

# WHEELING AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

2024-2025

## HANDBOOK AND POLICES

Player/Parent/Volunteer/Manager/Coach



## INFORMATION FOR WAHA 2024/2025

Founded in 1964, WAHA is a non-profit community striving to provide our players with a competitive and complete youth hockey development experience. Our goal is to develop every players' fundamental hockey skills while teaching life lessons consisting of discipline, effort, and teamwork.

WAHA provides a competitive travel hockey program at an affordable cost allowing for players to grow their skills. Travel teams compete in the Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League (PAHL). The league is made up of youth hockey associations in and around the Western PA region, competing in divisions ranging from B to AA. Our teams are predominantly placed at the single A major and A minor levels. All the key information you need to prepare for the upcoming hockey season is contained in this newsletter.

Please read this guide in its entirety before registering. The strength and success of our organization lies within the participation of our membership. We invite every member to volunteer and help our association continue to provide an affordable travel hockey program.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to another great hockey season!

### TRAVEL COMMITMENT



PAHL games are played on weekends and may extend as far north as Erie, as far east as State College, as far south as Morgantown WV, and as far west as Youngstown, OH. If a team qualifies, they will play in the PAHL playoffs. In addition, teams are encouraged to play in at least two tournaments. Tournament fees, travel costs, etc. are not included in the Season Player Fee.

## EVALUATION DETAILS

### DAY OF EVALUATION/CHECK-IN

- Fees due at registration: All players and goaltenders must complete an evaluation registration prior to evaluations
- Evaluation registration, contract and payment are to be completed by April 1, 2024.
- Arrive at the rink in plenty of time to check in and change.
- WAHA practice jerseys will be used for tryouts, if you do not have one, it will be provided to you.

### EVALUATION ABSENCES

- If a player is going to miss all or part of the evaluation process due to injury, illness or a school-related conflict, you must still complete the WAHA evaluation registration and .
- Notify: [wheelinghockey@gmail.com](mailto:wheelinghockey@gmail.com) as early as possible.
- We will do our best to accommodate a player's absence within the player placement process.

## REGISTRATION DETAILS

### POST-EVALUATIONS: WHAT Happens Next?

- Team assignments will be posted to <http://www.waha.com> on Friday, April 17, 2024
- Players are identified by jersey number only.
- Teams are identified by Coach's name.
- Online Registration opens after team assignments have been posted.

### SEASON PLAYER FEE: \$1,100.00.

- Fee does not cover equipment/extra tournaments/overnight stays/scrimmages.
- Season fee does not cover the annual USA Hockey fee or other membership dues.
- Girls, U16, U18 fees may vary, depending on season/tournament scheduling.
- There are several different payment plans to accommodate families.

#### 1. REGISTER WITH USA HOCKEY

- Start by getting a 2024-2025 USA Hockey registration number (IMR). USA Hockey's new season registration opens on April 1  
<http://www.usahockeyregistration.com>

#### 2. REGISTER FOR WHEELING JR. NAILERS

- Registration opens online April 17, 2024 for Travel teams.
- With your new USA Hockey registration number form handy, go to the WAHA web site at [www.wvaha.com](http://www.wvaha.com) and register for your WAHA age group. Link with directions from the WAHA home page. Pay the commitment fee after choosing the appropriate payment plan with a credit card online.

## FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Satisfaction of all financial obligations to WAHA is the sole responsibility of the player and parent/legal guardian. Any unfulfilled financial obligation shall be the basis of denial of access to all practices, games, tournaments, and other WAHA functions until the obligation is fulfilled.

Membership Fee Requirements, Late Fees and Delinquency: All player membership fees must be paid in full or current if paying via a WAHA approved payment plan (payment dates as determined by the WAHA Treasurer). Fees are non-refundable and financial obligations due to WAHA may only be waived at the discretion of the WAHA BOD. Situations involving major illness, injury, or hardship will be considered by the WAHA BOD on a case-by case basis.

WAHA, in partnership with Wheeling Park, has completed Phase 2 of significant renovations in the summer of 2020 at a cost of almost \$1.5 Million. Together, we aim to complete Phase 3 in the next couple of years. WAHA will not raise fees this season, but future increases may be necessary. We continue to strive to keep total fees at half the cost of nearby associations.

