



# SPRINGFIELD YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## RULES, REGULATIONS & OPERATING GUIDELINES

ADOPTED: September 10, 2007

The Springfield Youth Hockey Association (SYHA) is a not-for-profit IRS 501(c) Corporation registered in the State of Illinois. The Association was established to foster good sportsmanship and fair play in individual as well as team competition and endeavors to provide a fair share of ice time for all players in the program. SYHA does not discriminate based on gender, race, creed, or ethnic origin. Teams organized and which play for SYHA are known as the Springfield Kings. SYHA is a member of the Central Illinois Hockey League (CIHL), Missouri Amateur Ice Hockey Association Youth Division (MAIHA -YD), also known as MOAM, and nationwide, USA Hockey, and therefore, adheres to the by-laws and Rules and Regulations of both MAIHA-YD and USA Hockey. At times where SYHA rules are in conflict with MAIHA-YD and USA Hockey, those organizations' rules shall prevail.

### I. REGISTRATION & DUES

#### A. Annual Dues

1. The SYHA Board of Directors is responsible for establishing the annual dues.
2. The Board shall establish the upcoming annual dues based upon the estimated budget for the upcoming season. It is recommended that this be done no later than the June Board Meeting.

#### B. Registration Fees

1. The board is responsible for establishing the annual fees for all SYHA programs at a level that will allow adequate cash flow for the upcoming season, and at a level that minimizes administrative burdens. It is recommended that this be done no later than the June Board Meeting.

#### C. Dues/Fees Payments

1. All Members are required to pay annual dues and fees by the established deadline. It is recommended that this deadline be set as December 1st.
2. All players trying out for a competitive team are required to register on-line at USAHockey.com as a Missouri player. If a player is not registered on-line with USA Hockey at the time of tryouts, they will be assessed a fee of \$75.
3. All SYHA member are required to follow the Volunteer Policy or be assessed a \$100 fee.
4. The VP of Finance, in conjunction with the House and Travel League Team Treasurers, are responsible for collecting all dues and fees by the established deadlines.
5. A member of the SYHA may request a special payment option for their child. A payment schedule will be worked out with the VP of Finance and presented to the Board for approval. All payment schedules must be paid by February 1st of the season or the player will be removed from the ice.
6. Any player delinquent in paying their dues by the established deadline will be removed from the ice. The VP of Finance will notify the team treasurer, and or coach, that the player will not be allowed on the ice due to non-payment of dues. Once the dues have been paid, the player may return to team play with no disciplinary action for missing practices or games.
7. Any Non-Sufficient Funds checks returned by a member's bank may result in a service charge. The VP of Finance will contact the parent(s) of the player and inform them they are not allowed to participate in SYHA activities until the outstanding dues have been paid. A notification must be sent to the Team Treasurer and Coach. This service fee must be paid as well as the NSF check before the player returning to the ice. Once a member's check has been returned for NSF, all remaining payments must be made via cash, money order, or cashier's check.
8. Travel Team: One half total dues is to be paid to the Registrar by October 1 (\$400.00). Balance due by December 1, to be paid to the Team Treasurer who in turn will pay SYHA from the team account. Any player and/or team with an outstanding balance after December 1, will not be allowed on the ice until balance is paid in full.
9. All players participating in other programs within SYHA will be required to pay in full at registration.

#### D. Refunds

1. No refund will be made to members of the fee due at registration for the Mini-Mite Hockey Program, House League and Travel League.
2. No refund will be made to members 30 days after the beginning of the Learn-To-Play Program. Requests for refunds prior to 30 days from the beginning of the program must be made in writing to the SYHA Board of Directors. If written notice is not received within the 30 days, the player will be considered active with all dues and fees payable in full.
3. No refund will be made to members for the USA Hockey registration fees.
4. No refund will be made to members for travel league try-out fees, regardless of whether or not a member plays on a travel team.
5. No refund will be made to members for conditioning camp fees.
6. No refund will be made to members for ads and/or sponsorships paid in excess of the annual dues that also exceed the amount of the actual cash outlay by the member.
7. No refund will be made for advertisement or business sponsorship monies collected and submitted by members to offset dues or as donations to SHYA.
8. No refund will be made to members who are suspended by USA Hockey, MOAM or any other hockey league affiliation.
9. Not excluding the above non-refundable fees, If a player is injured for the remainder of the season or re-locates, and has paid more than the above non-refundable fees, a refund will be made in the amount equal to the pro-rated dues times the number of weeks remaining in the season. The effective date of resignation shall be that date the SYHA Board of Directors receives written notice of such resignation. If no written notice of resignation is received, the player will be considered active with all dues and fees payable in full.
10. Exceptions to this refund policy must be brought to the Board of Directors for approval.

