

**Arapahoe Youth Hockey League**

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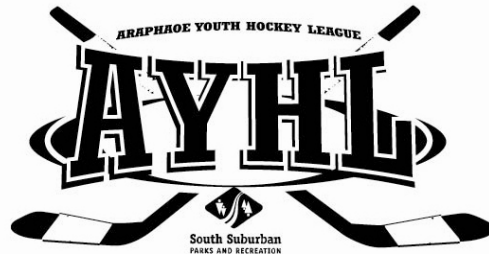
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## **Arapahoe Youth Hockey League**

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **1.1 ABOUT US**

The Arapahoe Youth Hockey League Warriors (AYHL) has an affiliation agreement with the Colorado Competitive Youth Hockey League (CCYHL), the Colorado Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA), the C-470 League and USA Hockey. They conduct all of its programs at the Family Sports Center in Centennial, Colorado. All teams are registered with CAHA and USA Hockey. In partnership with parents, coaches, and South Suburban Parks and Recreation, we want to ensure that children are provided a meaningful and enjoyable hockey experience. We are an athlete-centered organization that places the needs of the child first. We give each member the opportunity to participate to the best of their ability and develop as young athletes. We are guided by the values of good sportsmanship, honesty, respect for all individuals and personal integrity. Our success today and in the future will be measured by involving more children who enjoy playing and participating in hockey.

#### **1.2 MISSION STATEMENT**

Our Mission is to promote, develop and administer a hockey program implemented through skill development and competition. AYHL recognizes that there is a broad range of ability and commitment among our participants therefore we offer both a competitive and in-house league. We strive to provide appropriate instruction and competition to provide athletes the opportunity to participate and develop in a competitive hockey environment.

### **1.3 AYHL PHILOSOPHY**

The consistent demonstration of good sportsmanship by all players, parents, coaches, and fans at the ice rink is the guiding principle of our mission. We are committed to giving these young players a positive experience in ice hockey. We will be encouraging and promoting the true competitive spirit while focusing on players' personal development.

It is the policy of the AYHL that all of its members, employees, coaches, and any other individual participating in the activities of AYHL exhibit the qualities of good sportsmanship, civil behavior and abide by the Code of Conduct of AYHL, CAHA, and USA Hockey.

## **REGISTRATION**

### **2.1 RETURNING PLAYER REGISTRATIONS AND DEPOSIT**

Returning players' registration begins in March with the distribution of the AYHL registration packets and concludes on or about June 1<sup>st</sup>. No returning player registrations are accepted after the RETURNING PLAYER REGISTRATION deadline. If you miss the AYHL returning player registration, you will need to be placed on the waitlist if the division is at capacity.

To hold a space for the upcoming AYHL hockey season, a NON-REFUNDABLE NON-TRANSFERABLE deposit is due upon registration. A player IS NOT considered registered until the deposit is received. All players are also required to register online at [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com) and pay dues to USA Hockey and CAHA for the season. No player will be considered registered until AYHL has received confirmation from the player or USA Hockey that the player is registered. By registering with AYHL, you have made a commitment to AYHL and a position in AYHL has been reserved. It is AYHL's policy to not allow players (travel or recreation) to be on a roster with any other association while playing for AYHL.

### **2.2 NO PAY – NO PLAY**

If it is determined that a registration payment has not been made by an AYHL player, the “no pay-no play” policy takes effect and the delinquent family will be notified. Payment compliance must be made at that time or the player will not be allowed to skate until the bill is paid in full. In addition, per CAHA rules, any player who has an outstanding balance with a CAHA team cannot be transferred, registered or rostered on another CAHA team until the outstanding balance is paid to the previous team. Any player that has been removed from AYHL with an outstanding balance will be placed on the CAHA Delinquent list until the payment is received in full.

## **2.3 AYHL REFUND POLICY**

Generally all AYHL fees and deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable. However, AYHL refunds or transfers may be available under very limited circumstances. Refunds will be issued with at least two weeks (14 days) notice of the start of a season in the event a player relocates outside the Denver metro area or sustains an injury that precludes participation for the remainder of the season. Injury refund requests must be accompanied with a physicians note. All refunds must be made in writing and submitted to AYHL. All decisions are made by the hockey directors and management of the Family Sports Center. All decisions are final on all requests.

