

Meramec Youth Hockey Club

Bylaws and Rules



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**EFFECTIVE 10/1/92, AMENDED 2/10/05, AMENDED 7/15/08,
AMENDED 1/13/12, AMENDED 6/10/14, AMENDED 11/10/15,
AMENDED 2/9/16, REVISED 05/10/22, AMENDED 7/12/22, AMENDED
4/9/24, REVISED 7/27/26**

Article I – Objective and Scope

The Meramec Hockey Club, hereinafter called the club, is a non-profit organization, formed specifically for the benefit, moral improvement and physical advancement of the juvenile population. The club shall foster good, clean sportsmanlike conduct and fair play in individual as well as team competition, and should endeavor to provide a fair share of ice time for all players in the program. To this ideal, the club pledges its energies, by acting in consonance with the organization of the Missouri Amateur Ice Hockey Association and USA Hockey. The club further pledges its cooperation, to the extent possible, with organizations that may have comparable or parallel missions.

Article II – Membership

A. Club Membership is defined as:

1. All current, properly registered, Meramec Hockey families and CSHDL families from the Meramec registered district (including proper transfers from the MO Hockey Process).

B. Club Members will:

1. Adhere to the rules and regulations outlined in USA Hockey and the bylaws set forth by the Meramec Hockey Club Board of Directors.
 - a. Note: for members that are currently in a CSHDL POD, there will be portions of the Meramec Bylaws that are specific to Meramec Sharks and do not apply.

C. Participating membership is valid:

1. While all current charges are paid.
2. Proper registration of the related player(s) is maintained.
3. Valid membership on the last day of any season shall remain valid over any interim period prior to the next subsequent season.
4. Unless otherwise revoked due to the violation of policies, code of conduct, bylaws or USA Hockey.

Article III – Organization

Section 1 - General Powers

The administration, management and business affairs of this club shall be vested in and under the control, supervision and management of a Board of Directors. Any expenditure over one hundred dollars (\$100) shall be approved/denied with a majority vote from the elected offices within the Board of Directors. Any rink related expenditure of over five hundred dollars (\$500) approved/denied with a majority vote from the elected offices within the Board of Directors.

Section 2 - Board of Directors and term of office

The Board of Directors cannot contain more than 20% non-club members. All Board members shall serve a two-year term. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the following positions:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- **President**
- **Vice President**
- **Treasurer**
- **Recording Secretary**

REMAINING ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

- **Director of Coordinators**
- **Director of Internal Communications / Web Site**
- **Director of External Communications / Recruiting**
- **Tournament Director**
- **Equipment Director**
- **Director of Volunteer Programs**
- **Past President (Non-Voting)**

REMAINING APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

- **Coaching Director**
- **6U/8U Director**
- **Director of Player Development**
- **Fundraising Director**
- **Club Registrar(s)**
- **Director of Spring Programs**
- **Missouri Hockey Representative**
- **Central States Representative**
- **Director of Capital Investment**

Voting members include the six elected Board Members, along with the Vice President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. The President shall not vote, but will cast the deciding vote in case of a tie on any issue before the Board. The remaining (appointed) positions are non-voting positions. No single family is permitted to occupy two voting positions simultaneously, although they may both be members of the Board if at least one is a non-voting member. Should two members of the same family be elected to voting positions on the Board, the family must decide which of the two shall refuse or resign their position.

Meramec Hockey Club employs two full time employees.

MERAMEC HOCKEY CLUB FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

- **Rink Manager**
- **Director of Hockey**

The President is the direct contact for the rink manager

The Director of Hockey reports to the Vice President.

If the position remains vacant, duties historically assigned to the Director of Hockey may be administered by the Director of Player Development, Coaching Director, Vice President, or another Board-approved designee, subject to Board oversight.

Section 3 - Quorum

A majority of five (5) voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Should the number of voting members be less than nine (9) due to temporary vacancies, a simple majority shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4 - Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet as often as may be necessary for the orderly conduct of the business and affairs of the club. Special meetings may be called by the President or upon notice of any two (2) members of the Board of Directors. Such notice shall be by phone by the person or persons calling the meeting and shall give the date, hour and exact location of such meeting. Notification shall be given not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting except in cases of emergency. Special meetings require the attendance of a minimum of two (2) members of the Executive Committee to be considered a valid meeting.

The Disciplinary Committee can call emergency meetings with 24 hour notice to the entire Board of Directors by phone or email. Two members of the Executive Committee must be present to be considered a valid meeting.

At least one annual open meeting shall be held by the president for the benefit of the club membership. These general membership meetings will be held around the start of the fall season. This meeting will be mandatory for the club membership to attend and the President may hold a series of these meetings, not to exceed three, for the convenience of the club membership.

Section 5

Elected Offices – The elected offices shall be as follows:

- **Treasurer**
- **Recording Secretary**
- **Director of Coordinators**
- **Director of Internal Communications / Web Site**
- **Director of External Communications / Recruiting**
- **Tournament Director**
- **Equipment Director**
- **Director of Volunteer Programs**
- **Past President (Non-Voting)**

Appointed Offices – The appointed offices shall be as follows:

- **Coaching Director**
- **6U/8U Director**
- **Director of Player Development**
- **Fundraising Director**
- **Club Registrar(s)**
- **Director of Spring Programs**
- **Missouri Hockey Representative**
- **Central States Representative**
- **Director of Capital Investment**