#### II. FUND RAISING SUPPORT

The board of directors of SYHA encourages everyone to support SYHA in fundraising. To be fair to all members, family members may be assessed a minimum dollar amount to collect via the fund raising activities. In the event that the family does not actively participate, that minimum dollar assessment will be collected via invoice and payable within 15 days of receipt.

#### III. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

In the greater St. Louis metropolitan area, as covered by the MAIHA-YD rules, players are assigned to various associations, such as the SYHA, based on their geographic place of residence. These rules are covered under the DISTRICTED TEAMS section of the MAIHA-YD rules. Parents and the Registrar of the SYHA shall make every effort to ensure that a player is registered with his/her appropriate association.

- A. A player's birth year determines which age category he/she is eligible during the entire season.
- B. False information on registration regarding players age, date of birth, or residence shall result in suspension for the remainder of the season minimally, and may result in additional financial liability.
- C. The SYHA board reserves the right to request a certified birth certificate for all players.
- D. Players may participate at the level that his/her age dictates. The ages are as follows:
  - 8 and under (MITES)
  - 10 and under (SQUIRTS)
  - 12 and under (PEEWEEES)
  - 14 and under (BANTAMS)
  - 17 and under (MIDGETS)
- E. No player may play for a team that he/she is not properly rostered on (USA Hockey Team Roster Form) in League games.
- F. A player and his family shall be considered a member of SYHA by completing and signing all required forms, paying all fees, and or participation in SYHA activities.
- G. Those players with a physical or mental infirmity, which by its nature could allow for them to be seriously injured, or injure someone, in the course of participation in ice hockey, may be excluded or their participation restricted by the Board of Directors.
- H. No player shall be allowed to drive to away games unless accompanied by a parent or other adult.

#### IV. PLAYER PARTICIPATION

Mini-mite and House team players will be given equal ice time.

Competitive team players will be given fair ice time throughout the season. This rule will apply to all travel league and exhibition games. Fair play rules do not apply to players under disciplinary guidelines.

## V. DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS

- A. Objective
  1. To teach players the basic skills of skating and hockey
  2. Allow a learning experience to include fun as well as hockey development
- B. Learn-to-Skate/Learn-to-Play
  1. Players ages 14 and under
  2. One hour of practice per week
  3. A minimum of 1 coach per 6 players
  4. Players move to the House League or Competitive Teams upon completion of required skills
- C. Mini-Mite Hockey
  1. Players ages 6 and under.
  2. One hour of practice per week
  3. 5 home games per season
  4. Jerseys provided for each player
  5. Director of operations to report back to the VP of Developmental Programs
  6. A minimum of three on ice coaches (ratio of 1 coach to 6 players)
  7. Players would move to the House League or Competitive Teams upon completion of skills required

