

GIRLS POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

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1. GIRLS HOCKEY PHILOSOPHY

To focus on player development, fair play and a positive environment for all girls. As representatives of the Quad City Hockey Association, girls hockey players, parents and coaches will emphasize sportsmanship and team play.

2. REGISTRATION

All players must be registered with USA Hockey before trying out for girls house league and Lady Blues.

Players selected for a girls' team will have player accounts set up with that specific team to cover team, coach, ice, jersey, league, tournament, and other season related fees.

Any player who is more than thirty (30) days past due on their team fees will be prohibited from practices and games until all overdue fees are paid in full. Exceptions can be made at the discretion of the QCHA Treasurer and Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment.

3. USA HOCKEY AND LEAGUE ASSOCIATION

The QCHA is an affiliate member of the Mid-West Amateur Hockey Association (MWAHA) in the USA Hockey Central Region. Each girls team is strongly recommended but NOT required to play in the MWAHA girls tournaments. Each girls team is also strongly recommended, but NOT required to participate in NIHL.

4. TEAM FORMATION

Girl's teams will be formed to play under USA Hockey Tier II guidelines using age divisions, as defined by USA Hockey, in effect at the beginning of each season. The QCHA intends to field girl's teams at the 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U and 16/19U levels, Lady Blues, depending upon the number and interest level of skaters at tryouts. We will also offer a Girls only House League for those female players not wanting to travel outside the QCHA and female players not wanting to play in Coed House League. All female players that play on the Lady Blues, QCHA Girls team or Girls House League, 10U and older, are NOT required to join and participate in the Coed house League program. If a girl would like to participate in a co-ed select team they would need to attend the tryout for their age level.

All girls teams and Girls House Lague will have a season defined as September through March, with tryouts in the summer or late summer. As per USA hockey and

MWAHA, female athletes are allowed to dual roster – i.e. play on both a Youth and All Girls team in the same season. Dual rostering may not be a consideration in youth team selection. In the event of game conflict, the following guidelines apply:

1. League games take precedent over friendlies
2. Team with fewest players available for conflict date take precedent
3. Team fighting for playoff spot may take precedent

Unresolved conflicts shall be determined by the Director at Large, Girls Hockey and Recruitment and the Director, Travel Hockey.

There will be NO assigned captains or assistant captains from the 14U age group and younger for all teams and at all levels within the QCHA.

5. COACH SELECTION AND CERTIFICATION

A. Coach Selection

The QCHA is a zero tolerance organization. Coaches and referees will not accept abusive language, gestures, or behavior from players, parents, or other coaches. QCHA coach selection criteria will in part be guided by the expectation that coaches will lead their teams by example.

The process for selecting girls team head coaches:

1. Follow a set of selection criteria to rate coaching applicants from The Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment.
2. Solicit coaching application forms from prospective new coaches or coaches seeking to coach at a different age level.
3. The Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment will evaluate the applicants against the selection criteria. When required, interviews may be held when two or more coaches are applying for the same position. The Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment will make the final choice.
4. The Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment will provide the QCHA Board with the recommended slate of head coaches for all girls teams.
5. The QCHA Board will vote on there confirmations at each level.

The objective is to have selection of head coaches completed before tryouts begin. However, in cases when there are multiple applicants or insufficient applicants, some coach selections may not be named for a team until after tryouts. Final coach assignment may be impacted by tryout results, as tryout results can dictate placement of a coach's child and thus impact coach selection.

The Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment will meet individually with any coach

applicant who would like to better understand the reasons why they were not recommended or selected.

B. Coach Certification Requirements

All coaches must be in compliance with all USA Hockey coach certification requirements. Failure to comply will result in coaches not being allowed to coach.

C. Player or Parent Concerns

Players are encouraged to speak with the Head Coach if they have any questions or issues, if for some reason they feel uncomfortable talking to the Head Coach they should visit with one of the official Assistant Coaches with a parent. Only after a player has attempted to speak with a Coach should they ask their parents to speak on their behalf.