Section 6 - Election Procedures

- A. The President shall be chosen by the current Board of Directors to ensure continuity of the organization and consistency of club policy and direction. Nominations should take place in January of even numbered years. Voting shall take place at the February meeting in even numbered years for a two-year term beginning immediately after voting takes place. Prior experience on the Board is not a prerequisite, but is a highly desirable qualification. To that end, a simple majority vote is all that is required for an existing Board Member to be selected for this key position. A non-Board member requires a 75 percent margin or greater for approval.
- B. The Vice President shall be selected by the President and approved by the Board of Directors. Should the Vice President be a member of the current Board, approval by a simple majority of the voting members is required. A 75 percent margin or greater is required to approve the selection of a Vice President who does not currently sit on the Board of Directors.
- C. All other elected positions are to be filled through a vote of the entire membership.
- D. The positions of Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Director of External Communications / Recruiting, and Equipment Director shall be elected in odd numbered years.
- E. The remaining four elected positions shall be elected in even numbered years.
- F. Nomination shall be given by e-mail to the secretary by January 1 of the election year. Ballots will be distributed by e-mail to all club members no later than January 20th. Ballots must be received by mail, email, or in person by the deadline the secretary determines yearly. All ballots must be signed by a club member in good standing.

G. Election procedures are as follows:

1. All Officers and Members at Large positions will be elected for a two (2) year term beginning March 1st.
2. In the event of a tie for any elected position, a majority vote of the newly elected Board of Directors is required for the tiebreaker.

H. The appointed positions are nominated by the president and approved/denied with a majority vote from the elected offices within the Board of Directors. The Appointed Offices term of office shall be two (2) years and shall begin immediately after the Board of Directors approval.

Section 7 - Board Member Removal Procedures

Any appointed and/or elected Board Member failing to fulfill the described duties of his elected office or acting in a behavior detrimental to the club, may be recalled by a majority vote from the elected offices within the Board of Directors. A letter written by the Board of Directors outlining such a default will be used to schedule time at the next Board meeting to hear the recalled member's position.

If the recalled member is found to be in neglect of duties during this hearing, the member shall be replaced with a two-thirds majority vote by the elected offices within the Board of Directors.

Section 8 - Vacancy Procedures

Vacancies – Should any office, except that of the President be vacated, the replacement will be nominated by the President and approved by the elected offices of the Board of Directors. Should the office of President be vacated, the Vice President will automatically assume the office of President. Should the past President position become vacant, it will remain vacant until the next scheduled election.

Section 9 - Duties of Offices

President –The President shall perform all duties incident to the Office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time. Together with the Board of Directors, shall organize, supervise, and direct the club's activities for the year. The President shall set meeting dates as they deems necessary to accomplish the club's objectives.

The President shall appoint such committees as shall be necessary for the functioning and operations of this club. The President shall appoint a Coaching Director, , Director of Player Development, 6U-10U Director of Player Development, 6U/8U Director, Fundraising Director, Director of Spring Programs, Missouri Hockey Representative, Central States Representative, and Club Registrars for the term of two (2) years. The President cannot perform any other duties on the board other than that of President.

Vice President – In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the responsibilities of the President. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the President or by the Board of Directors.

The Vice President shall organize and run a sub-committee, to be known as the Hockey Operations Committee. The Vice President shall host monthly meetings with this committee which shall discuss all operations as it pertains to on-ice activities for the club. The Vice President shall report these meetings back to the board at its monthly board meeting.

The Vice President shall be the direct supervisor to the Director of Hockey.

Recording Secretary – Shall see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. The Secretary shall be custodian of the club's records. The Secretary shall receive nominations from the general membership for the annual elections.

Also shall maintain and make available, upon request, copies of the Minutes of the General Board Meetings to any club member. The Secretary shall make available a copy of the current bylaws, rules, and regulations of the club and provide bylaws, rules and regulations of MISSOURI HOCKEY upon request. The Secretary shall perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the general meeting and board meeting, make them available to the board, and make them available for additions or corrections.

In addition the Secretary shall be responsible for creating a Bylaw Review Committee composed of at least one non board member, the secretary, and at least two board members starting in the year 2025. The committee will be responsible for the review process which can include revisions and amendments to insure bylaws are in line with the clubs most up to date mission, vision, policies, and procedures.

Treasurer – Shall have charge and custody of and shall be responsible for all funds of the club, receive and give receipts for monies due and payable to the club from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such monies in the name of the club in such banks as shall be selected by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall give full and complete financial reports of the club, along with substantiating bank balance at each Board Meeting and General Meeting. A financial report will be available to members of the club at the Annual Election Meeting. A copy of the financial reports will be made available upon written request to the President of the club. The Treasurer shall annually file all necessary legal papers, 501(C)3 tax returns, and prepare budgets for the club.

Past President – The Past President is, in general, responsible for ensuring continuity between generations of boards. This includes providing guidance regarding club mission, operation, and finances. The position of Past President is advisory in nature and carries no voting privileges.

Director of Internal Communications / Website – The Director of Internal Communications/Website is, in general, responsible for maintaining the organization's web site.

Director of External Communications / Recruiting – The Director of External Communications/Recruiting is, in general, responsible for all recruiting efforts. This may include, but is not limited to, maintaining the relationship with Little Blues, attending the graduation & recruitment events; the design, production and distribution of flyers in our owned, shared and open zip codes; the design and placement of newspaper advertising, and any other recruiting efforts deemed appropriate by the Board. Additionally, handling club events & fundraising opportunities presented by the Blues. Lastly, will also be responsible for the administration/oversight of the Learn to Play program, which is the entry point to MHC Hockey.

Tournament Director – The Tournament Director is, in general, responsible for any and all tournaments sponsored by the Club. This includes development and placement of advertising materials, development of rules and regulations, schedules, hotel arrangements, volunteers, and all other duties relevant to the tournament.

Equipment Director – The Equipment Director is, in general, responsible for maintaining the organization's supply of HIP equipment, jerseys, and other items required by teams. .

Fundraising Director – The Fundraising Director is, in general, to be responsible for the organization and implementation of all Club fundraising activities.

