

JACKSON YOUTH HOCKEY

HANDBOOK

*This handbook provides useful information & resources regarding
all programs offered by Jackson Youth Hockey*

***JYH is a proud member of USA Hockey and the
Wyoming Amateur Hockey League***

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Section 1- Introduction to Jackson Youth Hockey

1. Mission

It is the mission of Jackson Youth Hockey to provide a meaningful opportunity for children to experience the great game of hockey and to develop their skating skills and hockey skills to the best of their ability while instilling the importance of sportsmanship, leadership, and teamwork.

2. Philosophy

Mastery of the fundamental skills and the fun of playing are essential to developing a lifelong interest in the sport. Therefore, JYH strives to help skaters develop their skating and hockey skills to the best of their individual ability, while developing good sportsmanship, leadership and teamwork skills. Most of all, JYH's goal is for children participating in the program to have fun.

3. Sportsmanship

JYH places a very strong emphasis on good sportsmanship in the development of the athletes in the program. The organization also places a high priority on the role of parents and coaches in reinforcing these values to the skaters. JYH urges all participants and parents to keep playing hockey in proper perspective; family and school are the most important elements in each athlete's development.

Section 2- Registration

2.1 Registration with USA Hockey

Before registering with JYH, parents must register each child with USA Hockey and obtain a USA Hockey Membership Number for each child (this number will be required when registering on the JYH website). Registration is required with USA Hockey because USA Hockey is the national governing body for ice hockey in the United States. Most importantly, as a member of USA Hockey, your child will be covered by accident (excess) and catastrophic injury insurance (in each case subject to USA Hockey's policies and procedures). JYH is also covered by general liability and other insurance through USA Hockey (again subject to USA Hockey's policies and procedures). Your membership in USA Hockey directly supports screening and training for youth hockey coaches, district and national championships, uniformity in official playing rules, and education and research in safety and risk management. A full description of the terms of your membership and the related benefits is available at www.usahockey.com under the tab "Membership."

2.2 Registration with JYH

Every child participating in a JYH program must register with JYH on our website before going on the ice. The fees for each participant or player must be paid as described below in Section 3. Required forms include:

- USA Hockey Participant Code of Conduct
- USA Hockey Consent to Treat (Medical Form)
- USA Hockey Waiver of Liability, Release, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement
- JYH Parent Code of Conduct

All required forms must be provided by each player prior to participating in any JYH activities.

2.3 Birth Certificates

All new players to JYH must provide a valid birth certificate so that we can verify the player's age.

Section 3 – Fees and Scholarships

3.1 Fees

Prior to the beginning of each season, the Board of Directors will set the fees for each team for the upcoming season. Please note that the fees do not include the cost of travel. Payment plan options will be described at the time of registration. JYH will strictly enforce the policy of no pay, no play.

3.2 Scholarships

Jackson Hole Youth Hockey is proud to partner with One22 Resource Center, a well-respected nonprofit serving the Greater Teton community for over two decades. One22 is known throughout the valley not just for financial assistance, but for the full range of wrap-around support they offer — helping families navigate financial and cultural challenges through resources that empower and support the broader community. Their work spans everything from emergency financial aid and rent assistance to financial education and youth enrichment scholarships designed to open doors for kids whose families might not otherwise be able to afford extracurricular activities.

This partnership matters for two important reasons:

1. Confidentiality & Consistency

By working through One22's established application and review process, families applying for a JYH scholarship go through a confidential, professional intake — the same trusted process One22 uses across dozens of partner organizations in the community. This means sensitive financial information stays with One22's experienced Client Services team, and every family is evaluated against the same fair, consistent standard.

2. More Scholarships, More Kids on the Ice

Partnering with an organization that already has the infrastructure, funding relationships, and community trust that One22 has built allows us to extend scholarship support to more families than we could manage alone — meaning more kids get the chance to play.

We're grateful for One22's partnership and for everything they do to support families across our community.

To learn more and apply, please visit: <https://one22jh.org/get-help/youth-enrichment-scholarships/>

3.3 Refunds

This policy establishes consistent, fair guidelines for reviewing refund and credit requests related to registration fees paid to Jackson Youth Hockey (JYH). It applies to all divisions (Mini-Mite through U19) and covers two categories of requests: (a) injury-related withdrawals, and (b) general/non-injury withdrawals. All decisions remain subject to final review and approval by the JYH Board.