## VI. HOUSE LEAGUE

- A. Objective
  1. To provide recreational "game play" hockey for SYHA Members
  2. Allow a learning experience to include fun as well as hockey development
- B. Upper House League
  1. The VP of House League will assign a director of operations for this division.
  2. The director of operations shall be responsible for the following:
    3. Responsible for obtaining coaches
    4. Responsible for scheduling referees
    5. Recruiting volunteers for scoreboard, penalty box, etc.
    6. Include players in the 11-17 year of age group (AKA as Pee Wees, Bantams, & Midgets)
    7. Form teams and assign coaches depending on the number of players registered
    8. Director and or Coaches will assign all house league players to a team.
- C. Lower House League
  1. The VP of House League will assign a director of operations for this division.
  2. The director of operations shall be responsible for the following:
    3. Responsible for obtaining coaches
    4. Responsible for scheduling referees
    5. Recruiting volunteers for scoreboard, penalty box, etc.
    6. Include players in the 7-10 year of age group (AKA as Mites, Squirts)
    7. Form Teams and assign coaches depending on the number of players registered
    8. Director and or Coaches will assign all house league players to team.
    9. Lower House will play with blue pucks to improve skill development
- D. Games
  1. Lower house is no checking and no slap shots.
  2. At least one referee will be at each game (all efforts will be made to have two referees at each game).
  3. Jerseys will be provided by SYHA for each player registered.
  4. All games in lower house will be no check & upper house will be light checking and all USA Hockey rules will be followed.
  5. Proposed schedule will include approximately 18 home games.
  6. Lower house games will be 11:00 minute periods with 1:30 minute penalties.
  7. Upper house games will be 12:00 minute periods with 2:00 minute penalties.
  8. In both upper and lower there is a 3 goal maximum per player per game.
  9. The game clock should be set to 2:00 minutes left in the game at the 5:00 minute left in game with stop time (if less than 2 minutes at the 5:00 minute mark no change in the clock).

## VII. COMPETITIVE TEAMS

These procedures shall govern the selection of players for SYHA Competitive Teams. In selecting competitive team players, the intent is to form teams that will compete at the highest level of play possible, based on the available pool of player talent. Therefore, the SYHA Board of Directors and the Head coach will make every effort to insure proper team placements. If any parents or coaches are unsatisfied with the decisions made, they may appeal the decision to the Board of Directors, c/o the VP of Competitive Teams, by November 1st.

Any changes in these procedures will be published annually and distributed to all SYHA participants at registration. These procedures cannot be changed except by a "super majority" vote of all SYHA Board of Director members and must be done by the regular scheduled May board meeting.

### A. General Format

SYHA competitive team tryouts will be held annually during August. Tryout sessions will include two 50-minute sessions for each age group. Players must be pre-registered, via USA Hockey on-line registration, for tryouts. Confirmation of USA Hockey registration must be turned in by the Friday before conditioning camp.

Day 1: Tryout Registration and Mites/Squirts Tryouts-- All Mite and Squirt skaters not pre-registered, must register at this session. A \$10 late fee will be charged if Mite or Squirt skater registers on Day 3 or after. Players may pre-register for tryouts by the Friday before conditioning camp. Only members in good financial standing are eligible to register. A player not registered with USA Hockey will be required to pay the appropriate USA Hockey registration fee on-line or be assessed a \$75 fee. The tryout fee is not to exceed \$75 per player and any additional USA Hockey required registration fee.

Day 2: Tryout Registration and PeeWee/Bantam/Midgets Tryouts-- All PeeWee, Bantam and Midget skaters not pre-registered, must register at this session. A \$10 late fee will be charged if PeeWee, Bantam or Midget skater registers on Day 4 or after. Players may pre-register for tryouts by the Friday before conditioning camp. Only members in good financial standing are eligible to register. A player not registered with USA Hockey will be required to pay the appropriate USA Hockey registration fee on-line or be assessed a \$75 fee. The tryout fee is not to exceed \$75 per player and any additional USA Hockey required registration fee.

Day 3: 2nd Evaluation -- Mites/Squirts.

Day 4: 2nd Evaluation - PeeWees/Bantams/Midgets

### B. Tryout and Evaluation Process/Selection/Team Rosters

#### Player Eligibility:

All players must be registered to be placed on a team. .

#### 1. Evaluation Process:

- a) The evaluations will be based on performance in controlled sessions.
- b) Skaters and Goalies will be grouped on two scrimmage teams (i.e., red and blue). Players will be randomly placed on teams, with position preference considered.
- c) Skaters will be evaluated, on their playing ability, including aspects such as skating ability, shooting, aggressiveness, positioning and team awareness, stickhandling, forechecking and backchecking. Skaters may be removed from the ice for illegal hits or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- d) Goalies will be evaluated on their positioning, save techniques, and puck handling.
- e) Two 50-minute sessions will be held.
- f) Head coach will have the right to request player and line parings during the evaluations to assist them in establishing the ability of individual players.

