is awarded you will be required to volunteer at various cyclone events.

Financial policy

At the start of each season an annual budget should be prepared by the Executive Committee, to the board for approval. All projected costs should be based in prior year knowledge and any extra expenses known that may be incurred in the upcoming year.

A budget will also be required for any committees formed, i.e. Booster, Embro, fundraising, that would also require the organization to contribute.

Financial statements and information will be done monthly and reviewed. A monthly P&L along with a year-to-date P&L and balance sheet will be required as well as the comparison to budget for the month with any discrepancies explained.

Financial Procedures

The TCHA Treasurer follows a set of procedures for budgeting, billing, collection of fees, payment processing and reporting which are reviewed and approved by the TCHA Board, as well as an independent accounting firm annually and from time to time. These procedures are available for review by members upon request.

Release process

Any player wishing to leave TCHA and join another CSHL program is required to have a release form filled out by TCHA's President. The request for this release must be submitted in writing. Before a player will be released, they must have no financial obligation to our organization or loaned equipment in their possession and be in good standing. Any Player wishing to join Tri-County Cyclones will be required to show a release from previous organization before they will be permitted on the ice with their new team.

Equipment

Each player is responsible for supplying their own gear. TCHA colors are Red, White, and Black. To keep up the look of our organization we ask that if you do not already have or are buying new gear you follow the guidelines below. We are not asking families to buy new gear, only when you do follow the color scheme we have listed.

- Helmet / Pants / Gloves (primarily) – Black
- Game Socks – Red, white, and Black -purchased separately.
- Helmet Stickers – Each player will be given 1 set, after that they will be bought from Boosters.

Board Responsibilities

Make-Up:

Each year prior to elections, the active board may vote on whether to fill one of the open board positions with the current acting Tri-County Cyclones High School Head Hockey coach. This decision should be repeated annually, and the membership should be updated on this at the time of general election

Term:

All Officers shall serve for a term of one year (January nominations for board members) with no limit to consecutive terms in the same office. Any Officer unable to complete his/her full term of service for which the Officer was elected shall be replaced by the Board of Trustees at the next regular meeting of the Board. At that time, the Board shall appoint a replacement Officer from the Board to serve the unexpired term with two-thirds majority approval of Board members present.

The Officers shall be elected by simple majority ballot to serve for one year, and their terms shall begin at the May meeting. Serving as an officer of this Association shall not exclude that person from consideration for a head coaching position.

Conflict of Interest:

Regarding conflict of interest, a conflict of interest exists where a person, a person's Spouse, family member, companion or associate has direct or indirect financial, legal, equitable or personal interest in the matter or the outcome of the consideration of the matter. Board Members have a responsibility to declare any conflict of interest and excuse themselves from discussions or voting on any matter of business for the board which could represent a conflict of interest. No spouses of current board members are permitted to serve on the board at the same time.

Meetings:

The Board plans to operate on monthly meetings, usually the 2nd week of every month at a time and place established by the President (including virtual meetings). Additional meetings may be called by the President at any time with at least 3-day notice or take online polls at any time. For an official vote, quorum is required and will be defined as at least 50% of the voting members.

Committees

The board will utilize committees to assist with projects. These committees will be made up of members of our association and chaired by a Board Member. Committees will be utilized but not limited to the following areas – Boosters, Fundraising, Tournaments, Embro, and equipment.

Committees will meet, make decisions, and recommend to the board for approval, through their chairperson. All committees spending or making money will need to submit a proposal that will include a budget that needs to be approved by the Board. Committee reports will be provided at every general meeting by the committee head.

Officers (Executive Committee):

The President:

The President shall preside at meetings of the Association and the Board of Trustees. He shall generally perform the duties usual to the Office of President and may, at his/her discretion, order the calling of meetings of the Board of Trustees or of the Committees of the Association. It shall also be the duty of the President at the February meeting of the Board of Trustees to conduct the election of Officers and to discuss the business of the forthcoming year.

The President is the only non-voting member of the Board of Trustees. In the event of a tie vote, the President may cast the deciding vote.

The President may appoint Committee chairpersons, except those already designated in the Code of Regulations Article Seven: Officers, Section A.

The President shall be an ex-officio member of all Committees, except the Nominating Committee.