3.31 General Principles

- All refund and credit requests must be submitted in writing to the JYH Board or designated administrator.
- Refunds are not automatic entitlements. Every request is reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and approval rests with the Board.
- Approved refunds are subject to the availability of program funds and may be adjusted if granting a full refund would jeopardize the organization's budget or committed ice/tournament costs.
- Refunds/credits may be issued as a cash refund, a credit toward a future season, or a combination, at the Board's discretion.
- This policy does not apply to tournament entry fees, camps, clinics, or apparel/merchandise purchases, which are governed separately.

3.32 Injury-Related Refunds & Credits

Medical Documentation Required

Every injury-related refund request must be accompanied by written documentation from a licensed medical doctor confirming that the player is unable to participate in hockey activities. The documentation should state, where possible, the expected duration of the player's inability to participate.

Minimum Absence Threshold

To be eligible for consideration, the injury must, in the written opinion of the treating physician, prohibit the player from participating for a period of at least six (6) weeks. Requests involving absences of less than six weeks will not be considered for a refund or credit under this policy.

Percentage-of-Season-Missed Standard

Where a player's injury extends across a significant portion of the season, eligibility for a reduction in dues will be evaluated based on the total number of days missed relative to the full season calendar (not the number of games missed). A player who misses more than 50% of the season due to injury is eligible for the Board to consider a reduction in dues.

Submission Deadline

Injury-related refund requests must be submitted no later than January 15 of the current season. Requests submitted after this date will not be eligible for a refund, regardless of the circumstances of the injury, except at the sole discretion of the Board in extraordinary circumstances.

Proration and Refund Cap

Approved injury refunds/credits will be prorated based on the portion of the season remaining at the time the injury is documented and the request is submitted. In no circumstance will an approved refund or credit exceed 50% of total registration fees paid for that season.

Board Discretion

Meeting the criteria above establishes eligibility for the Board to consider a request — it does not guarantee an automatic refund or a specific amount. The Board will review each request individually, taking into account documentation provided, timing, program funds available, and any costs already incurred on the player's behalf (e.g., tournament fees, apparel, league dues).

Note: Approvals made outside the standard criteria above (for example, exceptions granted before a formal policy was finalized) are one-time, case-by-case accommodations. They do not set a precedent and should not be relied upon by other families or in future seasons.

3.33 Non-Injury Refunds & Withdrawals

The following standards apply to withdrawals not related to injury (e.g., moving away, schedule conflicts, change of interest, tryout/roster outcomes).

Withdrawal Before Season Start

1. Requests submitted before the first official skate/practice: full refund minus a non-refundable deposit/registration processing fee (e.g., \$50–\$100, set annually by the Board).
2. Requests submitted after the first official skate but before the first regular-season game: 75% refund of remaining fees, minus the non-refundable deposit.

Withdrawal After Season Start

3. Once the regular season has begun, refunds are prorated based on the number of full weeks remaining in the season at the time written notice is received, minus the non-refundable deposit.
4. No refunds will be considered after January 1st, except for injury (see Section 3) or extraordinary circumstances approved by the Board (e.g., family relocation out of the area).

Non-Refundable Items

- Registration deposit/processing fee (all circumstances except division cancellation by JYH).
- Costs already incurred on the player's behalf that cannot be recovered by JYH (e.g., ordered apparel, paid tournament entries, league registration fees already remitted to NGHL/WGHL).

3.34 Requesting a Refund or Credit

- Submit a written request to the Board (email is acceptable) describing the reason for withdrawal.
- For injury requests, attach the required physician documentation.
- The Board will review the request at its next regular or special meeting and respond in writing within 30 days.
- Approved refunds will be processed within 30 days of Board approval, by check or original payment method, at the Board's discretion. Approved credits will be applied to the player's account for the following season.

