

State College Youth Ice Hockey Association (SCYIHA)

Official Playing Rules

1. The Philosophy of Youth Ice Hockey

Ice hockey is a team game. Under the best of circumstances, individual skills are developed and the whole (i.e. the team) becomes greater than the sum of its individual parts. Ice hockey is also a game of controlled aggression, with the emphasis on control! The objectives of the SCYIHA reflect these fundamentals.

- a. Ice hockey should be fun for players, coaches, and parents. Practices, games, and relations among players and coaches should foster enjoyment of the sport.
- b. The enjoyment of ice hockey is enhanced if it is played skillfully. Skills can only be acquired through practice. It is the objective of the SCYIHA and its personnel to help the players improve their skills to the maximum extent attainable. It should be the objective of the players to acquire as many skills as they can.
- c. Ice hockey is a team sport. Teamwork includes athletic cooperation, such as passing, and social cooperation and sportsmanship. The SCYIHA seeks to encourage cohesiveness, cooperation, and respect for others by emphasizing team rather than individual objectives and expressing a commitment to fair & equitable treatment for all participants.
- d. Playing time for each player should be equitable in term of these criteria. Thus, a player who develops and uses his/her skills to the maximum extent possible, while also contributing to teamwork and team spirit, should be given the maximum amount of playing time possible within the confines of the game itself. This is equitable playing time in terms of this particular player and the team. By the same token, a player who fails to develop and use his/her abilities to the fullest, or fails to exhibit a constructive, positive attitude toward coaches, teammates, opponents, or officials will play less, this would be equitable in terms of this player and the team.
- e. Self-discipline, commitment, and dedication to the team are important for the development and improvement of the individual players and the team. Players should be encouraged in these areas. It must be recognized and emphasized that having fun is enhanced rather than diminished by a disciplined environment.
- f. We shall play hard, but fair, and show respect for opponents at all times. Cheap shots and temper tantrums will not be tolerated.
- g. The athletic and social skills developed in ice hockey are skills for life. Therefore, this sport is not an end in itself, but rather an aspect of a larger set of roles and responsibilities our players will face as time passes. This perspective is particularly important with respect to school work. In no case should ice hockey become more important than one's formal education.

2. Affiliation and Structure

The home ice rink for SCYIHA is the Penn State Ice Pavilion in the Greenberg Indoor Sports Complex at University Park, PA. The SCYIHA is affiliated with USA Hockey and the Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League (PAHL) for Mites, Squirts, PeeWee, Bantam, & Midget.

3. Coach Selection & Assignment

All team head and assistant coaches shall be appointed annually by the Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Coaches Selection Committee.

- a. Qualifications of Coaches
 1. A Head Coach must be at least 18 years of age.
 2. A Head Coach must be able to demonstrate competency in skating, hockey skills, teaching techniques, and skills in communicating with parents & players.
 3. Head Coaches must be USA Hockey certified.
 4. Coaches are responsible for following the rules of the league in which they are fielding a team. In order to make the coaches aware of the rules and to give the coaches an arena in which to express their concerns, there will be meetings as needed during the hockey season. Those expected to be present are the President of the SCYIHA, the Coaches Selection Chairman, and at least one coach from each team.
- b. Team Assignment
 1. A Head Coach will be awarded the team of his or her choice whenever possible. In the event of multiple applications for the same position, the Coaches Selection Committee shall consider the following factors in determining a nomination to the Board of Directors:
 - Seniority as a Head Coach in the SCYIHA
 - Previous coaching performance in the SCYIHA
 - Experience as a coach in the age level requested
 - Level of USA Hockey certification
 - Knowledge of ice hockey
 2. Coaches who are parents of hockey players are generally assigned to the level of their child. Coaches have the option of having their children on the team they coach.
- c. Student Coach – The SCYIHA will follow the USA hockey rules regarding student coaches, which is:
 1. A player between the ages of 13 and 17 who is currently properly registered with USA Hockey.
 2. Must attend a training session conducted by the SCYIHA.
 3. Must always be under the supervision of a carded, screened adult coach during all practices, clinics, try-outs, and in the locker room.
 4. May help out at practices, clinics, try-outs only. May not participate in scrimmages or games as a Student Coach.
 5. May not act as an assistant or head coach during practices or games.
 6. May be on the bench during games with an adult.
 7. Must wear a helmet with full face shield, gloves, and skates while on the ice. Must wear a helmet during games while on the bench.
 8. May only work with players at least one full playing age level down (e.g. a Bantam age player may act as a student coach at the Peewee, Squirt, or Mite level).
 9. The Student Coach must fill out an Information Form provided by the SCYIHA with his/her signature as well as the Student Coaches parent(s), and the Head Coach.