Vice President(s):

The Vice-Presidents, First, then second, serve as an aide to the President and preside when the President is absent or when called by the President. The First Vice President becomes President in the event of resignation, expulsion, or withdrawal of the President. The Vice Presidents should be familiar with all duties of the President and be prepared, if necessary, to preside at any meeting without notice.

The First Vice President shall chair the Coaches and Team Affairs and the Second Vice President of Hockey Operations.

Secretary:

The Secretary shall keep records of the Association and act as an aide to the President. General duties of the Secretary include:

1. Recording minutes and keeping record books current and in order.
2. Keeping Committee reports on file.
3. Notifying Officers and Committee Members of their appointments.
4. Sending out notices of meetings and conducting the general correspondence of the Association.
5. Having available at each meeting

   a) A current copy of the Code of Regulations of the Association
   b) A list of all Committees and their members.
   c) A copy of the Association's adopted order of business.
   d) Agenda of that meeting's planned order of business.

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer (Registrar):

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are the authorized custodians of the funds of the Association. As such, the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall:
1. Collect and disburse all moneys of this Association as prescribed in the Code of Regulations or as authorized by the Board of Trustees or the Association assembly.
2. Keep an accurate and detailed account of all moneys received and paid out in a record book that has stitched-in or locked-in pages.
3. Record receipts and disbursements accurately in accordance with accepted bookkeeping practices and procedures and approved budget funds of this Association.
4. Deposit immediately all moneys received in a bank approved by the Board of Trustees, with the account in the name of Tri-County Amateur Hockey Association.
5. Disburse funds only by check, countersigned by the Assistant Treasurer, or in his/her absence, by the President.
6. Issue receipts for all money collected, retaining a copy for Association records.
7. Pay all Association debts promptly.
8. Advise the Board of those members delinquent with payment of dues and fees to the Association and issue notices to those delinquent in payments.
9. Act as the Official Association Registrar as it relates to this Association and USA Hockey. This responsibility includes keeping the Association's Official Membership list.
10. Prepare a financial report for regular meetings of the Board of Trustees. Each report shall be filed with the Secretary for audit purposes. The report should contain at least the following items:

- Balance on hand at the beginning of the period covered by the report.
- Total receipts for the period.
- Total disbursements for the period.
- Balance on hand at the date of the report.

11. Prepare an Annual Financial Report for the Association membership at the Annual Meeting.
12. The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on June 1st and end on the following May 31st.
13. Submit records and books to the Audit Committee annually and assist the Audit Committee with the audit process. The Audit Committee's report shall be presented to the Association Membership and the Board of Trustees at a regular Board meeting following the end of the fiscal year.
14. Prepare annually, tax and any other financial related reports that may be required by the Internal Revenue Service of the United States or by the State of Ohio.

Code of Conduct

The Tri-County Cyclone Code of Conduct is strict and serious in our sport. All people associated with the game are always expected to act with sportsmanship, dignity, and respect for others. This includes coaches, parents, players, and referees.

Poor sportsmanship includes:
·Arguing with coaches, officials, teammates, opponents, or spectators
·Using threatening or profane language
·Baiting or taunting coaches, officials, teammates, opponents or spectators
·Unsafe play
·Uncontrolled behavior in the bench area.

Poor sportsmanship will carry, at a minimum, the following consequences:
First Offense – Minimum of Written Warning
Second Offense - Minimum suspension from all activities and meeting with CTA / Board
Third Offense – Dismissal from the Team

We, parent(s) and player, have discussed the Tri-County Cyclone Code of Conducts and agree to abide by them. We understand that there is no refund or recourse for dismissal from our program because of breaking this Code of Conduct.

Be sure to review each detailed Code of Conduct for Parent, Player, and Volunteer, located at the end of this plan.

Anyone actively recruiting players to leave our program and move to another will be asked to leave immediately.

Player Conduct: Abusive language, fighting, vandalism, derogatory comments, or any action which may endanger the safety or well-being of another individual is not tolerated. The first order of disciplinary action should rest with the coach and player. Should misconduct persist, the Board reserves the right to suspend the player from organizational activities or to dismiss the player from the organization. Refer further to the policy pertaining to major penalties, game and gross misconduct penalties, match penalties, and game ejection in Article Twelve: Standing Rules, Sections I and J, and player conduct rules within the USA Hockey Official Rules.

