

Annual Guide

2025-2026 Season



Methuen Youth Hockey Association

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Skills Information

Welcome to the 2025-2026 hockey season. We hope everyone had a great summer!

Skills Sessions: Skills will again be held primarily during the 1st half of the season, when fundamentals need to be stressed. Solid State Hockey, led by Brad Gilmartin, will provide the skills clinic this season. Skill sessions will be held once a week for 12 weeks. Skill sessions run approximately 60 minutes per group. Specific times and dates of skills will be announced at the beginning of the season.

Groups were divided up to try to balance the number of skaters per session, allowing for a better Instructor to Skater ratio. These sessions are included in your tuition and MYHA encourages all players to participate fully in Skills sessions. Players are expected to be on time and on the ice at these scheduled times.

Goalie Skills: GDS Goalies will run goalie skills clinics. Goalie clinics will be held at GDS Goalies' facilities in North Andover for 12 sessions. Specific times and dates will be announced in August. They are open to full time Squirt, Peewee and Bantam goalies. For Mite goalies, goalie skills will be provided during regular practice hour.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PURPOSE

Article II, section 1 of the MYHA Bylaws state that the purpose of the Methuen Youth Hockey Association is to promote the development of character and good sportsmanship in the youth of Methuen through hockey, to promote the game of hockey, and to hold and arrange hockey games.

MYHA is a non-profit organization organized under Massachusetts state law exclusively for charitable purposes.

Through the programs of MYHA the children of Methuen and surrounding areas are given the opportunity to learn the game of hockey, to develop their skills through volunteer and professional instruction, and to play in games against teams of similar skill from other communities.

Although hockey is a competitive sport, all parents must remember that our organization exists for the enjoyment of our children and that teammates and opponents are all still children who need our support and understanding. Respect among teammates and opponents - including their parents and supporters - are of the utmost importance.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors (BOD) is charged with the day-to-day management of the Association. There are thirteen board members; twelve are elected at the Annual Meeting. The President, Vice- President, Treasurer, Clerk, Purchasing Manager and Director of Fundraising are elected for two-year terms by the general membership; the six Age-Level Coordinators are elected for one-year terms by the general membership. The head coaches for the new season meet in May to elect the Head-of-Coaches.

The BOD appoints individuals to the following management positions as it deems necessary: USA Hockey/Mass Hockey Representative, Ice Manager, Valley League Coordinator, Webmaster, Clinic Director, and the Fundraising Committee.

Any member of MYHA in good standing may run for any office subject to the provisions of the MYHA by-laws.

Anyone wishing to contact a Board member may send an email to secretary@myha.com or visit the website (www.myha.com) for a list of contact phone numbers, or a copy of the by-laws.

COACHES

The current year's Board of Directors selects head coaches for the following season. The Head Coach is the person with the primary responsibility of running your child's team and teaching them the game of hockey. The Head Coach selects the Assistant Coaches, which are reviewable by the Board.

TEAM PARENTS

Team Parents are selected by the Head Coach or elected by the parents on each team. The Team Parent helps the coaching staff with administrative. The Board of Directors encourages the Team Parent to attend any meetings to provide feedback to their families.

COMMUNICATION WITH MYHA BOARD

Although it is expected that Board members have informal relationships with many members of the association, any official communication with the Board must follow the protocol established by the board.

Should a parent have an issue, concern, or complaint regarding their child and/or coach, the parent should contact their Age-Level Coordinator for assistance.

The role of the Age-Level Coordinator is to be the primary liaison between the teams/parents and the BOD. They assist parents and teams in solving any problems that arise and will help execute policy established by the Board. The Coordinators are available to assist the coaches with administrative duties when necessary.

Should a problem arise between a player/parent and a coach that cannot be resolved between the two, the Age-Level Coordinator will first discuss the issue with the Head-of-Coaches. The Head-of-Coaches will then discuss the matter with the coach and then again with the Coordinator. If necessary, the BOD will meet to discuss the issue and determine a resolution. The Head-of-Coaches will then contact the coach regarding the resolution while the Age-Level Coordinator contacts the parent/team parent.

Board members and coaches for the current year are listed in the last section.

GENERAL MEETINGS

When necessary, the BOD of MYHA holds a meeting that is intended to provide an open forum for all members to attend. The President of MYHA chairs the meetings.