10. Upon reaching the age of 18, the Student Coach must comply with the USA Hockey Screening Program and meet the USA Hockey Coaching Education Program requirements which will qualify him/her to act as an assistant or head coach.

4. Team Classification

The Board of Directors shall determine the number of teams to be offered each year and each team's classification under USA Hockey rules.

5. Team Size

The SCYIHA team size rule coincides with the PAHL team size rule. The minimum number of players on a team is 11, and the maximum number of players on a team is 20.

- a. Open tryouts for each team shall be announced in advance and conducted as announced. Normally, two tryout sessions will be offered to accommodate vacationing families.
- b. Players must register by the first session of tryouts. This registration process shall consist of filling out the standard SCYIHA & USA Hockey player registration forms and submitting them with a mandatory registration fee. This fee is not refundable if the player is not selected for a team. Upon selection to a team, the membership funds for the SCYIHA will become due and can be paid in full or in accordance with the SCYIHA payment plans. Any player not registered will be ineligible to try out. If there is a bona fide reason that a player can not be present at the team's tryouts sessions, arrangements for registering in advance may be made through the President of the Board of Directors. Players may be added to the team, at the discretion of the Head Coach and The Board of Directors, up to the league and USA Hockey deadlines.

6. Player Requesting for Age Group Transfer

Playing in a division above the players appropriate age division is a privilege to be bestowed upon a player, and is in no way to be assumed as a right or entitlement.

- a. Any player who desires to play in a division above the appropriate age division shall file a written request, approved by a parent or guardian, with the Board of Directors, stating the reason(s) for the requested transfer.
- b. The Board of Directors shall poll the players previous and current coaches, and optionally other designated persons to determine whether or not the player possess skills that are commensurate with the level of the requested age division. The impact of the player's transfer on the integrity of the SCYIHA, and on his/her age appropriate team shall also be considered in reaching a final decision.
- c. A player may only move up in division if he/she is within one year of eligibility and must sign a "Risk Acknowledgement and Liability Waiver".

7. Management of Ice Time

- a. All team ice assignments are made by the Scheduling Committee in cooperation with the Manager of the Penn State Ice Pavilion. After ice schedules have been approved and ice time acquired, any additional home ice time to be paid by the SCYIHA must be approved by the President or in the Presidents absence, the Vice-President or Treasurer.
- b. All coaches are expected to observe the established practice and game schedules. If, for any reason, a team is late in starting a game or practice, it is responsible for assuring that it finishes on time. This may involve game curfew clocks and missed practice time.
- c. If additional ice time is required for and other reason, it should be scheduled with and paid for directly to the Penn State Ice Pavilion by the team or players involved.

8. Playing Rules

- a. All teams shall be registered with USA Hockey. The rules of USA Hockey shall prevail except as modified herein.
- b. Teams shall also abide by their respective hockey league's rules, and any other league or tournament in which the team is registered.
- c. EMTs are required for all home games by the PAHL. If an EMT is not present at a game, the game MUST be cancelled.

9. Travel Policy

- a. No player or group of players registered with SCYIHA shall be allowed to room without adult supervision. Families of players and friends of players accompanying the team are expected to be housed in a room(s) with adult supervision and observe curfew hours set by the team.
- b. All coaches are encouraged to set curfew for players which are appropriate to their ages and game times. It is to be conveyed to players and parents that, although these weekend trips should be enjoyable, they are for the purpose of playing hockey and playing it to the best of the players' ability.
- c. All parents are encouraged to be supportive of the coaches in their structuring of the teams. Parents and coaches alike serve as role models for the players and are expected to set healthy and responsible tone and environment for our players.

10. Policy on "Practicing Up"

To facilitate the continuing development of players and to ease the transition to the next level of play, it is desirable to expose players to the type of competition, practice style, and physical demands they will face in the following season. Accordingly, the Board of the SCYIHA endorses a policy of limited "practicing up" beginning in January.