Director of Spring Programs – The Director of Spring Programs is, in general, to be responsible for the organization, oversight, implementation and oversight of all spring programs, including Spring Select and in-house recreational programs, such as 4on4 leagues.

Director of Coordinators – The Director of Coordinators is, in general, to perform all responsibilities of training and assisting team managers and coordinators, as well as serving as a liaison within the club. Responsibilities include scheduling and conducting training sessions. Areas of training are as follows: kitty fund, travel arrangements, game/practice schedules, ice trading, and scheduling of game volunteers (i.e. time clock, score sheets, etc.).

6U/8U Director – The 6U/8U Director is, in general, to perform all responsibilities of overseeing all ADM teams. Oversee game and practice scheduling and adherence to club 3:1 ratio philosophy. Recommend, monitor, and train coaches for the ADM teams.

Coaching Director – The Coaching Director is, in general, to perform all responsibilities of overseeing, recommending, and training of all club coaches. Other responsibilities include: liaison to USA hockey (ACE coordinator), coordination and management of on ice evaluations, procurement and maintenance of the club teaching library.

Director of Player Development – The Director of Player Development is, in general, responsible for the development and implementation of all camps and clinics sponsored by the Club. In addition, the director is to work with the coaching and 6U-10U directors to ensure that

teams are adequately instructed in all facets of the game through their coaches, special instructors, and camps and clinics.

Missouri Hockey Representative – The Missouri Hockey Representative is, in general, responsible for representing the club and its interests with Missouri Hockey. The Representative will attend meetings, actively participate on behalf of the club, act as club liaison with other clubs and provide periodic reports to the board regarding the external environment.

Director of Volunteer Program – The Director of Volunteer Program is, in general, responsible for the development and implementation of a volunteer program. This includes determining activities that require volunteers, the length of volunteer shifts, and contingency planning for those that miss their assigned duties.

Club Registrar(s)

The role of the Club Registrar is to supervise and be responsible for the proper registration of all players. The Registrar is responsible for distributing all team contact lists and creating team rosters in USA Hockey. Other duties include, but are not limited to, answering emails, checking in players during tryouts/evaluations, providing Board members with requested registration information, and collecting required certifications for Coaches, Coordinators, and Board members.

Central States Representative

The Central States Representative is a Sharks liaison to the Eagles Hockey Club. This includes being a committee member on the Eagles Pod Committee, assisting coordinating and implementing spring and winter programs, monitoring program costs, promoting and recruitment of Sharks players, requesting ice, overseeing Eagles budget, ice schedule, and game schedule.

Director of Capital Investment

He is, in general, responsible for overseeing various revenue producing practices/procedures the club engages in. Primarily ensuring we're capitalizing on revenue generating opportunities. This includes but is not limited to structure, communication, organization and income planning of said revenue streams. The goal of this position is to make sure the club is generating revenue with the goal of financial health and independence long term. When the position is vacant, the President may assign any related duties to another Board member, committee, or Board-approved designee until such time as the position is filled.

All positions on the Board are subject to taking on additional duties as deemed necessary by the President.

Article IV – Rules of Procedure

Section 1 - Rules Of Procedure

The meetings of the members and Board of Directors shall be conducted in an orderly manner and the agenda shall be determined by the President.

Article V – Amendments to Bylaws

Any club member may propose amendments to these bylaws by submitting the same in writing to the President and/or Recording Secretary. Such proposals will be presented at the next meeting of the Board of Directors. All proposed amendments will be voted on at the next scheduled board meeting.

Amendments may be approved or denied by a minimum of 75% of the elected offices within the Board of Directors. Every four years, or whenever there is a known change that might affect governance, beginning in 2025, the Secretary shall form a committee of at least two board members and one non-board member to review, revise, and amend current bylaws and policies. This review process may help to ensure that the bylaws are in line with the organizations most up to date mission, vision, and policies.

Article VI – Adherence to Rules

Meramec Hockey Club adheres to and abides by all previous established rules of the club and all rules, bylaw and regulations of Missouri Hockey and USA Hockey.

Article VII– Rules of Order of Business

Section 1

Powers – All powers not mentioned in bylaws shall be and are reserved to the Board of Directors. When necessary, and if in the best interest of the club, the Board of Directors can deviate from any specific processes outlined in the Bylaws as long as the overall intent of the bylaws and process is maintained.

Section 2

Effective Date – These bylaws shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Board of Directors.

Section 3

The fiscal year shall begin the first (1st) day of June.

Section 4

The assets of this association are permanently dedicated to the exempt purpose within the meaning of Section 501(c)3, of the Internal Revenue code of 1954 (or corresponding provisions of future laws.)

Section 5

The Meramec Hockey Club adheres to all bylaws, rules and regulation of MISSOURI HOCKEY, USA Hockey, and MISSOURI HOCKEY Youth Division, even though all said rules, bylaws and regulation are not stated in the Meramec Hockey Club rules, bylaws and regulations.

Section 6

The President or Vice President have authorization to hire and/or terminate all paid employees as deemed necessary. In turn, the rink manager has authority to hire and/or terminate all part time rink help either for cause or as needed stay in line with budget.

Section 7

Dissolution

In the event of liquidation or dissolution of this corporation, or in the event that it shall cease to carry out any of its purposes, the Board shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the organization, ensure all funds and property of the corporation shall be distributed to non-profit corporations with purposes similar to those set forth in Article I, that the Directors of this corporation may select, and in no event shall any of the funds or property be distributed to any of the members or used for any other purposes.

Article VIII– Rules of Club Operation

Post Evaluation Player Movement Guideline

This document is designed to provide general guidelines for player movement between teams after the evaluation process has been completed. The guideline is intended to cover the majority of situations that could result in the movement of one or more players. The Board of Directors reserves the right to make exceptions to these general policies, if the exception is deemed in the best interest of the club and its membership.

