

MCSA Youth Hockey Handbook

2007-2008



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MISSION STATEMENT

The MCSA Youth Hockey Club (MCSA YH) is a youth hockey organization serving youths age 3 to 18 which operates within the guidelines of the Maine Amateur Hockey Association (MEAHA) and USA Hockey.

Our parent organization, Maine Coast Skaters Association (MSCA), believes in developing our players' absolute skill level, skating and enjoyment of the game. MCSA YH intends to accomplish these goals through a strong coaching environment which focuses on building self-confidence and strong team interaction while being mindful of fair playing time. We believe such an effort is critical to the development of our young hockey playing boys and girls and in the end, will provide for an overall FUN and ENJOYABLE experience.

Our four primary objectives are as follows:

1. Have fun playing hockey
2. Maximize the individual potential of each player
3. Develop a strong sense of TEAM spirit
4. Encourage respect for others and develop good sportsmanship by promoting goodwill between players, officials, coaches and parents.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS10/19/2007

a. Learn-to-Play

This is the entry-level hockey program for children of any age with little or no prior hockey experience. Participants must be able to skate independently without the use of a “skatemate”, holding on to the wall, or with the assistance of an adult. Learn-To-Skate prior to or in conjunction with Learn-To Play is encouraged.

Learn-to-Play coaches work with children to develop the basics of hockey skating technique. As the season progresses and skaters become more adept, they are introduced to the basics of puck control, passing and shooting. During the final few sessions of the season, players will have the opportunity to play in actual games, based on coaches’ recommendation and the players ability. Goal is to encourage these players to join a team at age appropriate division.

b. Atoms (6 & Under)

The Atoms program is for children ages 6 and under. Participants are grouped by ability. New skaters (Unable to skate independently with out use of a “skatemate”, holding on to the wall, or with the assistance of an adult), intermediate and/or advanced. The focus is fun and becoming familiar with being on the ice in hockey equipment. Basics of hockey are focused on with skills presented in a variety of formats (Drill, relay races, ice soccer, etc.) to emphasize skating and hockey skills. The team aspects of hockey such as cheering on a player and playing any position are demonstrated.

c. Mites (8 & Under)

The Mite program is for 7 and 8 year olds who have developed basic skating skills. Six year old players may be considered according to the number of players qualified to play and the experience level of the player in question. Players are not required to have prior hockey experience, but prior participation in the Atoms, Learn-to-Play Hockey or Learn-To-Skate program is encouraged. Mites have approximately a 2:1 ratio of practices/skills clinics to games and play full ice games against other Mite teams from the surrounding areas. At the start of each season, MCSA holds evaluations for Mite players and divides its Mites into teams of approximate equal talent.

d. Squirts (9 & 10 Year Olds)

The Squirts program is for 9 and 10 year olds who have developed basic skating skills. This program is designed to suit the skills and interest of s diverse group of players. The program ranges from recreational (“House”) hockey to more competitive (“Travel”) *Competitive B* teams. We are always eager to welcome new players to this program. The program has an approximate 2:1 ratio of practices/skills clinics to games playing full ice against other Squirt teams from the surrounding areas. Prior to commencement of games, MCSA holds evaluations for Squirt players and divides its Squirts into teams of approximate equal talent. If a Travel team is desired, then the teams will be divided according to the rules for establishing a Travel Team.

e. Pee Wee (11 & 12 Year Olds)

The Pee Wee program is for 11 and 12 year olds who have developed basic skating skills. This program is designed to suit the skills and interest of s diverse group of players. The

program ranges from recreational (“House”) hockey to more competitive (“Travel”) teams. We are always eager to welcome new players to this program. The program has an approximate 2:1 ratio of practices/skills clinics to games playing full ice against other Pee Wee teams from the surrounding areas. Prior to commencement of games, MCSA holds evaluations for Pee Wee players and divides its Pee Wee’s into teams of approximate equal talent. If a Travel team is desired, then the teams will be divided according to the rules for establishing a Travel Team.

f. Bantam (13 & 14 Year Olds)

The Bantam program is for 13 and 14 year olds who have developed basic skating skills. This program is designed to suit the skills and interest of a diverse group of players. The program ranges from recreational (“House”) hockey to more competitive (“Travel”) teams. We are always eager to welcome new players to this program. The program has an approximate 2:1 ratio of practices/skills clinics to games playing full ice against other Bantam teams from the surrounding areas. Prior to commencement of games, MCSA holds evaluations for Bantam players and divides its Bantams into teams of approximate equal talent. If a Travel team is desired, then the teams will be divided according to the rules for establishing a Travel Team.

g. Midget (18 and under)

The Midget program is for those under 18 who have developed intermediate skills. Midget hockey is a split season program. It will begin in mid to late September and ends in November, during the High School Hockey season. The season may resume after high School Hockey ends if skaters and coaches desire. The Practice and game ratio will be at the discretion of the coaches and registered players.

h. Girls (19 & under, 16 & under, 14 & under, 12 & under)

The Girls program is for girls who have developed basic skating skills. This program is designed to suit the skills and interest of a diverse group of players. We are always eager to welcome new players to this program. The program has an approximate 2:1 ratio of practices/skills clinics to games playing full ice against other Girls teams from the surrounding areas. At the start of each season the teams will be established based on the age and skill level of the skaters.