## REFUNDS

If a player makes a travel team and then decides to leave WAHA, fees WILL NOT BE refunded, *except* if you decline your position before 12:00 PM on May 1, 2024. All declinations must be made by email to [wheelinghockey@gmail.com](mailto:wheelinghockey@gmail.com).

If you haven't declined by the due date you have consented to all obligations in the WAHA contract, including responsibility for paying season player fees. After the due date WAHA will not release players to other associations before the season fee is paid. Any player-release after season start must be approved by WAHA's Competition Committee. Players failing to register before the registration period is over, without making prior arrangements are no longer guaranteed to make a team and are at significant risk of losing their roster spots. If a team does not have enough player commitments by the deadline, the team will be cancelled, and any season fees paid will be refunded.

## TRAVEL HOCKEY COST COMPARISON

### *Organization 1 (nearby competitor) Travel Cost:*

Tryout fee	\$125
Organizational Fee U8	\$875
Organizational Fee U10-U16	\$2,150
Team Fee	unknown
Coaching Fee	unknown
Uniform estimate (socks, 2 jerseys, practice jersey, team-bag, team-warm-ups, team sweat shirt)	\$500
<b>Total (U8 - Red, White and Blue)</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
<b>Total (U10-U16)</b>	<b>\$2,775 (excl. unknown team and coaching fees)</b>

### *Organization 2 (large competitor) Travel Cost:*

Tryout fee	\$150
Organizational Fee U10-U16	\$2,425
Team Fee	\$450
Coaching Fee	\$350
Uniform estimate (socks, 2 jerseys, practice jersey, team-bag, team-warm-ups, team sweat shirt)	\$500
<b>Total (U10-U16)</b>	<b>\$3,875</b>

### *WAHA Junior Nailers Travel Cost:*

Tryout fee	\$25
Organizational Fee U8	\$500
Organizational Fee U10-U16	\$1,100
Team Fee	None
Coaching Fee	None
Uniform estimate (socks, 2 jerseys, practice jersey, team-bag, team-warm-ups, team sweat shirt)	\$180 (U10-U18)
<b>Total (U8 - Red, White and Blue)</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Total (U10-U16)</b>	<b>\$1,125 + Uniform Cost</b>

## FAQ: WHAT IS TRAVEL HOCKEY ALL ABOUT?

### **WHAT IS TRAVEL HOCKEY?**

Travel hockey is for the player who has enjoyed past in-house hockey seasons and consistently liked the sport enough to move on to the next level to receive additional ice times and instruction. Sometimes, travel is not yet suitable for your child, but as children continue to mature might become a better fit in a year or two. Your child needs to be enthused about the game of hockey and able to compete safely at the appropriate level.

Travel hockey is a physical sport that requires discipline and commitment. If you, or your player, do not want the physicality, demanding discipline, or commitment, we strongly encourage you to keep your player in-house for no-contact and less competitive ice hockey.

### **HOW ARE THE PLAYERS EVALUATED?**

Please refer to the "PLAYER EVALUATION MANUAL"

### **WHAT IF I OWE WAHA OR ANOTHER PAHL ASSOCIATION MONEY?**

All prior season balances with WAHA and other PAHL associations must be settled before a player may be permitted to be evaluated. Team fees are expected to be paid in full no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>. WAHA reserves the right to keep players off the ice until the player-account is in good standing.

### **DO I HAVE TO BUY A PERSONALIZED JERSEY, HOCKEY BAG AND TRACK SUIT?**

Parents are required to purchase game jerseys for their player, WAHA will provide practice jerseys. Optional apparel and merchandise will be available for individual. To keep cost down, players are not required to wear team apparel or use team hockey-bags to games or other functions.

### **WE WANT TO HOLD A FUND RAISER FOR OUR TEAM, NOW WHAT?**

No individual team shall conduct individual fundraisers of any kind without the prior written request submitted and approved by the WAHA BOD. If approved, the WAHA BOD reserves the right to provide oversight and direction of the approved fundraising activity including, but not limited to, collection and distribution of funds, records, and other actions at its sole discretion. Inquiries and requests should be forwarded to [wheelinghockey@gmail.com](mailto:wheelinghockey@gmail.com) .

## **THE HOCKEY SEASON**

### **WHEN DOES THE HOCKEY SEASON BEGIN?**

Many of the WAHA teams will play in a summer hockey league, at an additional cost. Participation is optional.