Parents should attend all parent meetings to keep themselves well informed. Parents should ask the Head Coach at any time for information that is general in nature and applicable to the entire team. However, when an issue arises from a specific game or practice the parents should wait 24 hours before contacting the coach. When a Parent doesn't feel that their issue was satisfactorily addressed, they should contact the team manager. Issues escalating beyond the team should go to the Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment and if still not satisfactory, then to the President of the QCHA.

6. TEAM OFFICIALS

A. Head Coach

The Head Coach is responsible for ensuring that all girls team practices, games, and events are conducted in accordance with published USA Hockey and QCHA Guidelines. Head Coaches for each girls team will meet with players and parents prior to the beginning of the season to review the QCHA approved players' and parents' codes of conduct.

The Head Coach is ultimately responsible for making sure that game information is recorded and communicated as required. The Head Coach of each team will designate to the Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment which team official will maintain all game score sheets, and which team official will provide results and score sheet copies to the Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment; for all games.

All teams, coaches, players, and parents must follow the QCHA Locker Room

Policy.

Under no circumstances may a team play any games with a player who is not on the official USA Hockey roster. To do so would put at risk the insurance coverage of both teams. Any coach found to have knowingly done so would be immediately terminated.

A girls team Head Coach will manage discipline issues in alignment with the QCHA disciplinary process and USA hockey bylaw 10.

The girls team Head Coach has the discretion and authority in determining which players will dress for each game and how much ice time each player receives during a game within the QCHA Playing Time guidelines. The QCHA strongly encourages that the coaches provide playing time in a regular rotation during games, except where special team or game situations present themselves. Coaches are expected to bear in mind the expense and time commitment all players and their families have made to support the team. Parents should discuss any concerns along these lines with their coach, but are free to bring any complaints to the Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment.

Standard appeals process applies to the above.

B. Assistant Coaches

Each Head Coach is responsible for selecting at least one Assistant Coach once the team has been selected. Assistant coaches must be at least 18 years of age and be in compliance with USA Hockey coaching requirements.

In the event the Head Coach and Assistant Coach are unavailable for a game or practice, the Head Coach is responsible for finding a qualified substitute. Coach must be on the official roster. QCHA or MWAHA can approve a non-rostered coach on the bench.

C. Team Manager / Team Treasurer

Each girls team Head Coach is responsible for appointing a Team Manager who will be responsible for the scheduling of games, scheduling of referees, registration into tournaments, scheduling of ice and scheduling team duty assignments (timekeeper, goal judges, scorekeeper, penalty box, etc). All individuals in the scorekeepers' box must be at least 14 years of age or accompanied by a parent. All volunteers must be compliant with all USA Hockey policies regarding volunteers;

this includes all safesport policies as they pertain to volunteers.

All league, non-league, and tournament games hosted by a QCHA team will be recorded using a USA Hockey Official Score sheet. The Team Manager is responsible for making sure that copies of such forms are available for each contest.

It will be the Head Coach's decision to appoint management of team finances to the Team Manager or to a separate Team Treasurer. The team Head Coach will not be allowed to be the Team Treasurer or the Team Manager (if this includes management of team finances).

It is required that the Team Treasurer develop and maintain team financial records and provide individual statements for each player explaining girls Team costs.

- The Team Manager / Treasurer must meet with the QCHA Treasurer prior to the beginning of the season to review procedures for the season.
- The Team Manager / Treasurer will maintain team accounts by player that are updated on a monthly basis.
- Any team that does not provide this specific information or does not follow these specific procedures will not be allowed to practice or play games until they become compliant.
- Within 4 weeks of the close of the season, the Team Manager / Treasurer must supply the QCHA Treasurer proof that the accounts have been balanced, and any surplus be returned to each family..

In the event that a team treasurer is the QCHA Treasurer, then the QCHA Treasurer will review that team's financial records with the QCHA President twice per season as described above.

7. TEAM EVALUATION / SELECTION PROCESS

A. Tryout Requirement

Each year any player wishing to be selected for a girls team must participate in the annual QCHA Girls tryout process. An exception can be made for players moving into the area, who have a previous unavoidable obligation, or who have health issues, during the tryout period. For an exception the Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment must be notified in writing. The Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment will review the situation with the respective coach and advise the impacted player.

