

# MAHA Handbook

2009-2010

Season

Middlebury Amateur Hockey Association  
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

## Welcome to the 2009-2010 Middlebury Amateur Hockey Season!

Your board of directors is looking forward to a fun and exciting season of youth hockey. We are working hard to continue to improve this amateur hockey program in order to provide a fun and challenging outlet for your child's winter energy and enjoying the sport of hockey.

In this handbook you will find answers to many of your questions about MAHA. Please keep it handy during the season and refer to it frequently. Whenever you have a question, please feel free to contact your team board representative or any member of the Executive Board of Directors listed below. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month during the hockey season, at the Warming Hut in the Recreation Park. Parents and players are always welcome to attend with questions, concerns, comments or suggestions.

### MAHA Executive Board of Directors

Name	Term Expires	Position	Phone	E-Mail
Molly Leach	2010	Chair	388-1164	hmleach@comcast.net
Don Devaney	2010	Vice Chair	388-2354	dedeval02@comcast.net
George Tucker	2011	Secretary	388-3896	georgeatucker@gmail.com
Heather Ryan	2010	Treasurer	388-7840	tabasas@comcast.net
Shannon Gleason	2010	Scheduler	388-0334	smaagleason@gmail.com
OPEN	2011	State Rep.	-----	-----
Shelly Becker	2011	Registrar	758-2578	sbecker@gmavt.net
Tony Niemo	2011	Equipment/ Facilities	388-0237	tonyniemo@myfairpoint.net
Tricia Gordon	2011	Spec. Events	349-5209	TGordon@rvmags.com
Bryan Carson	2011	Communications	388-0584	webmaster@middleburyhockey.org
OPEN	2011	Director of Coaching	-----	-----
Scott Smith	2011	Girls Rep.	388-3607	ssmith159pmb@gmail.com
OPEN	2010	Post Season Events	-----	-----

In addition, one representative will be elected from each team to serve as a voting member during the 2009-2010 season.

Our local web site is [www.middleburyhockey.org](http://www.middleburyhockey.org)  
The state web site is [www.vthockey.org](http://www.vthockey.org)

### **Looking ahead to the 2009-2010 Season**

The 2009-2010 season was a year of continued success for our organization. We will continue to support and employ the cross-ice mite program. The beneficial results of such a change are so very evident when you look at the progression of our Mites since we instituted this format. The state has opted to take a hard line this season and enforce ALL organizations to fully participate in the implementation of Mite cross-ice. They have seen the huge successes that have come from this program. We will keep you informed as to how this program continues to shape.

We are very excited about the upcoming season and hope many of the changes made in the past few seasons will have a positive affect on the experience of our players. Once again, the regular season is starting later this year to accommodate the schedule of fall sports. This delay is allowing MAHA to organize an in-house, cross-ice league in the spring for all regular season players. We will distribute the schedule for this session well in advance of the start date.

Our girls' program is still growing, but we are always looking for ways to improve the hockey experience for our girls. So again, we will be offering the U10 Introduction to Hockey program for girls who are interested in the sport, but have not played before. Also, we now have a filled position on the board for a Girl's representative. The Girl's program will benefit greatly by receiving focused attention from the Girl's representative. We are excited to have someone who will be dedicated to staying in the loop with what is happening around the state regarding Girl's hockey

Finally, we are excited to have the continued support of the Middlebury College hockey teams and coaches this year. As was the case last season, a pre-season cross ice program is being coordinated by the Middlebury Men's and Women's hockey teams and overseen by the team coaches. Coach Beaney and Coach Mandigo will offer a warm-up session in the beginning of the regular season. We look forward to investigating other ways to foster this connection between two programs who value the sport of hockey.

We wish everyone a fun, safe hockey season. Enjoy the improvements in our rink!

### **Purpose of MAHA**

The purpose of MAHA is to organize, manage, and promote youth hockey in the general region of Addison County, Vermont under the auspices of the VERMONT STATE AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION, INC. (VSAHA) and USA HOCKEY, INC.

MAHA will be guided by the following core values of USA Hockey, Inc.:

**SPORTSMANSHIP:** Foremost of all values is to learn a sense of fair play. Become humble in victory, gracious in defeat. We will foster friendship with teammates and

opponents alike.

**RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL:** Treat all others as you expect to be treated.

**INTEGRITY:** We seek to foster honesty and fair play beyond more strict interpretation of the rules and regulations of the game.

**PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE AT THE INDIVIDUAL, TEAM AND ORGANIZATIONAL LEVELS:** Each member of the organization, whether player, volunteer or staff, should seek to perform each aspect of the game to the highest level of his or her ability.

**ENJOYMENT:** It is important for the hockey experience to be fun, satisfying, and rewarding for the participant.

**LOYALTY:** We aspire to teach loyalty to the ideals and fellow members of the sport of hockey.

**TEAMWORK:** We value the strength of learning together. The use of teamwork is reinforced and rewarded by success in the hockey experience.