TCHA OPERATING PLAN
Tri-County Hockey Association
Parent Code of Conduct

With your child earning the opportunity to play hockey for the Tri-County Cyclones you too are committing your time to the game of Ice Hockey and your child's advancement as a player and over all athletics. While hockey is not the most important thing, please be cognizant of the team when making plans that may impact the team as a whole. The team is depending on each member being present and working towards the goal of improving everyday – so please take that into consideration during the season.

Please read the following document concerning the parents' code of conduct. Remember you represent yourself, your child, your team, and the Cyclone community. One word should describe your conduct at the games and away from the Rink…… Class!

1. You have committed your child to playing the entire season with TCHA.
2. You will make sure your child arrives at practice and games at the designated time or provide the coaches with adequate notice.
3. All comments during and after the game to your child should be positive and supportive; players – play, coaches – coach, parents – parent.
4. You will not address the Referees or other team in a negative manner under any circumstance.
5. You will not enter the player's benches or try and coach from the stands during the game unless asked by the coaches to do so.
6. Your questions will wait until the appropriate time (Minimum of 24 hrs. after a game).
7. Concerns with the team coaches should be taken directly to the board and not discussed with the community.
8. You will not criticize our association in public or in social media; you will bring problems and issues directly to the board's attention.
9. No Phone or picture taking device permitted in the Locker Room.
10. If ejected from a game by the Referee or coach – you will serve a 1 game suspension just as the players and coaches are required to do.

The Code of Conduct is strict and serious in our sport. All people associated with the game are always expected to act with sportsmanship, dignity, and respect for others. This includes coaches, parents, players, and referees. Violations of the Code of Conduct are subject to all games, Practices or Cyclone Events.

Parent/Player Conduct: Abusive language, fighting, vandalism, derogatory comments, or any action which may endanger the safety or well-being of another individual is not tolerated. The Board reserves the right to suspend the player from organizational activities or to dismiss the player from the organization if deemed necessary. Refer further to the policy pertaining to major penalties, game and gross misconduct penalties, match penalties, and game ejection in Article Twelve: Standing Rules, Sections I and J, and player conduct rules within the USA Hockey Official Rules.

Violations of the Code of Conduct include, but are not limited to:

- Arguing with coaches, officials, teammates, opponents or spectators
- Using threatening or profane language
- Baiting or taunting coaches, officials, teammates, opponents or spectators
- Unsafe play
- Uncontrolled behavior in the bench area
- Physical Alterations
- Intent to Injure

Over →

Violations will carry, at a minimum, the following consequences:
First Offense – Minimum of Written Warning
Second Offense - Minimum suspension from all activities and meeting with CTA / Board
Third Offense – Dismissal from the Team

We, parent(s) have read the Code of Conducts and agree to abide by them. We understand that there is no refund or recourse for dismissal from our program because of breaking this Code of Conduct.

Failure to comply with this agreement could result in required meeting with CTA, additional consequences, or the removal of your son from a game, practice and even from the team.

Your child's success or lack of success does not indicate what kind of parent you are.

But having an athlete that is coachable, respectful, a great teammate, mentally tough, resilient and tries their best IS a direct reflection of your parenting.

TCHA OPERATING PLAN
Tri-County Hockey Association
Player Code of Conduct

Winning is important, BUT not essential, for a successful season!
Earn your wins and learn from your losses.

By playing on your team, you are committing your time, to the game of Ice Hockey. Your dedication means that you may miss opportunities to go out with friends or participate in other social activities if there is a conflict. This is all part of playing on a Hockey team. It is the expectation that you attend every practice and game possible. Of course, there will be times that you may have to miss, but it is up to you as a dedicated athlete to decide which of those times can and cannot be helped. The team is depending on you and your presence on the team.

Read the following athlete **Code of Conduct**. Remember, you represent yourself, your parents, your coaches, your team, and the Cyclones. One word should describe your conduct on and off the field...CLASS!