The guidelines are based on several assumptions:

The evaluation process provides for the ability to move players up or down within an age group through October 15. Therefore, this guideline would not come into play until after that date.

This process assumes that player movement can only be triggered by an event that causes the loss or gain of a player or players on a particular team. It cannot be triggered simply to attempt to improve the competitiveness of a team. It is assumed that the evaluation process should stand in terms of setting team competitiveness.

This process recognizes that team rosters must be frozen per the MOAM rules on December 31.

This process recognizes that team rosters within an age group do not necessarily have to be balanced in terms of numbers of players.

Team rosters should, with some possible exceptions, not fall below 12 skaters, or go above 15 skaters. If these conditions exist, player movement should at least be considered. This excludes ADM teams.

In order to minimize the impact to team rosters, player movement should generally only take place between two teams. It is not advisable to “cascade” moves from multiple levels.

In general, this guideline assumes that player movement would normally take place upward from a lower level team to a higher level team. In the event of any situation that would cause consideration to move a player from a higher level team to a lower level team, the Meramec Board of Directors must review and approve the player move.

Loss of a Player:

If a team loses a player due to injury, illness, or a player quits, there may be cause to move a player from a lower team in that age group. The head coach of the affected team should work with the Coaching Director to determine if player movement is warranted.

Board approval is only necessary in instances where the Coaching Director approves the movement of a player to a lower level within an age group.

Gain of a Player:

From time to time, after the evaluation process has been completed, players may join the club and must be placed on a team. The Coaching Director has the responsibility to investigate the experience of incoming players to determine appropriate placement. The criteria to determine player placement is as follows:

Any incoming player that has no prior ice experience will be placed on the lowest level team within that age group.

Any incoming player with ice experience will be placed on a team that nearest matches the player's experience and that has a roster spot available.

Once it has been established what team incoming player(s) should be placed on, player movement may be required based on the following criteria:

Does the affected team roster grow to *greater than* 15 skaters? If yes, the Coaching Director should coordinate with the head coaches of the affected team and the team above to coordinate movement of a player upward if there is a roster spot available.

Coordinating Player Movement:

When it is established that player movement is warranted based on the above scenarios, the Coaching Director should coordinate the process with the head coaches of the affected teams. The process for selecting the player(s) to be moved should be as follows:

The head coach of the higher level team receiving a player has the final choice on which player or players should be moved.

It is recommended that the receiving team head coach observe at least 3 ice sessions of the team from which he will receive a player or players.

It is required that the receiving team head coach confer with the head coach of the team giving up a player or players. The Coaching Director should facilitate, as appropriate.

The head coach of the receiving team must notify the Coaching Director of his selection within 48 hours of his last ice observation.

In all cases, the parents of any player selected for movement will have veto power if they decide that they would prefer to remain on their present team. Therefore, the head coach of the receiving team should identify several players in the order he would select them in case of a parent veto. Once a parent has been notified that their player has been selected for movement, they must exercise the veto, if desired, within 48 hours, otherwise the player selection stands.

Playing Up Policy

The minimum age for participation on a Meramec Sharks team is four (4) years old. Before being eligible to join a 6U team, a four-year-old player must complete a Meramec Sharks Learn to Play session and be approved by the Learn to Play Director as ready for team play.

Any 6U major interested in playing up at 8U must make the request to the 6U/8U Director at least 2 weeks prior to the start of evaluations. Should the 6U/8U Director approve the request the player must make at least 8U W1/W2 in order to be eligible to play up. Any 8U major that played the previous season at the 8U Red level or 8U W1/W2 interested in playing up at 10U must make the request to the Coaching Director at least 2 weeks prior to the start of evaluations. Should the Coaching Director approve the request after discussing expectations, the player will participate in the 10U player evaluations and must make 10U A1/A2/A3 in order to be eligible to play up at 10U. Should the player not evaluate at the 10U A1/A2/A3 level then they will be rostered at the 8U level.

Players at 10U, 12U and 14U are ineligible to play up under any circumstances.

TOURNAMENT ROSTERS

Player movement should be handled as the regular season.

Registration

MHC registration for current members should be completed and turned in to the club's registrar by the announced designated date each year in order to reserve a roster position. . The board reserves the right to establish and maintain a waiting list that may take effect prior to the end of the registration period.

Should a waiting list be established for a level, the board will place registrants on the list in the order their applications are completed. As positions become open on team rosters, those players will be permitted to play in the same order as their applications were completed. No registrant on a waiting list is guaranteed a spot on a club roster for the year in question.

A late fee will be assessed to all registrations received after the designated registration closure date.

Fees

HIP: Hockey Initiation Program (HIP) player's fees - including MHC season fee, USA Hockey Insurance fee (if applicable), and Missouri Hockey, Inc. registration fee - must be paid in full at the time of registration.

16U/18U: Tryout fees due prior to start of tryout. Tryout fees are non-refundable. Players placed on a team must be registered prior to attending first practice.

6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, AND 14U: Players must make a required deposit by the announced deadline for registration. A payment plan or full payment can be selected through the registration process.

Late Payments: Players who have not paid their entire season fee by December 1 will not be allowed to play for any MHC team (without the permission of the MHC Board of Directors) until all fees are paid. Arrangements can be made with the club's Registrar by December 1. Furthermore, such players will be sanctioned from playing for any USA Hockey club until all fees due MHC have been resolved.