Players will be selected for teams each season in an open, typically 2 sessions or a 2 hours try-out process. Tryouts will be CLOSED, in an effort to get the most out of the skaters.

B. Independent Evaluators and Selection Process

When registrations are over 20 girls per age group, The Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment will be responsible for assembling a team of independent evaluators to rate all tryout participants. Each evaluator will use written selection criteria as provided by the Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment. The perspective team head coach will use input from the evaluators, perspective assistant head coaches, Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment, in making team personnel selections.

- An evaluation committee shall rate each player at tryouts.
- The Head Coach will then have the discretion to pick their team, using the evaluator's ratings as a guide.
- The coach is required to discuss the roster with the Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment before any roster is finalized.
- Off-ice factors can be considered during the selection process, though performance at tryouts will be primary selection criteria.

C. Guidelines for Girls Players Requesting to Play Up In Age Level:

The girls program is exempt from requesting permission from the board, any girl player may play up one age group to get enough girls for that particular age group.

- Girls who are 6u birth year can participate only at the 6U and 8U level.
- Girls who are at the 8U birth year can participate only at the 8U and 10U level.
- Girls who are at the 10U birth year can participate only at the 10U and 12U level.
- Girls who are at the 12U birth year can participate only at the 12U and 14U level.
- Girls who are at the 14U birth year can participate only at the 14U level and Lady Blues level.

8. TEAM ROSTERS

Girls teams at any age level will be required to roster a minimum of 6 players and a maximum of 20 players. This is per USA hockey Roster Requirements.

- Multi rostering will be allowed for the following reasons:

- To allow girls to play on Coed Teams.
- To allow players to participate with off-season teams that do not conflict with their primary team.
- Tournament teams.

Girls teams may roster out of association players provided out of association players are registered at their local home association or plan to register at the QCHA Girls League level, at the appropriate age level. Players may be added to the roster at any time until December 31st of the current season, regardless of tryout results with the approval of The Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment. After December 31st a new roster must be created and approved by The Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment.

Reserve players participate in practices and games at the coach's discretion and pay the associated expenses for everything that they participate in. Monies collected from reserve players are divided equally among the fully rostered players and applied as a credit to their monthly statement.

Practice with the Team Initiative:

Girls participating in other USA Hockey programming with the QCHA or their home association may "Practice with the Team" for free up to 3 times a season. If the coach requests the player to join the roster as an Alternate/Reserve and the player accepts, the Alternate/Reserve guidance will apply beginning with the date of roster addition request to the QCHA registrar. Players must be added to the team roster before playing games/scrimmaging with the team. If a girls team has entered a coed tournament and do not have the min roster requirement per the Select policy, they may create a one time tournament roster consisting of both boys and girls from house league.

9. TEAM UNIFORM

Uniforms are a key means by which unity is created across all ages and skill levels in the QCHA. All girls team players will be required to purchase and wear the current approved travel jerseys (if they do not already own current approved travel jerseys from a prior season) for play in the QCHA girls program.

Any player participating on a Girls or Travel team must wear helmets, gloves and pants that are black in color or approved team equipment. This policy does not include goaltenders.

Nameplates, if desired, are the responsibility of the individual team and/or player. However, before permanently altering any uniform (which could cause conflicts with

players moving to other teams in the next season), the head coach should consult with the Director, Girls Hockey & Recruitment to make sure that all possible alternatives are considered. No sponsors name or logo will be added to the uniform.

10. OTHER POLICIES

Coaches, manager, players and parents are expected to follow ALL of the policies of the Quad City Hockey Association, USA Hockey and of the league in which we play (NIHL and MWAHA). Team members should particularly review and ensure alignment with the QCHA disciplinary process, Locker Room Policy, Code of Conduct, Alcohol Policy and Social Media Policies. Coaches, players and parents will be responsible for electronically and physically signing some policies each year to ensure they are reviewed and understood.