(Taken from the MAHA By-Laws approved in April 1998. Copies available from the secretary on request.)

### **What is USA Hockey?**

USA Hockey is the governing body for all amateur ice hockey in this country. USA Hockey is the official representative to the US Olympic Committee and the International Ice Hockey Federation. In these roles, USA Hockey is responsible for organizing and training teams for international competition. It also coordinates activities with other national ice hockey federations around the world and works with the National Hockey League on matters of mutual interest.

However, these programs are just a small part of USA Hockey. The real purpose of the association is to administer a well-organized sports program for those interested in playing amateur ice hockey in this country. Its goals are to educate participants, administrators, parents, coaches, officials, fans, and others in the game of ice hockey while encouraging more people to become involved in the program.

For the player, USA Hockey conducts annual regional and national championships in various age classifications, sponsors regional and national summer development camps, makes recommendations for protective equipment, and provides an excellent insurance plan.

For coaches and officials, USA Hockey conducts clinics and produces training manuals and films through the Coaching Achievement Program and the Officiating Program.

These programs can enrich the knowledge of either a coach or official. USA Hockey also promotes uniformity in playing rules and their interpretations.

USA Hockey has not forgotten the parents either, offering for purchase a “Parent’s Guide to Youth Hockey”, which includes tips on buying equipment, rules of the game, the role a parent should play, and much more. Another publication which keeps players, coaches, officials, and parents in touch with USA Hockey is “USA Hockey Magazine”, published 10 times a year. A subscription comes with joining USA Hockey.

Finally, USA Hockey acts as a clearinghouse for information to assist local organizations in finding solutions to problems at the grassroots level, and annually publishes the “Official Guide” of the USA Hockey By-Laws, Constitution, Rules and Regulations, Board of Directors, Officers, Affiliate Associations, and staff.

**USA HOCKEY**  
**Age Classifications for the 2009-2010 Season**

Date of Birth	Age Category	Age Division
1/1/91 – 12/31/92	17-18 Years	Midget Major
1/1/93 – 12/31/94	15-16 Years	Midget Minor
1/1/95 – 12/31/96	13-14 Years	Bantam
1/1/97 – 12/31/98	11-12 Years	Peewee
1/1/99 – 12/31/00	9-10 Years	Squirt
1/1/01 & Younger	8 & Younger	Mite

**GIRLS**

1/1/90 – 12/31/92	17-19 Years	19 or Under
1/1/93 – 12/31/94	15-16 Years	16 or Under
1/1/95 – 12/31/96	13-14 Years	14 or Under
1/1/97 – 12/31/98	11-12 Years	12 or Under
1/1/99 – 12/31/00	9 - 10 Years	10 or Under
1/1/01 & Younger	8 & Younger	8 or Under

**MAHA Teams and Levels (numbers permitting)**

- One Bantam Team (A Level)
- Two PeeWee Teams (A and B Levels)
- Two Squirt Teams (A and B Levels)
- Two Mite Teams (Jamboree and House)

These teams are open to both male and female players. MAHA will also field the following teams for girls only, based on numbers enrolled, according to the age guidelines of USA Hockey. Due to the nature of these growing programs, there needs to be some flexibility in the placement of players on the specific teams.

Girls U14  
Girls U12/U10 – with limited travel

**It is strongly recommended by the Board of Directors that all girls age 8 and under participate in the Mite program.**

A female player may try out for both the girls travel team and an age-appropriate coed team by participating in both teams' evaluation sessions; however, once the evaluation process is complete, the player must choose on which team she will be rostered.

Non-Travel Teams

Learn to Skate – Initiation Hockey Program – Sessions I and II  
Pond Hockey (Big Pond & Little Pond) – Sessions I and II  
Girls Introduction to Hockey 10 and Under – Sessions I and II

Learn to Skate – Initiation Hockey Program is for children ages 4 - 7, designed to introduce fundamental skating skills in once-weekly sessions that last six weeks. Pond Hockey is a short season, non-travel hockey program that meets two times weekly, rather than three or four, practicing and scrimmaging at the Memorial Sports Center. At the Coaches' discretion there may be one or two games scheduled for fun. This is a great way for skaters interested in hockey, but not yet ready for a significant time commitment, to learn the game and have fun at the same time.

Evaluation Process

MAHA Evaluation Criteria:

Skating Ability	Hockey Sense
Puck control	Passing and Receiving
Shooting	Offensive and Defensive Skills

Players will be evaluated using competitive exercises that place them in game situations. These situations will test the criteria listed above by challenging players to make decisions, support offensively and defensively, handle the puck in confined spaces, and test the players' agility and speed.

Three qualified people will conduct the evaluation process. One of the evaluators will be a member of MAHA coaching staff. We will make every attempt to fill the two remaining evaluator positions with evaluators that have no immediate connection to the MAHA program. None of the evaluators will have a vested interest in the level of hockey they are evaluating.

