

**DECATUR YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION AND
DECATUR YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION-HIGH SCHOOL****INTRODUCTION**

During the past seasons, the Board of Directors (“Board”) of the Decatur Youth Hockey Association (“DYHA”) and Board of Directors of the Decatur Youth Hockey Association-High School (“DYHA-HS”) has established General Operation Policies (“GOP”). In an effort to acquaint new members with the GOP and also to keep existing members up to date on recent changes, we have compiled the following list of current policies. Please note that these are intended to be general guidelines and cannot be expected to cover every possible situation that may arise. Situations not covered will be dealt with on an individual basis by the Boards.

Each skater’s parent/guardian will acknowledge reading the GOP as a part of the sign-up documents and electronic signature will be required.

The procedure for amending the GOP during the season is as follows: 1) the DYHA and DYHA-HS Board may change policies by a simple majority vote. 2) proposed changes will be submitted in writing to the general membership by email notification. 3) the Board may not act upon the policy change for a minimum of thirty (30) days following written notification to the general membership.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

A skater MUST BE age 4 by December 31 of the current calendar to be eligible to begin the DYHA program. A skater will not be considered a member of DYHA/DYHA-HS and will not be permitted to participate in any DYHA/DYHA-HS practice or game until the following have been completed and filed with the DYHA Registrar

- a) “USA Hockey Individual Membership Registration” form
- b) “DYHA/DYHA-HS General Operations Policies Acknowledgment” form
- c) Registration fee paid – amount set annually by the DYHA Board

MEMBERSHIP FEE

In order to pay the cost of ice rental, insurance premiums, referee fees and other administrative costs, members must pay dues to DYHA. Members fulfill this fee obligation by direct cash payment or by credits earned through participation in DYHA or DYHA-HS fundraising projects. The DYHA Board establishes the amount of the membership fees each season and also establishes the schedule for fee payments. Non-current status in fee payment by date listed on invoice shall result in the suspension of that skater from all practices and games. No payment arrangements will be accepted. No refunds shall be given except in cases of injury, illness, or accidental overpayment; all of which require Board approval. No skater will be allowed to register until all previous years dues and debts have been paid in full. Any skater who signs up after the season has begun shall pay a prorated fee based on the remaining weeks in the season. Any member that begins at the Beginner level and is then moved up to their respective level based upon skill and age, or joins DYHA after season start, will be charged a prorated fee based upon dues at that level. The prorated amount is set by the DYHA President based upon the number of weeks remaining in the season.

EQUIPMENT

The following list of equipment is considered mandatory to be worn by each skater at all practices and games: – helmet with face mask, gloves, elbow pads, shoulder pads, hockey pants, shin guards, hockey skates, supporter with cup, mouth guard, neck guard Deviations from the list must be approved by the Board.

SKATING UP/DOWN

No individual player shall skate up or down with a team they are not rostered on. First-year members of DYHA shall be required to play at their own respective USA Hockey age level.

Players (~~10U and 12U levels~~) at all travel levels may try out for a team above their respective age, so long as the following steps are adhered to:

- a) The player must be a second-year player at his/her current playing level (e.g. a first-year 10U may not petition to skate up with 12U).
- b) A parent or guardian of the player must submit a written request for the player to skate up. This petition must be submitted to the DYHA Hockey Director and President two weeks prior to try-outs.
- c) Player must attend both age-level tryouts and be observed by the Head Coaches of both teams and the Hockey Director. The consensus decision will be presented to the Board for approval by the Hockey Director.
- d) No age appropriate ~~age~~-player who is otherwise developmentally qualified to play on the travel team as determined by the Hockey Director shall be cut to make room for a player requesting to play up.

Players at the Mite 6U level may petition to play up at Mite 8U level by adhering to the following steps:

- a) The player must be a second-year 6U player due to move up to 8U the following season based on USA Hockey birth year designations.
- b) A parent or guardian of the player must submit a written request to skate up to the DYHA Hockey Director and President. The Hockey Director will notify the ADM Director (if applicable) and the 8U Head Coach of the request.
- c) The player shall attend two 8U practices and be observed by the 8U Head Coach, ADM Director (if applicable), and Hockey Director. A consensus judgement as to the player's ability (based on ADM Red/White/Blue model) shall be reached.
- d) If the player is determined to have Red or White level abilities, the judgement will be presented to the board for approval by the Hockey Director. If the 6U player is determined to have 8U Blue level abilities, the 6U player shall continue playing at 6U.

