



ROCHESTER SPECIAL HOCKEY

Rochester Special Hockey Policies

In addition to the Rochester Special Hockey Policies (RSH) (listed below), RSH follows and expects all members (parents, players, spectators, board members, coaches and team staff) to adhere to all designated and approved hockey policies including, but not limited to, policies on Sexual Awareness, Bullying, Locker Rooms, Discrimination and Substance Abuse.

POLICY #1 – REGISTRATION FEES

All registration fees as a participant in the Rochester Special Hockey program will be due and payable in full by September 30. We will not allow registration fees prohibit individuals from participating in the program. Scholarships are available on as designated basis player must demonstrate the need for this. Payment arrangements/schedules will be arranged as required

POLICY #2 – ZERO TOLERANCE

The RSH and ASHA Hockey Zero Tolerance policies will be strictly enforced. Coach(es), manager(s) and parent(s) will be subject to disciplinary action determined by the Rochester Special Hockey Board of Directors. Definition for Zero Tolerance - These include but are not limited to bullying, harassment, sexual abuse, use of alcohol, tobacco and vaping and other behaviors and habits that may harm or impact our players in a negative manner.

POLICY #3 – ASHA Registered

Any team representing Rochester Special Hockey, must be made up of ASHA Hockey registered and approved players.

POLICY #4 - TOURNAMENTS

All RSH registered players will be considered when putting rosters together for tournament participation. Included as criteria for consideration will be tournament skill type (junior, senior or mixed). Attendance at practice – behavior at practice – locker room behavior etc. Every effort will be made to allow all players the opportunity to attend events in other cities, countries and areas. For most undesignated skill level tournaments we will take a mixed team away

POLICY #5 – Tournament Cost:

When attending tournaments it will be the responsibilities of players, parents and staff to pay for their expenses. These will include meals, room, contributions to bus service and other expenditures that they may make.

Rochester Special Hockey will make all room arrangements and will always look for the most cost effective option available. Our intent is to keep cost down so we will usually research hotels in the 3 star range. We make all attempts to have breakfast included with the possibility of a pool. Our search will look at location to be near the rink and other activities. All payment for rooms of trips should be made prior to departure for the tournament.

Rooming is handled by family for needs. For age appropriate players we will room two players of the same sex to a room – families and staff will be notified of this for approval. A coach and or designated staff/family member will check on them during the evening.

All services for pay per view will not be allowed and will be denied.

When on bus/vans, at the rink and on site at the festivities or hotel all players, family members, staff, coaches and volunteers will adhere to RSH rules of conduct during the trip.

POLICY #6 – EQUIPMENT

The following equipment is to be worn at all times (at any on-ice function at any rink) by all players in Rochester Special Hockey:

neck guard

HECC helmets with chinstraps properly fastened; also applies for all coaches, assistant coaches, on-ice helpers, and student coaches. Student coach helmets must include a face mask. All helmets will be reviewed annually to insure that they meet the safety designation date codes

Coaches and On Ice Helpers are required to wear HECC helmets, gloves and skates when on the ice. This includes during warm-ups. Anybody helping move Nets, Cross Ice Boards, must wear a helmet.

POLICY #7 - JERSEY POLICY

RSH has selected and approved Team Game Jerseys. For games (including scrimmages, tournaments) and for team pictures, the use of the official RSH issued league jerseys and socks is required. RSH will provide all games jerseys prior to games, scrimmages and tournaments. These will be maintained by the RSH organization. Every effort will be made to allow for players to wear the same number as they move through the program.

POLICY #8 – PLAYERS RECEIVE EQUAL ICE TIME

All coaches will make every effort/attempt to allow each player on our team(s) to play the same amount of time throughout games and season. This can be impacted by attendance at practice, attitude, family factors (i.e. school grades, work effort etc.). Our policy at Rochester Special Hockey is for the development of a positive attitude in each player in an enjoyable setting/atmosphere.

POLICY #9 – RSH SUSPENSIONS (i.e. instituted by RSH Board or coach)

(a) PLAYER - Suspension of a player (sitting one or more games) from Rochester Special Hockey can occur if any of Rochester Special Hockey's and/or the team's written rules, regulations, policies, agreements, code of conduct and/or by-laws are violated. We value input from parents to assist in making decisions on these suspensions – i.e. issues at home, issues at school, behavior.

(b) COACH – Suspension of a coach from Rochester Special Hockey by any individual having that authority will occur due to the breaking of any of Rochester Special Hockey and/or team's written rules, regulations, policies, agreements, coaches' code of conduct and/or by-laws.

RSH and ASHA have the authority to suspend coaches, players and parents.