Summary Table

Scenario	Documentation Required	Typical Outcome
Injury – 6+ weeks out (physician-confirmed)	Doctor's note w/ expected duration	Prorated credit/refund, capped at 50%, Board discretion
Injury – misses 50%+ of season	Doctor's note	Eligible for dues reduction, Board discretion

Injury request after Jan 15	N/A	Not eligible except extraordinary circumstance
Withdrawal before season start	Written notice	Full refund minus credit card processing fee
Withdrawal after season starts (non-injury)	Written notice	Prorated by weeks remaining, minus processing fee
Withdrawal after Jan 1st (non-injury)	N/A	Not eligible except Board-approved exception

Section 4 - Teams and Programs

4.1 Teams and Programs

JYH offers the following teams and programs:

- **6U Mini-Mite** - Our 6U Minimate hockey program is open to children who are first-time and beginner players. Generally, the program is intended for children who are 4-6 years old though older players with no previous hockey experience may also be appropriate. 5U Mite is designed for children who have little knowledge about the game of ice hockey. We will work on basic skills such as skating stride, how to hold a stick, passing and shooting. In addition to skills, we will teach the rules of the game in a fun and supportive environment. While mminites will be eligible to play in our home Mite tournament and there may be some tournaments arranged both within JYH and from surrounding communities.
- **8U Mite** – Our 8U Mite program serves children ages 7 - 8 and implements USA Hockey’s Cross-Ice American Development Model (ADM) to maximize the development of skills necessary to learn and play the game of ice hockey. Cross-Ice games are played from side to side in the rink (not end to end), giving the players more puck handling, more shots, more saves and more goals – and more fun. While 8U Mites will be eligible to play in our home Mite tournament and there may be tournaments arranged both within JYH and from surrounding communities.
- **10u Squirt** – Our squirt program is open to players who meet the USA Hockey age requirements for the squirt level, generally 9 and 10 year olds. Our squirt program is a travel program and participants are expected to be willing and able to travel with the team absent extenuating circumstances. However, subject to year-by-year circumstances or other considerations, the general expectation is that the squirts will practice three times a week and will play in six tournaments – five travel tournaments and one home tournament.
- **12U PeeWee** – Our pee wee program is open to players who meet the USA Hockey age requirements for the pee wee level, generally 11 and 12 year olds. Our peewee program is a travel program and participants are expected to be willing and able to travel with the team absent extenuating circumstances. However, subject to year-by-year circumstances or other considerations, the general expectation is that the pee wees will practice three times a week and will play in six tournaments – five travel tournaments and one home tournament.
- **14U Bantam** – Our bantam program is open to players who meet the USA Hockey age requirements for the bantam level, generally 13 and 14 year olds. Our bantam program is a travel program and participants are expected to be willing and able to travel with the team absent extenuating circumstances. However, subject to year-by-year circumstances or other considerations, the general expectation is that the bantams will practice three times a week,

may participate in WAHL (and therefore be subject to all WAHL rules and procedures) and will have 4 additional tournaments – three travel tournaments and one home tournament.

- High School - Our High School program is open to players who meet the USA Hockey age requirements for the midget level, generally 15-18 year olds. Our High School program is a travel program and participants are expected to be willing and able to travel with the team absent extenuating circumstances. However, subject to year-by-year circumstances or other considerations, the general expectation is that the midgets will practice three times a week, will participate in WAHL (and therefore be subject to all WAHL rules and procedures). The midget team (or, if there are enough players in any given year for more than one High School teams, the most senior midget team) is considered a high school varsity sport and will be approached as such in terms of expectations as to player commitment, allocation of playing time, etc. JYH has established an arrangement with Jackson Hole High School to allow our midget players to earn varsity letters so long as they meet JHHS' requirements for lettering. Our High School teams will therefore adhere to these lettering requirements, including as they related to academic standards and eligibility.
- 19U Girls - Our 19U girls program is generally directed at high school girls, though we will consider participation by younger girls based on skill and safety considerations, number of players and other considerations. Our 19U girls program is a travel program and participants are expected to be willing and able to travel with the team absent extenuating circumstances. However, subject to year-by-year circumstances or other considerations, the general expectation is that the 19U girls will practice three times a week, will participate in WAHL (and therefore be subject to all WAHL rules and procedures) and will have play in additional tournaments as determined each season. The 19U girls team is considered a high school varsity sport and will be approached as such in terms of expectations as to player commitment, allocation of playing time, etc. JYH has established an arrangement with Jackson Hole High School to allow our U19 girls players to earn varsity letters so long as they meet JHHS' requirements for lettering. Our 19U girls teams will therefore adhere to these lettering requirements, including as they related to academic standards and eligibility.