TRANSPORTATION

DYHA assumes no responsibility or liability for transportation.

INSURANCE

Insurance is furnished by USA hockey for each officially registered player, coach, referee, assistant coach, team representative, time keeper or minor official of USA Hockey who is participating in a sanctioned USA Hockey event. It covers charges in excess of the amount allowed by each person's personal insurance coverage and is subject to a \$1,000 deductible (the deductible is \$1,000 if you have no insurance yourself) Any claim must first be made against your personal insurance carrier and only claims in excess should be made against the USA Hockey policy. Forms are available through the team manager.

HOUSE LEAGUE AND TRAVEL TEAM PROGRAMS

DYHA may offer at the discretion of the Board two program levels within each age classification

- a) **House League Program** Primary purpose is to develop fundamental skating and hockey skills through practice and scrimmage games. All beginners start in the house league program if available at that age level.
- b) **Travel Team Program** Primary purpose is to play competitive hockey and differs from house league in that travel teams participate in regularly scheduled games out of town.

The primary differences in House League and Travel Team programs are as follows:

a) Eligibility

House League: All members of DYHA or DYHA-HS may participate. There are no tryouts or skill tests required. High School – Freshman to seniors in high school (there are no cuts in the HS program).

Travel Team: The travel team coach, under advisement from the Hockey Director and a Player Selection Advisory Committee, (consisting of certified coaches from other levels), selects the roster from tryouts conducted during the first part of the season. Tryouts are open to all DYHA Members. The coach may add skaters to the travel roster during the course of the season. Players may only be removed from the roster voluntarily, due to non-payment, or due to disciplinary reasons with Disciplinary Committee or Board approval. The roster size may vary from 11-20 skaters.

Travel teams may establish special “Tournament Rosters” in cases where deemed necessary to be competitive due to absence or illness of players on the regular travel team roster. Players may only be substituted for tournaments, not league play or other games, and all substitutions must be approved by the Hockey Director and the Head Coaches of all teams where the player is regularly or to-be rostered. The tournament roster must be prepared and submitted to the Registrar with adequate notice so that a roster can be certified with AHAI. Players being substituted to the roster for tournament(s) must be the same age level and must take the place of a regularly-rostered player unable to attend; the tournament roster may not exceed the regular team’s roster size. A maximum of three (3) players may be substituted under these conditions.

b) Age classifications:

Beginner

8U

10U

12U

14U

[16U](#)

18U

High School

Note: The skater’s age on January 1 prior to the start of the season will determine the age classification they will be in for the entire season.

House League: The number of teams in each age group shall be determined by the total number of skaters in that age group. Within age classifications of 8U and under, the skaters will be divided into the following ability levels if practical: 1) beginner 2) intermediate, and 3) advanced.

Travel Team: The number of teams in each age classification is determined by the Board based on the number of eligible skaters available.

c. Ice time during games and practices

House League: All skaters will receive equal amounts of ice time as is practically possible.

Travel Team: The League offers a travel hockey program. Those teams are competitive. Players will be given equal ice time whenever possible. Starting at the 10U level and up, ice time will be at the coach’s discretion. Coaches are encouraged to keep the ice time equitable, but parents and players must understand that there will be times when it will not be equal. Players at all levels may lose ice time due to any disciplinary reason.

d. Out of town games

House League: All regular games will be played between DYHA teams in the local ice arena. Occasional home or away games may be played with out of town teams with the approval of the Hockey Director. Participation in those games is not mandatory.

Travel Team: A regular schedule of both home and away games as worked out between the coach, manager and the scheduler will be provided.