AYHL players who pay registration and then tryout and make a team that is part of a Tier I program (AAA), boarding school, or junior team will be refunded. A written request must be sent to AYHL for a refund to be processed.

## **2.4 PAYMENT PLANS**

AYHL is willing to work with families that have financial needs. The AYHL deposit that is due at the time of registration cannot be split into payments. The deposit is to be paid in full at the time of registration. If you feel you need some extra time with your remaining balance please talk to the ice office to make arrangements.

## **2.5 PLAYER RELEASE**

Players seeking release from AYHL must fill out and submit the release letter to the appropriate hockey director. Letters are usually approved within 24 hrs, and will be mailed, faxed or can be picked up. Past and present financial obligations must be paid in full before a release letter is approved. Players requesting releases will relinquish their position with the AYHL organization.

Players coming to AYHL, who played for another association, need to submit a release from that association to the ice office.

# **HOCKEY OPERATIONS**

## **3.1 HOCKEY OPERATIONS**

AYHL is overseen by the AYHL travel hockey director, the AYHL in-house/8 & Under hockey director, and management from the Family Sports Center/South Suburban Park and Recreation District. They will enforce all CCYHL, CAHA, USA Hockey, and AYHL rules and regulations. The directors have the full power and authority over all AYHL teams. Any decisions regarding, but not limited to, organization of programs and divisions, specifications of formats and local playing rules, screening of coaches, any discipline to any member of AYHL, and evaluation and placement of players and coaches are the responsibility of the directors.

### **3.2 CODE OF CONDUCT**

**ALL MEMBERS ARE BOUND BY THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF USA HOCKEY AND AYHL. THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS MAY BE AMENDED OR REPEALED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE HOCKEY DIRECTORS AND SOUTH SUBURBAN PARKS AND RECREATION.**

The Code of Conduct is based on the rules of the USA Hockey, CAHA, CCYHL and the C-470 Hockey League. A breach of any of the following points constitutes a violation of the Code of Conduct of AYHL. This list includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Making physical contact with any player, coach, an on or off-ice official, an association or league representative, arena personnel, spectator or parent.
- Taunting or threatening any player, coach, official, association or league representative, arena personnel, spectator, or parent.
- Going onto the ice surface for any reason, unless directed by a coach or other official.
- Entering the bench area during a game.
- Entering the locker room of any opposing team or obstructing their access or exit from said room or arena.
- Entering the locker room of any official or obstructing their access or exit from said room or arena.
- Using profane and/or vulgar language or mannerisms that is offensive to other persons.
- Throwing of any object onto the ice surface, into the player's area, or at another individual.
- Pounding or climbing on the glass.
- Defacing or damaging property belonging to any individual, team, association, or arena.
- Violating the Family Sports Center/South Suburban rules, including, but not limited to:
  - Damage to the facility and/or vandalism of any sort
  - Theft of any kind
  - Violation of the floor hockey rule
  - Being involved with any activity that would warrant the summoning of law enforcement officials.
  - Being involved with drugs or alcohol in and/or around the Family Sports Center
  - Inciting other persons to become involved in any of the above listed activities.
  - Any other conduct deemed inappropriate by the officials, representatives, and Board members of AYHL, and rink personnel.

It is the intent of AYHL to provide a fair and impartial review procedure to determine whether a member has been involved in misconduct while participating in activities sponsored by AYHL, USA Hockey, CAHA, CCYHL, the C-470 League, or any other participating event. An individual is a member participating in any sponsored activity if he or she is a spectator, a volunteer minor game official (time-keeper, score keeper, penalty box supervisor, or other off-ice official), a player or coach on an association team or in attendance at any event sponsored by AYHL.

When it is found that a member has violated the Code of Conduct, AYHL will discipline the individual in accordance with the procedures and penalties set forth in this policy and guidelines.