• Other Teams / Programs – JYH may offer other teams and programs on a year-by-year basis as determined by our Board of Directors based on player needs, interest level, etc. A specific description of any such additional teams or programs will be set forth in the Team Description provided at registration prior to each season.

4.2 Annual Team Descriptions

While it is the goal of JYH to provide a consistent approach to our programs and teams on a year-by-year basis so that players and parents can know what to expect on a year-by-year basis, the reality of youth sports in less-populated areas such as Jackson is that there are a number of variables each year that are largely outside of our control – e.g. how many players sign up for each team, the skill level of those players, the number of teams / skill level of other teams in the region, etc. Thus, we need the flexibility to adapt our teams to each year's circumstances. On the other hand, we understand that in committing to a team and paying the fee for the team, parents and players need to understand the approach to that team, how the team will be managed, a general sense of schedule, etc. In that light, prior to the beginning of each season we will publish a Team Description for each team. The Team Description will include the following information:

If there will be more than one team at a particular level, how the teams will be divided

If teams will be divided based on skill, how and when that determination will be made

Who will be coaching at that level and, if there is more than one team, how coaching will be divided between the teams

A description of the practice and tournament schedule for the team (if all schedule details have not been worked out by that time, we will provide a general description of the approach that will be used for scheduling, including the philosophy with respect to travel and level of competition – e.g., more regional "B" tournaments, etc.).

• The general philosophy / approach to playing time

· Any other teams' rules / requirements (e.g., practice attendance policies, etc.)

4.3 JYH as Primary Team

We understand that many JYH players play for other teams throughout the season. While we fully encourage JYH players to take advantage of all opportunities available to them to further develop as a hockey player, it is JYH's expectation that all registered JYH players will treat JYH as their primary team. Failure to do this could impact a player's good standing and playing time on their JYH team.

4.4 Playing Up or Down

USA Hockey sets a maximum age limit for each youth division and JYH follows these age divisions. Under no circumstances are older players permitted by USA Hockey to skate at a younger age level. Moreover, it is not JYH policy to encourage younger players to skate up on an older team.

Section 5 - Coaches

5.1 Certification

JYH coaches and assistant coaches are all USA Hockey certified, meaning they have all completed the USA Hockey coaching modules and seminars. JYH reimburses coaches and assistant coaches for the costs of participating in Coaching Education Programs, including clinics and age- specific training modules.

5.2 Screenings

USA Hockey mandates background screening for all coaches and assistant coaches. Screenings must be completed by November 1st of each year. JYH covers the costs of screenings. Information with respect to screening is available on our website.

5.3 Selection of Coaches

Anyone interested in serving as a coach or assistant coach to any of our programs should contact JYH's Player Development Committee or Player Development Director. JYH 's policy is to select the most qualified head coaches from among all interested candidates. The Player Development Director along with the Player Development Committee of the board will oversee the coaches in all programs and monitor the progress of teams.

5.4 Responsibilities of Coaches

The PDC guides and assists all coaches in their instruction and coaching. JYH strives to develop a common philosophy regarding player instruction and development that is consistent at all levels of the program. Each head coach is expected to hold an initial team or program meeting before the season gets underway to explain the program. Each coach signs a coaching contract that holds them to rigorous standards each season.

5.5 Coaches Compensation

Compensation for head coaches and assistant coaches will be determined by the Board of Directors at the beginning of each season, based on recommendation of the PDC.

Section 6 – Organization and Governance

6.1 Board of Directors

JYH is overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors composed of parents, coaches and other community members. The Board of Directors is subject to and governed by the terms of JYH's Bylaws, a copy of which is available on our website. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors or would like to nominate someone else to the Board, please complete the board application on our website.

6.2 Program Director / Player Development Director

The day-to-day operations of JYH are managed by the Program Director and Player Development Director. The Program Director and Player Development Director are chosen by, and report to, the Board of Directors.