- a. The head coach of the players team and the head coach of the team at the next level should select "senior level" players in their last year of eligibility on their current team if and only if, such an opportunity will not constitute a safety question.
- b. As a general rule, no more than 3 players shall be permitted to practice up at any given practice. If the respective coaches identify more than 3 players as candidates for practicing up, then the players shall rotate.

- c. Players practicing up are required to attend their regular practice.
- d. Players invited to practice up are not required to do so, it is voluntary.

11. Disciplinary Rules

- a. Players, coaches, managers, and other team officials are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on themselves and the SCYIHA. Misconduct by such an individual, before, during, or after a game will not be tolerated. Any such conduct should be brought to the attention of the Team Manager or the President of the Board. At the coach's discretion, players may be removed from a game or a practice in progress due to misconduct, including insubordination. The coach may recommend further action to the Board for future game suspension. The Disciplinary Committee shall investigate the incident and make final decisions for any future punishment.
- b. Each team is responsible for their conduct in the locker room facilities which they occupy before and after each game. If any damage is inflicted to the property, the team will be held responsible and will be required to make full restitution for damages before they can participate in their next game. In the event that the head coach of a team believes that their team can not conduct itself properly in the locker room, the team will not be granted locker room privileges and will be required to change in the hallway area beside the locker rooms.
- c. Any player who, in the opinion of the Referee, is playing with the willful and malicious intent to injure other players shall be immediately and indefinitely suspended, pending a hearing before the Disciplinary Committee.
- d. Hazing, team initiations, or other forms of physical or mental abuse are prohibited.
- e. Any player or team official touching or threatening a game official shall receive an automatic game disqualification penalty plus a two (2) game suspension and the incident shall be reviewed by the Board Discipline Committee.
- f. Any player who receives a game misconduct penalty for any reason in game shall also receive a one (1) game suspension. In the event that such penalty occurs during the last five (5) minutes of a game or immediately following the completion of a game, the automatic suspension shall be for two (2) games.
- g. Any player who receives a game disqualification arising from a penalty regarding malicious intent shall be on immediate suspension, pending a hearing before the Disciplinary Committee.
- h. Any player who receives a second game disqualification for any infraction of the rules where he/she has previously received a suspension shall automatically receive a three (3) game suspension, unless the infractions resulting in both the first & second suspensions occurred in the final five (5) minutes of play, in which case the suspension shall automatically be four (4) games.
- i. Any player who receives their third game disqualification penalty for any reason during the current playing season shall automatically be suspended from further play for that season. In the event that the third such violation occurs during the last three (3) games of the season, the suspension will be for the entire following season, providing the player is eligible for further play.

- j. Any player who receives a major penalty for fighting shall also receive a one (1) game suspension.
- k. Any player who leaves the bench during an altercation on the ice will be given a four (4) game suspension. A second violation of this rule during the same season will result in suspension for the remaining season.

12. Substance Abuse

It is the objective of the SCYIHA to provide a drug, alcohol, and tobacco free athletic environment for its players. The goal therefore, is to eliminate the improper use of these substances among players on or off the ice. Players, coaches, and parents should conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to achieve this objective. If any player associated with a State College Youth Ice Hockey team does not comply with the goals and objectives, actions for first offense shall include counseling with the coach of the appropriate team, contact with the parents, possible recommendation of professional counseling, and possible temporary suspension. A second violation of these provisions will result in a hearing before the Disciplinary Committee and likely expulsion from the team for the remainder of the season.

13. Suspensions

- a. All suspensions shall be consecutive from game incurred.
- b. Player suspensions will apply to playoff games and tournaments.
- c. Coaches are responsible for enforcing the suspension of their players.
- d. A suspended player has the right of a hearing before the Discipline Committee. Such a request must be made orally to the President within twenty four (24) hours of the infractions. In the event of the President's absence, such notice must be given to the Vice President. A written report, stating the player's view of the incident must be received by the President no later than forty eight (48) hours following the oral notification.