1. You have committed to playing the entire season to the best of your ability.
2. You will arrive to practice at least 30 minutes before they are schedule to start. You will arrive to games at least 45 minutes before they are scheduled to start. Remember on time is late.
3. You will follow and participate in all pre-game stretching and warm-ups.
4. When a coach is talking, you will look at him/her and stop talking. All sticks, gloves and equipment will be put down.
5. You will wear your uniform with class.
6. You will address your coach as Coach.
7. You will not address the Referee unless requested by Coach.
8. You will not address any referee, player, parent, or coach on the opposite team with disrespect.
9. You will not throw helmets, sticks, gloves...in anger.
10. You will not talk back to referees if a call is made that you do not agree with.
11. You will not talk back to your coaches.
12. You will cheer for your team in a positive manner. Chanting to or intimidating the other team is forbidden.
13. You will NOT assign blame for losses to referees, teammates, or coaches. Every loss and win is a team effort.
14. You will not engage in dangerous or disruptive horseplay on the ice, on the bench or around the rink.
15. You will follow all strategy calls made by the coach (Power play, Penalty Kill, etc.).
16. You will not complain when removed from game to get other teammates in the game.
17. You will help with equipment before and after each practice and game. This is your team, take responsibility. This includes your own equipment!
18. You will not criticize our association in public or in social media; you will bring problems and issues directly to the board's attention.
19. No Phone or picture taking device permitted in Locker Rooms.

The Code of Conduct is strict and serious in our sport. All people associated with the game are always expected to act with sportsmanship, dignity, and respect for others. This includes coaches, parents, players, and referees. Violations of the Code of Conduct are subject to all games, Practices or Cyclone Events.

Over →

Player Conduct: Abusive language, fighting, vandalism, derogatory comments, or any action which may endanger the safety or well-being of another individual is not tolerated. The Board reserves the right to suspend the player from organizational activities or to dismiss the player from the organization if deemed necessary. Refer further to the policy pertaining to major penalties, game and gross misconduct penalties, match penalties, and game ejection in Article Twelve: Standing Rules, Sections I and J, and player conduct rules within the USA Hockey Official Rules.

Violations of the Code of Conduct include, but are not limited to:

- Arguing with coaches, officials, teammates, opponents, or spectators
- Using threatening or profane language
- Baiting or taunting coaches, officials, teammates, opponents, or spectators
- Unsafe play
- Uncontrolled behavior in the bench area
- Physical Alterations
- Intent to Injure

Violations will carry, at a minimum, the following consequences:
First Offense – Minimum of Written Warning
Second Offense - Minimum suspension from all activities and meeting with CTA / Board
Third Offense – Dismissal from the Team

We, parent(s) and player, have discussed the Code of Conducts and agree to abide by them. We understand that there is no refund or recourse for dismissal from our program because of breaking this Code of Conduct.

Failure to follow these rules and procedures hurts yourself and the team. During practices and games, or Cyclone events, breaking these rules will result in discipline form CTA and could result in decreased playing time or being removed from the game or team.

TCHA OPERATING PLAN

Tri-County Hockey Association

Volunteer Code of Conduct

(Coaches, Team Managers, Board Members, and Committee Members)

As agreeing to volunteer you are committing your time and energy to TCHA, the sport of Ice Hockey and most importantly – the kids. As a volunteer, you are and should be held to a higher standard. As such – the standards of the volunteers will be higher than that of the players and parents within the organization.

Read the following volunteer code of conduct. Remember, you represent yourself, our teams, and the Cyclones community. One word should describe your conduct on and off the ice … CLASS!

1. You have committed to volunteering/coaching/managing the entire season with TCHA.
2. You will arrive on time unless otherwise noted to the other volunteers.
3. You will ACTIVELY participate in all aspects of your events, practices, and games.
4. When parents/players are asking questions, you will always listen and communicate in a respectful manner.
5. When teaching/communicating with the parents/players – it will be done professionally, cordially and with appropriate language.
6. ONLY the head coach, VP of Coaching and VP of Team Affairs, or President will address the other teams' coaches and Referees during and after any game.
7. You will not address any coach, player, or parent of the other team with disrespect. We are the Tri-County Cyclones, and we should be better!!!
8. You will not throw any equipment during practices or games.
9. You will not criticize our association, or any other youth hockey association in public or in social media, you will bring problems and issues directly to the board's attention.
10. It is the coach's responsibility to communicate any on ice, or locker room incident to CTA Committees via incident report located on Cyclone's website within 48Hrs of the incident.
11. OUR JOB AS VOLUNTEERS IS TO MAKE SURE THE PLAYERS NOT ONLY LEARN – BUT ENJOY THE SPORT OF ICE HOCKEY.