#### 2. Team Selection:

- a) The Board of Directors will assign a head coach for each individual travel team. The head coach will submit his initial roster to the Board of Directors within ten days after the last tryout. (The Board of Directors will have the final approval of all rosters.)
- b) The head coach will submit, within ten days after the last tryout, his choice for assistant coaches and team manager for the upcoming season.
- c) The Board of Directors will consider the total number of players to insure a maximum number of competitive teams are formed for each age group.

3. Posting of Rosters  
Initial complete team rosters will be posted on the Springfield Kings website. Those selected will be contacted by telephone by the head coach.
4. Player Movement/Roster Changes
  - a) Through December 31, a player may be moved to a different team with the approval of the Board of Directors. The player must comply with any special rules that apply to player movement in MAIHA &/or CIHL.
  - b) No player may be officially rostered with more than one team at the same time, with the exception of a high school team.  
Second exception will be for girls participating on a all girls team may also play on a competitive team with boys and girls.
  - c) From January 1 to the end of the season (end of the MAIHA-YD Program play-offs or while participating in the USA Hockey Regional or National Tournaments), all team rosters will be fixed.
  - d) If a player is added after January 1 to a team, the player will not be allowed to participate in any MAIHA Regional or National Tournaments.
  - e) Within an Organization at different age levels:
  - f) A player may not play on a team in an age level lower than the one for which he/she normally qualifies.
  - g) If a player plays with a team of an older classification for one MAIHA league game in a given season, he/she will be ineligible to participate in league games with a team of lower age classification.
  - h) Any player may play on a team of a higher age level provided he/she must submit in writing a letter directed to the VP of Competitive Teams 15 days before the first tryout session setting forth the level in which he/she wishes to pursue. There will be a \$50.00 dollar tryout out fee for player to tryout for team of higher age level. The player must be selected by the head coach for that team as well as majority vote of the board of directors who attended the tryouts for that player. That player must also participate in the tryout for the age level in which they qualify. Three members of the Board of Directors must attend all tryouts for any player pursuing a team above his/her age level. If the player is not selected for the higher age level this does not guarantee him/her for a position on the age-appropriate team.

#### VIII. COACHING SELECTION FOR SYHA

- A. SYHA Board of Directors shall solicit requests for head coaches from the membership to fill all coaching positions for Travel and House League teams.
- B. Head coaching proposals must be submitted in writing by March 1, to the SYHA President, c/o SYHA, P.O. Box 8822, Springfield, Illinois 62791. The proposal should indicate current certification level, copy of the coach's card (front and back), experience, desired age level, etc. All coaches must provide back ground information as well as hold the appropriate level coaching card for the team in which they are pursuing a position as coach.
- C. The Board of Directors will review the written proposals and seek additional coaches for all teams as needed.
- D. The Board of Directors will schedule brief interviews with coaching candidates at a special meeting, time and place to be announced.
- E. Coaching candidates must attend all tryouts for the age level they would like to coach and be prepared to submit an initial, complete roster within 10 days after tryouts.
- F. The Board of Directors will select head coaches by vote, by April 1 of that season.
- G. Head Coaches shall submit their selection for assistant coaches to the Board of Directors within 10 days after tryouts. All assistant coaches must be registered with USA Hockey. Assistant coaches must have a valid coach's card. (Assistant coaches should not be selected until after the tryouts.)
- H. Coaching Education Program – You may apply for credit towards your dues or a refund for the cost of your coaches clinic (Course Fee Only). Only after you have completed the course and submit a letter in writing to the V.P. of Competitive Teams with a copy of your coaches card (front and back) to confirm your present status as what level you hold and a copy of the receipt showing you have paid for the class. Level 4 (Advanced) coaches will be required to give 3 year commitment to SYHA or will reimburse SYHA on a prorated share for cost of class. **SYHA will only consider 2 Level 4 (Advanced) coaches per calendar year.**

#### IX. Volunteer Policy

Following the Bylaws of Springfield Youth Hockey Association all team volunteer positions should be made available to the SYHA Board of Directors by the October Board Meeting. The Springfield Youth Hockey Association (SYHA) operates solely on a volunteer basis. It relies on its members to keep it running smoothly and allows us to keep our programs as affordable as possible. The more the membership participates, the stronger the organization will be.