AGE CLASSIFICATION

MCSA follows the age classifications as determined by USA Hockey. Age is determined by the child’s age as of December 31st of the year in which the season begins.

CLASSIFICATION	AGE
ATOMS	6 and Under
MITES	8 and Under
SQUIRTS	9 and 10
PEE WEES	11 and 12
BANTAMS	13 and 14
MIDGETS	18 and Under
GIRLS	19 and Under

Age Classification Exceptions (Skating- Down) (Skate-Up Policy)

MCSA Youth Hockey follows the age classifications established by USA Hockey.

Skating-Down is rarely allowed. A skater would need written documentation from a physician. The document would then have to follow the procedure under USA Hockey requirements which includes a request to MEAHA and USA Hockey directly.

Skating-up is strongly discouraged by USA Hockey. MCSA Youth hockey does grant exceptions for special circumstances. Skating-up requests must be made in writing prior to the evaluation sessions. Requests for exceptions will not be granted for more than one year above the appropriate age classification. Hardship issues including scheduling or transportation concerns are not a basis for an exception.

Parents seeking an exception must submit a letter of request for Age Classification Exception to the MCSA YH Board prior to the season evaluations. The skater will be granted permission to tryout for an older level of play if it is determined that the player has a reasonable chance of making a team at that level based on the following criteria: the player's skills and abilities are above those of the average player at the older level, according to the on-ice evaluations. Other relevant considerations include whether the player is of sufficient size, strength and maturity to be safe, and the roster size of the requested level as well as that of the age appropriate level. In evaluating a request for exception, the board may consult with a player's prior coaches, as well as the coaches at the requested older level.

The board reserves the right to reconsider and reverse the decision with respect to any exception at any point during the season.

LEVELS OF PLAY

MCSA Youth Hockey participates in the *Maine Amateur Hockey Association* (MeAHA) which is a statewide affiliate of USA Hockey. USA Hockey recognizes a three Tier System for rating Travel Teams with a separate House program. MeAHA recognizes a three tier system for Travel/ House hockey programs. Tier I (Competitive A), Tier II (Competitive B) and Tier III (House Hockey). Teams schedule games against each other throughout the season from October through February with other teams at their same Tier. Games outside of the declared Tier are allowed. The league culminates in a statewide tournament for each Tier, typically scheduled for the end of February.

- **House Hockey**

Most players within MCSA YH play at the “house” level. The goal of house level hockey is to provide players with an opportunity to develop skills and play games at a recreational level. MCSA YH schedules games against other area teams of comparable skill and ability. Most regular season house games are played within one hour of the MRC. Because House level hockey is intended to be recreational in nature, MSCA YH has an “equal” play policy. Players can expect, with limited exceptions, s/he will play as often as his/her teammates and coaches can permit. Coaches are not permitted to regularly allow certain players a disproportionate amount of ice time during games. Coaches are given the discretion to make exceptions to the “equal” play policy during the final two minutes of games.

Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam and Girls typically skate in 30-40 practices/skills clinics and 16-20 games, in addition to tournament play. Mite and Girls teams may skate fewer games due to availability of other teams.

House program fees are fixed at the beginning of each season. House games are generally scheduled from late October through February, with tournaments carrying the season into March or early April.

- **Travel Hockey**

The two travel divisions within the MeAHA league are *Competitive A* and *Competitive B*. Competitive A is a regionalized league intended to promote the highest level of competition. MeAHA divides the state into five zones and each zone fields one Competitive A team at the Squirt, Pee Wee and Bantam level.

At the Competitive B level, individual associations field their own teams. MCSA Youth Hockey may establish Competitive B teams at the Squirt, Peewee and/or Bantam age groups when the interest and talent is available. Competitive B teams must be “declared” at the appropriate MeAHA meeting (usually) in September. Evaluations for Competitive B teams are conducted by individual associations.

Travel hockey is reserved for those players who have the skills necessary to play a more competitive level of hockey. As a result, team members for Travel hockey are selected through an evaluations process as identified in the Team Selection Procedures.

