



GPYHA COACHES ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Coaches are expected to adhere to the following general responsibilities and principles as set down by GPYHA. The purpose is to assist GPYHA in attaining the goals of the program in the area of player development, enjoyment of the sport of hockey, and program stability.

BACKGROUND CHECKS: In an effort to create a safe environment to promote and teach youth hockey, all head and assistant coaches will undergo an annual background check by the State Attorney General's Office. Any issues that could arise will be discussed with the coach and the Board of Directors.

BEHAVIOR (COACHES): Coaches are expected to be advocates of GPYHA and not detractors. Negative comments about our program by current coaches will not be tolerated unless they are made in an appropriate forum that allows for constructive criticism and discussion (i.e.: Board meetings, President's meetings or Coaches meetings). GPYHA has a number of vehicles for coaches to raise issues or concerns to create solutions. Within the travel or house divisions, coaches are the official representation of GPYHA. In many cases the coach is the only program official that parents come in contact with. The growth and stability of GPYHA depends on all coaches, volunteers and Board members representing the program in a positive light. As much as GPYHA appreciates a coach's volunteer spirit and time and effort put into coaching in the program, GPYHA also feels that being awarded a position in our

program is a privilege and comes with the added responsibilities that affect the entire program. All coaches are expected to adhere to these additional program responsibilities.

BEHAVIOR (PARENTS): GPYHA supports the USA Hockey policy on Zero Tolerance. Please remind all parents and responsible guardians that abusive language, derogatory comments and all around poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated by GPYHA. If a parent becomes abusive, the coach has a responsibility to report this individual to the Board, at which point the Board will make a determination of the individual's future in GPYHA. At no point during any game is a parent allowed on or in the area of the bench.

BEHAVIOR (PLAYERS): Hockey is a fast paced aggressive game, and by definition so are the people who play it. In addition, kids will be kids; but even this has its limits. Our players represent our program whether on or off the ice. Off the ice, our players need to respect the facilities they visit, stay at and play in. On the ice they need to play hard but within the rules and bounds of good sportsmanship. The behavior of just one of our players can and will affect the entire organization. If a situation develops that a coach is uncomfortable with, he/she should reach out to the GPYHA board for assistance.

BEHAVIOR (NON-PLAYING CHILDREN): It is the parent's responsibility to monitor the behavior of non-playing children inside the rinks we rent ice from. All rinks have rules about running, climbing, and ball playing, stick use, etc., please make sure children are following their rules. Ice is difficult to rent, and GPYHA does not want to jeopardize any of our rental contracts due to behavior issues. Individuals or teams will be held financially responsible for any destruction of rink property.

COACHING CLINICS: It is the head coach's responsibility to ensure not only that he has the correct USA Hockey coaching certificate, but that all of his assistants also have the correct level. Clinics for the various levels are run annually and you can register for them by going to the USA Hockey home page.

COACHES CONTACTS: Most leagues will publish their coach's names and contact information on their web page. The web page for all registered leagues can be found by going to that state's USA Hockey affiliate's web page and working through the menu. For example, all Rhode Island leagues are listed at www.riaha.com. In addition, all Massachusetts leagues are listed at www.masshockey.com.

DRUGS & ALCOHOL: These will not be tolerated at GPYHA game, any player or coach caught with drugs or alcohol will be suspended immediately.

EMERGENCIES: Always have a cell phone with you or your team parent; know where the rink attendant's office is and his or her location in the building. Always have a list of emergency phone numbers for all of your players with you for both practices and games. All players and coaches are covered by USA hockey insurance as long as the team is registered and participating in a USA Hockey event.

EQUIPMENT DRESS CODE: All GPYHA travel players are required to wear, black pants (or shell), black helmet, and mostly black gloves.

DRESS CODE (COACHES): As coaches we represent GPYHA in everything we do, in particular our appearance. Coaches should wear GPYHA zip up jackets (white shoulders with logo) with black pants during all practices and either GPYHA windbreaker or GPYHA fleece for games/tournaments/scrimmages. This goes for all coaches on the ice or on the bench.

All items are available for purchase from Ray's Ultimate Hockey Shop.