Time and location of each meeting will be communicated to our families

The meeting is a forum for the Board to present issues, policies, etc. to the membership and for the membership to raise and discuss issues of concern to them. Every member (in good standing) of MYHA has a right to speak and to make motions regarding any issue that concerns them. The Board asks for, and will enforce proper meeting decorum. Roberts Rules of Order are the model for all formal meetings of the organization.

ANNUAL MEETING

The MYHA Bylaws stipulate that an Annual Meeting be held at time and place deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

LEAGUES

The Valley Hockey League is the primary league for all MYHA teams from Mite 1 through Bantams and consists of a 35 game schedule or as voted by the BOD. The Mite Development Teams will not participate in Valley Hockey League.

DISTRICT PLAYDOWNS

USA Hockey, the national governing body of amateur ice hockey in the United States, has broken the country into small administrative regions. Although there is a New England region, Massachusetts is a separate region of its own. Within each region there are several districts. MYHA is in District 2 of the Mass region.

Playing in the District Playdowns is similar to playing in tournaments. The decision to participate (or not), and the responsibility for entering, playing in, and paying for the Playdowns, is with each specific team.

TOURNAMENTS

Each year there are dozens of youth hockey tournaments held throughout Massachusetts, New England, New York, and Canada.

Teams have the opportunity to play in as many or as few tournaments as they like. Individual teams and the parents of the players on a team make the decision to play in a tournament. The parents (in addition to their MYHA tuition) incur tournament fees and travel expenses. The Head Coach is usually the person responsible for planning and organizing tournament play.

Tournaments are not run by, nor in any way are the responsibility of or part of the MYHA program, although teams are encouraged to play in them and may wear their MYHA uniforms. MYHA Tuition payments must be up-to-date in order to participate. Any tournament a team competes in must be approved by USA Hockey. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to confirm that the tournament it will play in is sanctioned by USA Hockey. Insurance coverage by USA Hockey is not extended to non-USA hockey Sanctioned tournaments. The Head Coach of any team competing in a tournament must notify the BOD of said tournament. For tournaments outside the US, the Head Coach must apply to Mass Hockey for a travel permit. The Head Coach should allow at least 30 days lead time for the issuance of the permit. Additionally, for all tournaments, the Head Coach must submit a team roster to the President, Vice-President, Head of Coaches and Clerk.

DISCIPLINE

The specific codes of conduct for parents, players, and coaches are included in their entirety later in this guide.

All persons participating in MYHA programs are assumed to have read and understand the codes and to abide by them. The BOD intends to enforce all disciplinary rules including those established by the MHS rink and other rinks in which MYHA teams play. All disciplinary actions are reviewed and voted upon by the BOD.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

USA Hockey has notified all youth hockey associations and instructed all leagues to enforce the ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY regarding the conduct of parents and other spectators during USA Hockey sanctioned youth hockey games. The rule states:

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

- Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time;
- Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence;
- Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, player's bench, penalty box, or on-ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

BLUE AND WHITE POLICY

Parents are asked to keep the "Blue & White" policy in mind whenever they are purchasing new equipment for their children. MYHA encourages its team members to have a unified team.

GOALTENDING EQUIPMENT

MYHA offers \$500.00 tuition to full time Squirt, Peewee and Bantam goalies to help offset the cost of equipment. To qualify, a player must be a dedicated goalie and not a part-time forward or defenseman. No discount is available for Mites. MYHA does provide loaner equipment to each team Mite team and certain Squirt teams to be used by any player on the team who wishes to play in goal. Equipment must be returned to the coach after each use.

SNOW DAYS

The policy of most ice rinks is that if they are open, then the games or practices scheduled are played as scheduled, regardless of how bad the weather may be. It is best to contact your Head Coach or Team Parent regarding the status of games and practices on snowy days. The website and email system will also be used to announce snow closures.

LEARN-TO-SKATE | LEARN-TO-PLAY CLINICS

Full year clinics start in October. Registration forms are sent out to Methuen Public Schools, and are posted on the website. Mid-year registration is available in early January for a reduced price. Learn-to-Skate/Learn-To-Play will run on Saturday mornings: times TBD.

WEB SITE

<http://www.myha.com>

TUITION POLICY

MYHA 2025-2026 TUITION PER PLAYER

Mite 1:	\$1,550
Mite Development:	\$650
Squirt\Peewee\Bantam:	\$1,900
Dedicated Goalie (Squirt\Peewee\Bantam):	\$500
Midgets:	\$850
Dedicated Midget Goalie:	\$300
Learn-to-Skate (full year):	\$200
Learn-to-Play (full year):	\$200
USA Hockey registration:	\$81

USA Hockey Registration is the responsibility of the family and must be completed prior to participating in first practice or game sanctioned by MYHA.