Membership on a travel team does not necessarily entitle a player to “equal” ice time during game situations; However, MCSA coaches will endeavor to provide equal ice time to each player. The travel coach has the discretion to decide how much a player will play during any particular game. Parents should understand that membership on a travel team offers a child the opportunity to develop his/her skills in an advanced program with players of roughly equal or greater ability and interest.

Travel teams are exposed to more games than are offered at the House level.

MCSA has adopted a policy that requires travel teams to be financially self-sufficient. As a result, the costs of participating in a travel program are higher than that of a House program. Parents should expect the program fee to cost 40-50% more than the House program. Parents should also factor in the additional costs of tournament fees, travel to tournaments, including overnight hotel stays. Parents may wish to consult coaches or committee members for information on payments, fees, fundraising and scholarships.

Parents should also understand that there are eligibility rules adopted by MeAHA that address the eligibility of a player to play on a travel team if a player has previously played within a different MeAHA member organization.

FUNDRAISING COMMITMENT

The cost of providing a well-developed hockey program is considerable. MCSA Youth Hockey board has committed annually to taking on major fundraising events in order to maintain a low annual tuition rate and provide scholarships for skaters.

Team Sponsorships from interested businesses and individuals have also contributed significantly to providing the funds to keep costs reasonable.

MCSA Youth Hockey is an entirely volunteer-run organization and as such needs input from every family to continue to keep sponsorships and the following fund raising events successful.

The season is typically kicked off with an **equipment swap/sale** in October at the MidCoast Recreation Center. The major objective of the Swap/sale is to provide low cost for used equipment to families in the program.

A major fundraising event entails solicitation of ads for the annual **tournament program** which is distributed at the MidCoast Classic Hockey Tournament. The funds raised are directed to each teams' registration fees in a tournament and/or for other program needs (including equipment, clinics, scholarships, etc.)

Other fundraisers in the past include **bottle drives, book sales, merchandise sales and raffles.**

Other major events are held in conjunction with the Camden Hill Regional High School boosters and the Mid Coast Ice Cats. The **Hat Trick Golf Tournament** is held in the fall. **The Hat Trick Auction** is held in February. All families are expected to solicit or donate items for auction as well as helping with the setting up and organizing. Please keep a look out for information in December and January for the Hat Trick Auction. The Hat Trick Golf Tournament sends out requests in August and September.

The MCSA Youth Hockey committee is all-volunteer and work tirelessly to make the fundraising events fun but your help is always needed!!

**PLEASE PARTICIPATE –
ALL WE NEED IS TO GIVE 100%**

TEAM SELECTION

MCSA fields teams at both House and Travel levels. Please refer to the Team Descriptions for a more complete understanding of the differences between the two. The following policies and procedures will govern selection of players for House Teams and Travel Teams within the same age level.

House Team Selection

Team Division: The goal is to create evenly matched House Teams

1. All registered players attend the first two weeks of practice with their respected team level (Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget, Girls)
2. During the course of the first week of practice, coaches observe all players as they go through their drills. Assessments / observations are tabulated.
3. During the second week of practice, lines (based on the coaches' assessments) are put through scrimmage drills to observe even play of respective teams.
4. Coaches confer on the final assignment of players.

Team Assignments: The goal is evenly matched House Teams

1. Announcement of final teams should be done concurrently at each level.
2. Methods that players have been informed of assignment include:
 - a. Lists posted
 - b. Coaches call players to his/her team

Travel Team Selection

1. Will be conducted by a combination of outside evaluators (minimum 1 - recommended 2) (i.e. high school coaches, director of coaching) and head coaches for each respective team.
2. Evaluations will consist of the first 3 practices of the season with a minimum of 1 outside evaluator being present at 2 of the 3 practices. Practices will consist of specific skill evaluation as well as various scrimmages and small area games.
3. The head coaches and evaluators must use a standard form to record the evaluation of each player's skill and ability in such areas as skating, stick-handling, passing, shooting and general scrimmage-sense, etc.
4. Parents of players being evaluated shall not be used as evaluators with the exception of the head coaches.
5. Feedback will be provided to all players not selected providing details on areas for improvement.
6. Scores from evaluations will not be posted.

The Head Coaches will coordinate with the Head of Coaching to determine the appropriate number of players for each team.

Following a review of proposed team assignments by the head coaches and the Head of Coaching, all players will be notified of team assignments at the start of the 4th practice.

MCSA COACHING GUIDELINES

Coaching is an art, not a science. Many people coach in different ways. However, MCSA feels that the following are requirements for excellent coaching. At the end of the day, we want our children to have a great experience playing the sport of ice hockey. MCSA wants them to learn skills, teamwork, sportsmanship, and be part of an exciting, safe and fun ice hockey community. MCSA considers the following are both requirements and attributes that are central to excellent ice hockey coaching.

