

MT64 Hockey Association

2024-25 Youth Hockey Parent and Player Handbook

Please read the document in detail and initial to each section acknowledging that you have read, understand, and will adhere to the MT64 Hockey Association policies listed below.

Parent/Guardian, please initial below to acknowledge that you have read, understand, and will adhere to the MT64 Hockey Association policies listed below:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registration Fee Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Refund Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Gear Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Player Conduct Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Conduct Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USA Hockey Player Conduct Agreement | | |

Parent and/or Guardian Signature _____

Coach's Signature _____

MT-64 Hockey Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization aimed at creating on-ice opportunities to learn and play youth ice hockey.

Mission:

To provide education, equipment, and access to facilities to teach hockey to Big Sky area youth.

Provide local and regional competitive hockey opportunities for Big Sky area youth.

Operations:

Business mailing address:

P O Box 160669

Big Sky MT 59716

Rink address:

285 Simkins Dr.

Big Sky MT 59716

Website:

MT64hockeyassociation.org

Youth Hockey Director:

Joseph McFadden

montanasixtyfours@gmail.com

Youth Registrar/Administrator:

Kathy Kwarciak

admin@mt64hockeyassociation.org

Registration

Players will be asked to sign up to play prior to the start of the season on our website MT64HockeyAssociation.org. Parents need to complete the MT64 Hockey Association registration as well as registering on the USA Hockey site and providing their USA Hockey number. Any refunds requested will be considered on an individual basis by the Board of Directors.

MT64 Team Divisions

6/8U

10-12U

Girls 19U

Junior Varsity/19U

Equipment

It is required that all MT64 players wear all appropriate protective equipment as described here, and further in the USA Hockey Official Playing Rule Book before entering any play surface and/or bench area. Said equipment will include the following:

- A. Skates – approved HECC skates of hockey design
- B. Shin pads
- C. Pants
- D. Hockey Socks
- E. Athletic supporter with cup or pelvic protector (mandatory for male and female players)
- F. Shoulder pads with chest protector
- G. Elbow pads
- H. Hockey gloves
- I. Hockey helmet with full protective mask and chin protector. Must be HECC approved. It is compulsory for all players in all classifications to wear a helmet with helmet strap properly fastened. All players on the players bench and penalty bench must wear the protective helmet and facemask while in the bench area and on the ice surface. For

violation of this rule, after a warning from the referee, a misconduct penalty shall be assessed to the offending player.

J. Mouth Guard

K. Neck guard

L. Hockey sticks must conform to USA Hockey regulations

M. Hockey jerseys – it is recommended that game jerseys be worn only for game play

SafeSport and Mandatory Reporting

All coaches and officials are members of USA Hockey, ensuring that they have undergone SafeSport training and certification. SafeSport is a national training program designed for all coaches working with youth in sports programs.

SafeSport encompasses, among other topics:

Sexual misconduct/abuse prevention

Bullying

Hazing

Emotional and physical misconduct

Locker room interactions/policies

As Mandatory Reporters, our coaching and officiating staff will have the tools and resources to address potential sexual and physical abuse/misconduct, along with reporting to the proper officials within the Gallatin County Sheriff's Department.

Parents in Locker Rooms

Except for players at the younger age groups (8U and under), we discourage parents from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a player needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear, if the player is or may be injured, or a player's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that the parents let the coach know beforehand that he or she will be helping the player.

Naturally, with our youngest age groups, it's necessary for parents to assist the players in getting dressed. We encourage parents to team their players and learn how to get dressed so that players will learn as early as possible how to dress independently. In circumstances where parents are permitted in the locker room, coaches are permitted to ask that the parents leave for a short time before the game and for a short time after the game so that the coaches may

meet with the team. As players get older, the coach may, in his or her discretion, prohibit parents from entering the locker room.

Travel Expenses

The Board of Directors may approve payment for travel expenses incurred by members of the MT64 Board when volunteering on behalf of MT64. Requests for reimbursement for travel expenses incurred to attend approved meetings in which MT64 participates shall be presented to the Board of Directors and evaluated and approved on an individual basis.

Zero Tolerance Policy

The MT64 Hockey Association is committed to ensuring hockey is a positive experience for all participants pursued in a sportsmanlike environment. A **ZERO TOLERANCE** approach will be taken with all players, coaches, team officials, parents, and spectators who display disrespect toward on/off ice officials, coaches, players, volunteers, and spectators before, during, and after all games, practices, and all MT64 sponsored events.

Per MCA 45-5-211, assault or intimidation of a sports official is a misdemeanor, and persons convicted shall be fined up to \$1,000 or imprisoned up to six months in the county jail.

Players:

A minor player penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
2. Uses obscene, profane, or abusive language or gestures, even if not directed toward a person.
3. Makes gestures or visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision.
4. Challenges the authority or competence of an official.
5. Attempts to incite abuse or disrespect of any official by others.
6. Attempts to intimidate an official
7. Makes comments or gestures intended to be personally directed at an official.

Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.

Coaches:

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.

3. Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision, including standing on the boards or standing in the bench doorway with the intent of inciting the officials, players, or spectators.
4. Attempts to intimidate an official
5. Makes comments or gestures intended to be personally directed at an official.

Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

Officials:

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial, and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited. On-ice officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

Parents/Spectators:

The game will be stopped by on-ice officials when the parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators of the game.

The on-ice officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectators' viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced, and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the governing body of MT64. Inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

1. Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
2. Taunting of players, coaches, officials, or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing threat of physical violence, or any physical violence.

Parents or guardians will be informed of inappropriate behavior and contacted to discuss corrective solutions. An Incident Report may be filed if deemed necessary.

MT64 does not tolerate bullying, hitting, or other violent behavior among players, coaches, officials, and parent spectators and volunteers. If an incident occurs where a child conducts himself/herself in such a manner which jeopardizes their safety or the safety of others, coaches, will take the steps outlined below. However, MT64 reserves the right at any time to dismiss a child from the program immediately or deny enrollment if we deem unsafe placement due to environment, physical, emotional, or other harm to themselves, other children, and staff. Children who have been an issue at programs in the past may have an individualized behavior management plan developed with the Discipline Committee if they intend to continue attending the program.

Discipline Policy

Discipline is based on an understanding of an individual's needs. Our goal is to develop self-discipline, responsibility for self, sportsmanship, and respect for others. It is based on positive reinforcement, reasonable expectations, logical consequences, redirection, and diversion. We strive to work with every child to accommodate their needs, but that is a two-way street. Repeated violations are terms of dismissal.

1. First Violation – a coach will address the issue directly with the child and document the behavior with an Incident Report. The child may be removed from an activity for the day, such as activity time, free time, etc. The parent or guardian may receive a phone call and may be asked to pick up their child within the hour depending on the severity of the incident. Parents will be briefed at the end of their practice.
2. Second Violation – a coach will address the issue directly with the child and document the behavior with an Incident Report. The child may be suspended for the next practice or practices that he/she is registered for depending on the severity of the incident and the next game(s). An individualized behavior plan may be created by the Discipline Committee to correct inappropriate behavior that may prevent playing.
3. Third Violation – a coach will address the issue directly with the child and document the behavior with an Incident Report. Parents will be contacted immediately to pick up their child from the program. The Discipline Committee will contact the parent or guardian to discuss the potential/steps to return to the program. The child may be suspended for a number of practices and games that he/she is registered for, depending on the severity of the incident. MT64 reserves the right to dismiss or suspend a player from the program for the remainder of the season.

All incidents listed below will result in immediate dismissal:

Bodily Harm towards an adult or child

Leaving Len Hill Park during the ice programs

Bringing any weapon or harmful materials to ice programs.

Throwing of any object on the spectators viewing area, player bench, penalty box, or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

Any person who violates the zero-tolerance policy at any MT64 related event can be removed from the premises by the President or the Vice President of the Association or any member of the Board of Directors after they have contacted and received approval from the Association President or Vice President. An incident report must be completed by the Association representative onsite and given to the MT64 President within 24 hours of the incident.

Parents or spectators who display disrespect/verbal abuse towards officials, coaches, players, or spectators will be reported to the Board. An incident report form should be completed and given to the President within 72 hours of the incident. The President will forward such report to the Discipline Committee who will review the incident report and forward to the Disciplinary Committee who in turn will recommend the appropriate disciplinary action. The President will then impose such disciplinary action as decided by the Discipline Committee.

CODE OF CONDUCT PLEDGE: It is a requirement for all players, coaches, parents, and officials to read, sign, and submit a pledge to abide by the Code of Conduct pertaining to the membership within the Association each holds. The Code of Conduct must be signed annually.

Hazing: It is the policy of MT64 that there shall be no hazing of any participant involved in any of its programs, training camps/clinics, coach's clinics, referee clinics, practices (on-ice and off-ice), games, tournaments, etc. by any player, coach, official, parent/spectator, volunteer, participant or independent contractor.

Definition: Conduct which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, offensive or physically harmful. Any player, coach, team official, executive member of a team, club, or association having been party to or having had knowledge of any degrading hazing or initiation rite, without reporting it or acting, shall be subject to suspension from playing, coaching, officiating or holding any office with any team within MT64.

Behavioral Policy

At MT64, we understand that kids make mistakes, have accidents, and are learning about boundaries. Our coaches are trained to uphold a safe, healthy, and positive environment, and we strive to work out any potential problems that arise. However, we also expect a certain behavioral standard from all our participants. Our expectations are as follows and are discussed daily with participants.

Respect

- 1. Follow directions and cooperate with coaches.**
- 2. Treat all coaches, players, officials, equipment with respect.**
- 3. Stay on the ice and within sight of coaches at all times.**
- 4. Use appropriate language.**
- 5. Come dressed and ready to skate.**
- 6. Have a positive attitude and try all drills.....HAVE FUN!!**