TUITION PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Statements are sent out over the summer by email

- Deposit of \$100 is due at time of tryouts together with completed online registration form. The deposit is non-refundable and will apply to a player's tuition.
- Initial Deposit must be made by May 1st to accept placement on your players team.
- Payment Plans
 - Monthly
 - 4 installments
 - 3 installments
 - Custom

A late fee of 5% has been instituted and will be assessed on any outstanding payment amounts after the above due dates, unless prior arrangements are made with MYHA Treasurer.

MYHA is willing to work with all members with regard to payment of tuition and flexible payment options, however it is each member's responsibility to contact the Treasurer and coordinate such arrangements and adhere to the agreed upon schedule. If alternate payment schedules are not followed late fees will be assessed and member will forfeit the right to continued flexible payment options.

TUITION REFUND FOR PLAYERS LEAVING MYHA

Any player leaving MYHA mid-season must send MYHA written notice of the decision to leave the program within 30 days of his/her termination date in order to be eligible for any refunds.

Refunds\credits are given according to the following schedule:

Registration fee (\$100) and team-acceptance fee (MAY 1, 2025 PAYMENT AMOUNT OUTLINED ABOVE) are non-refundable. Learn to Skate\Learn to Play Hockey tuitions are non-refundable.

If a player leaves after December 31st, no tuition is refundable.

INJURED\SICK PLAYER CREDIT POLICY

The official policy regarding partial tuition credit due to injury or illness is as follows:

Should any player have to miss three or more consecutive weeks of hockey practices and games due to an injury or illness, they can request a credit of tuition for the portion of time missed. This request must be accompanied by a doctors' note describing the reason and the amount of time the player cannot participate in hockey (or sports). The player's coach should also make note of the first game or practice when this player returns to the team.

Credits are given according to the following schedule:

Registration fee (\$100) and team-acceptance fee are non-refundable;

For injuries/illness, the refundable portion will be credited at weekly rates (Full weeks only (30) – 15 weeks for Midget) based on the following table.

Weekly Credit Table

Mite 1	\$23.33
Mite Development	\$6.67
Dedicated Goalie	\$16.67
Squirt/Peewee/Bantam	\$33.33
Midgets	\$13.33

It should be noted that it is the parent's responsibility to request the injury/sickness credit and to provide the necessary documentation.

The Board reserves the right to change or eliminate this policy at any time.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT POLICY

For families with more than two skaters in the immediate family (brothers and sisters), the tuition for the third skater is half-price. Please note that family discount policy applies to the lowest tuition of the children in the family. The family discount doesn't apply to Learn to Skate, Learn to Play, or full-time Squirt, Pee wee, Bantam and Midget goalies.

The refund and injury credit policies (see above) will be half of the amount listed for the skater receiving the family discount.

FUNDRAISING POLICY

TEAM FUNDRAISERS

The BOD will accept individual team fundraisers for the 2025-2026 season if reviewed and approved. All fundraising shall be under the stewardship of the MYHA Fundraising Committee and all proceeds after expenses shall be deposited in the MYHA accounts.

GENERAL FUNDRAISING

MYHA will have a Fundraising Committee for the 2025-2026 season. We hope that every family will support and be actively involved in our committee's efforts. In order to promote and advance our program for all our children, fundraising is a key component and it is very important for all members to actively participate. Please help us make this a great organization for all of our children.

MYHA SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year MYHA may award scholarships to college-bound graduating high school students who have participated in the MYHA program. The Board each year reserves the right to approve funds for scholarships and the specific amount each year.

In any year MYHA issues scholarships, details and applications will be made available through the local high schools Guidance departments each spring.

PARENTS/MEMBERS RESPONSIBILITY POLICY

As a member of the Methuen Youth Hockey Association, the following are policies that you are required to follow.

PAYMENT OF TUITION

Cost of tuition for the upcoming season is generally established in March/April prior to the start of the season. Payments due dates are set to allow MYHA to purchase uniforms and to pay for the costs of practice and game ice time as well as other expenses. See the Tuition Policy in this Guide for more information. Please remember, non-payment of tuition puts an unfair burden on all of our membership.