1. All candidates for coaching are required to fill out and sign an application annually with MSCA's Head of Coaching, who will review and consider applicants for coaching positions. The Coaching Coordinator shall select and recommend to the MCSA Hockey Committee one Head Coach for each team and at least one Assistant Coach for each team, at each level. The final decision shall come from the Head of Coaching and the MCSA Youth Hockey Committee, who will review all candidates, at all levels and approve. Wherever possible, the coaching positions will be set before the first practice of the season.
2. Factors that should be considered when making the selection and recommendation shall include the following, in no particular order of importance:
 - Prior Coaching Experience with MCSA Youth Hockey
 - Prior season's MCSA coaching reviews
 - Feedback (formal or informal) from parents of prior teams coached
 - Prior hockey or other youth sports coaching experience
 - Commitment & availability;
 - Ability/Capacity to Communicate and Teach
 - Coaching philosophy;
 - General Hockey Background & Knowledge References
 - Personal Background check supported by signed release of information
 - Any other reliable information known by or available to the Head of Coaching or members of the MCSA Hockey Committee.
3. All coaches will have the proper certification as required for their youth hockey coaching level. As specified by USA hockey, coaches that are not current in their certifications for the level of team they are coaching by December 31st of the season being coached will not be allowed to coach until their certifications are current.
4. All coaches are required to attend at least two meetings called by the Head of Coaching, and to attend at least two clinics held by MCSA during the season.
5. Coaches will be required to fulfill any requirements as requested by MCSA's head of coaching or MCSA Hockey Committee. They will never strike, push, punch, check, or yell at any player, coach or parent in an abusive manner. They should look upon themselves as recruiters of players, coaches, parents and community leaders. Wherever possible, they will assist with MCSA fund raisers. Coaches are required to be forces for good in the association. This means that it is the coaches' responsibility to bring any

issues, negative or positive to MCSA's Director of Coaching, or a member of the MCSA hockey committee.

6. All coaches should familiarize themselves with the basic first aid procedures and should make every effort to attend first aid clinics when provided by MCSA, as they become available.

7. COACHES HELMET POLICY

In accordance with USA Hockey policy, all MCSA hockey coaches must properly wear an approved ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages and coaching clinics.

Head Coach:

1. Head coaches take the lead role in all practices and games. If the head coach is not available for any reason, it is the responsibility of the head coach to have a responsible certified assistant to take his place.

2. Head coaches will conduct a parent meeting with their team within the first two weeks of the season. Coaches will discuss their coaching philosophy with the parents, assistant coaches and players, and review handbook policies, team guidelines, and any other issues as needed.

3. Head coaches will come prepared to each practice session with a practice plan. They will share that plan with their assistant coaches prior to practice. When possible, Head coaches will meet with all players and Assistant coaches 10 minutes prior to ice time to present the practice plan for the day. This saves valuable ice time and involves all concerned for a coordinated practice.

4. Head coaches will recruit a Team Parent volunteer to take charge of handing out information, etc.

5. The Head Coach will ensure he/she, the assistant coach or a responsible adult is in the locker room at all times starting one half hour before scheduled practices. (Per MRC requirements)

Assistant Coach:

1. Assistant coaches take the supporting role in all practices and games. If the head coach is not available for any reason, it is the responsibility of the assistant coach to assume the responsibilities of the Head Coach. Assistant coaches will support the head coach in all team endeavors where possible

2. Assistant coaches will attend all meetings with their teams and will come to the rink prepared to support the practice plan of the head coach.

Student Demonstrators / Student Coaches:

MCSA promotes the use of Student Demonstrators during practices, according to the following guidelines:

1. Student Demonstrators must take an active role in familiarizing themselves with the practice plan presented by the coaches for each on ice session. This step should occur BEFORE ice time starts.
2. They must have completed and paid USA Hockey IMRs.
3. They must be engaged in a productive and useful manner according to the specific practice plan being used by the Head Coach for the team, and refrain from “shooting pucks” or otherwise using this opportunity for their own “extra ice time”. They may demonstrate a drill but may not take part in the drills.
4. The Head or Assistant coaches shall have full authority to ask Student Demonstrators/Student Coach to leave the ice, if their conduct is deemed detrimental to the running of an effective and focused practice.
5. Student Demonstrators/Student Coaches must abide by USA Hockey rules and wear the appropriate gear.
6. Student Coaches must complete an appropriate USA Hockey Form.