SYHA is requiring all families to perform 5 hours of service to the club. There will be a number of items listed and any other activities may be submitted to the Youth Hockey Board for approval. Any member family that does not complete their service requirements, by March 31

of each year, will be assessed a \$100 in lieu of service. This assessment will be required to register for any SYHA activity, clinic, or league as a member in good standing.

The following are currently APPROVED ACTIVITIES and may be amended at any time by the Youth Hockey Board.

- Board Member (exempt in year of service and any member completing a full 2 year term will satisfy any future requirement)
- Missouri Hockey Association representative (satisfies all hours)
- Central Illinois Hockey Representative (satisfies all hours)
- Head Coach (satisfies all hours)
- Assistant Coach (satisfies all hours – only two assistant coaches per team will be credited)
- Team Manager (satisfies all hours – only one per team)
- Ad Book Design (satisfies all hours)
- Team Treasurer (satisfies all hours)
- Sub-Committee Directors (satisfies all hours - SYHA Webmaster, Volunteer Coordinator, Tryout Coordinator, Lower House Director, Upper House Director, Annual Banquet Director)
- Team Scheduler (satisfies all hours)
- SYHA Tournament Director (satisfies all hours)
- Summer Hockey Director (satisfies all hours)
- Equipment Manager/Jersey Coordinator (satisfies all hours)
- Referring a Player to the Club (satisfies all hours, must be registered by 12/31/07 for this season's fees, after 12/31/07 counts toward 08-09 fees)
- Off-Ice Official (Timekeeper, Scorekeeper, or Penalty Box) (equal to hours worked)
- Publishing an article in any local news publication (satisfies all hours)
- Volunteering at Springfield Jr. Blues games (one game is equal to one hour of service)

The following are ACTIVITIES NOT APPROVED to satisfying the Volunteer requirement:

- Any activity that is no pre-approved by SYHA

*All hours or exemptions must be turned in (via your Team Manager) to the Volunteer Sub-Committee Director or mail to: SYHA, VOLUNTEER HOURS, P.O. Box 8822, Springfield, IL 62791 using this Volunteer Hours Form. This form will also be available on the website and from your team manager.*

#### **X. TEAM SUPPORT**

In operating and providing for individuals' team activities, the coaching staff, team manager and parents may choose to collect funds for the benefit of their team. In most cases, funds collected should be equally assessed. The "Team Kitty" will be under the direction of the Team Manager and the VP of Finance. All funds should be used and disbursed in that playing season. Excess funds at the conclusion of the playing season must be deposited with the VP of Finance for distribution to the same divisional team in the subsequent year. Team fund raising activities involving general solicitations, raffles, bake sales, car washes, etc., should involve all members. No team fund raising activity shall conflict with fund raising activities operated by SYHA. Parents or guardians should be aware that supporting their team's fund raising activities does not release them from support of association activities.

#### **XI. TEAM DECLARATIONS**

For the purpose of informing the MAIHA and CIHL, as well as administration of teams with the SYHA, shall be the responsibility of the President of SYHA with consultation from the team coach and team manager.

#### **XII. TEAM JERSEY**

All travel players are required to purchase their game jerseys from the SYHA by the 2010-2011 season. For the 2007-2008 season, all Mite age travel players will be required to purchase their game jerseys. For the 2008-2009 season, all Mite and Squirt travel players will be required to purchase their game jerseys. For the 2009-2010 season, all Mite, Squirt, and Peewee aged travel players will be required to purchase their game jerseys. For the 2010-2011 season, all youth hockey travel players will be required to purchase their game jerseys. All jerseys are to be purchased from SYHA. All girl travel teams will be required to purchase their game jerseys in the 2010-2011 season. Players with an odd birth year will have an odd number, numbers can be assigned or can be chosen from the numbers available. All players with an even birth year will have an even number, numbers can be assigned or can be chosen from the numbers available.