14. Rules of Conduct

- a. Good sportsmanship is required of all players, coaches, parents, and spectators. All SCYIHA rules will be strictly enforced.
- b. Coaches are responsible for their players conduct, safety, and well being. Parents will be held responsible, along with the players, to see that all rules and policies are followed.
- c. A coach or player who fails to conduct himself/herself properly on or off the ice may be issued a minor, misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct, and/or match penalties from game officials. Further action involving probation or suspension may be assessed by the Disciplinary Committee.
- d. The following examples of improper conduct are presented for the purpose of clarification:
 - Threatening or derogatory remarks to members of the opposing team, referees, off ice officials, members of the staff at any rink, officials of SCYIHA, or spectators.
 - Abusive or obscene gestures.
 - A player failing to proceed directly to the penalty box when issues a penalty.
 - Failure of the coach to keep his/her players under control.

- e. Parents and spectators will be issued a warning after an infraction. Upon a second violation, the parent or guardian will be asked to leave or be removed from the arena.
- f. Fighting will not be tolerated on or off the ice, in the hallways, locker rooms, parking lots, or anywhere else.
- g. Coaches, players, and parents are not permitted to smoke, chew tobacco on the bench, on the ice, or in the locker room during games or practices.
- h. Drinking or intoxicants or the consumption of illegal substances by players or coaches or parent/participants while engaged in a SCYIHA sponsored game or practice will result in disciplinary action as determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
- i. When the ice is being resurfaced, no player shall step on the ice until after the resurfacing machine has left the ice surface and the doors to the machine storage area have been closed.
- j. A coach may establish additional rules for his team upon proper notification of the Board of Directors and may suspend a player for violation of those team rules.

15. Equipment

The player, their parents, but ultimately the coaches have the responsibility to ensure that all mandatory equipment is worn. The following equipment is required for all players:

- Helmet with approved face mask and chin strap properly fastened.
- Hockey gloves
- Hockey pants with pads or padded girdle
- Shoulder pads
- Shin/Knee guards
- Supporter with cup (boys) or pelvic protector (girls)
- Elbow pads
- Mouth guard
- Protective safety lenses on eyeglasses
- Throat protector
- Butt end of stick properly covered with tape or rubber cap
- Goalies must wear a chest protector and an approved fully protective face mask with helmet and throat shield

16. Uniforms

- a. All uniforms on a team shall be of the same color and shall be numbered (no duplicate numbers). In the case of similar colors, the home team must make the change.
- b. Home and away jerseys are the player's financial responsibility, with the SCYIHA making them available.
- c. Matching home and away socks are the player's financial responsibility, with the SCYIHA making them available.

17. The Penn State Ice Pavilion

The SCYIHA is a customer and guest of the Penn State Ice Pavilion. The complex has standards of behavior that they enforce, and our player's behavior while at the rink reflects upon our organization, whether or not our players are participating in a SCYIHA activity or a public skating activity. The youth(s) wearing the SCYIHA jersey/clothing are to be admired and act in a responsible manner.

- a. SCYIHA members and players are guests of the Penn State Ice Pavilion and are expected to act accordingly.
- b. Any player or SCYIHA member involved in deliberately marking or defacing the locker rooms, classrooms, restrooms, or hallways will automatically forfeit his/her upcoming or next ice time and will be billed by the SCYIHA for the cost of repairing and damage to the Penn State Ice Pavilion.
- c. There will be no jogging, rollerblading, bike riding, floor hockey, or skate boarding in the arena concourse.
- d. For safety purposes, all non- hockey playing children should be supervised by an adult.
- e. The Penn State Ice Pavilion maintains a policy on "Abusive Behavior in Ice Hockey" whose intent is to ensure a safe environment for participants and officials during the use of the Penn State Ice Pavilion facilities. This policy has absolute pre-emptive priority over other rules enacted by user groups. The Penn State Ice Pavilion reserves the right to cancel, postpone, or alter arrangements for any event if necessary.
- f. The Penn State Ice Pavilion defines abuse of an official as a verbal or physical threat or any bodily contact between a player, coach, or spectator with an official before, during, or after a game, whether on the ice or not. There shall be no deliberate attempt to injure an official. The penalty for abuse of an official is an automatic twelve (12) month suspension from the date of the incident from all programs and entry to the Penn State Ice Pavilion.
- g. Written appeal of the automatic twelve (12) month suspension can be made to the Manager of the Penn State Ice Pavilion if received within thirty (30) days of the incident. The written appeal can be initiated by the person involved or a league/program official. There can be no appeal after the thirty (30) day period. The suspension will remain in effect during the appeal process. No program or SCYIHA monies will be refunded because of a suspension.