The Director of Coaching will determine how the tryouts will be run on ice and discuss with the evaluators his/her expectations prior to the start of the evaluation process. The evaluation process will be posted in the rink. The only people allowed on the bench side of the ice during the evaluation process will be the evaluators and the players.

Immediately after the final day of tryouts at any given level, the evaluators will meet in private to divide the players up into teams. Within 30 minutes the evaluation results will be posted in the rink.

MAHA does not place players according to position with the exception of goaltenders, but tries to put the best 12-15 players on the first team and the next 12-15 players on the second team, or if numbers warrant the remaining players on 2 equal teams. All players may not be placed on travel teams. Every effort will be made to place players at a level appropriate for their abilities.

If warranted, a floating roster for the middle of the pack players will be developed. For example, there are 25 players trying out for a given level. During the evaluation process it is determined that 9 are definitely A level players and 10 are definitely B level players. The remaining 6 have are in the middle of the pack (high level B player lower level A player). These middle of the pack players will rotate between A and B teams for games. If a player does not want to rotate they will have the option of being placed on the B team for the season. This floating roster is designed to build skill by challenging these players. Players will be notified of the rotation schedule well in advance of the games.

MAHA is a member of the Vermont State Amateur Hockey Association (VSAHA). VSAHA Rules require that prior to the State Championship Tournament each team must have competed, as a team, in at least 20 games during a season and each player for at least 10 games as a member of that team. VSAHA rules further state that teams that are not rostered by December 31st will automatically be sanctioned \$300.00 by the VSAHA. As a result, the Director of Coaching and the coaches of each of the teams at a given level will place the members of the floating roster on a specific team by December 31st. This also ensures that members of each team are able to play in 10 games with that team and be eligible to compete in the state tournament.

Evaluations can be a stressful time for those being evaluated. Please support your skaters by encouraging them to do their best and applauding their efforts. After team placements are announced, any questions can be directed to the Director of Coaching. Further appeal, if necessary, should be made to the Board of Directors.

If a player is unable to attend tryouts due to an injury or family emergency (ie: death in the family), they will be evaluated by the Director of Coaching and the coaches from both the A and B teams at their appropriate age level upon their return. Consideration will be given to where they have been placed in the past as well. They will then be notified as to what team they will be placed for that season.

### **Player “Moving Up” Policy**

MAHA endorses the Age Classification guidelines of USA Hockey, which are set forth on page 3. Therefore, a player will be “moved up” to a higher Age Division only in an exceptional case. Players and parents should anticipate that a request to the Board for a player to be “moved up” to a higher Age Division will rarely be granted. **Only potential**

**3<sup>rd</sup> year Jamboree Mites may apply for a Squirt A tryout.**

All requests to have a player evaluated at a higher Age Division should be made, in writing, to the MAHA Board at least 30 days prior to the first scheduled date for evaluations. The letter should include a summary of the factors relevant to the player and the criteria described below that the player's parents wish the Board to consider in connection with this request.

The following criteria will be used by the Board to determine whether a player will be evaluated at a higher Age Division:

The overall level of play shown by the player during the prior season as compared to other players on his/her team and opposing teams; and

Whether the child's participation at his/her appropriate Age Division would significantly hinder his/her overall development as a player.

The Board will review the "moving up" request with the player's coach from the prior season, and consider other information relevant to the above criteria.

The Chair of MAHA will inform the player's parents of the Board's decision. If the player is to be evaluated at a higher Age Division, then, in addition to the Evaluation Criteria set forth on page 4, the player must also be selected to the A Team at this Age Division in order to "move up" to the higher Age Division.

After evaluations are concluded and team placements are announced, any questions concerning the placement of a player who has been evaluated at a higher Age Division should be directed to the Board and not the Director of Coaching.

The Board of Directors reserves the right to ask players to move to another level if they feel the action is warranted.

**MAHA Coaching Philosophy**

MAHA strives to provide a fun but challenging educational environment for its participants. We achieve this by constructing practices that put the participants in small game situations that focus on play the puck/support hockey. These small game situations are used for all age levels and abilities. Small game situations are any competitive situations that take place in a confined space with set parameters. Examples are: 1 vs. 1 inside a circle, 2 vs. 1 keep-away in a confined space, or 3 vs. 3 on cross-ice.

A typical one hour practice will have skill development activities that focus on a theme,

i.e. skating, puck skills, defensive support, offensive support, etc. These activities will put the participants in competitive, high-speed situations that complement the remainder of the practice, which focuses on small games.

A Director of Coaching supports MAHA coaches. A pool of existing or former youth, high school, and college coaches are available to assist with problems and the player/coach development needs of the program.

### **Scheduling Guidelines**

<u>Level</u>	<u>Games per Season</u>	<u>Tournaments</u>	<u>Game Limit/Weekend</u>
House Mite	House League	N/A	N/A
Jamboree Mite	18-20	2	2
Squirt	20-25	2	2
PeeWee	24-30	2	3
Bantam	24-36	2	4
Girls U14	24-30	2	3
Girls U12	10-20	2	2

The season will begin in late-October and end at state tournaments with the addition of two weeks of House League in March.