Over →

Volunteer Conduct: Abusive language, fighting, vandalism, derogatory comments, or any action which may endanger the safety or well-being of another individual is not tolerated. The Board reserves the right to suspend the player from organizational activities or to dismiss the player from the organization if deemed necessary. Refer further to the policy pertaining to major penalties, game and gross misconduct penalties, match penalties, and game ejection in Article Twelve: Standing Rules, Sections I and J, and player conduct rules within the USA Hockey Official Rules.

Violations of the Code of Conduct include, but are not limited to:

- Arguing with coaches, officials, teammates, opponents, or spectators
- Using threatening or profane language
- Baiting or taunting coaches, officials, teammates, opponents, or spectators
- Unsafe play
- Uncontrolled behavior in the bench area
- Physical Alterations
- Intent to Injure

Violations will carry, at a minimum, the following consequences:
First Offense – Minimum of Written Warning
Second Offense - Minimum suspension from all activities and meeting with CTA / Board
Third Offense – Dismissal from the Team

I have read the Tri-County Cyclones Code of Conducts and agree to abide by them. I understand that there is no recourse for dismissal from our program because of breaking this Code of Conduct.

If ejected or suspended (any manner, noted on scoresheet or not) from a game you will comply with the CSHL/USA Hockey rules **and** sit out the next game. Your situation will be brought up with the CTA committees and further punishment may be administered as seen fit.

State of Ohio Department of Health, Lindsay's Law: Sudden Cardiac Arrest in Youth Sports

What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest? A Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) occurs when the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating, cutting off blood flow to the brain and other vital organs. Sudden cardiac arrest is fatal if not treated immediately, most often by a defibrillator. **Who is Lindsay?** Senate Bill 252 is named for national heart health advocate and former Miss Ohio Lindsay Davis who suffers from a heart condition and has since dedicated her career to raising awareness of this potentially fatal condition. "Sudden cardiac arrest is the number one killer of student athletes," said Davis. "At any moment I could have died because coaches and teachers had no idea this was even a possibility for someone who looked as healthy as I did at that age." **Lindsay's Law** Lindsay's Law, Ohio Revised Code 3313.5310, 3707.58 and 3707.59 went into effect in 2017. In accordance with this law, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology and other stakeholders jointly developed guidelines and other relevant materials to inform and educate students and youth athletes participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity, their parents, and their coaches about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest.

The following resources were developed to implement Lindsay's Law:

For **frequently asked questions and answers**, click here.

For **parents/guardians** and **youth athletes**:

- Required video
- Required SCA Informational Handout
- Required Signature Form

For **coaches**:

- If you are a coach for an interscholastic sport **and** are licensed by the Ohio Department of Education, please visit their website for information about their training requirements around Lindsay's Law.
- If you are a coach for an interscholastic sport, but do not have a current license by the Ohio Department of Education, or are a coach in a community program, please use the following resources:
  - Required video
  - Required SCA Informational Handout

Contact Information

Ohio Department of Health
School Nursing Program
246 North High Street, 7th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

CDC Heads Up to Youth Sports and Concussion Waiver:

All up to date materials may be found at: https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/index.html

This information is to help protect your children or teens from concussion or other serious brain injury. Use this information at your children's or teens' games and practices to learn how to spot a concussion and what to do if a concussion occurs.

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury—or TBI—caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. This fast movement can cause the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, creating chemical changes in the brain and sometimes stretching and damaging the brain cells.

HOW CAN I HELP KEEP MY CHILDREN OR TEENS SAFE?

Sports are a great way for children and teens to stay healthy and can help them do well in school. To help lower your children's or teens' chances of getting a concussion or other serious brain injury, you should:

- Help create a culture of safety for the team.
    - Work with their coach to teach ways to lower the chances of getting a concussion.
    - Talk with your children or teens about concussion and ask if they have concerns about reporting a concussion. Talk with them about their concerns; emphasize the importance of reporting concussions and taking time to recover from one.
    - Ensure that they follow their coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
    - Tell your children or teens that you expect them to practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- When appropriate for the sport or activity, teach your children or teens that they must wear a helmet to lower the chances of the most serious types of brain or head injury. However, there is no "concussion-proof" helmet. So, even with a helmet, it is important for children and teens to avoid hits to the head.

