

Tri-City Optimist Youth Ice Hockey Association Guidelines

As members of the Midwest League and Tri-State Affiliates, we must abide by certain rules and standards. In order for any team associated with TOYIHA to practice, play or travel, they must first be registered with USA Hockey through our Association.

Coaches:

Coaches and all select team players will be required to maintain their full participation in ALL house leagues games and practices unless otherwise approved by the rules committee. Coaches must apply each year for specific age divisions. Travel coaches are evaluated and selected by the Coaching Director, The Rules Committee and up to 3 other people that are knowledgeable about hockey and coaching. Coaches will abide by the policies and philosophies of TOYIHA and USA Hockey. TOYIHA and its members will support volunteer coaches.

Tryouts:

Tryouts will be conducted in a timely manner. The travel coaches of other age divisions and/or an independent person that is knowledgeable of hockey will select the team members of the travel team, these individuals can consult with the coaches of the age division (**travel coaches of designated division will be able to attend tryouts**). If the player is unable to attend the scheduled tryout, he/she must notify the Travel League Director in advance; if the absence is excused a 2nd tryout can occur at a first travel team practice with the designated representative present. All select teams shall consist of no more than 20 players; the number of players traveling will be determined by the coaches. A travel team must consist of a minimum number of 13 players plus 1 goaltender before another team can be formed in the same age division; the hockey player must participate with the team he/she is selected for. Coaches are encouraged to practice additional 4 to 8 players to develop as many players per age division as practice time allows. Practice players **will only be charged a cost (fee) to cover the costs of practice ice time**. The practice players may also be rostered in accordance to USA Hockey rules to replace players who have been injured or who otherwise are made unavailable to the team for an extended period of time. **In this case the practice player(s) moving to the “rostered travel squad” will be subjected to similar fees to that of the other players on the team.**

Gretsky rule:

The following requirements must be satisfied before a player will be allowed to move to the next older age division:

1. Parents must apply in writing to the coach in charge prior to travel tryouts.
2. Moving up will only be allowed one age level to the next succeeding level.
3. Only 2nd year age group players may apply to the next age group.
4. The player must fall in the top six (6) hockey players of that age group; 2nd year Bantams will be evaluated against only the JV Midgets.
5. The player may petition to be double rostered, provided both teams show a need

Gretsky rule Cont.

6. for additional player(s) and are approved by the rules committee.
7. The player must tryout at his/her age level that he/she wishes to move into; all associated fees must be paid by applicant.
8. The evaluating coach will determine which age group applicant will play.

Player Attitude:

All travel players, while maintaining their position in house league, are to act as leaders. They are to set examples of good sportsmanship towards ALL members of TOYIHA, referees, coaches, parents and all spectators, win or lose. As members of a travel team, players must remember they will be representing the Tri-Cities and surrounding areas of Nebraska.

Expectations/Commitment:

Players/parents are to be committed to seeking the highest level of hockey that is available for competitive play. Travel hockey does not equate fair playing time into equal playing time; playing time is at the discretion of the coaching staff. Parents should understand that the schedule may include holidays and players will from time to time be out of school. **Weekday travel SHOULD** be avoided as much as possible. Parents of **travel team players** need to behave in a mature and responsible manner. **The same expectation will be asked of each travel player! Be a good example!** It is the responsibility of all parents to do their share of volunteerism to help keep program costs down and the program running effectively. Parents are to check the web site for information and/or handouts and attend parent meetings. Please stay informed. Rumors breed discontent...the best way to be informed is to get involved.

Parents are to abide by the 24-hour rule. A coach cannot be approached or contacted within 24-hours of a game. A cooling off period allows for more time to think things through and become more level headed. In the heat of the moment, something may be said that will be regretted.

Demands of Players:

Agree to and sign "TOYIHA Disciplinary Guidelines"

Keep grades up.

Dress code for games at team discretion.

Zero Tolerance on and off ice.

Total respect for all coaches and referees.

Good sportsmanship... win or lose!!

TOYIHA

Disciplinary Guidelines

Precursor – The guidelines listed below are in addition to those guidelines ascribed to by USA Hockey, which are listed on the USA Hockey website under Coaches, Parents and/or Players/Participant Codes of Conduct. Each player and parent is asked to sign and adhere to these codes of conduct prior to the season.

Purpose - The following guidelines have been established to limit and/or eliminate issues and/or matters that may be perceived as harmful to the success of the TOYIHA Youth Travel team.

Goal – The development of these disciplinary guidelines was meant to place behavioral responsibility on the players and parents of the TOYIHA Youth Travel team and at the same time try to create a consistent measurable means to establish disciplinary actions as a result of poor behavior and/or decisions on behalf of players and/or parents.

I. Attendance

1. TOYIHA players are expected to attend all practices and games on time, dressed with proper equipment.
2. All players are expected to notify the coaches or team managers, prior to the game or practice, if they are going to be late or absent from a game or practice.
3. Excused absences (school or church related activities) should be relayed as soon as possible.
4. Unexcused absences or tardiness hurt individual and team development, and may result in consequences from the coach.

II. Locker Room

1. All players are to use the locker room to quickly dress for on-ice activities. Players may use locker room after ice activities to shower and dress.
2. Locker rooms are not to be used for playing games, shooting pucks or horseplay of any kind. Non-team friends are not allowed in the locker room at any time.
3. Non-hockey items and valuables should not be brought into the locker room.
4. Any player abusing the locker room or locker room rules may lose the privilege of using the facilities and further discipline will be at the discretion of the coach and/or rules committee.
5. TOYIHA, Coaches and/or Team Managers are NOT responsible for lost or stolen property on the bus, the motels or the rinks.

III. Behavior

1. All TOYIHA Youth players are expected to treat other players, teammates, coaches, fans and officials with respect.
2. All players are expected to skate to the best of their ability and represent TOYIHA Youth Ice Hockey Association with sportsmanlike conduct in all win or lose situations.
3. Arguing, verbal or physical gestures of disrespect, swearing, fighting or intent to injure are unacceptable behaviors both on and off the ice, discipline will be acted upon immediately by the coach and/or the rules committee.
4. The use/possession of tobacco products, alcohol, drugs and drug paraphernalia by TOYIHA Youth players is **ILLEGAL** and **STRICTLY FORBIDDEN**. Immediate action will be taken in accordance with MSHSL guidelines and/or TOYIHA Rules committee and coach; game and season suspensions are possible.
5. Academics: TOYIHA Youth players are encouraged to maintain solid academic performance.
6. **All players are expected to accept the positive or negative consequences of the behaviors they choose to exhibit.**
7. Travel Behavior: Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. TOYIHA Youth Players will respect every hotel, restaurant and ice facility and the employees of those establishments. Curfews will be abided by. **Failure to comply with these expectations will result in a reduction of playing time and possible loss of future playing privileges.**

Process – When an incident and/or problem occurs the head and assistant coaching staff along with the rules committee will review the facts surrounding the incident and determine the extent of the incident and will discuss the disciplinary action with the player and parents.

By signing this form I am stating that I have received a copy of the TOYIHA Guidelines, and agree to abide by all set disciplinary guidelines.

Signed
(Player): _____ Date: _____

Signed
(Parent): _____ Date: _____