## **Discipline**

The hockey directors and South Suburban management shall:

- Review allegations of misconduct;
- Determine if an individual has violated the code;
- Issue penalties commensurate with the severity of the offense when the directors/management finds that a violation has occurred.
- Convene, if deemed necessary, a hearing to allow input from the individual who violated the offense to state their case on the matter.

### **3.3 COACH/MANAGER REMOVAL**

All coaches and team managers will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the spirit of the Code of Conduct. Any inappropriate behavior may result in disciplinary action by the directors and South Suburban management. This may include removal of the individual from their position. They will be informed of their dismissal in writing, which will include an explanation for the action.

The appropriate hockey director and South Suburban management will select the replacement coach or team manager.

### **3.4 PLAYER REMOVAL POLICY**

All players will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the spirit of the Code of Conduct. Any inappropriate behavior may result in disciplinary action. This may include removal of the individual from the team or AYHL. The player and his/her parents will be informed of their dismissal in writing, which will include an explanation for the action. No refund will be given to any player that has been dismissed from AYHL.

### **3.5 SELECTION OF COACHES /PROCESS**

At the end of each season the membership will be allowed the opportunity to submit “Coach Evaluations” for their teams’ coaches to the appropriate hockey director. These will be reviewed ONLY by the appropriate hockey director and will be used in helping to determine a coach’s status for the following season. A review will be done on the evaluations received by the deadline, and exit interviews will be conducted with each coach at the end of the season. The director will then compile all of the information from the new coaching applications, the coach evaluations, and the exit interview to determine the coaches for the next season. This list will be posted on the AYHL website when final coaches have been determined by the travel hockey director and in-house director.



### **3.6 VOLUNTEER COACHES**

USA Hockey Coaching Certification is required for any coach who wishes to coach in our Association and is required before any coach is added to the roster. All coaches will go through a background check with CBI and CAHA before they can be placed on a team. AYHL encourages a developmental philosophy among our coaches to teach the game, improve players skills, emphasize player development and playing the game not necessarily for the win but for team growth. It is important to remember that the majority of our coaches are volunteers. Without their dedication and commitment to the growth and development of our players, AYHL could not operate to the level we currently enjoy. Please take the time this year to thank your coaches for their time and effort they spend with your child during the season. This is a huge commitment from all of our coaches.

### **3.7 VOLUNTEER TEAM MANAGERS**

Each team is required to assign one team manager to its roster. It is up to the head coach to name the team manager for the team. This assigned team manager cannot be the wife of the head coach or the wife of any assistant coach on the teams' roster. All team managers will go through a background check with CBI and CAHA before they can be placed on a team. It is important to remember this is a volunteer position. Without their dedication and commitment to the teams they support, AYHL could not operate to the level we currently enjoy. Please take the time this year to thank your team managers for their time and effort in supporting the team during the season. This is a huge commitment from all of our team managers.

## **TRAVEL PROGRAM**

### **4.1 TRAVEL PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Travel hockey is the most competitive level of hockey offered at AYHL. Travel players can expect to pay more, travel more, and receive more ice time. As such, expectations placed on the families and players are high. You are expected to attend all practices, games, and tournaments. Although absences are understandable and will occur, AYHL expects that absences will be the exception rather than the rule.

- Players may only play for one hockey association. If players are double rostered, they may be dismissed from AYHL and forfeit their fees.
- Players may have to take time off from school to attend tournaments.
- Be prepared to sacrifice holiday breaks (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Martin Luther King Day and President's Day) to attend tournaments.
- Practices may be as many as 2-3 times a week with additional time for off-ice (dry land) training sessions. Weekday morning practices are part of the competitive travel commitment.
- Expect to travel out-of-state for tournaments. The AYHL travel director, along with the team coaches, makes all decisions regarding travel and tournaments.
- By committing to a travel team, players agree to attend all practices, games, tournaments and team meetings.
- There will be consequences for lack of commitment. Players and families must be ready to accept any consequences as deemed fit by their coach. Players who miss practices, games and/or tournaments may lose the opportunity to participate in the competitive travel program.