Payment Methods: For the convenience of the membership, MHC accepts payment in check, credit card, or Venmo. Checks returned for insufficient funds are charged \$25.00

Refund Policy

- Withdrawal from any team after team selection/placement is considered a voluntary decision and no refund will be granted without extenuating circumstances determined by MHC Board of Directors. Any outstanding registration fees require full payment. Failure to pay will result in placement on the Missouri Hockey "no pay" list.
- There will be no refund to a player removed from a team for any violation of the Meramec Code of Conduct, USA Hockey Code of Conduct, or any suspension/disqualification levied by Missouri Hockey. Failure to pay any outstanding balance to Meramec Hockey Club will result in participants being put on Missouri Hockey "no pay" list and not being allowed to register for any

- Meramec sponsored team, clinic, or evaluation until payment is received in full.
- Any player with an outstanding balance from any season of play as of April 1st may be reported to Missouri Hockey and placed on the MO Hockey “no pay” list.
- Any fees not paid in full by advertised deadlines will result in late charges.
- Any and all refunds are subject to the Meramec Hockey Club Board of Directors approval and discretion. The decision of the Board of Directors will be final.

Requesting a Refund:

If you are in need of a refund for any reason, please send a written request to our club registrar(s) at registrar@meramecsharks.com. In this email, please clearly state your player’s name, age division, and why you are requesting a refund. This email will be presented to the Board of Directors as written for their consideration/decision. In your email, you should include any supporting details to help give our Board of Directors some insight on your situation. All refunds will follow our MHC Bylaws. Any and All refunds are subject to approval and discretion and the decision of the Board of Directors will be final.

Teams

All divisions are based on age as determined by USA Hockey. The age of the player as of December 31 is used to determine division. Mini-Mites are 5 and 6, Mites are 7 and 8, Squirts are 9 and 10, Peewees are 11 and 12, Bantams are 13 and 14, Midgets are 15, 16, 17, and 18.

10U, 12U, and 14U Team Structure

Beginning with the 2026-2027 season, Meramec Hockey Club does not operate separate House Hockey or Recreational programs at the 10U, 12U, and 14U levels. These teams operate under the Meramec Sharks travel hockey model.

Team placement shall be determined through the Club evaluation process and is intended to place each player in the most appropriate competitive environment for that player’s current ability, development, safety, and long-term hockey growth.

A/B/C or similar designations are competitive placement labels only. They do not determine whether a team is treated as a Meramec Sharks team, whether a team receives club support, whether a team receives development opportunities, or whether a team is considered less important within the organization.

The Club’s objective is to provide equitable development opportunities, including appropriate practices, games, skill development, and club support across team levels, subject to ice availability, registration numbers, league requirements, coach availability, and Board-approved season planning.

Ice Times and Playing-Time Philosophy

The Club’s playing-time philosophy is intended to balance player development, team competitiveness, player safety, attendance, conduct, goaltender management, and age-appropriate coaching judgment. Coaches should make every reasonable effort to keep participation fair over the season while recognizing individual game situations may vary. Coaches may reduce playing time for missed practices, repeated lack of commitment, or conduct detrimental to the team. The reason should be communicated to parents or guardians when appropriate and in a timely manner.

6U/8U: Should emphasize broad participation, repetition, fundamentals, and equal opportunity whenever possible.

10U, 12U, and 14U teams: Coaches should make every reasonable effort to keep playing time fair throughout the season. Coaches may exercise game-management discretion in competitive situations, including special teams, final minutes of close games, player safety, player readiness, attendance, discipline, and goaltender usage.

Goalies 6U through 14U: On 12U and 14U teams two goalies will be carried if there are more goalies than teams. At 10U two goalies may be carried if deemed necessary to ensure the player is at the correct skill level. This rule is necessary to comply with USA Hockey qualification requirements for National playoffs. All other teams 10U and under may carry two goaltenders if the number of registered goaltenders exceeds the number of teams. Goalies tandems should reach an agreement on their preferred ice distribution (full games, split games, or split periods) facilitated by the Head Coach. In cases where an agreement between goalies cannot be met, the Head Coach has the final decision with the goal of equal ice time over the course of the season and tournaments.

16U/18U teams: The head coach has broader control over playing time but should continue to maintain fairness, development, accountability, and clear expectations over the season.

Goalies 16U and 18U Midgest: Coaches may exercise discretion in competitive situations, player safety, player readiness, attendance, and discipline.

HIP (Learn to Play): Designed for the younger skaters, this program is for developmental purposes only. The USA Hockey ADM Program is used exclusively. LTP players are not allowed to double register without permission from our LTP Director.

Team Practices

During a team practice only players and coaches rostered on that team are to be on the ice. The only exception is an instructor previously approved by the board. In the event of an emergency, the Coaching Director, or the Director of Hockey Operations may approve an instructor. An emergency is when no rostered coaches are available to run a practice and there is no time to obtain Board approval. The Board will not approve any Meramec players rostered on one team being on the ice with another Meramec team except for the following: Older age goaltender in full equipment that is instructing goaltenders. The Board should always approve these circumstances in advance.

This policy is meant to insure our compliance with insurance guidelines and is specifically meant to prohibit Meramec players from practicing with other teams.

Unused Ice Fine

Teams are given ice times at the beginning of the season to be used for practice and/or games. If a team plans to attend a tournament and cannot use a practice time, it is up to the coordinator to a.) Trade the ice with another Meramec team or b.) Notify the rink manager, via email, 72hr in advance that the ice will be open or potentially open. Placing the ice on the coordinators

“Ice Trade Sheet” does not constitute notifying the rink manager. Failure to do so will result in the team’s kitty being fined \$100. This policy is meant to ensure we do not have ice left unused. If a team disputes the fine, they may reach out to the Meramec Shark Board for review.

Equipment

Rental: All equipment received from the club, including jerseys, is to be used for ice hockey only to avoid unnecessary wear and tear.