You will receive a notification regarding team placement via email around April 15th. You must register online in order to accept the team placement of your child and a nonrefundable deposit is due by date outlined above, so that uniforms can be ordered. Additional payments are then due July 1st, September 15th.

Full payment must be made prior to September 15th (or earlier see table outlined above). Players with an overdue balance may not participate in any MYHA activity, including that season's practices, games, playoffs, or the registration\tryouts for the following season.

Participation in any team tournament is voluntary and fees incurred are an extra cost that each family of the team is responsible for paying. Payment of tournament fees should be considered as secondary to tuition fees.

ATTENDANCE OF PRACTICES AND GAMES

Attendance and general supervision of your child at any MYHA practice or game is required by a parent/guardian. It should be noted that our coaches are volunteers that are involved to teach your child the game of hockey. If you leave the premises during a practice or game you should provide a courtesy to the coach that you will not be present and contact information in case injury to your child should occur.

Parents are responsible to contact their Head Coach in a timely manner whenever their child will not be attending a practice or game. The more time you can give will allow your coach to make adjustments as needed. Individual coaches should give you their guidelines on how they are to be contacted. Coaches reserve the right to bench any player for a time not to exceed one (1) period for any skater who consistently misses practices.

Participation in any other MYHA team practice without the expressed consent of both Head Coaches is strictly prohibited under any circumstances. Do not allow your child to attend any practice that does not include his team.

Skills Sessions are an important part of your child's development and are considered a regular practice.

ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY

USA Hockey has established a zero-tolerance policy that allows hockey officials to remove players, coaches, parents, and fans from the rink when they become disorderly or unruly. It is the sole discretion of the referee to determine what is to be considered unruly. Parents are expected to show respect to all referees, opposing team players, parents, and coaches AT ALL TIMES. MYHA supports this Policy and expects its parents/spectators and coaches to respect this policy. If you are removed from a game you could be requested to attend a hearing as directed by the BOD. Please understand this sport is for your children and no parent should take the focus from the game or practice that your child is participating in.

VOLUNTEERISM

Although not everyone has the time to volunteer, this organization runs solely on the efforts of those who do volunteer. Please remember this when it comes time for critical remarks. Remember positive constructive input that includes potential resolutions are encouraged and always welcome. Your participation as a volunteer in MYHA is very much desired by the Board of Directors. Please contact a Board member if you can offer some time to help the program.

PARENTS ON ICE

No parents are allowed on the ice during practice unless they are registered with MYHA and USA Hockey as coaches, and then only with the consent of the Head Coach. All coaches and off-ice volunteers must be CORI'ed and must complete all recertification requirements established by USA Hockey and MA Hockey each year.

All participants, coaches, and players are required to wear HECC-approved helmets, with chin straps fastened, at all times when on the ice.

Parents of LTS/LTP kids are invited to help out as volunteers but all volunteers must have successfully completed a USAH Level 1 Coaching clinic and provided a CORI form to the BOD. Please contact the Clinic Director if you wish to volunteer.

YOUTH COACHES

Any coach wanting to use a youth coach to assist on the ice should contact the Head-of-Coaches in order to obtain the list of requirements.

GAME TIMES AND SHIFTS

Children learn and grow through the kind of focused repetition that comes in practice and skill sessions. Players learn to make greater efforts and push their limits in a low-stress, low-risk environment. This translates to greater effort and improved performance in games.

The focus of MYHA is to help players grow in character and ability over the course of a season. This cannot be effectively measured by a simple distillation of game time. Game times and shift times are the least important measurement of success that we can use to gauge the development of our players. Coaches must make every effort to give every child a fair and even number of

shifts in any game. Coaches should not intentionally be providing more ice time to some players than others during a game.

It is acknowledged by this BOD that when a game is tied or within a one goal differential, the last 2 minutes belongs to the coach to put the kids in the best position to win a game. All Players should strive to earn an opportunity to play in these circumstances and coaches should recognize more than the same 5 players each time when making such a determination. Parents are reminded to acknowledge this good-faith effort.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

The following policy has been adopted by Methuen Youth Hockey Association to establish a standard discipline policy governing players' conduct. MYHA's main purpose is to promote the development of character and good sportsmanship in the youth of Methuen through hockey. As part of implementing this charter, it is important to define a clear set of rules and expectations governing players' behavior. The following policy is divided into three sections: 1) what the expectations are for sportsmanlike behavior from players, 2) what specific unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated, and 3) what the consequences will be for player misconduct. This policy has been derived from USA Hockey discipline guidelines and the judgment of the MYHA board and coaches.

SPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOR

All MYHA players must conduct themselves with sportsmanlike behavior at all times while attending MYHA sponsored events and while representing MYHA at practices, games and tournaments. The following items describe some of the key aspects of sportsmanlike behavior:

- Treating teammates, coaches, referees, and opponents with respect
- Paying attention to coaching staff instructions
- Trying their best at practices and games to improve themselves
- Offering positive encouragement to teammates
- Where possible, avoiding penalties in a game
- Respecting other players, coaches, referees, MYHA equipment, and ice-rink property
- Obeying USA Hockey/Valley League/MYHA rules

INFRACTIONS

There are two categories of infractions that will not be tolerated in the MYHA program; 1) Major Infractions, and 2) Minor Infractions. The following list details specific infractions in each category. For major infractions, if either a player or his/her parent performs the violation listed, the respective major infraction penalty will be imposed on the player.

Major Infractions:

- Fighting with, or threatening, other players, coaches, or referees.
- Intentionally trying to injure other players, coaches, or referees with hands, sticks, pucks, or skates.
- Using foul/obscene/racial or sexual language directed at any other player, coach, or referee.
- Stealing from any player, coach, referee, or the association or rink
- Defacing any rink property at any time
- Talking disrespectfully to coaches or referees.
- Betting on the outcome of any game or intentionally trying to lose a game for monetary gain
- Intentionally violating league rules
- Spitting at any player, coach, or referee
- Bullying of any teammate or opponent

Minor Infractions:

- Making negative comments about teammates or their skating performance
- Disrupting any practice or game by:
 - Harassing, pushing, or taunting other players
 - Throwing sticks, gloves, snow
 - Fooling around with other players
 - Ignoring coaches or referees instructions
 - Talking while coach is giving instructions
 - Disrupting other teams practices

PENALTIES

The following penalties shall be imposed on players who incur one of the infractions listed above. The count of infractions is based on the total count during a hockey season (typically September through April).

Major Infractions:

- First Occurrence – player sits out one week of practices and games
- Second Occurrence – player and parents meet with BOD and explain why player should remain in the program. Player is suspended until meeting is held. BOD has right to suspend for remainder of season.

Minor infractions:

- First occurrence – player sits out 15 minutes of ongoing practice or one full period (12 minutes) of ongoing game. If less than 12 minutes remain in game, the remainder will be applied in the next game
- Second occurrence – player sits out remainder of a practice or game
- Third occurrence – player sits out one week of practices and games
- Fourth occurrence – player and parents meet with BOD and explain why player should remain in the program. Player suspended until meeting is held. BOD has right to suspend for remainder of season.

AUTHORITY

Any MYHA Board member or coach has the authority to register an infraction against a player who they have witnessed or become aware of by means of corroborative evidence.

Upon charging a player with an infraction, the MYHA Board member or coach need to notify either the MYHA President or Head-of-Coaches, in writing, for disposition. The MYHA Board will maintain a summary of player infractions for administration.

MYHA Board members and coaches need to apply the “Players Code of Conduct” policy in a realistic manner with discretion and be careful not to get overly technical in its interpretation. This policy is intended to establish a standard discipline policy governing players’ conduct. Parents of a player who has been charged with an infraction have the right to request a meeting with the MYHA Board to discuss the infraction with all parties.

Notes

Players and parents are advised that other responsible parties (such as Methuen Ice Rink and Valley League officials) have their own set of regulations, which may supersede or run in addition to the above MYHA policy.

Players are reminded that there is no stick playing in any rink area (lobby, locker rooms, restrooms, etc.) except on the ice. Player sticks may be confiscated.

COACHING CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

In a USA Hockey survey, the following are the top three reasons why children want to play hockey: 1) Thought it would be fun, 2) To learn/improve skills, and 3) Their friends play hockey.

The following are the top three reasons why children drop out of hockey:

- 1) Not getting to play, 2) Abusive coaching, and
- 3) Overemphasis on winning that creates stress and reduces fun.