Coaching Reviews:

The MCSA Head of Coaching will undertake at least one mid-season review of those Coaches approved by the MCSA Hockey Committee to measure the progress and suitability of the Coach. This mid-season review may occur at any time and is intended as an opportunity for feedback and input for and from the coach. Items that should be considered for review may include:

- Accountability: Commitment & Availability
- Ability/Capacity to Communicate and Teach
- Coaching philosophy
- Discipline Issues
- Adherence to USA Hockey Coach's Code of Conduct
- Any other pertinent information available to the MCSA Head of Coaching or Hockey Committee.

Should circumstances arise whereby a Coach indicates that he / she can no longer continue to fulfill his/her role as Coach, or where the MCSA Head of Coaching or Hockey Committee determines that a Coach should be removed, the MCSA Head of Coaching shall select and recommend to the Committee a successor.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Significant referee disputes (misconduct penalties, player suspensions, game forfeits, etc.) should be brought to the attention of the Referee Coordinator and/or the Board of Directors

Should a player or Coach receive a major (game) misconduct penalty causing that player or coach to also serve a game suspension, the Board of Directors will review the matter and may take appropriate action including addressing the player or coach and possibly imposing additional penalties upon that individual. Please note that the Board of Directors is also authorized to review or address matters pertaining to off-ice misconduct.

Disciplinary Policy

We attempt, when possible, to employ positive reinforcement techniques to bring out the best in our players, coaches and parents; however, there will be times when coaches and/or the MCSA Committee must take corrective action to deal with a problem.

Coaches should utilize the following strategies in order to effectively manage conflicts amongst players, coaches and parents:

- " The Coach should speak with the player, parent or coach
- The Coach should address player and parent together
- The Coach should address the Head of Coaching and / or MCSA Committee (with parent and player)

The following actions may be taken by MCSA coaches and/or MCSA Committee:

- **Benching**
 - Performance Related:
 - Repeated absences or lateness to practice, regardless of reason, is detrimental to the team. Coaches may choose to discipline players by benching them.
 - Disciplinary Related
- **Game Suspension**
- **MCSA Suspension**
- **Permanent Removal for Season**

MCSA observes a **code of conduct** which requires respect of fellow players, coaches and officials. Any player whose conduct is considered detrimental to this team or MCSA, either on the ice, in the locker room, or off the ice, both home and away, will be disciplined. MCSA operates under the general rules of MEAHA and USA Hockey. The following represents the MCSA disciplinary steps:

Disciplinary Policy (continued)

1st OFFENSE: An incident report will be filed by the coach and the MCSA Committee. The player will be addressed by the coach.

2nd OFFENSE: The party(ies) responsible will attend the next scheduled game but will sit on the bench. Parents will be notified.

3rd OFFENSE: Player will be considered for removal from MCSA.

As per USA Hockey rules, any player receiving a **game misconduct** for any reason will receive:

Mite/Squirt/PeeWee

1 st Offense	One game suspension
2 nd Offense	Three game suspensions
3 rd Offense	Suspension until reviewed by the Board of Directors

Bantam/Midget:

1 st Offense	Two game suspensions
2 nd Offense	Five game suspensions
3 rd Offense	Suspension until reviewed by the Board of Directors

There will be a “**ZERO TOLERANCE**” Policy for players, parents and coaches for any physical or verbal abuse of coaches, directors, or any other member of MCSA.

Any player removed from a game must be escorted to the locker room.

Any player or parent ejected from a game must meet with the Board of Directors before attending any game or practice.

The Board of Directors has the right to suspend any player, parent or coach for conduct considered detrimental to either MCSA or to hockey in general.

Parents are restricted from discussing with the coaching staff any matters relating to a game either 24 hours prior or after all games.

Zero Tolerance Physical Abuse Policy

All parents/guardians of players in the MCSA program that attempt to, or cause, physical injury, or threat thereof, to any individual associated with MCSA, MEAHA, or its member organizations, shall be subject to suspension of their child/children and themselves from further MCSA play or other involvement for a period of time up to one year. A second instance of attempting, causing or threatening physical injury shall result in a suspension up to 3 years, for the player(s) and the parent/guardian from MCSA involvement. **In each instance, a report will be made to MEAHA and USA Hockey so that such instances are “on record” and available to all clubs, MEAHA or USA Hockey, members or not.**

LINES OF COMMUNICATION

The MCSA YH organization strives to keep an open line of communication between all constituencies making up its organization – parents, players, committee members, board members, coaches, referees, rink professionals, rink staff, MEAHA and USA Hockey. To make communications easy and efficient, we have established the following line of communication for sharing suggestions and airing grievances.