HIP: MHC maintains a supply of equipment that is provided free of charge to HIP (Learn to Play) players on a first come, first served basis. This equipment remains the property of MHC and must be returned to the club in good condition at the conclusion of the HIP session.

Goalies: Available goalie equipment will be rented to 6U, 8U, 10U, and 12U only for a season fee of \$50.00. In case of lost, damaged or abused equipment, the renter must pay the replacement cost of the equipment as determined by the club’s equipment manager. Any equipment not promptly returned by the player at set dates will result in a fine.

Uniform: MHC requires all players to wear black pants and black helmets. Gloves shall be kelly green, black, and/or blue.

Safety: To be eligible for Sharks affiliated games, practices, and on ice events, it is the sole responsibility of each player to wear helmet, mouthguard, neck guard, elbow pads, gloves, chest protector, cup or jill, pants, and shin guards. Goalies must wear a mask, neck guard, chest protector, cup or jill, pants, glove, blocker, and leg pads.

Jerseys: Beginning with the 2008-2009 season, jersey/hockey-sock purchase and proper upkeep will be the sole responsibility of the player (8U through 18U). 6U players will be provided a jersey and hockey-socks after teams are created.

HIP (Learn to Play): jerseys are provided for all learn to play participants and become the property of the player.

The equipment director will have the ability to recommend to the board that a player be kept from participating in games if in the estimation of the equipment director that the club member’s jersey is not in proper condition and/or doesn’t fit properly. Should the board decide to remove the player from the ice, it will be the responsibility of the club member to demonstrate a properly fitting jersey in a condition acceptable to the board.

Kitty Fund

All teams may request money from each player to add into a kitty fund account at the start of the season. The team will vote on use of kitty money in most cases, with certain exceptions, such as purchasing team supplies or adding names to championship banners. Voting procedures and tournament-related use of kitty funds shall be governed by the ***Meramec Hockey Club Tournament Policy***. Remaining funds at the end of the season will be returned to each family so long as the return does not exceed what they paid in.

Meramec Hockey Club – Tournament Uniform Guidelines (“Third Jersey”)

During the summer of 2020, the MHC Board of Directors agreed to officially adopt and trial the Tournament Uniform program. Although Missouri Hockey requires our team to have a standard uniform, The MHC Board of Directors supports and encourages our members to have pride and motivation in their own individual teams.

In an effort to ensure a professional, and standard appearance with the tournament uniform, Meramec Hockey Club is requiring the following criteria starting the 2021/2022 season. It is important to understand that the Tournament Uniform is authorized as an alternative for tournament play only, and shall not replace the Meramec Sharks approved uniform as a permanent uniform. The following guidelines shall be followed if your team decides to implement/produce a Tournament Uniform.

1. Uniform Color Scheme: All tournament uniforms shall only consist of the following colors, or combination of colors: white, green, blue, grey, and black. With the understanding there are numerous shades of some of these colors, the shade must compliment the design of the jersey to give a professional appearance.
2. Custom logo and lettering: Each team can either have their own “team specific” logo design, use the standard Sharks logo, or choose to just use “letters” on the front (example: “Sharks” or “MHC”). Team specific logo designs must be a variant of the Sharks logo and include items that are comparable and/or mirror our mascot and brand (Example: Different styles of sharks, fins, lettering, etc.) All teams are reminded to be aware of copyright infringement when choosing logo styles from the internet. Lettering and numbering must be a font that is legible and that compliments the uniform.
3. Jerseys shall include our approved, original Meramec Sharks Logo on both shoulders of the jersey, regardless of the team’s logo. This requirement will be standard on all third jersey designs. The Sharks logo (which will be an outline format) will automatically be included by our approved vendor. Teams may choose the color of the original Sharks logo to ensure that it matches that team's overall design.
4. Only jerseys and matching socks shall be approved for use. Pants Shells are not authorized with the third jersey or the original MHC Uniform. Any order placed with pant shells will be denied.
5. As per Missouri Hockey rules, tournament uniforms cannot be worn for any Official Missouri Hockey games. MO Hockey sponsored events include: Declaration Season Games, regular season games, and Blue Note Cup Games. Tournament Uniforms may ONLY be worn during tournaments and will replace either home or away MHC standard uniforms and will be worn at the coach’s discretion.
6. Only the players LAST NAME shall be affixed to the back of the jersey. No nicknames

or other names. If there are duplicate last names on a team, then a first name initial is authorized (Example: "B. Jones")

7. If a team is electing to develop a Tournament Uniform, it is mandatory that the team's parents vote on the decision, and that there is unanimous decision to purchase. If there are issues with affordability with a specific family that would cause them to vote "no", then the team is responsible for resolving that issue if they still wish to purchase (I.e. offering to cover the cost through fundraising, kitty fund, etc. At no time will families be forced to purchase the Tournament Uniform. Sponsorships from outside donors ARE authorized, however sponsors logos ARE NOT authorized on the uniforms. If teams wish to use a sponsor to cover the cost, this rule must be communicated to the sponsor before the team enters an agreement. Meramec Hockey Club will not be held liable for costs, charges, to the sponsor if this rule is not followed and the team cannot wear the uniform as per these guidelines. Teams ARE authorized to provide the sponsor with a team photo with the incorporation of that sponsors logo, or add, if they so wish.
8. Black Helmets and Pants are required for ALL Meramec Hockey Club Uniforms.
9. No apparel shall be designed, created, and/or sold using any Tournament Jersey logo design. This includes decals, jackets, sweatshirts, hats, etc...
10. No helmet decals containing the team's tournament jersey logo are authorized on player helmets. Only the official Meramec Sharks Logo, OR Meramec AA Logo (For Midget teams only) is authorized on the helmet.
11. Coaches jackets and warm ups shall ONLY have the official Meramec Sharks Logo on them. No third jersey logos on these items.
12. Uniform designs must be of good taste, and professional looking, as to not bring discredit upon the MHC brand.
13. All Tournament Uniforms shall be produced through an approved vendor. No other vendors are authorized unless approved by the Board of Directors.
14. Team Coordinators are responsible for the distribution and enforcement of these guidelines for the team. Coordinators may designate a volunteer parent from the team who will be responsible for the collaboration and ordering of Tournament Uniforms through MHC's approved vendor or committee. Logos must be in a digital format and of a high resolution in order to be digitally transferred and used in the sublimation process. The original Meramec Sharks Logo will be provided as "standard" on each shoulder of each jersey. The size, placement, and direction (facing outward) on the shoulder shall be standard on ALL jerseys, and shall fit on the tops of the shoulders.
15. Flags: Flags are optional. The only flags that are authorized on the tournament jersey are the flag of the United States of America, and the St. Louis Flag. Flags shall be placed on the upper sleeves of the jersey, and may either be full colored, or a single color (subdued) to match the accents of the jerseys. If used, all U.S. Flags shall be placed on the left side, with stars facing forward.
16. Ordering information will be distributed through the Coordinator director to coordinators.