WAHA and Wheeling Park recently purchased a roller hockey surface. WAHA teams are able to use this during the summer for conditioning and practices.

WAHA is working with WesBanco Arena to have ice available by the beginning of September for practices and PAHL placement games.

The PAHL hockey season typically lasts from mid-September through the first week of March. Placement games start right after Labor Day. Dates and times TBD. Most teams are finished before lacrosse, soccer and baseball start their season. WAHA encourages all hockey players to participate in multiple sports for optimal athletic development. We allow our hockey players to finish their summer season sports before committing full time to hockey and we expect the same courtesy in return from spring sports.

### **ARE PRACTICES AND GAMES MANDATORY?**

Travel hockey is a significant commitment. Players are expected to be committed to attend weekly practices, placement games, regular season games, PAHL playoffs (if applicable), and tournaments. If players miss practices/games, playing time is at the discretion of the coach. We understand that things happen and come up, but please communicate conflicts with the coach and be cautious of the number games and practices your player misses. Often times, rosters are 11-14 skaters so missing a player or two during practices and games can be detrimental to the teams success.

### **TOURNAMENTS?**

Teams are encouraged to play in at least two tournaments. Tournament fees, travel costs, etc. are not included in the Season Player Fee. Additionally, player families are responsible to pay for coaches lodging expenses if coaches do not have a child on the team.

## POLICIES

### I. Age of players

WAHA shall abide by USA Hockey, Mid-Am, and PAHL policies regarding the placement of players in the appropriate team levels within the competitive divisions for amateur play.

### II. Evaluations

All players must submit the Registration form and commitment fee in order to attend the evaluation sessions. Coaches and other hockey professionals conduct the evaluation sessions. At the completion of the evaluation sessions, placement may be offered to players on a team commensurate with his/her skill level. Placements will be posted on the WAHA website at a day/time designated on the Registration form and WAHA website.

### III. Registration

Once registration is open, the link will be provided on the WAHA website. At the time of registration, players must provide their USA Hockey member number for the upcoming season.

### IV. Scheduling

Games and practice schedules will be set according to the ice time slots available as provided by the rink facility. Schedules will be published and distributed by your WAHA team manager via Team Snap. Schedules are subject to change.

No coach or team manager shall obtain additional ice time or cancel ice time for any team of the WAHA.

### V. Hockey Policies

Players, parents/legal guardians, volunteers, coaches, and team managers shall abide by all USA Hockey, Mid-Am, PAHL, and WAHA policies, rules, and regulations. The WAHA BODs reserves the right to change/amend/adopt policies, rules, and regulations not inconsistent with, but possibly more restrictive than, those of USA Hockey, Mid-Am, and/or PAHL.

All players must sign a Player Code of Conduct form (Appendix A) prior to the beginning of the season.

All parents/legal guardians must sign a Parent/Legal Guardian Code of Conduct form (Appendix B) prior to the beginning of the season.

Signing the Code of Conduct form serves as acknowledgement and understanding of and agreement to abide by its guidelines at all team and league activities. Not following the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action including the administration of penalties such as fines, suspension, expulsion, forfeiture of WAHA membership, and/or participation in practice, games, tournaments, and/or other WAHA functions and/or immediate removal from a league activity (such as a game or practice).

### VI. Equipment

Players and coaches must comply with all USA Hockey, Mid-Am, and PAHL equipment



guidelines whenever they are on the ice or on the bench. This includes, the use of mouthpieces, neck guards, helmets, etc. at all levels of play. USA Hockey requires that each player wear a colored (non-clear) internal mouthpiece. Failure to comply with the any rule, regulation, or policy regarding equipment will result in disciplinary action.

#### VII. Dress Code

Membership in the WAHA is a privilege. All players and coaches must abide by the dress code as set by the WAHA BOD.

Players are responsible for purchasing their own game jerseys. WAHA will provide a practice jersey to each player. The jerseys will be distributed by the team managers or coaches at the beginning of the season. Players are required to purchase game socks and any other equipment to maintain uniformity within the WAHA.

Teams may purchase additional apparel for team use. Additional team apparel purchases must be submitted to and approved by the WAHA BOD. No coach, team manager, player, parent/legal guardian, or any other individual may have any image and/or logo of WAHA/Wheeling Nailers reproduced without the prior written consent of the WAHA BOD. Any unauthorized reproduction or use of any image, logo, and/or name of the WAHA, including Wheeling Nailers, may result in the forfeiture, loss, or suspension of membership privileges.