Team Parent & Coach

The Team Parent and Team Coach among other duties are responsible as the first line of communication for any “team” or “club” issue that may arise. The Team Parent and Team Coach should determine whether an issue can be resolved internally (i.e. by the team parent, coach, individual involved or a combination thereof) or whether it is a matter for the Team Parent Coordinator and/or Youth Hockey Committee.

MCSA YH Committee

The Team Parent Coordinator and/or YH President will act as the Board Liaison for any issues not resolved at the committee level, or, in those situations when a matter might be considered too sensitive for the Team Parent (i.e. when the individual making the suggestion or grievance is uncomfortable going to the Team Parent.) The Liaison in such cases will attempt to resolve the issue first; at the team level, secondly; at the committee level and finally at the Board level, if required.

MCSA Board

The non-profit governing leg of Maine Coast Skaters Association.

All matters/issues will be addressed and responded to in a reasonable time frame.



Please keep all Discussions/Grievances PRIVATE

- *Team Coach or Team Parent depending on circumstance.*

PLAYER PHILOSOPHY / CODE OF CONDUCT

As a hockey club, we take our children's conduct, both on and off the ice, very seriously. It is expected that all children treat all individuals with whom they interact with utmost respect. That includes their team mates, competition, coaches, referees, parents and others. Our children are a reflection of our professionalism and the name of the MCSA YH organization and, therefore, we will not tolerate any action or disrespect we feel compromises the MCSA YH name in anyway. Again, this is true both on and off the ice. Any action we feel compromises this "Code of Conduct" may result in benching, game suspension or club suspension.

We Expect:

- Total commitment and effort by our players. Each player is expected to strive on the ice to devote strict attention and maximum effort to developing skills in practice and achieving team success in game situations.
- Attendance to be a **High Priority**. The MCSA YH Board believes attendance to be of critical importance – all absences must be communicated beforehand to the coach.
- Respect for the game and all individuals involved.
- Respect for personal property.
- Respect for all rink facilities, ours and competitors. You represent MCSA. Please set a good example.
- Cooperation and good sportsmanship.

Players Code of Conduct

- Play for FUN.
- Work hard to improve your skills.
- Be a team player – get along with your teammates.
- Learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline.
- Be on time for practices and games
- Learn the rules and play by them. Always be a good sport.
- Respect your coach, your teammates, your parents, opponents and officials.
- Never argue with an official's decision.

COACHES PHILOSOPHY / CODE OF CONDUCT

- Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one. Care more about the child than the winning of the game. Remember players are involved in hockey for fun and enjoyment.
- Be a positive role model to your players, display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of players.
- Be generous with your praise when it is deserved; be consistent, honest; be fair and just; do not criticize players publicly; learn to be a more effective communicator and coach, don't yell at players.
- Adjust to personal needs and problems of players, be a good listener, never verbally or physically abuse a player or official; give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem; teach them the basics.
- Organize practices that are fun and challenging for your players. Familiarize yourself with the rules, techniques and strategies of hockey; encourage all your players to be team players.
- Maintain an open line of communication with your players' parents. Explain the goals and objectives of your association.
- Be concerned with the overall development of your players. Stress good health habits and clean living.
- To play the game is great, to love the game is greater.

PARENT PHILOSOPHY / CODE OF CONDUCT

We Expect:

- Professional manner at all times – practices and games. You represent MCSA – show respect for all rink facilities, ours and competitors. Please set a good example.
- Employ proper communication lines when making suggestions and/or airing grievances. Adhere to the “24-Hour Rule” – no communication with coaches 24 hours prior to and after games.
- No coaching – No refereeing from the sidelines. Refrain from coaching your child at home or in the car – we do not want to “undo” what our coaches are teaching our players.
- Actively support all team activities, fundraising, etc., where possible. Fundraising is critical to the success of the MCSA YH organization much the same way it is with other not-for-profit organizations. Please support our fundraising efforts and get involved in the fundraising spirit.
- No badmouthing players, coaches, referees, etc. Please employ a standard of professionalism and understand that **HOCKEY IS FUN** and **IT’S JUST A GAME**.

Parents Code of Conduct

- Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desire to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun!
- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
- Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit.
- Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- Know and study the rules of the game, and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.
- Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat, and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice – it is destructive. Work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.
- If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about hockey – and volunteer.

SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

MCSA YH supports the USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy. As spectators to the game of hockey, we all know how easy it is to get carried away in the excitement of the game. We welcome encouraging words!! We do not welcome derogatory remarks to any individual, be it coaches, officials, other parents, competitors, other players, your own child, etc.

Please understand ...