6.3 Team Managers

Each team will have one or more volunteer parents serve as Team Manager. The Team Manager helps the coaching staff plan and organize the off-ice activities that occur during the hockey season. The Team Manager is also responsible for facilitating good communication between the coaching staff and parents. The Team Manager's duties include:

- Sharing Schedules
- Compiling and providing the team roster for each tournament.
- Assisting JYH's administrator in collecting paperwork from participating players' families and maintaining a team notebook (approved rosters and consent to treat).
- Communicating with parents. Crossbar is our preferred form of communication.
- Distributing game jerseys to team members at the beginning of the season and collecting those jerseys from team members at the end of the season.
- Alerting parents to changes in schedules and upcoming events.
- Preparing for and assisting in the execution of the team's home tournament
- Coordinating travel and lodging for out-of-town games and tournaments. (not required, but encouraged)

6.5 Parent Volunteers

JYH is a volunteer-run organization, and we need parent participation at all levels – from coaches to timekeepers to Board members. JYH must have parent participation from all teams to maintain the high standards that have been established for JYH. We strongly encourage all parents to do whatever they can to assist with our terrific program.

Section 7 – Code of Conduct and Discipline

7.1 General Standards of Conduct

JYH expects all coaches, players and families to conduct themselves appropriately, to adhere to the good sportsmanship embodied in the policies of USA Hockey and to respect the facilities at our home rink and the rinks of opponents. Players, parents and coaches must sign the JYH Code of Conduct and abide by all provisions at all times or be subject to disciplinary action by the Board. JYH insists upon the following standards of conduct:

Players, parents, coaches, and associated spectators shall not use foul, disrespectful, derogatory, or abusive language or gestures.

Players, parents, coaches, and associated spectators will not harass officials or other players, coaches, or spectators.

7.2 USA Hockey Code of Conduct

JYH requires all coaches, players, and parents to abide by the official rules and policies promulgated by USA Hockey as set forth in the USA Hockey Annual Guide including the following:

7.2.1 Parent's Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct identifies the expected behavior standards of all Jackson Youth Hockey members. The Jackson Youth Hockey Organization aims to ensure a respectful sports environment for all.

Members of the Jackson Youth Hockey Organization shall conduct themselves at all times in a fair and responsible manner. Members shall refrain from comments or behaviors that are disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist, or sexist. The Organization will not tolerate harassing or abusive behavior.

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and opposing players, coaches and teams.
- I will communicate only POSITIVE comments during games/practices/team events to Referees, Players, Coaches, Managers and other parents.
- I will emphasize good sportsmanship, playing by the rules, and improving practice skills. I will never force my child to play or verbally/physically abuse my child at practice or post-game.
- I will provide support for coaches, trainers and officials who are working with my child to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
- I will not approach the trainers or coaches with an impending issue before; during or after a training and/or practice session and games.
- I will not coach any player or interfere with any coaching activities during the training/practice sessions or games; this includes telling any player what to do when they have the puck (pass, shoot, etc.)
- I agree not to criticize Jackson Youth Hockey coaches and organization in a public forum or on social media.
- I understand that profanity, swearing, or abusive language is NOT tolerated at events or in communication with coaches, referees, or officials. I will NOT boo or taunt officials, opponents or other fans. I will refrain from questioning or hassling officials during or post-game. I will allow coaches to handle all officiating matters.
- I understand that fighting will NOT be tolerated.
- I understand at Pee wee and above, league policy prohibits parents in locker rooms except for SafeSport trained monitors.
- I am also responsible for the behavior of any guest that I may bring to any team activity.

- I will also encourage my player to first discuss any concerns with the Coach. Conflict resolution is an important learned skill, and parents should provide player support necessary to resolve their own issues particularly to discuss playing time, systems, or issues with a teammate. 24 Hour Rule-Conflict Resolution If a conflict emerges between the parent/player and a coaching staff member at any time:
- I will allow a minimum of 24 hours between parent/player and coach contact. This allows time for emotions to calm down. I will first contact the Team Manager either verbally or in writing, during reasonable hours (9am to 9pm) who will facilitate a meeting with the Coach, if desired. If I am NOT satisfied with results, a joint meeting with the Head Coach and player may be scheduled.
- If no resolution, a meeting with the Coach and Hockey Director may be scheduled.

Parents or Guardians registering their players with Jackson Youth Hockey agree to the above Parent Code of Conduct and understand that failure to uphold any of these statements may result in disciplinary action by the Coaches or Hockey Director, which may include, but is not limited to verbal warning, corrective action meeting, letter of counseling, parent/player suspension or dismissal, monetary sanctions and/or the forfeiture of the opportunity to attend and watch my/our child participate in any training, practice sessions, game, tournament, or any other Club function or

7.2.2 Player's Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct identifies the expected behavior standards of all Jackson Hole Youth Hockey Club members. The Jackson Hole Youth Hockey Organization aims to ensure a respectful sports environment for all.

