

SOMERVILLE YOUTH HOCKEY

ASSOCIATION, INC.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

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ARTICLE 1: MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Somerville Youth Hockey Association Inc. to govern and preserve a not-for-profit organization, 501©(3), intended to support and provide skating opportunities to as many children as possible. It is our objective to cultivate sportsmanship, discipline, teamwork, good conduct, and provide a positive learning experience geared towards developing the fundamental and athletic ability of our players.

ARTICLE 2: GENERAL

SECTION 1:

For all intent and purposes, a member in good standing is considered:

- a. Not to act in a manner detrimental to the program
- b. To have all equipment returned to Somerville Youth Hockey Association, Inc. ("SYHA").
- c. To attend the required number of meetings as set forth in our by-laws
- d. To have all monies paid in full at required time.

If you are deemed **not** to be a member in good standing then the BOARD OF DIRECTORS may revoke your membership rights.

SECTION 2:

No member or group of members may act or purport to act on behalf of SYHA in regard to organizing events, fundraising, or in any other matter without the sanction of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

SECTION 3:

SYHA will not endorse any one Political Candidate or Political Party.

SECTION 4:

No member running for public office or engaged in politics shall in any way use SYHA to promote his/her campaign. He/She may only state membership, if indeed he/she is a member in good standing at the time of the statement.

SECTION 5:

No Politician or Political Party may be a SYHA sponsor.

SECTION 6:

No mailing lists of any type may be handed out to any individual or groups; this is to include names of participating children, parents, board members and coaches. No member of SYHA, who comes into the possession of said lists, uses them for other than SYHA purposes. Individual team rosters prepared for convenience of team members and their families will be the exception to this rule.

SECTION 7:

SYHA is also known as the Somerville ICECATS.

SECTION 8:

The team colors for SYHA are RED, WHITE and ROYAL BLUE.

ARTICLE 3: ELECTIONS

SECTION 1:

If you are not eligible to vote in the Annual Election, then you are not eligible to run for an office on the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2:

There are no proxy votes in any election. You must be present to cast your vote.

SECTION 3:

Each family unit may vote provided they are a member in good standing as defined in the bylaws.

SECTION 4:

In the event that no one runs for a position on the BOARD OF DIRECTORS, the President, with the prior BOARD OF DIRECTORS approval, may appoint a member in good standing for no longer than a 1 (one) year term. Such position will be available at the next election for the remainder of the term. This position holds all rights and responsibilities of an elected BOARD OF DIRECTORS member.

ARTICLE 4: TEAMS

SECTION 1:

On all teams, at all levels, it is intended that players be rotated so that they receive equal ice time (as near as possible), in each game, during the course of the season. It is incumbent upon the coach to also consider the outcome of the game while making substitutions. Coaches shall be able to skate certain players, at a time, when the outcome of the contest could be determined by the decision he makes as a coach.

SECTION 2:

Only approved coach(s) will be allowed on the ice during team practices.

SECTION 3:

Attendance at all games and practices is mandatory for all players unless illness or family issues prevent a player from attending. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.

SECTION 4:

Players must notify coaches prior to any and all absences. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.

SECTION 5:

Players shall be at the rink 30 minutes prior to a game or practice. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.

SECTION 6:

Players that are in financial arrears, and have not made arrangements with the FINANCE COMMITTEE, may not be able to skate on their team.

SECTION 7:

Each team is required to have a PARENT REPRESENTATIVE, with an outline of duties, reporting to the DIRECTOR OF FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATION.

ARTICLE 5: PLAYER SELECTIONS

SECTION 1:

The VICE PRESIDENT shall appoint the Player Selection Committee. Only the PLAYER SELECTION COMMITTEE shall be present during player selections. The Player Selection Committee will be present at all player tryouts and player selection meetings.

SECTION 2:

It is intended that each team have a minimum of 14 players and a maximum of 20 players. However, the number of players registered at each level will determine the actual distribution.

SECTION 3:

No Player shall make a team without meeting the following criteria:

- a. All financial obligations of each family unit, from any previous and/or current season, must be paid in full before a player or member of his/her family unit may tryout for the next season.
- b. Applicant must participate in at least one tryout, unless injured or prior arrangements prevent this.
- c. Applicant must demonstrate, to the Player Selection Committee, the ability to participate safely at the required level.
- d. **New or Late Registration:** For late registrations, the player will be initially assigned to the lowest team in that age level.