GAME JERSEYS: At the beginning of each season the head coach (except the Midget coaches) will be assigned 17 home and 17 away jerseys: in addition, two jersey travel bags. The numbers are from 1 to 12, 14 to 17 & 30. They run from smallest size (#2) to largest (#17), with numbers 1 and 30 for the goalies. These are only to be worn for games. Any player seen wearing a game jersey in practice will be asked to leave the ice. At the end of the season, it is the coach's responsibility to return all jerseys and bags to the league equipment manager. Midget coaches will be given one set of keeper jerseys. These are to be passed out the season and players to keep upon the conclusion of the season.

GAME SOCKS: Travel players must purchase one set of home and one set of away socks to be worn in all games. Midgets should only purchase one set of away socks. Socks can be purchased directly from GPYHA, see the equipment coordinator.

GAME SHEETS: At the beginning of the season, each coach will be given 25-30 games sheets. These are only to be used for GPYHA home games and home scrimmages. All information must be filled out completely; this includes, the roster, coach's data, day/date/location/level of game player. The scorer must complete goals, penalties, and shots. Upon completion of the game; each team gets one copy and for state league games (only) the winning team must submit the game sheet to the division coordinator. Division coordinator information can be found on the RIAHA home page.

HELMET STICKERS: Will be distributed by the head coach at the start of the season.

ICE TIME: Each team will be assigned ice at the various rinks. If a coach would like to swap ice with another team or cannot use the

ice that has been assigned to him, it is his/her responsibility to make the necessary arrangements and to notify the scheduler of any changes. This can all be done via email. Under no circumstances should a sheet of ice purchased by GPYHA go unused. Wasted ice hurts the entire organization.

LOCKER ROOM ASSIGNMENTS AT

BROWN: When there are two teams on the ice, please get one locker room on each side. GPYHA and Brown cannot be held responsible for any stolen or damaged property.

OUTSTANDING BALANCES: If a player has an outstanding balance by November 30th, the head coach will be notified and the player will not be allowed to participate in GPYHA games or practices until the situation is corrected.

REFEREES: At the beginning of the season, GPYHA will set up referees for the originally scheduled state league home games. If a head coach makes any changes to this schedule, it is his/her responsibility to contact the referee assigner and make the necessary changes. In addition, it is the coach's responsibility to schedule referees for a home scrimmage. The contact information for the referee assigner can be found on the home page of RIAHA. The assigner will require 72 hour notice. Do not contact an individual referee directly, you must order referees through the assigner.

REFEREES' FEES: At the beginning of the season, GPYHA will issue the head coach a check to cover the cost of the referees for state league home games. Referee fees for scrimmages must come out of the team kitty. The fee schedule for the year is published at the beginning of the season on the RIAHA website. If for some reason only one referee shows up, do not pay him anything extra, it is the referee's responsibility to get the additional funds from his association.

RIAHA DIVISION COORDINATOR:

Each RIAHA division has a coordinator. This is the coach's main contact to the state league board. Any issues that arise in the state league game should be discussed with the division coordinator. The division coordinator should be notified of any state league schedule changes. All game sheets for state league games should be submitted to the coordinator by the winning team within 48 hours of the game.

ROSTERS: Teams are selected at tryouts. Under no circumstances are players to be moved up or down or added for a game of any type. The only exception would be if both goalies on a team could not attend and a goalie for the next level down would need to be brought up because the game must be played. If this is the case, both coaches must agree in advance and this situation must have prior board approval. In any case, moving or adding of players is usually a bad idea. All USA hockey rosters must be signed by players and coaches and submitted to the league registrar before the first game is played. A team is not insured until the roster is transmitted to USA Hockey.

TOURNAMENTS: All GPYHA travel teams (mites, squirts, peewee and girls) are expected to attend a minimum of four tournaments per season. Bantam and Midget teams are expected to attend two per season. Tournaments are listed on a number of web locations. Typically they are listed by the sponsoring league, organization or facility holding the event. The best place to start to find out when and where they are being held is www.usahockey.com. Then go to the district (state or area) and then to the tournaments.