There will be bad calls

There will be bad coaching decisions

There will be bad plays made by our players

We are all human and as such, will make mistakes. The following are meant as guidelines:

- Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials.
- Act appropriately; do not taunt or disturb other fans; enjoy the game together.
- Cheer good plays of all participants; avoid booing opponents

- Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive.
- Help provide a safe and fun environment; throwing any items on the ice surface can cause injury to players and officials.
- Do not lean over or pound on the glass; the glass surrounding the ice surface is part of the playing area.
- Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
- Be responsible for your own safety – be alert to prevent accidents from flying pucks and other avoidable situations.
- Respect locker rooms as private areas for players, coaches and officials.
- Be supportive **after** the game – win or lose. Recognize good effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.
- If you volunteer as a timekeeper, scorekeeper, or penalty box keeper, you are technically an impartial off-ice official working for the referee and not permitted to cheer or criticize play.

TOURNAMENT POLICY PARTICIPATION / CONDUCT

Consistent with MCSA mission statement and goals, it is the intent and desire to provide all of our youth hockey players with the opportunity to play, to maximize individual potential, to develop TEAM spirit and good Sportsmanship. Tournament play provides a unique opportunity for individual and team growth in all these areas.

Tournaments will provide skaters, coaches and families the opportunity to travel to different parts of our state, New England and Canada and gain a multitude of experiences both on and off the ice.

It is the intent of MCSA:

1. In addition to the Mid-Coast Classic Tournament, teams be made aware of other tournament opportunities.
2. These opportunities be at the appropriate level
3. Festival Tournaments (Individual Competition) and State Tournaments (Team Competition) become more obtainable for our teams.
4. Tournament opportunities are available in Canada. Canadian Tournaments require a travel permit through MeAHA.

It is important that all involved remember that at these outside events, we are representing Maine Coast Skaters Association (MCSA), the local community and ourselves with our words and actions.

All involved shall remember, while winning shall not be considered unimportant, winning shall not supersede the striving to do ones best while demonstrating good sportsmanship.

It is the intent and desire that teams participate as they are currently configured. It is mandatory at State Tournaments that participating teams compete as they have been rostered over the season. It is also understood that from time to time rosters will need to be supplemented in order to have sufficient numbers to participate in non-State Tournaments taking place on holidays and/or vacation weeks. (See policy on borrowing players).

The cost of tournament registration, travel, food and lodging will be the responsibility of the players participating.

MCSA shall establish an association tournament coordinator who shall:

1. Accumulate and disseminate tournament information for all levels to each head coach.
2. This information to be prepared as early as possible in the season to allow for planning and scheduling issues.
3. Communicate to the hockey committee regarding tournaments via the scheduler and registrar.

Each team shall establish a parent as tournament coordinator. This is in addition to the team parent. The tournament coordinators responsibilities are described below:

In the case of state tournaments there may be only one spot available to MCSA, even though we may have two teams that would like to participate. In these cases assuming both teams would like to participate, a playoff game will be held between the two teams to determine who will represent MCSA.

Procedure:

It is assumed that participation in an outside tournament:

1. Is the desire of the team coaches
2. The selected tournament does not conflict with scheduled games (Home games cannot be cancelled.)
3. The individual team coaches first meet with or communicate with all parents as to the specifics of the tournament – dates – times – location – cost. This is to determine if there is sufficient interest, numbers and funding for the team to participate.
4. In the event, for a non-State Tournament, a sufficient number of players on a team will not be available to participate, see Policy regarding borrowing players.

Once it is determined that the team will be participating in the tournament, coaches will then share the details with the players on the participating team.

Team Tournament Coordinator will then:

1. Collect registration money form all players/families
2. Submit tournament registration, which may require team rosters and other information, in a timely and accurate manner. The registrar may need to be notified to provide the registered roster.
3. Research and provide information on lodging options, assuming it is a multi-day tournament.
4. Communicate logistics – timing – location, etc. for coaches, parents and players, so that all involved understand what is going on.

PAYMENT POLICY

If participating on a House Team:

Option 1: Payment due in full at time of registration.

Option 2: Payments can be made in five (5) equal amounts:

- Payment 1 – Due No later than Community Day
- Payment 2 – Due October 30
- Payment 3 – Due November 30
- Payment 4 – Due December 30
- Payment 5 – Due January 15

If participating on a Competitive B Team:

Option 1: Payment Due in Full at time of registration.

Option 2: Payments can be made in four (4) equal amounts:

- Payment 1 – Due October 30
- Payment 2 – Due November 30
- Payment 3 – Due December 30
- Payment 4 – Due January 15

Any other Payment Plans or arrangements can be made through the MCSA Treasurer.

Any players not current with their payments after Payment 3, will not be eligible to participate in team practices or games until their accounts are current.

Refunds will be allowed up to 6 weeks. A written request must be made to the committee. A \$50 minimum Non-refundable fee will be retained to cover insurance costs.