## **XII. TEAM RULES**

At the beginning of the season, every team should make available to all players and their family's copies of their team rules, after approval by the SYHA Board of Directors. A coach does not have the singular authority to suspend indefinitely or permanently a player from a team. SYHA board of directors must approve any suspension over one game per player, per season. The following team rules are acceptable by the board, and may be practiced by any team:

- A. Players are asked to be at all practices a minimum of 30 minutes before the scheduled start.
- B. Players are asked to be at all games a minimum of 45 minutes before the scheduled start.
- C. If a player cannot make a practice and/or a game; we ask that you contact the team manager or Coach.
- D. Parents are asked to leave the players alone, with the coach, 15 minutes before start of a practice. This gives the coaches time to discuss the practice with the players and 20 minutes before a game, as the coach will need time to discuss the game, the lines and defensive pairings. Players should be in the locker room and dressed by this time.
- E. Parents are asked not to be in the locker at the conclusion of a game or practice until the coaches have left the locker room. This gives coaches time to talk with the players about the practice or the game they have just been in.
- F. While players are on the ice, it is the coach's responsibility to coach and instruct the players. If players are being told something different from the stands than they are hearing from the bench they become very confused. Please encourage all the players but let the coaches' coach.
- G. The coaches will not condone any abuse to an official, coach, player or parent. Any abuse to an official, player or a parent. Any abusive language will not be tolerated. Coach will deal with each individual case should they appear.
- H. When parents have volunteered to run the time clock, keep the score sheet or work the penalty boxes, you are acting as minor officials, do not yell at any child, good or bad from this area.
- I. Practice time is very expensive. Coaches try to use this ice as well as possible. Any disruptions can cause them to lose valuable time.
- J. The fair playing time rule will be required at all levels. In the event that a player and/or parent would like to discuss this or something else with a coach, please ask the age group representative to set up a time at the end of the next practice. This gives both the coach and the parent a chance to discuss the situation in a calm manner.
- K. All teams are responsible for the clean up of the locker room. In the event that a team destroys or damages the room in any way, this will be addressed by the SYHA board.
- L. When playing a game in our home rink guest team should supply a person to run their penalty box during game (no one from our organization should run guest penalty box)

## **XIII. PLAYERS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Board of Directors has adopted this Code of Conduct in order to ensure that the players approach the games and practices with a spirit of team pride and sportsmanship. These principles also apply to parents and spectators. We expect all individuals to remember the purposes of SYHA and to conduct themselves accordingly.

- A. Fighting will NOT be tolerated. There is no reason for fighting. If a SYHA player is involved in fighting at any time, at the discretion of the coach, that player will be disciplined, including, but not limited to, missing a shift, a game or practice. For possible expulsion from a team, or multi-game suspensions, a coach must first petition the Board of Directors.
- B. Rough horseplay and loud, obnoxious behavior will not be tolerated. While the SYHA recognizes and accepts youthful enthusiasm, that enthusiasm must be directed toward playing hockey to the best of your ability. Too many injuries result from rough actions by players who do not stop to think of the consequences of their actions. Obnoxious behavior, whether at our home rink or away, reflects upon the player(s) involved and the SYHA in a negative way. We want to convey a positive, sportsmanlike attitude and impression to our guests at home and to our hosts at away games. To ensure that this principle of sportsmanship is followed, the coach is vested with the discretion to discipline any player(s) that, in his opinion, is not representing the SYHA in a positive and sportsmanlike manner at games or in practice, including suspension from a practice or a game.
- C. Coaches also represent the SYHA. Their actions should always reflect positive and sportsmanlike demeanor. If a coach does not exemplify that positive demeanor and acts in a manner that is not sportsmanlike, and the specific instance is sufficiently egregious in the opinion of the Board of Directors, then the Board may take whatever action it deems necessary to ensure that these principles are followed.
- D. Players will NOT question a call by a referee. Questioned calls will be done, if at all, by the Captain of the team. It is the responsibility of the player(s) to focus and concentrate on the game. Protesting a call may lead to penalty minutes, or indirectly, to other calls that might affect the team.
- E. An opponent usually perceives running up the score as poor sportsmanship. There is no justification for running up the score when our opponent is overmatched. In these situations, the coaches should, at their discretion, liberally substitute and shift players to different positions while encouraging team play.
- F. Verbal abuse on the part of players, coaches and/or SYHA spectators toward opposing players, coaches, officials or spectators does not reflect well upon the sportsmanship of the SYHA and will NOT be tolerated. Coaches shall act according to the aforementioned principles of sportsmanship and shall control their respective players. Parents and other spectators are expected