#### VIII. USA Hockey "Zero Tolerance" Policy

USA Hockey instituted a "Zero Tolerance" policy beginning with the 1992-93 season. USA Hockey is committed to creating a safe and fair environment for all participants. Respect for the game, the opponents, coaches and officials is a critical part of the environment that is created. This Zero Tolerance Policy summarizes required actions to be taken when violations occur.

All players, coaches, officials, team officials and administrators and parents/spectators are required to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey sanctioned games. Thus, the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all USA Hockey participants and spectators.

##### Players

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

- 1) Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- 2) Taunts or incites an opponent.
- 3) Visually creates a disturbance during the game.

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, profane or abusive language 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.

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

In addition, any player/coach who uses language that is hateful or discriminatory in nature anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game shall be penalized under Rule 601(e.3) resulting in a match penalty. Such behavior is reprehensible and has absolutely no place in our game. The offender shall be immediately suspended until a hearing is conducted by the governing USA Hockey Affiliate or Junior League.

## 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.

Officials are strongly encouraged to introduce themselves to the coaches prior to the game to establish a basis of mutual respect and to facilitate/define in-game communication.

Officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

## Parents/Spectators

Parents are expected to be a positive role model by treating all players, coaches, officials and fellow spectators with respect and support.

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

- 1) Use of obscene, profane or abusive language to anyone at any time.
- 2) Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.

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

USA Hockey strongly recommends that each local youth hockey registered team designate a volunteer to serve as a parent/spectator monitor during all team games. This monitor will, ideally, address inappropriate spectator behavior prior to the situation escalating to the point it has an impact on the game. This designated monitor shall have the full support of the youth hockey association and the arena management to remove any spectator in violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy.

#### Administrators

Administrators are the key to building a positive, growing and safe USA Hockey community. Create a culture that is:

- 1) Welcoming
- 2) Protected
- 3) Respected
- 4) Connected
- 5) Valued

Administrators are responsible for enforcing the rules and policies established and approved by USA Hockey, their Affiliate, and their Association or Club. This includes taking disciplinary action, as deemed appropriate, towards any parent/spectator removed from a game as a result of a violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy.

#### Further Disciplinary Action

Within the sole discretion of the WAHA BOD, such conduct may be referred to the Discipline Committee to determine if the conduct constitutes a minor and/or major infraction and subsequent recommendation to the BOD, which may result in further disciplinary action.

#### IX. Communications

It is the responsibility of a player's parent/legal guardian to address questions, concerns, or other material issues regarding participation with the WAHA to the appropriate team manager. Parents/legal guardians should not directly approach the team coach. If necessary, the matter will be referred to the WAHA BOD for further action.

It is the responsibility of a player to address any questions, concerns, or other material issues regarding play or participation with the team coach.

#### X. Discipline and Infractions

Coaches or team managers must notify the Discipline Coordinator of any major infractions to include fourth (and subsequent) minor infractions incurred by a player within twenty-four (24) hours. The Discipline Coordinator will refer incidents that are considered major infractions to the WAHA Discipline Committee. The WAHA Discipline Committee will make a disciplinary action recommendation to the WAHA BOD.

Although any member of the WAHA may notify the head coach, assistant coaches, team manager, the Discipline Coordinator, or any member of the WAHA BOD of any incidents witnessed that they consider an issue; it is highly recommended to submit such concerns to the appropriate level to properly address the issue.

Violation of the policies, rules, and regulations published by USA Hockey, Mid-Am, PAHL, or the WAHA by a parent/legal guardian may result in the suspension or termination of WAHA membership, to include fines and/or disqualification of players and/or parent/legal guardians from participation/attendance in games, practices, tournaments, and/or WAHA functions.

The WAHA BOD via the WAHA Discipline Committee will investigate and further consider the administration of penalties for any player receiving a suspension by the PAHL Disciplinary Committee. All incidents resulting in penalties stemming from major infractions whether imposed by a coach, on-ice official, or the PAHL Disciplinary Committee shall be reported to the WAHA Discipline Committee within twenty-four (24) hours of notification or becoming aware of the incident or sanction.