SECTION 4:

When a player tries out as a goaltender, and then makes a team as a goaltender, he/she must play that position for the rest of that season. If a player decides to skate out, then his/her position may not be guaranteed on that specific team. Skating out would forfeit the goaltender discount.

- a. Any exceptions shall be brought before the BOARD OF DIRECTORS (See **ARTICLE 5 SECTION 3 D: New or Late Registration/New Membership**).

SECTION 5:

Player Notifications will not take place until approval by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Approved Players (**ARTICLE 5 SECTION 3 a, b, c, d**) will be notified of their Team placement.

SECTION 6:

All grievances for team selection must be in writing to the VICE PRESIDENT.

SECTION 7:

At the end of each season all team rosters will be abolished.

SECTION 8:

When it is determined that a **PERMANENT** replacement player is needed, the Team Head Coach shall:

- a. Consult with the DIRECTOR OF COACHING to determine if replacement players are available, **AND**
- b. The DIRECTOR OF COACHING and Team Head Coach shall consult with Head Coach of team directly below team requesting a replacement player.
- c. Player changes to a roster can only be accomplished through the DIRECTOR OF COACHING. He will then notify the appropriate Team Coaches and DIRECTOR OF FINANCE.
- d. Player movement reviews by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall only be

considered in matters regarding safety or disciplinary action. The DIRECTOR OF COACHING will resolve all other matters.

- e. NO Level I Team player may play for a LEVEL III Team.

The coaches will then determine which player shall be the replacement player. When selected as a replacement player, said player must move up to the requesting team as directed by the DIRECTOR OF COACHING.

NOTE:

Any player who refuses their team assignment or to move up within his/her own age level must appeal to the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

SECTION 9:

No player shall skate as a substitute for another team for more than 2 consecutive games without the approval of the DIRECTOR OF COACHING.

- a. No player will be substituted for the purpose of playing any game or scrimmage game unless a regular member of said team is absent or unable to play. All substitute players must come from the team directly below the team making the substitution request. If all players are unavailable then the coach may request a player from the next lower team in line, following this procedure until the substitution is made. The coach making the request must notify the substitute player's coach prior to notifying the player. The choice of substitution shall be made with consideration given to the recommendation of the lower teams Coach (**EXCEPTION see ARTICLE 5 SECTION 8 e**)
- b. New or Late Registration: For late registrations, the player will be initially assigned to the lowest team in that age level.

The DIRECTOR OF COACHING and Team Coaches at the players age level will decide on what team the player can safely participate.

NOTE:

A player will have their name removed from all rosters if they leave the program after tryouts or they are determined to be a member not in good standing. Players who return within the same season will be assigned to the lowest team at that age level. If the DIRECTOR OF COACHING and the Team Coaches that the player cannot participate safely at that level determine it, the player may then be moved to another team. However, the player cannot be assigned to a team that is higher than the team he was assigned to at tryouts.

ARTICLE 6. COACHES

SECTION 1:

All SYHA coaches must have the appropriate coaching patches as of December 31st of their inaugural season. Failure to comply will result in removal of coaching privileges.

SECTION 2:

All coaches must complete and submit a CORI form before the beginning of each season or when applying for a coaching position.

SECTION 3:

All coaches must attend the scheduled coaching meetings. Not attending could result in being removed from coaching position.

SECTION 4:

All Coaches shall submit their game sheets weekly or when requested by the DIRECTOR OF COACHING.

SECTION 5:

All Coaches must place their team in at least one tournament per year, subject to the approval of the DIRECTOR OF COACHING.

SECTION 6:

Coaches may only hold one head coaching position at a time, within SYHA.

SECTION 7:

Only approved coaches can be on the bench at any game.

ARTICLE 7: COACH SELECTIONS

SECTION 1:

The following procedure will be used to facilitate coach selection:

- a. The coach must be in compliance with all required patches.
- b. Applications for coaching positions will be made in written form; no consideration of a coaching position will be permitted without a written application from the applicant.
- c. The COACHING COMMITTEE shall make their recommendations to the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
- d. The BOARD OF DIRECTORS will discuss each applicant and consider his or her qualifications before final approval.

- e. Any BOARD OF DIRECTORS member that is being considered for a coaching position must leave the room during the discussion of applicants, but may return after the discussion.