HOW CAN I SPOT A POSSIBLE CONCUSSION?

Children and teens who show or report one or more of the signs and symptoms listed below—or simply say they just "don't feel right" after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body—may have a concussion or other serious brain injury.

Signs Observed by Parents or Coaches

- Appears dazed or stunned.
- Forgets an instruction, is confused about an assignment or position, or is unsure of the game, score, or opponent.
- Moves clumsily.
- Answers questions slowly.
- Loses consciousness (even briefly).
- Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes.

- Cannot recall events prior to or after a hit or fall.

Symptoms Reported by Children and Teens

- Headache or "pressure" in head.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Balance problems or dizziness, or double or blurry vision.
- Bothered by light or noise.
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy.
- Confusion, or concentration or memory problems.
- Just not "feeling right," or "feeling down."

Talk with your children and teens about concussion. Tell them to report their concussion symptoms to you and their coach right away. Some children and teens think concussions aren't serious or worry that if they report a concussion they will lose their position on the team or look weak. Be sure to remind them that it is better to miss one game than the whole season.

Concussions affect each child and teen differently. While most children and teens with a concussion feel better within a couple of weeks, some will have symptoms for months or longer. Talk with your children's or teens' health care provider if their concussion symptoms do not go away or if they get worse after they return to their regular activities.

WHAT ARE SOME MORE SERIOUS DANGER SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR?

In rare cases, a dangerous collection of blood (hematoma) may form on the brain after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body and can squeeze the brain against the skull. Call 9-1-1 or take your child or teen to the emergency department right away if, after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body, he or she has one or more of these danger signs:

- One pupil larger than the other.
- Drowsiness or inability to wake up.
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away.
- Slurred speech, weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination.
- Repeated vomiting or nausea, convulsions, or seizures (shaking or twitching).
- Unusual behavior, increased confusion, restlessness, or agitation.
- Loss of consciousness (passed out/knocked out). Even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously.

Children and teens who continue to play while having concussion symptoms or who return to play too soon—while the brain is still healing— have a greater chance of getting another concussion. A repeat concussion that occurs while the brain is still healing from the rest injury can be very serious and can affect a child or teen for a lifetime. It can even be fatal.

What Should I Do If My Child or Teen Has a Possible Concussion? As a parent, if you think your child or teen may have a concussion, you should:

1. Remove your child or teen from play.

2. Keep your child or teen out of play the day of the injury. Your child or teen should be seen by a health care provider and only return to play with permission from a health care provider who is experienced in evaluating for concussion.
3. Ask your child's or teen's health care provider for written instructions on helping your child or teen return to school. You can give the instructions to your child's or teen's school nurse and teacher(s) and return-to-play instructions to the coach and/or athletic trainer.

Do not try to judge the severity of the injury yourself. Only a health care provider should assess a child or teen for a possible concussion. Concussion signs and symptoms often show up soon after the injury. But you may not know how serious the concussion is at rest, and some symptoms may not show up for hours or days. The brain needs time to heal after a concussion. A child's or teen's return to school and sports should be a gradual process that is carefully managed and monitored by a health care provider.

TCHA OPERATING PLAN

Revision Details:

April 2026 – Updated officers and board members titles on cover page
May 2026 – Updated officers and board members titles on cover page
June 2026 – Approved July Board Meeting

- Updated officers and board members titles on cover page,
- Added verbiage regarding KSU referring all learn-to-play participants to our House league,
- Added verbiage recognizing that adult league at Kent State university is not part of Tri-County Hockey Associations official membership and we are only providing services to aid adult league like website and ice scheduling,
- Added verbiage regarding appointing one board position to our High School head hockey coach to be reviewed annually before elections
- Clarified definition of quorum for board meetings to be at least 50% of members.

October 2026 – Changes approved at September Board Meeting

- Updated board members on cover page
- Updated goalie commitment language to align with goalie commitment agreement sent at Tryouts
- Made clerical changes in additional fees and uniforms.