INJURY REPORTS

A report shall be prepared on all injuries which occur during any practice or game and require more than routine first aid treatment. One copy of the report shall be provided to the parent/guardian and one copy shall be placed on permanent file with the Board.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Grievances, questions or problems should first be directed to the team manager who shall forward comments to the respective Board where action will be taken as required. Although it is recommended that these matters should first be directed to the team manager/coach, any DYHA or DYHA-HS member may contact any respective Board member directly if they so desire. Board meetings are open and all DYHA or DYHA-HS members are encouraged to attend the meetings. Although not mandatory, advance notification of a request to address a Board will be appreciated.

ZERO TOLERANCE RULE

There will be no tolerance of any conduct that is not suitable for an amateur athletic event. This would include but is not limited to physical or verbal abuse by any individual, group or entity towards any official, coach, player, member of opposing team or its spectators or other spectators at any time before, during or after a game. Failure to strictly adhere to this rule will result in disciplinary action. USA HOCKEY SAFESPORT policies will be strictly enforced as well as COACHING CODE OF ETHICS.

DISCIPLINE AND SUSPENSION HEARINGS

If a DYHA/DYHA-HS Member, player, spectator, or board member is involved in any incident on or off the ice for which it is thought that further disciplinary action may be required, the following procedure will be followed:

A Team Coach/Manager shall notify the HOCKEY DIRECTOR within 1 day of the infraction occurring.

B. Hockey Director shall notify the respective Board President AND the Discipline Chair of the incident.

C. The Discipline Chair shall review the incident and a decision on whether a hearing is required per USA Hockey, AHAI and/or DYHA rules, guidelines or procedures. If a hearing is required the "Rules and Disciplinary Committee" shall meet within 5 days of the incident to determine what disciplinary actions shall be taken.

D If a hearing is not required no further action shall be taken.

E A written report detailing the incident and any subsequent disciplinary actions taken shall be submitted to the President of the respective Board and reviewed by the Board and placed on permanent file maintained by the respective President. The parent or guardian of the player will also receive the same report. The Chair of the Discipline Committee will distribute the report within 5 days following the discipline meeting.

This procedure should be followed by all parties involved but failure to do so does not eliminate the committee's ability to take action. There is no statute of limitation on infractions.

Any conduct deemed by either DYHA or DYHA-HS President to be detrimental to hockey or DYHA/DHSA may be referred to the Discipline Committee.

Shall the DYHA-HS Board establish a DYHA-HS Discipline committee, the DYHA-HS Discipline committee and DYHA HS President shall fill the aforementioned respective roles and hold the hearings on HS-related matters. The DYHA Board and Discipline Committee retains the right to hold hearings and take appropriate action in extreme circumstances should a DYHA-HS related matter impact the larger and combined DYHA organization.

FIGHTING AND DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO INJURE

Any DYHA or DYHA-HS player who receives a major penalty for fighting or deliberately injures or attempts to injure another player in any game or practice will be subject to the following disciplinary action (Note – *The use or attempted use of the hockey stick or skates during an altercation will be considered a deliberate attempt to injure*)

- A The player will be immediately removed from the ice by the coach for the duration of the game or practice.
- B The player will be suspended from all practices and games until the Disciplinary Committee meets. Absent extreme circumstances the Committee will follow the AHAI level of punishment for discipline.
- C If a player is found by the Disciplinary Committee to be guilty of a second offense or a deliberate attempt to injure, that player shall be automatically suspended for, at a minimum, the duration of that season.
- D If the incident occurs in a scheduled game and is called by the referee, the Disciplinary Committee shall consider any USA Hockey or league rules in determining any additional action to be taken.

DYHA/DYHA-HS BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELIGIBILITY

Any parent or guardian of a child registered with DYHA or DYHA-HS is eligible to serve as a member of the respective Boards. Or, person authorized by a respective Board as a Member.

WEBSITE ACCESS

The DYHA or DYHA-HS President will grant website access, or authorize the Webmaster to grant such access, and provide notification of access to both Boards within 15 days. Removal of website access should only occur by or with consent of the respective President that initially authorized the access. Website access will be reviewed at the end of each season.

LOCKER ROOMS

Each team must have at least one designated locker room monitor when using locker rooms. This person must be registered with USA Hockey and meet all necessary screening required.