to act according to the principles of sportsmanship. Coaches must be considerate of the feelings of the players while still teaching good, fair and aggressive hockey.

- G. Lockers rooms, whether at home or away, are the property of someone else. All players and coaches must respect the property of others. Locker rooms are to be picked up prior to leaving the area. Tape and other waste materials must be put proper receptacles and no thrown around the room.
- H. Equipment that does not belong to you is strictly off limits. If a piece of gear or equipment is found and not identified, turn it in to the coach or another SHYA representative. Anyone caught going through another person's gear bag may be subject to expulsion from SYHA.

#### **XIV. PARENTS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

- A. Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desires to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.
- B. Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays for both teams.
- C. 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.
- D. Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- E. 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.
- F. Applaud a good effort in victory and in defeat, and reinforce 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 sport.
- G. Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are very important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.
- H. If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about the game, and volunteer!
- I. If a referee determines that any spectator's conduct is inappropriate and if he or she can reasonably determine the responsible team, he or she shall:
  - 1. Issue a warning to the responsible team.
  - 2. If the conduct continues, assess a bench minor against the responsible team.
  - 3. If the conduct continues, order the responsible team to remove the spectator.
  - 4. If the conduct continues, order the players off the ice, and declare a forfeit against the responsible team.
  - 5. Offenders shall be reported to the SYHA Board of Directors and/or the MAIHA-YD Executive board and will be subject to disciplinary action. Any incident requiring the removal of a spectator or forfeiture of a game shall be reported by the officials on an Incident Report and forwarded to the MAIHA Rules and Disciplinary Committee for action. The MAIHA Rules and Disciplinary Committee may assess a two-point penalty in the standings against a team for failure to perform its duties under these rules.

#### **XV. COACHES' CODE OF CONDUCT**

- A. Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one. Care more about the child than winning the game. Remember players are involved in hockey for fun and enjoyment.
- B. Be a positive role model to your players, display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of players.
- C. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved, be consistent, honest, be fair and just, do not criticize players publicly, and study to learn to be more effective communicator and coach, don't yell at players.
- D. 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 the basics.
- E. 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.
- F. Maintain an open line of communication with your players' parents. Explain the goals and objectives of your association.
- G. Be concerned with the overall development of your players. Stress good health habits and clean living.
- H. To play the game is great; to love the game is greater.

#### **XVI. DISCIPLINE**

- A. Coaches may discipline players for missing practices or for conduct detrimental to the team. Penalties may include reducing a player's ice time during games.
- B. Any player or coach receiving a major penalty, misconduct or game misconduct during at SYHA game, exhibition or league, the coach must forward a copy of the score sheet to the SYHA and the attention of the Past President. This score sheet must be forwarded within 72 hours from the time of the game. Failure to provide score sheets by the coach can result in action against the coach.
  - 1. After the second MAIHA or third overall major penalty, misconduct or game misconduct the player, the player's parent(s), and the player's coach will go before a review committee chaired by the Past President. The circumstances causing the

penalties will be discussed. The committee will recommend any further disciplinary action, if necessary to the board of directors for consideration.

