



YOUTH HOCKEY LEAGUE HANDBOOK

Our youth hockey program is designed to be a recreational hockey league, where emphasis is placed on having fun and promoting safety for players and officials. The games are played under USA Hockey rules with the exceptions noted below. A copy of the USA Hockey rules can be found at usahockey.com

THE SKATETOWN YOUTH HOCKEY LEAGUE IS A NON-CHECKING, NON-FIGHTING LEAGUE

While this league is a non-checking/non-fighting league, participants need to be aware that checking and fighting may still occur, but will be dealt with as follows:

Checking and fighting penalties are monitored and participants who repeatedly check or fight will be warned. Players that continue to check or fight after being warned are subject to suspension or ejection from the league without a refund of league fees.

Rosters:

- All participants must be registered before their first game. No player is permitted on the ice without payment.
- “No Pay - No Play”: If a player defaults on a payment of league fees, player will be dropped from the roster. Once a player is dropped from the roster for non-payment, they will not be allowed to register in future programs at Skatetown until defaulted payments have been paid.

Game Set - Up:

- Time: 3 – 12 minute stop-time periods.
- Penalties: Two minutes for minor penalties, five minutes for major penalties, ten minutes for a misconduct penalty.

- If a team is not on the ice and ready to play with five skaters and a goalie, or six skaters, after the three minute warm-up, and their one minute time-out, they will be issued a two minute delay of game penalty.
- All youth league games are to be finished within their designated 60 minute ice time slot. Skatetown does not curfew games unless absolutely necessary. If a delay is due to Skatetown, and not due to the players, the game will continue as long as necessary until all 36 minutes have been played.
- Teams are permitted to play with six players. The sixth player cannot act as a goalie. (i.e., covering puck in the crease, etc.)
- All tied games will go into a three man shoot out. If no goals are scored after the three man shoot out, it will move to sudden death shoot out.

Equipment:

- Skatetown requires the following protective equipment: Full face mask, HECC approved helmet, shoulder pads, elbow pads, ice hockey gloves, ice hockey pants with padding, and shin pads. Skatetown reserves the right to reject claims for injuries that occur as a result of a violation of league rules such as fighting or failing to wear recommended equipment.
- All players must have matching jerseys with a legible number on the back. One number per player, duplicate numbers are not permitted. If a player cannot produce a jersey with their number and player skates with a different number, player must instruct the scorekeeper as to their registered number. Any player not meeting these jersey requirements will be asked to leave the ice until they can produce an appropriate jersey.
- Each team needs to have a set of white and teal jerseys with numbers.

Substitutions/Illegal Players:

- Prior to game day, a coach can either confirm or request substitutions if they know that their team will be down to less than six players (excluding the goalie). Substitutions can be added so that the team's players total six (excluding the goalie). Substitutions must come from players registered in the current youth league and the same level of play. No substitutions are to be made without prior approval of the hockey director. Any substitution, which is not approved by the hockey director, will be considered illegal and will cause the game to be a forfeit.
- If a registered goalie is unable to play, goalie substitutes are permitted. Substitute must be currently registered on a Skatetown youth league team. Prior approval of the substitute goalie must be given by the hockey director in advance of the change so that the change can be noted on the score sheet.
- If a game is declared a forfeit, the teams involved are allowed to stay and play during their designated ice time.

Penalties:

- The hockey director reserves the right to increase any suspension after review.
- Major penalties: Any two major penalties incurred within one game will result in a game misconduct.
- Game Misconduct penalties: – Minimum one game suspension. Three Game Misconducts in a single season will lead to immediate suspension from the league for the remainder of the season.
- Match Penalties: Any player receiving a match penalty will be suspended for 30 days until review. Subsequent suspensions may follow at the discretion of the hockey director

Checking:

- Any check a referee deems intentional will result in a minimum of a five minute major penalty.
- Two major checking penalties will result in a two game suspension.

Accumulation of Penalties:

- Any player receiving four total penalties in a single game will be ejected from that game. No further suspension will be given.
- Any player accumulating 40 PIM will receive a one game suspension. .
- Any player accumulating 55 PIM will receive another game suspension
- Any player accumulating 65 PIM will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- Total PIM will still accumulate during the playoffs.
- Any suspensions received will carry over to the next season.

Fighting:

- Wrestling, scuffle, one punch – balance of game, two game suspension.
- Fight, two or more punches – balance of game, five game suspension.
- Third Man In – balance of game and two game suspension. Subsequent penalties may follow after review by the Hockey Director.
- Second Fight in one season – Automatic suspension from league for remainder of season and forfeiture of all league fees.
- Off-Ice Fighting - Players involved in an off-ice fight will be suspended from Skatetown for a minimum of one year pending an investigation. The player will be notified within 30 days of the incident if the suspension will be extended and if any conditions are required prior to possible reinstatement.

Suspensions:

- Suspensions will be given during the week after the incident prior to following game. Email will be sent to the coach, and coach is to notify the player's parents.
- If a suspended player skates without serving his suspension, the player will receive an equal suspension to the first given. Additional suspensions may occur upon review.
- A player who receives a major penalty within the last five minutes of the 3rd period will be given a game misconduct for the next game in place of the five minute major.
- Player history will be considered when dealing with suspensions.

CODES OF CONDUCT

Participation in sports can be a great learning experience for players, coaches, referees, and parents. These experiences often transfer into our daily lives at home, at school and in the office or during our recreational time.

The following codes of conduct have been developed to establish standards for ice hockey participation. All participants are encouraged to adopt these policies in order to provide a positive and rewarding experience for everybody involved. These codes of conduct are based on sportsmanship and fair play while creating a fun and positive environment

Players Code of Conduct

Play for FUN and enjoyment of the sport

Learn the rules and play by them. Always be a good sport

Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one

Respect your coaches, teammates, parents, opponents and the officials

Work hard to improve your skills

Be a team player - get along and cooperate with your teammates
Never argue with the decision of an official or coach, they will not change their minds
Learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline
Respect the arena and its facilities, without them you would not have a place to play.
Be on time for all games and practices

Parents Code of Conduct

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 the benefits of skill development and practices. De-emphasize competition in the lower age groups

Know and study the rules of the game and support the officials. This approach will help in the development of the sport.

Applaud a good effort in victory and in defeat enforce the positive points of the game.

Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice.

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