Teams allowed to play 3 or 4 games/weekend will not do so more than 2 weekends in a row. Maximum travel distance is 125 miles for regular games.

Maximum travel distance for tournaments and overnight trips is 300 miles. There will be a limit of 2 tournaments per team during the regular season, not including the State Tournament. See Regular Season Tournament Policy on page 11.

Friday night away games can be scheduled if there is not a conflict with practice and there are at least 12 hours between the end of Friday's game and the start of Saturday's game.

Overnight trips will be limited to a maximum of 3.

Each travel team will generally receive 2 half-ice practices per week, with some exceptions due to High School Games or holidays. Games are not to be scheduled during scheduled practice times. Teams using their game slots to practice must be off the ice 15 minutes prior to the end of that game slot to allow for re-icing.

## Parent Volunteers

This organization cannot operate without the help of our parents. MAHA is strictly a volunteer organization and parent help is needed in order to accomplish our goals each year. There are many ways in which parents can help and it is an expectation that all parents will be involved. The following are responsibilities that must be assumed by parents in order for our teams to function:

**TEAM COORDINATOR:** this person is responsible for informing the team parents and coaches of schedule changes, upcoming special events, directions to games, etc. All games need to be confirmed by a phone call and/or email a week prior to the game. The other main responsibility is to organize parent volunteer work schedules for off-ice duties during home games and practices. **In addition, beginning this season, the team coordinator OR another appointed parent will be responsible for filling remaining game openings and game cancellations. The MAHA master scheduler will fill as many game slots as possible before the season begins; whatever games remain open will then become the responsibility of the designated team scheduler. This is a new concept we are employing. We will be giving you all of the information necessary to make this job quite painless !! This job NEEDS to be filled or your team will not play the amount of games allotted for the season.**

The Team Coordinator/Team Scheduler is a vital link to the success of everyone's experience on our hockey teams. It requires some organization and a little time, but is a great way to get to know your team and be involved in your child's hockey experience.

**MAHA BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:** this person is to be elected by the team parents and will represent them at all MAHA regular monthly board meetings during the hockey season. This person will bring information from the Board to the team, will participate in the management of MAHA programs, and may participate in MAHA committees.

**COACHING:** although not all coaches are parents of players currently registered with MAHA, there is always a need for team coaches and assistant coaches. All coaches are volunteers, and educational programs are available for those who would like to become involved. All MAHA coaches **MUST** be registered with USA Hockey and have passed the appropriate coaching education program. MAHA will reimburse our coaches for the cost of a clinic.

There are many other ways parents can and are needed to help. Before the season starts, volunteers are needed for preparing the ice surface for skating. The Zamboni drivers are all volunteers. Tournaments may be held during the season and involve many people, from setting up programs to selling tickets to announcing and running the games. Special events like picture day and the Skate-a-Thon involve volunteers.

Please contact a board member if you are interested in helping. Hockey is a time consuming sport and can be a great way to spend time with your kids.

### **Game Related Duties**

**RINK MONITOR:** A person is required for all practices and games and is responsible for monitoring the rink area during their time slot. This means making sure rink rules are being followed. If your team is the first one on in the morning, this person is responsible for obtaining the rink key and opening up the building. If your team is the last one on in the evening, this person is responsible for locking up.

**CONCESSIONS:** Friends of Hockey provides and stocks a concession stand in the rink. One or two people are needed to run this stand during games and some practices. The person who opens first thing in the morning is also asked to post locker room assignments on the white dry erase board.

**ICE SWEEPER/GOAL MOVER:** Two people are needed to sweep the edges of the ice next to the boards and move the goals for the Zamboni. **This is needed during games and after every practice.**

**CLOCK RUNNER, PENALTY BOX OFFICIALS, & SCORE KEEPER:** One person needs to operate the game clock, one keeps the official score sheet, and one mans each penalty box during all games.

### **General Rink Rules**

1. Children other than skaters are not to be left unattended.
2. Running is not allowed inside the building.
3. Hockey sticks are to be used only on the ice and should be left outside the locker rooms.
4. No horseplay in the locker rooms or around the outside of the rink.
5. Locker rooms are to be left clean. Continued abuse of this rule will result in loss of that team's locker room privileges.
6. The rink area needs to be left clean. Any trash needs to be in the cans provided.
7. No skaters are allowed on the ice while the Zamboni door is open and/or the Zamboni is on the ice.
8. The use of cell phones inside the locker rooms is banned due to privacy rules.

### **Learn to Skate – Initiation Hockey Program**

This program is designed to introduce skating skills to children ages 4 and up in two six-week sessions at a minimal cost of \$85.00. The program will meet once per week for one hour. The sessions will focus on development of skating skills using fun on-ice games. Skills developed will be use of edges, balance, forward crossovers, backwards skating, and stopping. This program is a fun, first experience on ice and is meant to make kids feel comfortable in skates. It is a first step towards playing and enjoying hockey.

