



D155 PREDATORS HOCKEY CLUB

2023 – 2024 POLICIES

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The Board shall be responsible for the operations of the club, including approval of coaches, decisions on players' eligibility in terms of suspension, academics, and failure to comply with the rules and/or codes of conduct of the organization, by coaches, players, parents and other participants in the club.

The Hockey Director oversees the entire hockey program.

By signing up to play with the D155 Predators Hockey Club, players and parents understand that the placement of players on teams is the sole responsibility of the Hockey Director and coaches and such placement on specific teams is based on a variety of considerations, which may include a player's or parent's attitude, performance, and behaviors both on and off the ice.

The Head Coaches and Hockey Director have the authority to suspend a Player(s) for one game for a documented reason. Hockey director will communicate their decision with Rules and Ethics and to the player(s) parents. The Hockey Director and Head Coaches may suspend a Player(s) for one additional game for a documented reason, to be forwarded immediately to Rules and Ethics and the Board, and notification to the player(s) parents. Immediate attention to this matter will be given by Rules and Ethics to uphold, modify or reject the suspensions.

The Hockey Director and coaches run the ice. This includes evaluations, selecting the roster, what team you play on and the amount ice time each player receives. **This is not a debatable situation.** Ice time can and will change from game to game.

The Varsity team is a high school varsity team. Its purpose is to compete at the highest level. The Junior Varsity teams are designed to develop players capable of moving up to the Varsity level and playing competitively. Junior Varsity Players may be moved up 1 team level based on the evaluation and needs of the Coaches and skills of the players during the season. Any movement of players is done specifically within the guiding rules of AHAI, USA Hockey, and Illinois High School Hockey Association.



The hockey director and coaches will provide appropriate feedback to the players, pointing out areas a player may need to improve his or her skills and competitiveness on a case by case basis.

Locker rooms will be closed to all but the players, coaches and approved screened individuals. If the coach needs another individual in the locker room, they will be invited. D155 Predators Hockey will abide by USA Hockey's policy regarding Locker Room Supervision and Co-Ed Locker Rooms.

The team coach or approved adult will not allow female players in the locker room until all male players are appropriately dressed. Any player being disrespectful to a female player will immediately be removed from the locker room and appear in front of the Rules and Ethics Board.

The coaches will determine the timetable for players to be dressed and ready for games, as well as, before practice sessions.

Players **must** attend all practices and games. You **must** notify your coach if you are going to miss a practice, game or team event, within the time frame outlined by your coaches. Injured and suspended players must still attend all practices, games and team events, as required by your coaches.

Off-ice training, weightlifting, watching film may be scheduled from time to time. Some may be optional, others mandatory.

Situations come up which may force you to miss a game/practice, but habitual absences will result in the loss of ice time. Hockey is a team sport and we need **everyone** at practices and games. You must be committed to your team and teammates.

SMOKING/VAPING AND USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS/TOBACCO PRODUCTS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. All players will be required to read and acknowledge, by signing, the D155 Predators Drug and Alcohol Policy. Fighting, or any form of bullying, whether physical or verbal, will not be tolerated.

Conduct on and off the ice, during games, practices and while representing the Club, is very important. Backtalk, inappropriate language, hand gestures, and overall negative and bad attitudes towards coaches, referees team/league officials, including representatives from other teams, other players, parents, and teammates will not be allowed.

Any violation of D155 Predators Code of Conduct will be subject to disciplinary actions, which can include suspension and removal from the team.



The Board of Directors and/or Coaches have the authority and discretion to impose additional game suspensions based on the nature of the infraction.

Players will follow team dress code as directed by the coach.

If a player has questions about their play, ice time or any other issue they should discuss the matter with their coach. If the player is not comfortable with the coach's response, then the player can request a meeting with the Hockey Director to discuss.

PARENTS

The D155 Predators Hockey enforces the USA Hockey zero tolerance policy for parent conduct at games. If a parent has a concern or a complaint, report the matter to our Rules and Ethics Coordinator. It will be reviewed, and you will receive an appropriate and timely response once the matter has been investigated. D155 Predators Hockey will not tolerate abusive behavior towards the coaches, players, managers, Board members, or other family members. This includes games, practices, and team events. Disciplinary action can and will be taken by the Board. Failure to adhere to any disciplinary actions issued to a parent will allow the Hockey Director to issue a suspension against the parent's player or removal of the player from a team.