WAHA has a 24-Hour Moratorium Policy. Coaches and players are permitted to have post-practice or game discussions relative to any disagreement or dispute arising during the event, as long as both parties can discuss the issue in a productive manner. If in the opinion of the coach or the player, the emotional aspects of the disagreement or dispute prevent a productive discussion, either party may invoke the 24-hour Moratorium Policy, without retribution, and a subsequent meeting will be scheduled.

Any disagreement or dispute between coaches and a player's parent/legal guardian arising from practice or game related events mandates a "cooling off" period of 24 hours. This provides a prescribed period that allows time for all participants (coaches, players, and parents/legal guardians) to reflect, review, and gain a calm perspective on the events, and to seek rule clarification, in such where a potential penalty or suspension may be considered. Coaches are instructed that if a player or parent/legal guardian makes any contact within the 24-hour period, they are to invoke the 24 Moratorium Policy and decline further contact. Coaches will notify the Discipline Coordinator if an infraction occurs.

Any party can refer a violation of the 24-hour Moratorium Policy to the Discipline Coordinator who will bring the matter to the WAHA Discipline Committee for investigation.

A. Minor Infractions: Violations of the following guidance may be determined to be minor infractions.

- Players or parents/legal guardians are required to notify the team manager of a known player absence no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to a practice or game.
- Players or parents/legal guardians are required to notify the team manager of sudden illnesses or other emergencies resulting in a player absence no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the conclusion of a practice or game.
- Players will arrive at their team's designated locker room no later than sixty (60) minutes

prior to the start of a game and thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of practice.

- Players are to be dressed and stretched fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of practices and games.
- Players will comply with USA Hockey, Mid-Am, and PAHL equipment guidelines whenever they are on the ice or on the bench.
- Players may not leave the ice during a practice or game without permission from the coach.
- Players will obey curfews as established by the head coach.
- Players will not criticize fellow team members, coaches, officials, or other representatives of the WAHA on the ice, in the locker room, or at any WAHA function.
- Players will not knowingly violate team rules or regulations.
- A player may accumulate a maximum of three (3) minor infractions.
- Any minor infraction incurred subsequent to the third offense (i.e. 4th offense and beyond) will be considered major infractions.

B. Major Infractions: Violations of the following guidance may be deemed a major infraction.

- Accumulation of more than three (3) minor infractions.
- Violations of USA Hockey "Zero Tolerance" policy resulting in a game misconduct penalty or, in the case of a parent/legal guardian/spectator, resulting in being removed from the spectator's viewing and game area.
- Theft or vandalism of property.
- Use of alcohol, tobacco, vaping, illegal drugs, criminal or otherwise illegal activity, and/or behavior deemed, in the sole discretion of the WAHA BOD as determined by the

Discipline Committee, to be excessively offensive and/or otherwise undesirable during practice, games, tournaments, and/or other WAHA sanctioned functions.

#### XI. Preserving Team Tranquility

At any time, a coach shall be able to take all reasonable and necessary action to preserve the welfare of the players and the team. In no situation shall a coach deny a player access to any practice, game, tournament, and/or other WAHA function for a period in excess of twenty-four (24) hours without written or electronic notification to the Discipline Coordinator or by the direction of the WAHA BOD resulting from recommendations of the WAHA Discipline Committee.

Except as expressly specified in Article XII, Penalties for Infractions, no coach shall have authority to suspend a player. Suspension, expulsion, and/or forfeiture of WAHA membership for a player, parent/legal guardian, coach, and/or team manager shall be imposed by the WAHA BOD resulting from recommendations from the WAHA Discipline Committee in accordance with Article XIII, Due Process.

#### XII. Penalties for Infractions

Only the WAHA BOD may impose monetary fines.

Minor Infractions: Head coaches, the Discipline Coordinator, and the WAHA BOD via the

Discipline Committee may administer penalties for minor infractions. Penalties may include suspension from WAHA activities (including practice or game play and WAHA functions) of up to twenty-four (24) hours to include an immediate suspension up to a maximum of one (1) game.

Major infractions: The WAHA BOD via the Discipline Committee may administer penalties for major infractions. Penalties may be imposed up to and including suspension or termination of WAHA membership, to include fines and/or disqualification of players and/or parent/legal guardians from participation/attendance in games, practices, tournaments, and WAHA functions without refund of fees.