## **4.2 NUMBER OF TEAMS**

The Director of Travel Hockey, subject to approval by the CCYHL Board of Directors, shall determine the number of teams to be fielded each year. The number of teams fielded by AYHL may vary from year to year as circumstances warrant. This decision could be made as late as August.

## **4.3 NUMBER OF PLAYERS PER TEAM**

The standard non-tier travel team may consist of no less than 15 skaters and 1 goalie, and not more than 18 skaters and 2 goalies. The number of players on a tier team may be more or less than the standard team. The actual number of players on any team may vary at the discretion of the travel hockey director. There does not have to be an equal number of players on each team within any age division.

## **4.4 TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUT PROCEDURE**

The AYHL website will list the schedules for all tryout dates and times. All players properly registered with AYHL may tryout for any travel team at their respective age level as determined by USA Hockey guidelines.

All players must register for each level of tryouts through the ice office at least 2 weeks prior to tryout dates. There will be a tryout fee associated with each level a player wants to tryout for.

The coaches along with appointed evaluators and travel hockey director will first select the top team for each level of play.

## **4.5 TEAM PLACEMENT EVALUATIONS/TEAM TRYOUTS**

AYHL offers a travel program for Squirt, Peewee, Bantam and Midget divisions. Our principal purpose is to provide the athletes in the appropriate age group the opportunity to participate in a competitive hockey environment by offering high quality coaching, adequate ice time for practice and skill development, and exposure to advanced competition through participation in high caliber games and tournaments.

Tryouts will be held prior to the start of each season in order to place each player on the appropriate team. AYHL does not guarantee placement on any particular team.

It is fully understood that due to the nature of travel hockey, AYHL does not guarantee equal or fair ice time during travel games. The head coach has full discretion when determining the amount of playing time each player receives.

There are other costs associated with travel participation in addition to the initial registration and league fees, including but not limited to: transportation, lodging, meals, tournament fees, coaches travel expenses, assistant coaches travel expenses, additional ice time, clothing and miscellaneous costs which are outside the scope of the basic registration fee and are the responsibility of the participant.

#### **4.6 TRYOUT EVALUATION PROCEDURE**

At a minimum, players shall be evaluated by the head coach, at least one additional qualified on-ice evaluator, the travel hockey director and a neutral observer. Additional evaluators may be utilized, if desired. The evaluators selected by the coach should be approved by the travel hockey director. Each evaluator should attempt to make a written evaluation of each player and determine the overall skill level of each player. Players shall be selected by the head coach and the travel hockey director, after review and consideration of the evaluation scores. Coaches need not select players solely on their written evaluation scores, but may also factor in other consideration such as; team chemistry, the players' heart, desire, temperament and level of commitment; whether the player is a good fit for the team, the "coachability" of the player; the players' prior history with AYHL, etc. The coach of the higher skill level team in each age division shall choose his/her team first. Any player not chosen for a travel team will be guaranteed placement on an in-house AYHL team.

Players will be notified via the AYHL website as to the team placement and/or additional tryout dates and times.

#### **4.7 PLAYER MOVE-UPS**

AYHL does not promote any player playing up or down in any age division. However, any player wishing to play at a higher age group must:

- Contact the travel hockey director and submit the request in writing at least two weeks prior to travel tryouts.
- Sign a waiver releasing AYHL from any claims of injury.
- The player must make the highest level team at the age division (i.e. Squirt A-Pee wee AA-Bantam AA-Min AA-Maj AA) and must be an "Impact Player" at the next level.

### **IN-HOUSE/RECREATION PROGRAM**

#### **5.1 IN-HOUSE PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The in-house program offers an alternative to the highly competitive environment of travel hockey. USA Hockey and AYHL encourages a non-competitive environment, in which children can learn the basic skills of hockey without the distractions that are often associated with competitive travel hockey. Families participating in the in-house program can expect to pay less, travel less often, and receive fewer ice touches. The in-house program is a member of the C-470 Hockey League and includes games against other in-house teams from other associations in the Denver metro area.