D155 Predators Hockey Club Attendance Policy

To strive for maximum team success and development at the individual and team level, it is important that all players attend every practice, scrimmage, game, and tournaments. When signing up to play for D155 Predators Hockey Club, the player is committing to this attendance policy. The Attendance Policy is as follows:

- Enforcement of the attendance policy will begin the first day of practice.
- Players are required to attend ALL games, scrimmages, and practices, whether in or outside of Illinois. Tournaments are included in this policy.
- Excused absences include religious activities, school activities, current fall sport game or practice (with coach approval), illness, and family emergencies.
- Holidays and family vacations will not be considered excused absences.
- It will not be considered an unexcused absence if a player misses a team practice or game that was scheduled within 48 hours of notification.

As a player, I am expected and required to attend and participate in all practices, skills, games, tournaments, and any other team or club function (collectively referred to as a "D155 Event") set forth by the club, coaches, or hockey director as mandatory.

I understand it is my responsibility to notify my head coach of any upcoming absence, along with the reason for the absence, at least 24 hours in advance of the D155 Event. Any unexcused absences from practices, skills, games, or mandatory team functions will have the following penalties:

miss one = sitting one period,

miss a second = sitting two periods,

miss a third = sitting the entire next game and possibly the following game.

This policy resets after the player serves their penalty. The discretion on whether an absence is unexcused rests entirely with the Head Coach and/or Hockey Director.



D155 Predators Hockey Club Anti-Bullying Policy

All players, parents, coaches, and Board members should have a clear understanding of what is considered bullying. Coaches and Managers shall ensure that all players and parents are provided a copy of this D155 Predators Anti-Bullying Policy and discuss the important points of the policy each year during the respective Parent/Coach Meeting. All players and parents should understand how to report incidents involving bullying. All coaches and Board members should be familiarized with the D155 Predators Anti-Bullying Policy each year and be made aware of the procedures to follow when bullying is reported.

D155 Predators take bullying seriously. Players and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported. Bullying will not be tolerated at any practices, games, or other D155 Predators sanctioned events.

Signs and Symptoms: A child may indicate he or she is being bullied through various signs and symptoms. While some children are prone to report bullying to their parents, coaches or adults, others will not, due to fear, intimidation, or other factors. Coaches and parents should be aware of the following possible signs indicating that bullying may be taking place, prompting them to investigate further and/or share their concerns with coaches or Board members. Some of these possible warning signs include:

If a child is frightened or unwilling to attend practice, does not care to associate with team members, asks to be picked up promptly from practice, changes their usual routine, fakes illness prior to practice or game time, becomes withdrawn, anxious, or lacking in confidence, is frightened to say what is wrong, and/or gives improbable excuses for any of the above.

These signs and behaviors could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Player Education: Players should be consistently supported and reassured that no consequences will result to them for coming forward. Coaches are encouraged to discuss the problems of bullying openly with their players to promote a "Telling Atmosphere". Players should be encouraged to do the following to stop and discourage bullying tactics:

- Players should tell their parents.
- If a player is bullied at hockey practice/games, they should be encouraged to immediately tell their team coach.
- If players are concerned or nervous about coming forward, they should be encouraged to talk with a friend or teammate. Team captains and assistant captains should be encouraged to intervene in any bullying situation.
- Players should be encouraged to not fight back when confronted by a bully. They should calmly tell the player to stop or say nothing and walk away. Again, they should report the incident to their team coach.



Procedures for Parents, Coaches and Board Members

- Parents should report bullying incidents to the team coach, hockey director, manager, or any D155 Predators Board member. In cases of bullying, the coach or board member who was contacted shall submit a written report outlining the reported bullying behavior to the D155 Predators Board. If necessary, and appropriate, police may be consulted.
- In all cases of reported bullying, parents of the player who was bullied shall be informed immediately and may be asked to meet with the respective team coach to discuss the incident. In all cases, strict confidentiality shall be maintained.
- The bullying behavior, or threats of bullying, must be investigated, and the bullying stopped immediately. The parents of any player who is reported to be bullying will be contacted immediately by the respective team coach or board member and asked to meet to discuss the incident. Depending on the severity of the situation, the parents may be asked to meet with representatives of the D155 Predators Board.

Consequences of Bullying

In a first offense situation involving bullying, an attempt will be made to encourage the bully (bullies) to modify their behavior for their benefit, for the benefit of the person bullied and other team members. The bully (or bullies) will be asked to genuinely apologize to those players affected, including all team members. An attempt will be made by the coach, manager, or parent to reconcile the situation between the players (Age and level of maturity and or severity of offense must be considered). Other consequences or disciplinary alternatives to stop the bullying may also be considered by the D155 Predators Board once reported by the parent, coach, or manager.