Required equipment is a hockey helmet with face shield, hockey gloves, elbow pads, and

kneepads or hockey shin guards. A hockey stick is optional. Rental equipment is available for a fee of \$25 plus a refundable \$25.00 deposit. This includes a hockey helmet with face shield and hockey gloves. The participant then provides knee and elbow pads, skates, and hockey stick.

All MAHA coaches may be involved on a rotating basis. PeeWee, Bantam, and High School players or Middlebury College students may be used as assistants.

The program is planned to run for two sessions, one starting in early November and the other starting in January. A skater can participate in both sessions and can remain in this program for more than one year if not interested in competitive hockey. If desired, a skater can "Graduate" to the full season Mite program after the November session for an additional fee of \$100.00.

Registration and Equipment Rental for the second Learn to Skate Session will be held on Friday, December 11, 2009 and Sunday, December 13, 2009 in the Memorial Sport Center. Times to be announced.

### **Mite Program Guidelines**

In order to focus our attention on these most important skaters in our program, the following guidelines have been set up to give our Mite program more definition.

All Mites will practice together until jamboree teams are selected beginning in mid-November.

House League will begin in November using Mite coaches, and older players may help as the season progresses. All Mites will be placed on a House League team of 9 to 12 players with an NHL team name. Each team will be balanced as best as possible to insure even match ups in terms of size and skill. Team selection will be done by the Mite Head coach with assistance from the Director of Coaching and assistant coaches. House League games will be cross-ice (played from one side of the rink to the other, rather than end to end) and are intended to be fun competition following the MAHA coaching philosophy. As the season progresses it may be necessary to move players from team to team but it will be done in a manner to even up teams and increase ice time for skaters in attendance.

Jamboree team selection will be based on skills and abilities of skating, stick handling, and game sense. There will be no formal evaluation process; rather, the Director of Coaching will designate three or more MAHA coaches to observe three or more practices and this group will select the 14 to 20 mites to play in the jamboree format. Any division in the Jamboree teams will attempt to balance each team according to skills.

House Mites will not travel and will have two to three ice slots per week. The Jamboree Team will have two to four ice slots per week. Practice times will be as consistent as possible.

### **Equipment Requirements**

The following equipment is mandatory for all players: skates, helmet with protective face guard and mouth guard, neck guards, shoulder pads, elbow pads, hockey gloves, pants, shin pads, athletic supporter and cup.

Note: Shoulder pads are not required for House Mites.

### **Equipment Rental Program**

MAHA provides an equipment rental program on a first come, first served basis. A helmet, gloves, elbow pads, and shin guards can be rented for the season for \$25. A separate \$25.00 security deposit will be required at the time of rental. Equipment is fitted to the child and can greatly reduce the cost of trying hockey to see if your child likes it. Please contact the MAHA Equipment board member if you need to rent equipment.

MAHA also owns goalie equipment in varying sizes, which can be used during the season for those who would like to try out being a goalie.

### **Fund Raising Policy**

No individual, team, or member of MAHA may solicit advertising, contributions, or support for a MAHA team from any local business. However, MAHA members are expected to participate in fundraising on behalf of MAHA and Friends of Middlebury Hockey, including the annual Skate-A-Thon Fundraiser and sales of Pizza Kits. Bake sales, bottle drives, car washes or similar fundraisers organized by teams are allowed.

### **Dispute Resolution**

Any coach, parent, and/or player aggrieved by a decision of the MAHA Board regarding MAHA issues may appeal to the full board. This appeal is to be written and mailed or given to the Chair of the Board. The MAHA Board shall hold a board meeting within 5 days of receipt of the appeal and render written findings or a decision within 14 days of receipt of the appeal.

### **Substance Abuse Policy**

As recommended by USA Hockey, MAHA has adopted a policy regarding the consumption, use and abuse of mood altering substances, which is defined to include: (1) intoxicating beverages, including, but not limited to, alcohol; (2) any controlled non-

prescribed drug; (3) prescription drugs when used to an excess in violation of doctor's orders, or to produce a state of intoxication.

On Ice: MAHA prohibits any participant (player, coach, official, and any other person involved in a game or practice) from using, or being under the influence of, any mood altering substance during active participation in any on-ice activity, or in any MAHA sponsored activity. Upon discovery of any violation, MAHA shall remove that person from participation immediately and for a reasonable period thereafter.

No refund will be made for a suspension or expulsion under this policy.

Off Ice: MAHA has adopted a policy that no participant should use or abuse any mood altering substance in any illegal manner or in any manner that threatens that participant's active participation in MAHA's activities.

### **Cell Phone Policy**

MAHA has adopted a policy banning the use of cell phones in locker rooms. The reason, of course, is privacy. Cell phone cameras have been surreptitiously used to photograph players in various stages of undress. All participants in MAHA activities, including parents, should be aware that photographing or filming the intimate areas of another person without his or her consent is a criminal offense in the State of Vermont. As such, MAHA requires that all cell phones be turned off before entering the locker rooms.