Coordinators and coaches are responsible for ensuring that their teams follow these guidelines.

Merchandise

No apparel shall be designed, created, and/or sold using the Meramec Hockey Club or Meramec Sharks brand using any logo other than the Meramec Sharks official logo unless specifically approved by the Board of Directors.

Members and potential vendors including small businesses and/or crafters must submit a request to use our official logo on apparel or any other items they would like to design, create and/or sell. If approved, these items shall not be sold for personal gain or profit to the benefit of the creator.

Those approved to use any MHC logo shall use it on merchandise that does not compete with MHC's online team store or any approved vendors.

The MHC Board of Directors reserves the right to refuse the use of the Meramec Hockey Club and/or Meramec Sharks brand and logo to anyone other than authorized vendors.

Only MHC Board approved vendors, equipment manager and/or other Board representative will order, sell, make-up price and authorize items to be sold by MHC with approval of the Board of Directors. The use of Meramec Sharks, Meramec Hockey, Meramec Hockey Club, Meramec Sharks Hockey Club, MHC, and any logos used in the past or present are in the sole control of the Board of Directors and must be approved by a board vote. Vendors shall be either approved or disapproved during the May board meeting.

Coaches

Application / Interest List: Anyone interested in serving as a head coach or assistant coach is required to complete the applicable coaching application and USA Hockey Screening requirements. The USA Hockey Screening requirement also applies to team managers and coordinators.

Coach Review Process: MHC maintains a running list of interested and potential coaches. This list may include returning coaches, new applicants, and individuals identified through prior season involvement. The Board may review this list using relevant information, including prior season coaching performance, demonstrated commitment, USA Hockey coaching certification status, background check status, and parent coach-evaluation feedback from prior seasons.

Selection of Head Coaches: Head coaches are not selected before player evaluations. Head coach selections are generally made near the end of the player evaluation process, after player placement has become sufficiently clear and the potential coach's player placement is known. The Coaching Director, Vice President, and Director of Player Development are responsible for selecting head coaches based on team needs, coaching qualifications, prior season feedback, and the placement of the coach's player where applicable.

Selection of Assistant Coaches: Assistant coaches may be appointed following the selection of the Head Coach. The Head Coach shall submit the names of up to three (3) proposed assistant coaches to the Coaching Director for approval. Any proposed assistant coach who has not previously been reviewed and approved by the Club must be evaluated and approved by the Coaching Director before being added to the team staff.

Board Approval: The Board of Directors must approve all coaches.

Background Checks: Background checks for all coaches and team coordinators are completed and approved through USA Hockey. This is not a Meramec Hockey Club function.

Team Rules: Coaches must submit a list of team rules to the Coaching Director by October 1st.

Non-Parent Coach Travel Reimbursement Policy:

If a non-parent coach is assigned to an MHC team by the appointed Coaching Director, Meramec Hockey Club may reimburse the team's fund for non—parent coaches lodging expenses when overnight travel is required for team functions (tournaments or regular season games). Tournaments providing free hotel accommodations for head coaches do not qualify for reimbursement. With the exception of multiple non parent coaches being assigned to the same team.

Reimbursement is applied to lodging expenses only and is limited to:

- (2) Night stay in a team approved or tournament assigned hotel per trip.
- Maximum of (2) trips per season.

A copy of the receipt for lodging expenses in the coach's name must be submitted to the Coaching Director for approval prior to reimbursement by the Club Treasurer.

Additional non parent coach travel reimbursement may be approved at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Requests should be submitted to the Coaching Director prior to team travel.

Evaluations

Players are evaluated by a committee designated by the Club, which may include qualified evaluators, hockey operations representatives, and potential coaches as appropriate. Evaluation responsibilities should be structured to preserve fairness, consistency, and confidentiality.

An Evaluation Coordinator will be assigned to each level. Evaluation Coordinators facilitate the player evaluation process by coordinating evaluators, administering evaluation systems, and ensuring accurate and consistent evaluation results.

Evaluation data should remain private and confidential within the evaluation group. No coach, evaluator, parent, or club representative should publicly discuss individual player rankings, scores, or placement rationale outside the approved evaluation and placement process.

Evaluation Oversight: The Coaching Director, Vice President, Director of Player Development, and any designated evaluation chairpersons may oversee the evaluation and placement process to ensure consistency, fairness, appropriate team placement, and alignment with Club objectives. Final player placement decisions should be based on the established evaluation process and should remain confidential within the approved evaluation group.