If the bullying persists, disciplinary action against a player may be taken by the team coach and/or D155 Predators Board, which may include, but are not limited to, immediate suspension from participation in the hockey practice or game(s) for a period of time. The Board reserves the right to suspend or otherwise discipline any player for bullying, in addition to any action taken by the coach. In severe cases or multiple offenses, the Board reserves the right to prohibit further participation in the hockey program by any player deemed to be involved in bullying other players.

After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with, the situation and participants will be continued to be monitored by the respective team coach and player parents to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

All incidents of bullying, whether first offense or other, deemed minor or severe, will be reported to an D155 Predators Board Member immediately and in writing within 24 hours.



D155 Predators Hockey Club Locker Room Policy

In addition to the development of our hockey players and enjoyment of the sport of hockey, the D155 Predators High School Hockey Club (“D155 Predators”) is committed to the safety and protection of our participants. D155 Predators adheres to USA Hockey’s SafeSport Program to help protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse and other types of misconduct, including emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing.

D155 Predators has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (generally 30-45 minutes before and following practices and games). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas by our coaching staff. Coaches are regularly checking that players have arrived to the arena and are acting appropriately in the changing areas.

To maintain personal privacy and help prevent abuse or misconduct from occurring in our locker rooms, D155 Predators adopts the following locker room policy.

- D155 Predators hockey players must act respectfully and appropriately in all locker rooms, restrooms and shower facilities, adhering to the D155 Predators policy and that of the Crystal Ice House or away rink. Players are representing the club at all times, which means they will act respectfully of each other and the facilities they are using.
- Female players will dress in a separate locker room when available. All players (male and female) will convene in a single locker room before and/or after the game once the coach has deemed it an appropriate time for all players to enter. Players will be notified upon entering a rink if this option is unavailable and players must use restrooms and/or take turns to change.
- 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 must be taken outside of the locker room.

D155 Predators players, employees, or volunteers may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these locker room policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse that violates the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies.



D155 Predators Hockey Club Social Media Policy

The D155 Predators High School Hockey Association Social Media Policy applies to all D155 Members, including any person directly involved in activities of the organization, such as, coaches, team managers, team support staff, players, parents, guardians, and administrative staff. This policy further applies to any online service, platform, or site that allows users to share information, ideas, comments, events, or media (including pictures, video, and audio). This policy is designed to protect all parties from harassment, bullying, stalking, inappropriate contact or behavior; however, they are initially intended.

Participation in activities and teams associated with and playing within IHSHL is a privilege. As such, the use of social media by a player, parent, coach, or manager considered to be inappropriate of IHSHL may result in discipline including suspension or removal from the team or Club. Consistent with IHSHL's mission statement, policies, and those of USA Hockey some examples of behavior in online social networking mediums that may be prohibited include, but are not limited to:

- posting member's personal information, contact information, medical conditions, injuries, and other sensitive matters pertinent to D155 Hockey and its membership;
- posting photographs, video or comments that harass, threaten, demean, or intimidate teammates or players of any other teams or organizations;
- posting photographs, video, or comments that promote immoral conduct, criminal behavior, or indecency, such as, but not limited to drug use, alcohol abuse, public intoxication, sexual exploitation, smoking, vaping, etc.
- postings that violate standards of honesty and ethical relationships; and
- posting any inappropriate, derogatory, racist, or sexist comments contradictory to D155's policies on these matters.

Members are expected to demonstrate discretion and respect over the use of social media sites; if a photo or comment would be inappropriate for all other forms of media, then it should be considered inappropriate for online social networking sites. Any material, comments or actions through these portals deemed inappropriate will be reviewed by the D155 Rules & Ethics Committee and may result in an in-person hearing. Failure to appear and/or adhere to the findings of D155 Predators may result in suspension or removal from the D155 Predators Hockey Club.

Coaches and managers are encouraged to sanction and follow any social media use, created by any player, parent, coach or manager that includes the D155 team name, logo, a D155 member school name, or IHSHL reference.



D155 Predators Hockey Club Zero Tolerance Policy

In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, AHAI and D155 Predators Hockey Club has a very simple definition of Zero Tolerance and any violations will not be tolerated. The definition is:

Any lack of Respect or Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and will be a violation of this Zero Tolerance Policy.

This campaign is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, team officials and administrators, parents and spectators to comply with the Zero Tolerance Policy. Each organization, player, coach, officials, team officials and administrators, parents and spectators are expected to enforce this Policy. In addition, AHAI has instructed the Officiating Program to adhere to certain points of interest to enforce this Policy in 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 unsportsmanlike 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 unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

1. Openly disputes or argues 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 the 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. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

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