### **MUHS Varsity Tryouts**

MAHA players eligible for either of the MUHS Varsity Ice Hockey teams are encouraged to try out for that team. During Varsity tryouts, players are not required to practice with their MAHA teams. It is the decision of the MUHS Varsity Ice hockey coaches as to whether players trying out for a Varsity team may participate in their MAHA teams' games during the tryout period. The MAHA Scheduler shall cooperate with the MUHS Varsity ice hockey coaches to avoid any conflict for the players trying out.

### **Rental of Ice by Individual Teams**

The MAHA Board requests that any and all teams who wish to rent ice time at the Sports Center at the rate charged to MAHA by Friends of Hockey, make their request in writing to the Board Chair. The Board will then act upon each request on an individual basis. All requests should be made with at least 14 days notice.

### **Regular Season Tournament Policy**

During the regular season, teams may choose to participate in away tournaments at their own expense. The number of games played in these Tournaments will not affect the total number of games per our Scheduling Guidelines. Teams wanting to participate in these tournaments will be responsible for contacting and making arrangements to participate

with the host organization. Each team will also be required to inform the Head Scheduler of any tournament plans as soon as possible. Also, each team is responsible for the general consensus for participation of each player and coach. For any teams not participating in the State Tournament, upon request to the Board, MAHA will contribute an amount up to, but not exceeding the State Tournament fee, for the team to participate in a tournament of their choice.

### **Vermont All Star Tryouts**

The All Star teams are composed of the 19 best players at each age level from the entire state. All Star tryouts are based on birth year. For the 2009-2010 season, players will be eligible to tryout for the following levels: Select 17 (1993), Select 16 (1994), Select 15 (1995), Select 14 (1996), Select 13 (1997), Select 12 (1998), and Girls Select U17 (1993-1994), Girls Select U15 (1995-1996) and Girls Select U13 (1997-1998).

This year all players may self-nominate; in the past, nominations from the local associations were required for some of the age groups. We encourage players to discuss with their coach the possibility of trying out for All Star Teams as it is a very difficult evaluation. All registrations for the tryouts must be completed in advance. Please check the website [www.vthockey.org](http://www.vthockey.org) for the registration forms, fees, dates & times of the tryouts. Should a player make the Vermont All Star Team, there is a fee for participation in the tournaments that follow. In the past this has been about \$225.00. Scholarship support may be available upon request to the Board.

### **Tournament Season**

MAHA does not organize or select teams for Tournament Season, which begins after the Vermont State Tournaments are concluded. Although MAHA will act as the sponsor of a MAHA team wishing to participate in post-season tournaments, it is the responsibility of individual members of MAHA to organize a team at a particular level, select players and coaches, and arrange and pay for tournaments, games and practices. MAHA will provide team jerseys and arrange for each team to be registered with USA Hockey and the Vermont State Amateur Hockey Association.

After team placements for the regular season are announced, the MAHA Director of Post Season Events will meet with each of the Team Coordinators. A Team Coordinator may then meet with parents to determine the overall interest in organizing a team for Tournament Season, and other organizational issues.

MAHA organizes and hosts the Skip Brush Spring Classic Tournament for teams at the Squirr, PeeWee, Bantam, and Girls levels, if teams indicate interest in participating. This Tournament, which is held over two successive weekends in March, is a significant generator of revenue for our entire program, without which registration fees for the regular season would be greater than they are. **Since this Tournament benefits all our members, MAHA needs each MAHA family, regardless of whether or not your child is participating in the Tournament, to assist in the running of the games.** A description of game related duties begins on page 7.

**2009 – 2010 Registration Fees**

Girls U14	495.00
Midgets	495.00
Bantams	495.00
PeeWees	495.00
Squirts	495.00
Girls U12/U10	280.00
Jamboree Mites	345.00
Returning Mites	280.00
New Mites	225.00
Learn to Skate – Initiation Hockey Program	85.00 per session
Pond Hockey	100.00 per session
Girls Introduction to Hockey – 10 and Under	100.00 per session

(For Pond Hockey and Girls Intro to Hockey, there is an additional charge of \$32 per player to cover the USA Hockey membership fee.)

All individuals must pay a \$30 non-refundable membership fee to USA Hockey, the governing body of the Vermont State Amateur Hockey Association, which among other things provides insurance coverage while on the ice. There is also a \$2 affiliation fee payable to VSAHA (split between VSAHA and New England District). All USA Hockey registrations must be made online prior to MAHA registration.

**Multiple Player Discounts**

The eldest two registrations will be at the full rate and all others will be reduced by 30%

**Refund Policy**

Requests for refunds may be made if a player is unable to complete the season due to player injury or family moves. Refunds will be based on a pro-ration of 1/5 the registration fee per month that is unplayed. Players chosen for the High School Varsity team will be refunded ¾ of the total registration fee. Any other requests for refunds will be considered by the MAHA Board on an individual basis.