Members of the Jackson Youth Hockey Organization shall conduct themselves at all times in a fair and responsible manner. Members shall refrain from comments or behaviors that are disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist, or sexist. The Organization will not tolerate harassing or abusive behavior.

As a player for Jackson Youth Hockey, I hereby promise to uphold the following Player's Code of Conduct:

- My first priority will be to play for the Jackson Hole Moose. I can play for supplemental teams if they do not conflict with my Jackson Hole Moose schedule.
- I promise to maintain a positive attitude during all Jackson Youth Hockey events, practices and games.
- I promise to be punctual and ready at the time that I am required to be present for all practices, training sessions, games and events.
- I promise to notify the coach/trainer or team manager 24 hours in advance of training/practice absence and 48 hours in advance of game day absence (emergency situations excepted).
- I promise to be a team player and encourage my fellow teammates at all times.
- I promise to follow the directions of my coaches and trainers.
- I promise to respect my teammates, coaches and trainers. I will accept the authority of my coach when disciplined.
- I promise to respect and not criticize opposing players, coaches, teams, or spectators.
- I promise to respect and not criticize or raise my voice to officials.
- I promise that I will not use foul or degrading language while playing for Jackson Youth Hockey.
- I promise that I will not engage in any flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct during any practice, training session, game or event.
- *I promise that I will not use a cell phone or other mobile device with recording capabilities inside the locker room. All media recording apps and still camera apps for phones are also prohibited including, but not limited to, Tik Tok, Instagram, Snapchat, etc. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, players will take devices outside the locker room. Coaches and team managers will have discretion over cell phone use for music in the locker room.
- I promise to conduct myself appropriately on Social Media and never engage in online bullying, hazing, harassment, or criticism of any member of Jackson Youth Hockey or the organization.
- I will respect all equipment, locker rooms, and playing facilities.
- I understand that playing time is not guaranteed and I recognize that players will earn more playing time based on effort, ability and attitude at practices and games.

- I promise to refrain from any and all alcohol, drug, tobacco or vaping products. I understand these products are detrimental to my overall health and development. I may be subject to drug testing if reasonable suspicion of use of these substances occurs.
- I will maintain academic eligibility by adhering to all academic protocols and standards to participate in games and team activities.
- I will accept victory AND defeat with Dignity.

Registered players for Jackson Youth Hockey agree to the above Code of Conduct and understand that failure to uphold any of these statements may result in disciplinary action by the Coaches or Hockey Director, which may include, but is not limited to, removal from remainder of practice or training session, loss of playing time for some or all of next scheduled game, suspension from future games and/or suspension or removal from organization

7.2.3 Spectator's Code of Conduct

- Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials. Act appropriately, do not taunt or disturb other fans; enjoy the game together.
- Cheer good plays of all participants; avoid booing opponents.
- Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive.
- Help provide a safe and fun environment; throwing any item on the ice surface can cause injury to players and officials.
- Do not lean over or pound on the glass; the glass surrounding the ice surface is part of the playing area.
- Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
- Be responsible for your own safety – be alert to prevent accidents from flying pucks and other avoidable situations.
- Respect locker rooms as private areas for players, coaches and officials.
- Be supportive after the game – win or lose. Recognize good effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.

The USA Hockey Annual Guide also includes the official rules for youth hockey and other important policies, including Safe Sport Policy, Gender Equity – Co-Ed Locker Rooms and Consumption/Use/Abuse of Mood-Altering Substances. The USA Hockey Annual Guide is updated annually and is available on USA Hockey's website.

7.3 Safesports Travel Policy

At **Jackson Youth Hockey (JYH)**, player safety is our top priority. Travel—especially overnight travel—creates increased risk due to unfamiliar environments and extended time away from home. This Travel Policy is designed to minimize one-on-one interactions, reduce risk of misconduct, and ensure proper supervision during both local and overnight travel.

JYH adheres to the SafeSport policies of **USA Hockey**.

Types of Travel

JYH distinguishes between:

1. **Local Travel** – Travel to and from practices, games, or events not coordinated by JYH.
2. **Team Travel** – NOT APPLICABLE- JYH Currently does not provide Team Travel. Overnight travel coordinated, sponsored, or arranged by JYH or a JYH team (tournaments, league weekends, state, etc.).