Accumulation of three (3) major infractions throughout one's membership in the WAHA will result in the termination of WAHA membership without refund of fees.

Any member of the WAHA BOD, team manager, coach, or on-ice official shall have the right to request removal of any spectator during games or practice in any facility of the WAHA. During games at any other facility, the aforementioned representatives of the WAHA shall direct any request for removal to the on-ice official. Any violation of the policies, rules, and regulations of USA Hockey, Mid-Am or PAHL's Spectator Code of Conduct by a parent/legal guardian may result not only in the suspension, expulsion, and/or forfeiture of a parent/legal guardian's WAHA membership including attendance for games, practices, tournaments, and/or other WAHA functions, but also the WAHA membership of the player and his/her participation in the aforementioned events.

### XIII. Due Process

The Discipline Coordinator will refer incidents that are considered major infractions to the Discipline Committee within twenty-four (24) hours to determine if the conduct will result in further disciplinary action. Within five (5) days of the receipt of a report of any major infraction, the WAHA Discipline Committee shall provide to the WAHA BOD a recommendation for administration of penalty. The WAHA BOD shall render a decision within five (5) days of receiving the recommendation from the Discipline Committee. Affected parties shall be provided, within five (5) days, written notice of the decision, which will include penalties (if any) and will include notice of the right to a hearing with the Discipline Committee. If requested, the hearing shall be conducted within seven (7) days, or at a later date if mutually agreed upon by all affected parties. Attendees at the hearing will include the affected member(s) and members of the WAHA Discipline Committee. Additional attendees will be allowed at the sole discretion of the Discipline Committee chairperson. Hearing procedures will include the opportunity for affected parties to speak or present written evidence, although they are not required to do so. Hearing procedures will be followed in accordance with procedures established by the WAHA BOD and will be executed by the Discipline Committee chairperson.

Within five (5) days after conclusion of the hearing, the WAHA BOD or Discipline Committee Chairperson shall provide notice of its decision, in person or by certified mail, to the player and parent/legal guardian. A copy of the decision and other relevant material may be submitted to

USA Hockey, Mid-Am, or PAHL in accordance with appropriate guidelines.

#### XIV. Financial

Satisfaction of all financial obligations to the WAHA is the sole responsibility of the player and parent/legal guardian. Any unfulfilled financial obligation shall be the basis of denial of access to all practices, games, tournaments, and other WAHA functions until the obligation is fulfilled.

**Membership Fee Requirements, Late Fees and Delinquency:** All player membership fees must be paid in full or current if paying via a WAHA approved payment plan (payment dates as determined by the WAHA Treasurer).

Fees are non-refundable and financial obligations due to the WAHA may only be waived at the discretion of the WAHA BOD. Situations involving major illness, injury, or hardship will be considered by the WAHA BOD on a case-by case basis.

A \$25 fee will be charged each month that an account is not current. This fee will be applied seven (7) days after notification that an account is not current if the WAHA is unable to collect from the payment method provided due to expired payment method, change of account numbers, or insufficient funds available.

A \$35 fee will be charged to a player's account for any insufficient funds charges, returned checks, or chargebacks.

No individual team shall conduct individual fundraisers of any kind without the prior written request submitted to and approved by the WAHA BOD. If approved, the WAHA BOD reserves the right to provide oversight and direction of the approved fundraising activity including, but not limited to, collection and distribution of funds, records, and other actions at its sole discretion.

**Insurance:** With USA Hockey Registration, each player, coach, and referee pay for an additional insured catastrophic policy, called Individual Member Request (IMR). This IMR provides additional specified insurance, after applicable private insurance coverage has been exhausted, regarding treatment for injuries sustained while playing the sport of ice hockey. USA Hockey insurance will only cover the player/coach/referee during a USA Hockey sanctioned event. Each team must be registered with USA Hockey to play as a team and to be covered as a team. Tournaments are not excluded from this policy. All players, coaches, and referees must have paid for and be covered by USA Hockey before entering the ice.

#### XV. Team Manager

Your team manager is a volunteer who will serve in many capacities to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants. Your team manager will be your communication conduit with the head coach and will provide information regarding ice scheduling, tournaments, and WAHA functions. The team manager must attend all meetings as required by the WAHA BOD and communicate matters of interest regarding the WAHA, PAHL, Mid-Am, and USA Hockey. The team manager will also work with the head coach to set up and

coordinate for participation in tournaments throughout the season.