**Registration Fee Payment Policy 2009 – 2010 Season**

In an attempt to become more financially responsible and make hockey costs fair for everyone, MAHA has the following payment policy:

Uncollected fees unfairly raise the cost of our operating budget. Some of the benefits of collecting these fees could be more clinics, reduced fees, etc.

Registration fees are payable as follows:

One half due at registration.

One quarter due by December 1, 2009.

Balance due by January 1, 2010

Players will not be allowed to participate in State Tournaments if balance is not paid by December 1 or payment arrangement has not been made with the Treasurer in writing. All fees owed under any payment arrangement must be paid in full by April 1, 2010, or that player will be required to pay in full for the 2010-2011 season at registration. Players at levels not playing in State Tournaments will not be allowed to skate after February 1, 2010 if fees are not paid or arrangements have not been made with the Treasurer in writing.

Players will not be allowed to register if the prior season's balance has not been paid.

Scholarships are available and applications can be obtained from the Treasurer. Balance of registration fees after the awarding of a scholarship must be paid in full or arrangements made for a payment plan before the scholarship is applied. If this balance is not paid according to the above policy the scholarship will be voided and registration will revert to the full amount.

### **Late Registrations for Travel Team Players**

The MAHA Board shall set the upcoming season's registration date and registration fees during the August meeting of each year. The dates and fees will be publicized. Players who do not register by the date set by the Board may be allowed to register later at the discretion of the Board, providing there is an opening on the team, but must pay a late fee of \$30.00.

### **Scholarship Policy**

The following income amounts and household sizes are those used to determine eligibility for Reduced School Meals for 2009 – 2010. MAHA will award reductions in registration fees to families of skaters in our program using these guidelines and those listed below. Full scholarships will only be awarded under extreme circumstances.

1. Application completed and submitted by deadline.
2. Household monthly gross income verification provided in writing.
3. Income falling below the amounts in the following table.
4. Years participating in the MAHA program
5. Budgetary constraints to break even for the season

Final decisions will be made by a vote of the MAHA Board of Directors in executive session. All information contained in scholarship applications will be known only to Board members and will be kept confidential. Only the Treasurer will know the identity

of the applicant.

Household size is defined as the number of people who reside for more than 50% of the time in that home. Income amount is all gross income earned by any and all members of that household. This is not adjusted by any expenses.

**Household Size                      185% of Federal Poverty Level  
Monthly Income**

2	2247
3	2823
4	3400
5	3976
6	4553
7	5130
8	5706

Families applying for scholarships without meeting the above income criteria may be offered a payment plan.

**Code of Conduct**

Parents and players are reminded that your actions represent MAHA. Please treat all players, coaches, officials and parents with respect and dignity. All members are reminded of USA Hockey's Zero Tolerance for Verbal Abuse Rule, which addresses disputes and comments or gestures toward officials.

Over the past 25 years, MAHA has developed a reputation for sportsmanship, both on and off the ice. In the interest of pursuing these MAHA ideals it is the decision of the MAHA Board to institute a written policy regarding behavior, expectations, and the consequences of disregard for these standards.

**Players**

1. On and off ice players are required to display the proper respect due to officials, opposing players, and coaches
2. Profanity, abusive language, and improper gestures will NOT be tolerated on or off the ice.
3. Players are expected to treat facilities, both home and away, with respect. This includes making sure locker rooms and team bench areas are cleaned after each game or practice and following all rules specific to each facility.

4. Players are expected to pay attention to their coaches during practices and games. Asking questions is always encouraged, but disruptive talking and horseplay are not conducive to learning and will NOT be tolerated.
5. It is a rule of amateur hockey that any player receiving five penalties in a game is disqualified from the remainder of that game and in some severe cases, the next game. MAHA adheres to this regulation and also adds that any blatant display of unsportsmanlike conduct can lead to disciplinary action as outlined in Section 7.
6. Any player receiving a gross misconduct or match penalty is disqualified from the game it is received in and is ineligible to play until the MAHA Board has held a hearing regarding the situation. The minimum consequence for such a penalty is a two-game suspension.
7. Blatant disregard of the above can lead to one or more of the following consequences.
  - a. Sitting out shifts during a game or on the bench during practices.
  - b. Being sent off the ice for the remainder of the game or practice.
  - c. Suspension from further games or practices until a satisfactory resolution is agreed upon by the player and the coach. A Board member may be requested by any involved party to mediate.
  - d. Violation of Sections 5 and/or 6 will require, in addition to any other consequences, that the player write a one page paper on sportsmanship. Two copies are to be turned in; one to the player's coach, the second to the Chair of MAHA. A player will not be allowed to resume practice or play until this requirement is completed.

The above rules are not intended to suggest in any way that the MAHA Board feels that there are serious behavior problems among our players. Rather, it is intended to convey, in writing, our program's expectation for fair play and sportsmanship.