2. The board of directors will make a decision at or before the next regular scheduled board meeting. The SYHA VP of Competitive Teams will inform the player's head coach, in writing and verbally, of the decision and of any discipline that must be adhered to immediately. If game suspensions are given, a coach cannot schedule additional games to offset these game suspensions.

#### **XVII. CLAIMS AGAINST SYHA FOR DAMAGES TO ANY RENTED FACILITY**

Upon receipt of an incident report and/or bill for damages, the Board of Directors of SYHA, upon finding that the claims are in order shall:

- A. Present said claim to the offending member or members of SYHA for immediate payment.
- B. At the discretion of the Board of Directors said claims may be paid by SYHA immediately and then seek reimbursement from the offending party or parties forthwith or negotiate a payment schedule.
- C. Any player who is found damaging any property at an ice rink or locker room will be charged for the property damage and will face disciplinary action by the Rules & Discipline Committee, as provided in Article X of the by-laws. Payment for damages, forfeiture of fees paid, suspension for the entire season and expulsion from SYHA are potential penalties.
- D. If a member or members involved refuse to pay or discontinues payments of said claims, that member shall be suspended from all participation in SYHA activities until claims are paid in full.
- E. If a visiting team or visitor is found responsible, every effort will be made to seek reimbursement of said claim.
- F. Because of the serious nature of major damages to property, SYHA Board of Directors reserves the right to bar and, if necessary, remove the offending party or parties from attending all SYHA activities. This suspension could be in addition to the monetary claims listed above.

SYHA has no ownership or management rights to the local ice skating rink or surrounding facilities. SYHA pays for the ice time at the local ice skating rink in a rental agreement as other associations do at other community rinks.

#### **XVIII. ICE TIME SCHEDULES**

- A. The ice time schedule for all practice sessions for both house and competitive will be presented to the SYHA Board for approval.
- B. A game ice schedule for all competitive teams must be presented to the SYHA Board at the August Board meeting. The board with the exception of teams trading ice slots for practice or games must clear any changes or corrections to the original schedule.
- C. Any team scheduling more than their allotted home games and or practices must pay for the ice time and referees through SYHA.
- D. No team will have more home games scheduled than another without the permission of the SYHA Board. Any additional home ice requested by a team must be scheduled and purchased through the SYHA Board.
- E. The purchase of any additional ice time for practices and or games must be approved by the SYHA board (Through V.P. of Administration).

#### **XIX. PROTECTED OR RESERVED PROPERTIES**

- A. The terms: Springfield Kings, Springfield Kings Hockey, Springfield Youth Hockey Association, SYHA, its logo, custom designed artwork, banners, signs, apparel, and pins are locally reserved. Their duplication, sale, or circulation without the approval of the Board of Directors is prohibited.
- B. All membership mailing lists, rosters, and personal member information and statistics are locally reserved. The Board of Directors, its president, registrar, or treasurer may deem release of reserved information as found to benefit the operations of SYHA.
- C. Equipment and supplies purchased by the Association shall remain the property of SYHA unless disposed of by the authority of the Board of Directors.
- D. Equipment and supplies loaned to players or teams must be maintained by the person who is in possession of the items. SYHA will not be held responsible for any claims of personal injury or damage involving the use or misuse of loaned equipment. The loaned equipment and supplies are offered by the SYHA in good faith and for the benefit of our teams. By accepting loaned equipment and supplies, the user assumes all liabilities.
- E. Authorized possession of loaned equipment and supplies shall not exceed the nominal-playing season. Equipment and supplies must be returned in a timely manner for repair, restocking, or redistribution.
- F. A deposit fee may be assessed for the privilege of using loaned equipment and supplies. When the loaned items are returned in good condition the deposit will be returned. Those items lost or damaged while in possession of the user shall be replaced with items of like quality or payment to SYHA for its replacement must be made.

Springfield Youth Hockey Association for the current, and all seasons to follow has adopted these rules and regulations, and operating guidelines. These may be changed by a "super majority" (two-thirds) vote of all board members. Any changes to these rules & procedures must be adopted by the Board of Directors prior to the fall registration at a regularly scheduled board meeting.