SECTION 2:

Each Coach will select their own Assistant(s) and their names will be provided to the DIRECTOR OF COACHING. All assistants must come from the approved list.

SECTION 3:

The BOARD OF DIRECTORS will have final approval on all Assistant Coaches chosen by the Team Coach.

ARTICLE 8: INSURANCE AND FEES

SECTION 1:

Association fees and League fees will be due on a schedule of payment determined by the FINANCE COMMITTEE. Any team member who has not paid the tuition and/or tournament fees by the time specified may not be allowed to skate beyond that date unless prior arrangements have been made with FINANCE COMMITTEE.

SECTION 2:

Any family unit that is not current with financial obligations may not be eligible for tournament play.

SECTION 3:

The FINANCE COMMITTEE will consider all refunds with final approval by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

SECTION 4:

All financial obligations of each family unit must be paid in full before a player or a member of his/her family unit may tryout for the next season.

SECTION 5:

All Midgets must be paid in full at the beginning of their season.

SECTION 6:

Tuition and Registration Fees will be set by the FINANCE COMMITTEE on a yearly basis and must be approved by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

SECTION 7:

At Registration, each player must submit a copy of his/her birth certificate for SYHA permanent records. They must show an *original*, if a copy is on record.

SECTION 8:

The Association will pay for excess Accident and Liability Insurance for the Members of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

SECTION 9:

All members of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS must be bonded; this is to be paid for by SYHA.

SECTION 10:

If a player receives an injury, which requires medical attention, then a Doctor's Letter of Clearance is needed before the player may return to his/her team.

SECTION 11:

The Coach must report all injuries to the DIRECTOR OF COACHING and SECRETARY within 24 hours, so that proper insurance procedures may be taken.

ARTICLE 9: EQUIPMENT

SECTION 1

With the exception of the Learn to Skate Clinic, SYHA requires that all players wear the following equipment for practices, scrimmages, and games sponsored by SYHA.

- a. Properly fitted white helmet, and face shield, per HECC.
***NOTE:* The only exception to this rule is a Bantam or Midget that is playing High School Hockey, and then they may wear their schools color helmet**
- b. Shin Pads
- c. Hockey Gloves
- d. Elbow Pads
- e. Protective Cup/Pelvic Protector
- f. Shoulder Pads
- g. Solid Red Hockey Pants
- h. Hockey Skates

- i. Mouth Piece -Peewee and above, including Goalies
- j. League supplied socks (for games only)
- k. League supplied shirt (for games only)
- l. League supplied goalie equipment (up thru Peewee)
- m. All Goalies must wear a throat guard, either plastic or padded

MANDATORY EQUIPMENT for the Learn to Skate Clinic participants shall include:

- a. Properly fitted helmet and face shield per HECC.
- b. Knee Pads (Shin Pads if using pucks and/or sticks)
- c. Protective Covering for Hands
- d. Elbow Pads
- e. Protective Cup/Pelvic Protector (if using pucks and/or sticks)
- f. Skates

SECTION 2:

All uniforms and equipment issued by SYHA, Inc., are the property of the SYHA and must be returned CLEANED at the end of the hockey season. The EQUIPMENT MANAGER will maintain an inventory of all equipment issued and returned. The coaches will be responsible for collecting all equipment and returning it to the EQUIPMENT MANAGER. Parents/Guardians are responsible for all uniforms and equipment issued to their children and is required to pay for its replacement if it is lost or stolen. No new equipment or replacement equipment will be issued to any coach or team that has not turned into the EQUIPMENT MANAGER any equipment that is the property of the SYHA at the request of said EQUIPMENT MANAGER.

SECTION 3:

The EQUIPMENT MANAGER will issue game shirts to the Team Head Coach at the beginning of each season. It is the responsibility of the Team Head Coach to assure that the shirts are:

- a. Used only in games and scrimmages.
- b. Collected at the completion of each game and stored in a SYHA supplied shirt bag when not in use.
- c. Coaches who do not return equipment will be denied a coaching position.

ARTICLE 10: CONDUCT

SECTION 1:

Any Coach who forgets he/she is coaching young boys/girls and loses control before, during, or after a game/practice will go before the DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE. Any parent acting in the same manner will also go before the DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE. Suspended Coaches, Parents/ Guardians or Players will not be allowed to participate in any SYHA, Inc., activity for a period of time so determined by the DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE. Coaches and parents should realize that the control of the players is their own responsibility.