The team manager is considered a Minor Off-Ice Official. They are responsible for (i) monitoring and reporting various player actions, e.g. on and off-ice infractions; (ii) accurately maintaining and submitting score sheets for home games; (iii) reporting of discipline matters to the WAHA BOD or its designated Disciplinary Committee; (iv) assisting the coach in preserving team tranquility; (v) compiling and confidentially maintaining player information for proper registration; (vi) distributing schedules, jerseys, and other information and materials as may be required by the WAHA BOD.

As an all-volunteer organization, it is vitally important for parents/legal guardians to assist team managers throughout the season as scorekeepers, penalty-box attendants, time-clock managers, and other areas that are requested by the head coach and team manager.

All individual team financial accounts will be balanced at the end of each season. The WAHA treasurer will report delinquent accounts to the WAHA BOD. Players will be denied access to evaluation sessions for the following season and will not be placed on a team until the balance owed is settled.

#### XVI. Social Media and Networking Policy

For the purpose of this Social Media and Networking Policy, the policy will encompass public communications through such internet mediums and websites such as: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snap Chat, and any other social media networks that allow users to communicate online.

The policy will be applicable to all members of the WAHA, their families and associates, and all with community links to the WAHA.

The WAHA recognizes and appreciates the value of social media and the importance of social networking to all of its stakeholders and respects the right of all members to express their views publicly. At the same time we must be aware of the dangers social media and networking can present.

The purpose of this policy is to educate the WAHA community on the risks of social media and to ensure WAHA members are aware that conduct deemed to be inappropriate may be subject to disciplinary action by the WAHA.

#### Social Media Guidelines

- WAHA holds the entire WAHA community who participates in social media and networking to the same standards as it does for all other forms of communication such as email, written, or verbal.
- Comments, remarks, and pictures of an inappropriate nature, which are detrimental to the WAHA, will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action.
- It should be recognized that social media comments are on the record and instantly published and available to the public and media. Everyone including the WAHA BOD



can review social media communications. You should conduct yourself in an appropriate and professional manner at all times.

- Refrain from divulging confidential information of a personal or team related nature.
- Use your best judgment at all times- pause before posting. Once your comments are posted they cannot be retracted. Ultimately, you are solely responsible for your comments and they are published for the public record.

**Social Media Violations:** The following are examples of conduct through social media and networking mediums that are considered violations of the WAHA Social Media and Networking Policy and may be subject to disciplinary action by the WAHA, at the discretion of the WAHA President.

- Any statement deemed to be publicly critical of the WAHA.
- Divulging confidential information that may include but is not limited to the following: personal family issues, medical conditions, or any other privately held right.
- Negative or derogatory comments about any of the WAHA BOD, players, or volunteers or any member of any WAHA team.
- Photographs, video, or comments promoting negative influences or criminal behavior including but not limited to: drug use, alcohol abuse, public intoxication, sexual exploitation, etc.
- Online activity that contradicts the current policies of the WAHA.
- Inappropriate, derogatory, racist, or sexist comments of any kind, in keeping with the WAHA policies and regulations on these matters.

#### Reporting and Incident

- Reports will be sent to the President of the WAHA
- Reports will contain a copy of the medium used and the contents that contravenes the WAHA policy
- Incidents must be reported within seventy-two (72) hours of the incident

**Social Media Summary:** The WAHA community, when using social media and networking mediums, should assume at all times they are representing the WAHA and/or its members and families. All members of the WAHA community should remember to use the same discretion with social media and networking as they do with other traditional forms of media. Should the identity or image of any member of the WAHA community be used in social media and networking without the individual or WAHA authorization, this is considered to be identity theft. Please notify any WAHA BOD member or the President of WAHA of any infractions immediately.

#### XVII. Locker Room Policy

The WAHA follows the USA Hockey and Safe Sport guidelines for locker room safety. The WAHA has additional guidelines in place to ensure locker room safety and supervision. All WAHA players and parents/legal guardians must review and sign the Locker Room Policy.

According to USA Hockey Safe Sport:

“It is the policy of USA Hockey that all Affiliates, Districts, leagues, and local hockey programs have at least one responsible adult present and directly monitoring the locker room during all team events to assure that only participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room and to supervise the conduct in the locker room. Any individual meetings with a minor participant and a coach in a locker room shall require a responsible adult be with the coach. The responsible adult that monitors and supervises the locker room shall have been screened.