This MYHA Coaching Code of Conduct philosophy was designed to provide guidance to coaches in managing a hockey team for the benefit of the children. All coaches need to realize that his team exists for the children, and not for winning the game itself. The following rules attempt to assure that each and every child has the right to experience the best coaching environment possible. Remember, a child will hardly remember the score of a game years later, but will certainly remember you – good or bad – so please strive to have the most favorable impression on every child you coach. As coaches, you are foremost responsible for providing a positive role model for children to follow. These guidelines detail the MYHA coaching philosophy:

SAFETY

Coaches need to ensure the safety of each skater at all practices and games and in the locker room. Coaches should design and structure practices to minimize possible injury to skaters. Coaches need to teach skaters how to avoid injury during a game and ensure all required protective equipment is worn while on the ice.

Locker rooms and game benches **MUST** be supervised to ensure skaters are not exposed to danger. Coaches are responsible for each and every skater while they are under their supervision.

USA Hockey requires an adult who has been CORI'ed in the locker room at all times. It is the Head Coaches' responsibility to ensure that this policy is followed. If a team is found without adult supervision at the door of the locker room as long as there is one player in the room, the BOD reserves the right to take disciplinary action against the Head Coach of the team. It is required that the Head Coach enforces this rule.

DISCIPLINE

Coaches reserve the right to bench any player for a time not to exceed one period for any skater who consistently is absent without notification from practice or games. Head Coaches should inform parents of the discipline in advance. Head Coaches are also allowed to reduce a skater's ice time in rare 'gross misconduct' circumstances of the skater.

Any action taken for excessive absenteeism or gross misconduct must be reported to the BOD by completing a discipline report and giving a copy to the Head-of-Coaches or Age-Level Coordinator. If it is determined necessary, the Board of Directors may bring the skater and his/her parents before the board to discuss the skaters conduct and determine the appropriate action or possible expulsion.

Coaches should conduct themselves in a mature, professional, sportsmanlike manner providing a good role model for skaters to follow in all types of circumstances. Coaches must prepare effective practice plans to ensure player development. Coaches need to place priority on team effort/cooperation and individual skill improvement – with less emphasis on the outcome of a game. There needs to be a healthy balance between having fun and striving to win.

Opponents are to be respected and complimented. Coaches need to show skaters how to deal with mistakes and learn from them to be better players. Coaches need to define and apply consistent and even application of the rules. No coach should yell at or use abusive language toward any game official, opposing coach or opponent player. If there is an issue with an official the Head Coach should report it to the Head of Coaches.

Overall, good role models need to demonstrate the following traits: self-control during all circumstances, appropriate balance between flexibility and discipline, dedication to the team, self-motivation to achieve team goals, creating a positive learning environment, and teaching and sharing knowledge of the game.

Coaches need to provide equal and positive encouragement to all skaters to reinforce proper skills, improve skaters' self-esteem, and help overcome negative attitudes skaters may have over skills they believe they can never accomplish. Coaches should never humiliate or negatively criticize his players. Constructive positive criticism should be handled one-on-one, and should be designed to show the skaters how to improve themselves. Remember, from the skater's point of view, practices and games are supposed to be a fun, rewarding activity.

Coaches need to maintain good communication with skaters, parents, and fellow coaches. Coaches need to keep the team, parents, and fellow coaches informed not only with the schedule of practices and games, but more importantly with the goals for practices, games and the over-all season. Coaches need to foster an open environment where skaters and parents feel that they can approach the coach with question or concerns.

Coaches are expected to be prepared for and attend team practices with drills designed to teach specific new skills and/or improve current skills of the skaters. Coaches are expected to be prepared for and attend team games with skaters positions/lines designed to complement and challenge skaters. Skaters are entitled to constructive practices and managed games that allow them the opportunity to improve themselves.

Coaches need to ensure all skaters participate in practice drills and game positions equally to provide each skater with the opportunities to fully develop their skating skills and hockey game knowledge. All skaters have the right to fully participate regardless of ability.

Participation by any non-rostered player specific to your team is strictly forbidden. Only the rostered skaters and coaches of the scheduled teams are permitted on the ice, unless granted permission by the Head-of-Coaches or President.

Coaches are expected to attend and support MYHA meetings, events, and fundraising activities. Coaches need to complete any paperwork in regards to their team in a timely and complete manner (team rosters, IMRs, game summary sheets, etc). Overall, coaches need to provide a good interface between the association and the team. While many Head Coaches are parents of players too, Head Coaches should recognize their role as a member of MYHA, and they should support the efforts of the organization and should understand that certain information is shared with them in trust and that trust is important for the effective promotion of this program. The Head Coach can delegate applicable tasks to Assistant Coaches and Team Parents to help with, but still need to ensure that these items are successfully accomplished.