Local Travel Policy

Local travel occurs when JYH does not sponsor or coordinate transportation.

Parent Responsibility

- Parents/guardians are fully responsible for arranging transportation.

Coaches & Volunteers Transporting Players

- NON-Parent Coaches, volunteers, and staff who are not the player's parent **should not drive alone with an unrelated minor player.**
- Transportation should include:
 - At least two players, OR
 - Another screened adult present
- If unavoidable, written parental consent must be obtained in advance.
- Parent Coaches who are also a player's parent must pick up their own child first and drop off their own child last in carpool situations.

JYH strongly discourages one-on-one transportation situations.

Conduct Expectations During Travel

The following are strictly prohibited during travel:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual misconduct
- Emotional abuse
- Bullying
- Hazing
- Harassment
- Threats
- Possession or use of drugs, alcohol, vaping devices, or tobacco
- Entering another player's hotel room without permission
- Inappropriate behavior in hotels or public spaces

Coaches and chaperones may not consume alcohol or be under the influence of drugs while supervising players.

One-on-One Interactions

- Private meetings between a coach and player may not occur in hotel rooms.
- Meetings must occur in public areas or with another screened adult present.
- Every effort will be made to avoid isolated one-on-one situations.

Reporting Misconduct

JYH prohibits all forms of abuse and misconduct as outlined by **USA Hockey SafeSport**.

If you witness or suspect misconduct:

1. Notify a JYH coach, team manager, or board member immediately.
2. Report directly to USA Hockey SafeSport:

- Email: SafeSport@usahockey.org
- Phone: 1-800-888-4656

All concerns will be taken seriously.

7.4 Zero Tolerance Policy

USA Hockey has instituted a zero-tolerance policy that requires all players, coaches, team officials, parents and spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA-Hockey sanctioned games. Under this policy, penalties will be assessed against players and coaches for unsportsmanlike conduct. In addition, games will be stopped when parents or spectators display inappropriate or disruptive behavior and violate the codes of conduct outlined above. In such instances, coaches must remove the disruptive individuals from the viewing and game area. JYH intends to enforce this policy and violators may be subject to further disciplinary actions by JYH in the discretion of the Board of Directors.

7.5 24 Hour Rule

Parents and coaches should not discuss a game, a game incident or a situation that occurred during a game that has provoked an adverse emotional response or created a hostile situation until a minimum of 24 hours after the incident. An exception to this policy is physical or sexual indiscretion or any situation that compromises the immediate safety of the children.

Hockey is an emotional sport. The physical battles that players fight for control of the puck can spill on to the bench and stands and create strong reactions from coaches. This intense emotional aspect of hockey is one of the reasons it makes for exciting entertainment.

For parents, it is important to separate game emotions from the best interests of their child's sports development. For this reason, JYH has adopted the "24 Hour Rule." The intent of the rule is to move an emotional and confrontational discussion away from the presence of the players, and to allow the parties to "cool off", compose themselves and put the provoking incident or situation that occurred in perspective before meeting to discuss it. Our executive director and coaches are instructed to adhere to this 24-hour rule and thus may elect not to engage in a discussion with a parent or player of it is initiated within less than 24 hours.

7.6 Discipline

Violation of JYH rules (or additional rules established by individual teams and communicated to the players and parents) by players, parents, or spectators, whether in connection with JYH events or, in the discretion of JYH, outside of JYH, may result in discipline. Depending on the level of infraction, the discipline may be determined by the appropriate coach, Executive Director or Board of Directors and may include a variety of consequences ranging from reduced playing time for a game or games, suspension from one or more games, prohibition from attending JYH events for a period of time and, ultimately, expulsion from the JYH program. Any discipline decisions made by a coach or the Executive Director or by the Board of Directors will be made weighing the facts and circumstances of the situation but will ultimately be in the discretion of the decision maker.

7.7 Academics

All JYH participants are expected to put forth significant effort in their schoolwork and strive to maintain good academic standing. School comes before hockey. In connection with providing our Midget Boys and U19 Girls the ability to earn varsity letter, JYH requires these players to follow the JHHS grade check protocol. A parent release form must be signed by parents so that grades may be released to the team manager to assure academic eligibility.