Further, responsible adults must personally monitor the locker room environment at all times while participants are present and also make sure the locker room is appropriately secured during times when minor participants are on the ice.

It shall be permissible for a local organization or team to prohibit parents from a locker room. However, in doing so, the team shall ensure that properly screened individuals monitor and supervise the locker room as required by above.

With younger players, it is generally appropriate to allow parents to assist the player with getting equipment on and off before and after games or practices and they should be allowed to do so.

There will be no use of a mobile device’s recording capabilities in the locker rooms of any USA Hockey sanctioned event, provided that it may be acceptable to take photographs or recordings in a locker room in such unique circumstances as a victory celebration, team party, etc., where all persons present in the locker room are either appropriately dressed and have been advised that photographs or recording are being taken.”

In addition, the following WAHA rules apply:

WAHA has limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (generally thirty to sixty [30-60] minutes before and following practices and games). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this is not always practical and may make some players uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion.

1. WAHA’s policy is to place at least two (2) screened locker room monitors (either a screened coach or screened parent) inside the locker room or one (1) screened monitor posted directly outside the locker room that periodically checks in on the locker room and one (1) screened coach inside the locker room. The responsible, screened adults will check the condition of the locker room before the players enter and after they exit the locker room. Any damage or unacceptable conditions will immediately be reported to the rink staff or team manager.

2. Parents are not permitted to be in the locker room at any time with the exception of helping young players (Peewee and below) with equipment needs before and after practices and games or the parent is a screened and approved adult providing locker room supervision. If the parent is helping a player with equipment, two (2) locker room monitors shall be in the locker room while the parent is assisting the player. If a player needs assistance with equipment, if the player may be injured, or if a player's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that the parent let the coach know beforehand that the player needs assistance.

We discourage siblings from entering the locker room with the parent of a player, especially if of the opposite sex, unless it is truly necessary.

3. If there is a parent serving as a screened adult supervising the locker room, the coach is permitted to ask the parent(s) to leave for a short time before the game and for a short time after the game so that the coach may address the players.

4. As players get older, the coach may in his discretion prohibit parents from a locker room.

5. Parents are to follow the WAHA Code of Conduct at all times.

6. Cell phones are not permitted to be used in any locker room for any reason unless approved by the coach for unique circumstances as a victory celebration, team party, etc. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room. Coaches may use electronic equipment to play music or review video footage of game/practice plays. No other use of electronic devices in the locker room is permitted.

The use of electronic devices in the approved manner listed above is a privilege and not a right. Any allegations of misuse must be reported to the WAHA BOD. Confirmed issues will result in the team losing their privileges and all electronics banned from the locker room for the remainder of the season. Any allegation involving the recording or photography of players dressing or undressing will be immediately reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency with the jurisdiction of the locker room where the alleged incident occurred.

7. In the event of a co-ed team, it is important that the privacy rights of all players are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. There will be separate locker rooms for dressing and then convene in a single dressing room prior to the game or team meeting. No coaching is to be done until all the players are together in full gear.

8. Shower rooms and restroom inside or adjoining locker rooms are for player use only. Coaches, team managers, and parents will not enter these rooms but will monitor them from the outside. Adults should only enter in the event of an emergency, and in those cases, two (2) adults whenever possible.

9. WAHA prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey Safe Sport Handbook.

Signing the Locker Room policy serves as acknowledgement and understanding of and agreement to abide by its guidelines. Failure to follow the Locker Room policy may result in disciplinary action including the administration of penalties such as fines, suspension, expulsion, forfeiture of WAHA membership, and/or participation in practice, games, tournaments, and/or other WAHA functions and/or immediate removal from a league activity (such as a game or practice).

Participants, players, coaches, team managers, and volunteers in the WAHA organization may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of the Locker Room policy or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse that violates the USA Hockey Safe Sport policies.

Reports of any actual or suspected violations must be made to the WAHA Safe Sport Coordinator, Glen Moore at 740-338-7084 or [twomoore673@comcast.net](mailto:twomoore673@comcast.net). You may also email USA Hockey at [safesport@usahockey.org](mailto:safesport@usahockey.org) or may call 1-800-888-4656.

Wheeling Amateur Hockey Association 2024/25 Contract