Any coach suspended by a league must immediately notify the Head-of-Coaches or the President.

COACHING ELIGIBILITY

Coaches need to be USA Hockey certified (patched) to the appropriate level. All new MYHA coaches who are not patched are expected to obtain the appropriate USA Hockey patches by December 31st of their first season coaching. In addition, all coaches are expected to complete their online USA Hockey Age-Specific Modules by the deadline provided by USA Hockey.

If any coach does not become patched during their first season as Head Coach he/she becomes ineligible to serve as a Head Coach until the season AFTER he becomes patched.

It is required that all Assistant Coaches attend the USA Hockey patching seminars. See your USA Hockey rulebook for the guidelines or consult with the Head of Coaches of MYHA.

All coaches and team parents are subject to Massachusetts CORI review as required by USA Hockey, MA Hockey and the City of Methuen.

Any coach who accepts a position for the following season outside of MYHA may be requested to immediately resign from their MYHA team.

THREE PENALTY RULE

The coach of any player(s) who receives three penalties in any given game **is required** to sit that player for the remainder of the game after the third penalty. This will prevent that child from receiving a game suspension for too many penalties, which would force him/her to miss additional game time.

PLAYING INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

It is the policy of MYHA to forbid the participation of ineligible players for any reason. The definition of an ineligible player includes (but is not limited to) a player with game suspensions, a player from a higher level playing for a lower level team, a non-rostered player, or any player suspended for non-payment of tuition. Any coach caught using an ineligible player will not have the benefit of league representation in any USA Hockey or MA Hockey hearing and will also risk an immediate suspension to be determined by the Board of Directors.

MYHA PLAYER PLACEMENT PROCESS

PLAYER ATTENDS TRYOUT

Active MYHA players are evaluated throughout the season by coaches. Players are evaluated by a group of individuals appointed by the Board of Directors. Tryout Evaluators will rate players on a series of skills, against their peers at tryouts. Along with the current year coach's evaluations, the tryout evaluations are reviewed and teams are compiled based on ratings. Head Coaches are then selected based on applications received. Head Coaches are provided with the overall information and may provide argument to Board of Directors for movement of players that are deemed "on the bubble". The intent of the rating system is to avoid movement of players that the evaluators and current coaches have rated low enough not to warrant a move during spring team selections.

Once approved, notification letters are sent to families with team assignment (mid-April). Families have until May 1st to accept or decline their team assignment.

PLAYER DOES NOT ATTEND TRYOUT

Any player who does not attend the tryout is still able to join MYHA as long as roster spots at the player's age level are available. The player is automatically placed on the lowest team in their age group (based on birth year). Coaches evaluate players in practices and parity-round games and a player can be move to a higher team if his ability warrants the move, with approval of Head of Coaches and President.

Team placement is NOT guaranteed from one season to another. If a player is placed on a team and declines the placement, the spot may be given to another player. If prior to the season the first player reconsiders and wants to skate with MYHA, coaches and Coordinators decide their placement based on space availability at that point in time. There is no assurance to any player that he/she will be placed on original team, as space may not be available for that player on original team.

PLAYER SEEKING PLACEMENT AFTER SEASON BEGINS

Any player who does not attend the tryout and is seeking placement after the season begins may still able to join MYHA as long as the following conditions are met:

- Roster spots at the player's age level are available
- Head coach of lowest team in their age group approves adding a player
- Board of Directors approves to add a player
- Request is made prior to November 1st

If placed, coaches evaluate player in practices and/or games and a player can be move to a higher team if his ability warrants the move, with approval of Head of Coaches and BOD.

MYHA PLAYER MOVEMENT PROCESS

PERMANENT MOVES- BASED UPON SKILL

Coach of the upper-level team goes to the lower-level team's games and practices to observe the players performance.

Coach of the receiving team and coach of the supplying team meet privately to evaluate player skills and determine which players should move and why. Both coaches shall have input to this process. This meeting and information is to be kept confidential and not be discussed with anyone. Neither players nor parents should be consulted at this point in the process. Both coaches review the proposed moves with the HOC and/or President and all should agree on the following aspects of the move:

- The move is correct and justifiable
- The reason why the specific player was selected
- The message to be communicated regarding the move

After the above agreement is reached, the supplying Head Coach will notify the player's parents of the move.