Section 8 – Concussion

8.1: General Concussion Management Policy

1.1 Purpose

Jackson Youth Hockey (JYH) is committed to protecting the health and safety of every player. This policy establishes consistent expectations for recognizing, responding to, and managing suspected concussions across all JYH programs, and applies equally to coaches, officials, players, and parents/guardians.

1.2 Definitions

- Concussion / Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): A disturbance in brain function caused by a direct blow to the head, face, or neck, or a blow elsewhere on the body that transmits an impulsive force to the head. Concussions are often described as a “mild” brain injury because they are rarely life-threatening, but their effects can still be serious and cumulative.
- Qualified Healthcare Provider: For purposes of this policy, a licensed medical provider with training and experience specific to the evaluation and management of sport-related concussions (for example, a physician, neurologist, neuropsychologist, or athletic trainer practicing within a concussion-specific protocol). General medical clearance from a provider without this specific training does not satisfy this definition.

1.3 Recognition and Immediate Removal from Participation

Any player suspected of having sustained a concussion or TBI must be removed immediately from the JYH activity in progress — including games, practices, training sessions, camps, clinics, or tryouts. Removal may and should be initiated by any of the following:

- The coach or team official overseeing the activity;
- An on-ice or off-ice official who observes signs or symptoms consistent with a possible concussion; or
- The player’s parent or legal guardian, who may request removal at any time based on their own observation or concern.

Responsibility for recognizing and acting on a suspected concussion is shared — no single coach, official, or parent bears sole responsibility, and any one of them has the authority to remove a player from play. Once removed, a player may not return to that same game, practice, or event, regardless of how minor the suspected injury appears.

1.4 No Same-Day Return to Play

A player removed for a suspected concussion will not return to participation for the remainder of that session under any circumstances — even if symptoms appear to resolve quickly or the player states they feel fine. This standard applies without exception to regular season and playoff games, scrimmages and inter-squad play, on-ice practices and skill sessions, camps, clinics, and tryouts, and any other JYH-sanctioned ice activity.

1.5 Notification and Documentation

- The individual who initiates removal must notify the player’s parent or legal guardian as soon as reasonably possible.
- The incident must be documented in writing — including the date, activity, description of the suspected injury, and who initiated removal — and provided to JYH administration.
- Once received, the written medical clearance described in Section 2 must be retained in the player’s file.

1.6 Baseline Concussion Testing

JYH recommends that all players ages 10 and above complete a baseline computerized cognitive assessment (such as ImPACT Testing) prior to the season. Baseline results give a qualified healthcare provider a pre-injury comparison point, which can meaningfully improve the accuracy of post-injury evaluation and recovery tracking. Baseline testing is strongly encouraged but does not replace any step of the return-to-participation protocol in Section 2.

1.7 Why This Policy Matters

A repeat concussion sustained before the brain has fully recovered from a prior injury — which can take hours, days, or weeks — carries elevated risk of prolonged recovery and, in rare cases, serious complications including brain swelling, permanent injury, or death. This is the basis for the no-exceptions removal and clearance standards in this policy. Families are encouraged to review the CDC's concussion awareness resources at cdc.gov/headsup.

8.2: Education

Recognition and response depend on everyone at the rink knowing what to watch for. JYH has the following annual education, to be shared prior to the start of each season:

- All players, all parents/legal guardians, board members and coaches are shared a concussion recognition and safety training annually, prior to the start of the season via a video link.
- New coaches and any parent/guardian joining mid-season will be asked to complete the video training before their first involvement with a JYH team.

Section 9- Other

9.1 Equipment

A current list of required equipment for each player is found on our website. The website also includes information with respect to current options for renting equipment. If you have any questions with respect to equipment for your player, please ask our executive director or your player's coach.

9.2 Communications

Our website - www.jyhockey.org - provides comprehensive and current information on registration, teams, calendars, fees, and schedules as well as contact information for our executive director, coaches and members of our Board. The website is updated regularly and offers a terrific resource for many of the questions that you may have. Our coaches and team managers communicate with parents primarily through the website or by email. Changes in practice schedules and games are typically sent by email. It is important that you provide a working email address when you register your child.

9.4 JYH On-Ice, On-Bench Participation Policy

Only head coaches, assistant coaches, instructors, and players who are registered and insured by USA Hockey and assigned to that particular team are permitted to be on the ice and/or on the player bench during practices and games.