Players should remember that hockey is a team sport. All team members should strive to create an atmosphere that is supportive, a work ethic that allows all to learn and progress, and a commitment to teamwork and sportsmanship.

### **Parents Awareness Acknowledgment Form**

All families will be required to sign the following form, which will be distributed at your first team meeting.

#### **PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. 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.

2. Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
3. 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.
4. Emphasize skill development and practice and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the younger age levels.
5. Know and study the rules of hockey 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.
6. Applaud a good effort in victory and in 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 physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
7. Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.
8. If you enjoy the game, learn all you can and dedicate time as a volunteer.

#### **SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials.
2. Act appropriately; do not taunt or disturb other fans. Enjoy the game together.
3. Cheer good plays of all participants, avoid booing opponents.
4. Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive.
5. Help provide a safe and fun environment; throwing objects on the ice surface can cause injury to players and officials.
6. Do not lean over and pound on the glass; the glass surrounding the ice surface is part of the playing area.
7. Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
  
8. Be responsible for your own safety and remain alert to help prevent accidents.
9. Respect locker rooms as private areas for players, coaches and officials.
10. Be supportive after the game, win or lose. Recognize good effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.

#### **USA HOCKEY Zero Tolerance Policy**

In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, the USA Hockey Youth, Junior and Senior Councils have instructed the Officiating Program to adhere to certain points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship. This campaign is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, team officials, administrators and parents/spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey-sanctioned games.

Thus, the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all On-Ice Referees and Linesmen:

**Players:**

A minor penalty for un-sportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
3. Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision. Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.

**Coaches:**

A minor penalty for un-sportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

1. Openly disputes or disputes any decision by an official.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
3. Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision including standing on the boards or standing in the bench doorway with the intent of inciting the officials, players or spectators.

Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

**Officials:**

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited.

On-Ice officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

**Parents/Spectators:**

The game will be stopped by On-Ice officials when parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The On-Ice officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local Governing Body.

1. Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
2. Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or actual physical violence.
3. Throwing of any object in the spectator's viewing area, player's bench, penalty box or on the ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

**George W. Whitney, Jr.**  
**Character Award**

To be awarded annually by the Middlebury Amateur Hockey Association to the player on each team of Middlebury youth hockey, who best meets the following criteria, all of which exemplify the character that George Whitney instilled in his players while coaching in the Middlebury Youth Hockey Program.

**Sportsmanship**

Shows respect to teammates, coaches, opposing players, officials, fans, and parents.

**Leadership**

Excellent representation of Middlebury Youth Hockey both on and off the ice.

Outstanding conduct at all practices and games including high school and college games.

Positive influence to the development of other players encompassing both attitudes and hockey skills.

**Coachability**

Attentive at practices and games.

Willingness to learn and improve.

Excellent attendance at practices and games.

**Motivation**

Seeks opportunities to improve hockey skills – extra ice time, hockey schools and clinics, hockey videos, spectator student at other games.

**Strong work ethic – Mr. Hustle!**

**Season Calendar 2009 - 2010**

**SEPTEMBER**

- 9/16 Registration
- 9/19 Registration
- 9/27 USA Hockey Coaching Clinic – Level 1 – Leddy Park
- 9/27 USA Hockey Referee Clinic – St. Michael’s College (On Ice at Essex H.S.)

**OCTOBER**

- 10/6 MAHA Board Meeting
- 10/14 Panther Cross Ice Program Begins
- 10/24 Regular Season Begins
- 10/17 USA Hockey Referee Clinic – Woodstock High School – Union Arena
- 10/11 USA Hockey Coaching Clinic – Level II – St. Michael’s College
- 10/18 USA Hockey Coaching Clinic – Level III – St. Michael’s College

**NOVEMBER**

- 11/7-8 Girls All Star Tryouts / See [www.vthockey.org](http://www.vthockey.org)
- 11/3 MAHA Board Meeting
- 11/1 USA Hockey Referee Clinic – Rutland High School/Field House
- 11/17 MAHA Team Pictures
- 11/22 USA Hockey Coaching Clinic – Level II – Norwich University
- 11/15 USA Hockey Coaching Clinic – Level I – Woodstock H.S.

**DECEMBER**

- 12/1 MAHA Board Meeting
- 12/6 USA Hockey Coaching Clinic – Level III – Middlebury College
- 12/13 Registration/Equipment Rental for Session II Non-Travel Programs

**JANUARY**

- 1/5/10 MAHA Board Meeting

**FEBRUARY**

- 2/2 MAHA Board Meeting
- 2/12 Vermont State AB and B Tournaments Begin
- 2/19 Vermont State A Tournaments Begin
- 2/27-28 Boys All Star Tryouts / See [www.vthockey.org](http://www.vthockey.org)

**MARCH**

- 3/2 MAHA Board Meeting
- TBA Skip Brush Tournaments
- TBA Annual Team Banquets