POLICY #10 – DISPUTES

Any disputes between coach and player/parent that cannot be resolved must be brought to the attention of Board of Directors for review and providing resolution.

POLICY #11 – USE OF ROCHESTER SPECIAL HOCKEY (ICECATS) LOGO

The RSH logo is trademarked. Therefore, use of the RSH logo requires approval by the Board of Directors (Executive Board).

POLICY #12 – TAX I.D. NUMBER

The Tax Exempt number assigned to Rochester Special Hockey as an entity is not to be used in by individuals making purchases/fundraising. However, individuals may apply to the Treasurer to have forms filled out which require our Tax I.D. number for the purpose of fundraising that will benefit Rochester Special Hockey.

POLICY #13 – MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RSH Board Members and Officers may not accept financial payments for services to WYHA as this presents a conflict of interest to be accepting payments approved by the Board or Officers and could impact RSH's 501-3c status.

POLICY #14 – ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Officers, board members and/or committee members are expected to attend meetings on time, as dictated by attendance policy. If two meetings are missed by member, they may be asked to step down.

NOTE: Any use of the term “Board of Directors” herein specifically relates to the Rochester Special Hockey Board unless otherwise agreed upon.

POLICY #14 – Locker Room Use

All keys for locker rooms will only be signed out by the registered coach for the practice or event. This will be done according to the rink rules of requirements for appropriate documents, keys etc. Players will not be given keys

Due to the makeup of the organization and members both male and female, the use of separate designated male and female locker rooms will be assigned. These will be monitored by the appropriate male or female coach and attendants.

Should it be necessary for individuals who need assistance to share a locker room we ask that all players should be dressed in their under clothes so that it is not necessary to strip completely.

Players should elect to come dressed with partially or fully and can finish dressing in the designated general area.

Parents must make arrangements prior to start of the season for dressing room needs.

POLICY #15 - Locker Room Attendants

All teams must have gender appropriate Locker Room Attendants. On teams with both genders, there must be at least two Locker Room Attendants, one for each gender. Locker Room Attendants must have current SafeSport Training and be screened per ASHA Hockey and rules.

The duties of a Locker Room Attendant are to supervise the Locker Room when coaches are not present. Locker Room Attendants are responsible for ensuring only players and gender appropriate parents are in the Locker Room, players are not engaging in inappropriate behavior (horseplay/hazing, use of illegal substances, using cameras or video equipment, keeping locker rooms clean and any other inappropriate behavior not listed), and if necessary confiscating cell phones at the door. Incidents should be reported to the Team Coaching Staff for disciplinary action. Locker Room Attendants do not have to be in the Locker Room at all times but should always be in the vicinity and periodically (randomly) checking the behavior in the locker room.

POLICY #16 - Cell phones and other Mobile Recording Devices:

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras, and video cameras are not permitted to be used in the locker rooms. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside the locker room.

POLICY #17 – One on One Meetings:

No one on one meetings between coaches and players are allowed. If coaches need to speak with a player it is their responsibility to have either a parent or another coach present. All meetings will take place in open public space. Locker rooms and other enclosed areas will not be used for this purpose. There should be no requirement for this type of meeting. If there are issues that pertain to discipline that need to be addressed this will always be done with a parent present.

POLICY #18 – Risk Management:

In today's world the possibility for sexual abuse, physical abuse, bullying and other behaviors have come to the forefront in many programs, both in the sports world and in the world at large. We at Rochester Special Hockey in order to prevent or negate as possible the potential risk to our players, families, staff and program, in the immediate future are following the guidelines as set forth by ASHA in regard to requiring background checks and sexual abuse awareness training as offered by Safe Sport. As part of this process all coaches and support staff will need to submit to background checks and to take a Sexual Awareness course to assist our program. This information will be kept on file by RSH for record retention.

RSH Policies Agreed to at Registration

Code of Conduct for Participating in RSH Agreement

1. No swearing or abusive language on the bench, in the rink, or at any team function.
2. No lashing out at any official no matter what the call is. The coaching staff will handle all matters pertaining to officiating.
3. Anyone who receives a penalty will skate directly to the penalty box.
4. Fighting will not be tolerated. Fighting will result in a minimum of a one game suspension and any other penalties mandated by RSH and or ASHA and/or an appearance before a Discipline Committee.
5. There will be no drinking, smoking, chewing of tobacco, vaping or use of any illegal substance at any team function.
6. Players and parents will conduct themselves in a befitting manner at all facilities (ice rink, off ice training, hotel, restaurant, etc) during all team functions.
7. Any player, spectator or team official who cannot abide by these rules or violates them will be subject to further disciplinary action by Team Staff, League or the RSH Board.