The deadline for permanent movement of players is October 1st.

For permanent player movements after October 1st both coaches must meet with the BOD to present extenuating circumstances. The Board will decide if the permanent move is to be allowed.

MYHA does not allow upper teams to 'borrow' a lower team's player for the purpose of 'seeing how they do'. Players can only be borrowed to fill-in for a player's absence or other legitimate reason. The Temporary Moves section below governs these cases.

No player will be moved permanently to any team that is above his/her birth-year age group (for example, Mite to Squirt).

TEMPORARY MOVES- BORROWING PLAYERS

This process has been adopted because of occasions where many players were disappointed by mistaken expectations. In the past, once a skater had been asked to skate with an upper-level team and no reason was given, the player assumed he was going to be moved up to the upper-level team. It did not matter how many times the coach explained that this was not the case; the skater steadfastly assumed that they were being moved up when no reason for borrowing was given. When it turned out that the player was not moved up as expected, the player was left feeling disappointed.

MYHA implemented this process to specifically prevent this situation from reoccurring. A coach may only borrow a player if his team participation is expected to be less than 12 skaters. It is to be noted that a coach is not required at any time to borrow a player if he does not feel he will

need to. However, should a coach need to borrow, the following is meant to be a guideline to follow:

The coach of the upper team should call the lower team coach and explain that the upper team needs a substitute player and the reason why. There must be a legitimate need to borrow a player. The upper coach should specify a position that needs to be filled, not request player(s) by name. The lower team coach should suggest which players have the appropriate skill level. Emphasis should be placed on giving as many players as possible a chance to skate for an upper-level team.

Note – it is not recommended placing a player into a game situation too far above their skating capabilities.

The player's coach should call the selected player and 1) ask if they are available to skate for the game, 2) explain why a player is needed, and 3) state that they are only being borrowed for this one game. It is very important that the coach explain that the skater is filling in for an absent skater. This helps prevent any wrong impression that the skater is being evaluated for a permanent position on the upper level team.

After the game the upper-level team coach should thank the borrowed skater for helping out his team by filling in for the absent skater.

Please note: there is a Valley Hockey League rule regarding players playing on other teams: A player may play only six (6) games for the team above. If a player participates in a seventh (7th) game with that team above, he or she will not be allowed to play for the team below. To clarify, this does not mean that the player is automatically moved up, but that player is ineligible to remain on and play for the lower level team. Thus, coaches on BOTH teams MUST keep accurate count of player borrowing to prevent this automatic movement. Violation of this rule by the upper level Head Coach will result in immediate dismissal of the Head Coach of that team for the remainder of the season, and he/she shall be ineligible to coach in MYHA for the next season.

All coaches are REQUIRED to follow this process. This process can be changed by raising it for discussion at the MYHA monthly meeting and explaining any concerns with the process. The process can then be updated as governed by the MYHA Bylaws.

The above process describes player movements based on either skill assessment or normal player absences. Any other potential player movement (permanent or temporary) requires MYHA Board approval before any player movement is made.

2025-26 SEASON BOARD MEMBERS AND APPOINTMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Bill Mulvanity	president@myha.com
Vice President	Matt Jalbert	vp@myha.com
Clerk	Devin Deveau	clerk@myha.com
Treasurer	Kim McKenna	treasurer@myha.com
Purchasing Manager	Andrea Mueskes	purchasingmanager@myha.com
Director of Fundraising	Cory Cornichuck	fundraising@myha.com
Bantam Coordinator	Ericka Cornichuck	bantamcoordinator@myha.com
Pewee Coordinator	Julie Lozowski	peweecoordinator@myha.com
Squirt Coordinator	Kathryn Hooper	squirtcoordinator@myha.com
Mite Coordinator	Shannon Boss	mitecoordinator@myha.com
Development Coordinator	TBD	mitedevelopmentcoordinator@myha.com
LTS/LTP Coordinator	TBD	ltscoordinator@myha.com
Head of Coaches	TBD	headofcoaches@myha.com

APPOINTED MYHA POSITIONS (NON-VOTING BOARD POSITIONS)

USA Hockey & Mass Hockey Rep	Joe Boyden
Ice Manager	
Marketing and Fundraising Coordinators up to 3	
Director of Communications & Publicity	
Concession Stand Manager	