AYHL in-house teams can participate in tournaments other than the AYHL Mile High Meltdown. They must be approved by the in-house hockey director, and may be denied upon the in-house hockey director's discretion. All in-house teams are expected to participate in the Mile High Meltdown.

### **Squirt, Peewee, Bantam and Midget Groups:**

- Practices will be 50 minutes of half-ice with 2 teams sharing the ice.
- Games will be full-ice.
- Scores and league standings will be kept.
- AYHL recreation players cannot be rostered with another association.
- Teams are to limit tournaments to two per season in addition to the Mile High Meltdown.

## **5.2 NUMBER OF TEAMS**

The Director of In-House Hockey, subject to AYHL registrations shall determine the number of teams to be fielded each year. The number of teams fielded by AYHL may vary from year to year as circumstances warrant.

## **5.3 NUMBER OF PLAYERS PER TEAM**

The standard in-house team may consist of no less than 15 skaters and 1 goalie, and not more than 18 skaters and 2 goalies. The actual number of players on any team may vary at the discretion of the in-house hockey director. There does not have to be an equal number of players on each team within any age division.

## **5.4 PLAYER EVALUATIONS**

Each year all in-house coaches are required to conduct an on-ice evaluation of the respective registered players to rate hockey skills and playing ability. These ratings are used to assign players to teams for the next season in order to achieve balance throughout the divisions when teams are assigned the following season.

## **5.5 PLAYER MOVE-UPS**

AYHL does not promote any player playing up or down in any age division. However, any player wishing to play at a higher age group must:

- Contact the travel hockey director and submit the request in writing at least one week prior to travel tryouts.
- Sign a waiver releasing AYHL from any claims of injury.
- The player must make the highest level team at the age division (i.e. Squirt A-Peewee AA-Bantam AA-Min AA-Maj AA) and must be an “Impact Player” at the next level.

## **8 & UNDER PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

USA Hockey and AYHL promote a developmental environment, in which children can learn the basic skills of hockey.

AYHL 8 & Under C/D teams can participate in jamborees other than the AYHL Jingle Bell Jam. They must be approved by the in-house hockey director, and may be denied upon the in-house hockey director's discretion. All 8 & Under teams are expected to participate in the Jingle Bell Jam.

### **6.1 8 & UNDER LEVELS**

#### **8 & Under A/B Groups:**

- Players will be placed on teams according to age and/or ability
- Practices will be cross ice with up to six teams per session.
- Increase opportunities for players to touch and handle the puck.
- Stress participation, fun and skill development.
- Provide a positive environment for learning the fundamental skills of hockey.
- Encourage creativity with and without the puck.
- AYHL in-house hockey director must approve all jamborees and rosters.
- AYHL 8 & Under players cannot be rostered with another association.

#### **8 & Under C/D Groups:**

- Players will be placed on teams according to age and or ability
- Practices will be cross ice with up to four teams per session.
- Increase opportunities for players to touch and handle the puck.
- Stress participation, fun and skill development.
- Provide a positive environment for learning the fundamental skills of hockey.
- Encourage creativity with and without the puck.
- AYHL in-house hockey director must approve all jamborees and rosters.
- AYHL 8 & Under players cannot be rostered with another association.

### **6.2 NUMBER OF TEAMS**

The Director of In-House Hockey, subject to AYHL registrations shall determine the number of teams to be fielded each year. The number of teams fielded by AYHL may vary from year to year as circumstances warrant.

### **6.3 NUMBER OF PLAYERS PER TEAM**

The actual number of players on any team may vary at the discretion of the in-house hockey director. There does not have to be an equal number of players on each team within any age division.

### **6.4 PLAYER EVALUATIONS**

Each year all in-house coaches are required to conduct an on-ice evaluation of the respective registered players to rate hockey skills and playing ability. These ratings are used to assign players to teams in order to achieve balance throughout the divisions when teams are assigned the following season.

The Player Handbook will be distributed to each Team Manager at the managers meeting at the start of the 2009-2010 season. It is the responsibility of each player/family to read and understand the contents.