Drills: The Club's Coaching Director, 6U/8U Director, Director of Player Development, along with designated hockey operations leadership, are responsible for developing the specific on-ice drills used during evaluations and overseeing the on-ice coaches used to manage drills and scrimmages.

Goaltenders: Goaltenders are evaluated based on regular evaluation sessions and, where applicable, a separate goaltender evaluation session.

Position Preference: At 6U, 8U, and 10U levels, more emphasis is placed on playing ability and less on position preference. At 12U/14U, position preference may be more heavily weighted but may not be perfectly balanced. Coaches have the final decision on the position played by players.

Parental Conduct: Parents should refrain from asking about the status of any particular player during evaluations.

Player Movement: Players can be moved between teams up until October 15 of each year if both head coaches are in agreement. In addition, specific guidelines have been developed to accommodate the potential need to move players after October 15 and prior to December 31.

See the Post Evaluation Player Movement Guideline.

Parent/Fan Conduct

Meramec Sharks adheres to the USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy and all applicable rules and regulations established by the Missouri Hockey District.

All parents or guardians are required to acknowledge and comply with the Club's Parent Code of Conduct prior to the start of league play. Parents, guardians, and spectators are expected to uphold both the letter and the spirit of the Code of Conduct at all Club events and activities.

Except as authorized by the Head Coach or another approved Club representative, parents and guardians are not permitted in the locker room during the fifteen (15) minutes immediately preceding or the ten (10) minutes immediately following any practice or game.

Parents and guardians are responsible for ensuring that their player arrives at the rink and is fully dressed and prepared to participate no later than fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled start of any practice or game, unless other arrangements have been communicated to and approved by the coaching staff.

General Conduct

The MHC has worked very hard to establish and organize a fine place to play hockey, and to instruct and improve players by practice and competition. Your coaches have been picked for their coaching ability and the parents are expected to support all instructions given to the players. In keeping with the reputation of this organization, it is expected that all parents will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.

Administering Discipline

The coach of that team will first handle Parent discipline. If the problem cannot be resolved the Coaching Director will assume responsibility for administering discipline. If the Coaching Director cannot resolve the problem, the Disciplinary Committee will evaluate and recommend to the Board of Directors a resolution. Disciplines could include but not limited to resigning of the code of conduct, meeting with the Board of Directors, meeting with coaches and parents, immediate suspension from games (per USA Hockey Bylaw 10) and removal from the club.

Complaint Process

Step 1. Any differences or concerns should be taken to the team's Coordinator. The coordinator will then discuss with the Head Coach.

Step 2. If problems still exist, a meeting between the Coordinator, Head Coach and complaining party should take place.

Step 3. Any unresolved issues should be brought to the attention of the Disciplinary Committee. If the Disciplinary Committee is unable to resolve the issues, the Grievance Procedure may be initiated. If a parent is uncomfortable approaching the coordinator in this situation, they may speak directly with a member of the Board of Directors.

Grievance Procedures

In the event of a problem or grievance, the parent of the player must state in writing the nature of the problem or grievance within 30 days of occurrence and an email or letter to a board member.

Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee's obligation to the club, in general, to ensure members (players, parents/family, coaches, and volunteers) of the Meramec Sharks uphold values and rules established in the MHC Code of Conduct as well as USA Hockey's Zero Tolerance Policy. The Committee contains members appointed by the Board of Directors. This committee will review incident reports and/or complaints from, but not limited to, MIHOA, USA Hockey, Tournament Directors, Hockey Clubs and/or Club Members. If warranted, this Committee will seek the appropriate actions required by the offender/offenders. This Committee is committed to maintaining a disciplinary log of all noted incidents they have reviewed and closed. This log (established the 2021 season) will be referenced as reports come in for repeat offenses/offenders. This Committee will report to the Board of Directors and/or directly to the President pending the severity or repetitiveness of the offense/offenses.

Volunteers

Meramec Sharks is a volunteer-driven organization that relies on the support and participation of its families. Parents are encouraged to assist coaches, players, coordinators, and fellow families whenever possible to help ensure a positive experience for all participants.

Each club family is required to complete one qualifying volunteer shift during the club's operational year. A volunteer deposit will be collected during player evaluations and will be refunded once the Director of Volunteers verifies that the required volunteer shift has been completed.

Qualifying volunteer activities will be approved by the Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Director of Volunteers. Available volunteer opportunities will be posted on the Club website for registration and sign-up.

If a club family fails to complete a qualifying volunteer shift during the designated operational year, the volunteer deposit will be forfeited.

If a volunteer deposit check is returned by the bank for any reason, a \$25 returned check fee will be assessed to the family's account. Any outstanding balance, including the returned check fee, must be paid in full before the family will be eligible to register for the following season

Shark Tank and Meramec Sharks Tobacco & Alcohol Policy

This policy applies to all players, coaches, coordinators, employees and anyone directly related to any teams participating in hockey activities at FSI Shark Tank.

The FSI Shark Tank, Meramec Sharks and its partners provide a tobacco—free environment in all areas directly related to youth hockey (player benches, locker rooms, penalty box area, restrooms, etc...)

Smoking is NOT allowed anywhere inside the FSI Shark Tank facility. Alternative products such as e-cigarettes, vapor cigarettes, and chewing tobacco are prohibited from player benches, locker rooms, penalty box areas and the ice surface.

Absolutely, NO outside alcoholic beverages are allowed in the viewing area of the Shark Tank. (Viewing Area is to mean not beyond the doors entering the viewing area of the ice (upstairs and down) Meramec reserves the right to discipline violators, as necessary and complete cooperation is expected without exception.

Is it the responsibility of each member of the Meramec Sharks and the FSI Shark Tank to abide by the policy and bring to the attention of employees, head coaches or members of the board of directors any violations.

Your cooperation is appreciated.