SECTION 2:

All members of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS must sign a CODE OF ETHICS form at the beginning of each season.

SECTION 3:

All Players, Coaches, and Parents/Guardians must sign a CODE OF CONDUCT and/or CODE OF ETHICS at the beginning of each season.

SECTION 4:

Any PLAYER, COACH, PARENT/GUARDIAN or other MEMBER of SYHA who conducts themselves in any manner detrimental to the policies of this organization shall be subject to disciplinary actions, up to and including, dismissal from SYHA to be determined by the DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

SECTION 5:

Complaints about Team Coaches will be brought to the attention of the DIRECTOR OF COACHING. If the DIRECTOR OF COACHING is unable to rectify the complaint, it may then be brought to the BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Any issues involving the DIRECTOR OF COACHING shall be brought to the BOARD OF DIRECTORS. All complaints shall either be in writing and signed or presented in person before the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

SECTION 6:

Discipline regarding the conduct of players shall be left to the discretion of the Team Coaches, but will be limited to a maximum of a one-game/practice suspension for each offense. Any further action will require approval of the DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE.

SECTION 7:

It is mandatory that all locker rooms are monitored at all times by a member of the coaching staff of each SYHA team.

SECTION 8:

Parents/Guardians will only be allowed in the locker rooms at the discretion of the coaches.

SECTION 9:

Parents/Guardians assume all responsibility for any intentional damage caused by their children during any SYHA activity.

SECTION 10:

ALL members of the SYHA are obligated to watch for safety violations at games, practices or any SYHA event.

SECTION 11:

The DIRECTOR OF COACHING and the BOARD OF DIRECTORS will determine the highest standard at the beginning of each season. Coaches are required to follow the standards as communicated.

SECTION 12:

No member of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall serve as a member of another Board of Directors or Coach, in any skating organization other than the SYHA without prior approval of the SYHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Failure to obtain approval will be subject to disciplinary actions.

SECTION 13:

Any member of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS who does not perform his/her duties or fails to attend the minimum numbers of the regularly scheduled meetings within the term of office, from May to April of each year, will be subject to dismissal from his/her position. The vacancy will be filled by presidential appointment with prior approval by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

SECTION 14:

No member of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS, in their position as BOARD OF DIRECTOR, should ever receive items of monetary value of any type. This includes but is not limited to: banquet tickets, jackets, shirts, etc.

SECTION 15:

No member of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS should involve themselves in any conflict of interest situations.

SECTION 16:

SYHA will hold the conduct of our Players to the highest standard of conduct, including USA Hockey Rule Book, Massachusetts Hockey, League Rules as well as those adopted by SYHA

ARTICLE 11: FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

SECTION 1:

All issues of financial hardship shall be presented to the Board Of Directors in the form of a written letter, or at a meeting set up with the Director of Finance and the member. At which time the Board of Directors will deal with these issues in the most confidential manner possible, and will make such reasonable determinations, as they deem necessary. At the time an agreement or payment arrangement has been made between the Board of Directors and the member, an agreement will be signed by the asking party and the Director of Finance and the President/Vice President.

SECTION 2:

SYHA shall annually award scholarships to graduating high school students. The BOARD OF DIRECTORS, based upon the SYHA finances, will determine the amount of the scholarship and number of scholarships to be awarded.

SECTION 3:

Applicants must have skated in the SYHA program for a minimum of four (4) years at any level, excluding Learn to Skate.

SECTION 4:

Applicant must fully complete the SYHA application packet and include all supporting documents.

SECTION 5:

Applications must be submitted to SYHA on or before Feb 1st. Any applications received after this date will not be considered.

SECTION 6:

Scholarships will be awarded upon completion of the 1st. semester and transcripts must be provided by March 1st of the following year.

SECTION 7:

Monies marked for scholarships, but not used, will be kept in a special fund to be distributed the next year.

ARTICLE 12: DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1:

Upon dissolution of Somerville Youth Hockey Association, Inc., and after all outstanding debts and claims have been satisfied, the BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall distribute the property of Somerville Youth Hockey Association, Inc, to one or more 501©(3), non profit organizations, with prior approval by the general membership.