Scholarships are available to all skaters based on need. Scholarship Form available from MCSA Treasurer.

HOCKEY EQUIPMENT

Selection of hockey equipment is a key issue among coaches, players and parents. When purchasing and fitting hockey equipment, remember two important factors:

1. Be sure the player is adequately protected.
2. The equipment allows freedom of movement to properly perform the necessary skills.

By carefully including these two factors, your child will be more comfortable and will better enjoy the game.

A full set of hockey equipment can be purchased for a relatively reasonable cost if you shop around for the best values. Remember that you need not buy the most expensive equipment, but the equipment must fit properly to provide maximum protection.

Skates: Purchase skates that fit now, allowing no more than ½ inch for future growth. Insure they provide adequate protection in the ankle, toe and instep areas. Improperly fitted skates will hamper your child's ability to skate at optimum level.

Helmet: Must be sized at the time of purchase to fit properly. The chinstrap must always be fastened and the ear protectors must always be in place.

Mouth Guard: Required for all players, at all levels, as per USA Hockey recommendations.

Stick: The length of the stick should generally extend from the ice to the player's chin (with skates on). Quality and price differ greatly, so the choice is up to the parent/player.

Shin Pads: Check for proper length so they protect the knee and shin completely.

Supporter & Cup: Essential protective equipment; check for proper fit.

Gloves: Check for proper fit, with good finger and hand mobility.

Shoulder Pads: Adjust to fit the individual at time of purchase. Fiber cap is extremely important in helping prevent shoulder separations and should extend to the tip of the shoulder.

Pants: Should be held in proper position by suspenders or belt. Provide protection for lower spine, hips and thighs.

Elbow Pads: Should be properly fitted so they do not slide.

Neck Guard: Not required by USA Hockey, however MCSA YH highly recommends and encourages parents to purchase this item for their player. (MCSA requirement for all Mite and Squirt players)

Goalkeepers: Special equipment is necessary, such as gloves (catching and stick), chest and stomach protector, goalie skates (with protective shell), leg pads, shoulder and arm protectors. The goalkeeper's equipment is especially important, so seek advice from knowledgeable sources.

Practice Jersey: An extra jersey that will allow pads to fit comfortably underneath while at practice.

Practice Socks: An extra pair that will allow the player to save his/her game socks for games only. Socks take a lot of abuse. It is recommended that at least one extra pair of practice socks be a part of the skaters practice uniform.

Please ask your coach if you have any questions about the correct fit, type or need of any equipment. They are your best resource for information pertaining to hockey equipment.

GENERAL CLUB INFORMATION

MCSA Website: www.maine coastskaters.org

2007 MCSA Youth Hockey Board of Directors List (*APPENDIX II*)

USA Hockey Referee Calls and Signals (*APPENDIX III*)

APPENDIX II

Maine Coast Skaters Association Youth Hockey Committee Board 2007-2008

<u>Executive Officers</u>	email	Phone
President- Steve Hand	steve@knowtechnology.net	542-5318 (W)
Vice Pres- Kristy Hilt	hiltmas@midcoast.com	785-2943 (H)
Secretary- Julie Madden	madden@midcoast.com	845-2138
(H) Treasurer- Pete Orne	pete.orne@gmail.com	230-0702 (H) 691-9100 (C)
Registrar- Dan Bennett	djnben@tidewater.net	763-2892
(H) Fundraising – Co Chair		
Marianne Mercier	info@youngtowninn.com	763-4290 (H)
Julie Madden	madden@midcoast.com	845-2138 (H)
Program Director- Doreen Dufour	duf1000@aol.com	594-9599 (H)
 <u>Functional Officers</u>		
Game Scheduler- Darryl Czuchra	zuch@tidewater.net	763-4646 (H)
Referee Coordinator- Paul Henderson		785-2199
(H) Coaching Coordinator- Jeff Stanclift	stanclift@roadrunner.com	236-4198
(H) Ace Coordinator- David Daniello	icehockey_dad@verizon.net	594-5014 (H) 691-0925 (C)
Equipment Manager- Guy Mahan	deeceguy1@aol.com	236-8313 (H)
Publicity Coordinator-Bob Lawson	rjlmarketing@msn.com	236-8938
(H) Website Coordinator- Lynda Clancy	lynda.clancy@verizon.net	236-3984 (H)
Team Parent Coord –Kate Ovington	ovington4@mac.com	236-6237
(H) Tournament		542-4273 (C)

Coordinators- Michael Tyler
- Mike Dufour

mt Tyler@sandyriver2.com
mpjzdufo@tidewater.net

236-9564 (H)
763-3377 (H)