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Brew City Blades Guidelines

Division of Metro Milwaukee
Womens Hockey

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General

Sportsmanship

We will always give utmost respect to ourselves, our teammates, our opponents, our coach and the referees in every game. Please do not participate in cheap play. Do not discount any team member's efforts on (or off) the ice in any way. We gain respect by respecting others, which helps improve our game on and off the ice. Even when we are down in a game, or if we happen to lose the game (it does happen), we are all expected to respect our opponents, refs, coaches and teammates.

Guidance & Mentoring

This is recreation hockey. We all have other responsibilities, some more than others. Keep this in perspective. Everyone on your team plays at a different ability level and no two of us have the same level of experience. We are ALL going to make mistakes on the ice. Demeaning, blaming comments wreck players' self-esteem. It has no place on your team or in this organization. It is referred to as bench disease.

Play to Have Fun

Play to have fun with the goal of winning and giving it your all in every game and practice. Don't believe for a second that any one of us wants to lose most or all of our games because of poor effort and attitude. That isn't any fun, and it defies the nature of competitive sports. Metro's competitive travel teams are on the ice to HAVE FUN and win games. Inherent to that winning attitude is your responsibility to give 100% effort on every shift, in every game and at every practice. Our opponents will recognize us by our intense, consistent hustle and the pressure they face when playing us. If you really don't want to nor can't give it 100% when you're out there for any shift, expect to get off the ice and change your line, or expect to be called to change lines.

Communication with Metro

If you have a criticism of our ideas or approaches, talk to us right away – in person, by phone, or via e-mail. We appreciate hearing it directly from you. If you are a captain or assistant, you are making decisions that we believe are made with the best interest of your team in mind and will lead us to achieving our goals of winning, fun, and good hockey play. However, all leaders make mistakes and need to take criticism and advice just like everyone else on your team so good decisions can be made. Your opinion is just as important as anyone else on your team. Please let us know in a constructive and positive manner.

Most of all this is to be fun

Make it fun!!! Win or lose! Encourage at ALL times! We have a great thing going here.

Overview

- There are many different reasons why people have joined this organization - to socialize, to make new friends, to learn to play hockey, exercise, competition, to become a more skilled player, to have fun, etc.
- Metro offers different programs and can direct you to a variety of programs to fulfill your hockey interest. This includes games with a mix of skill such as summer league or our recreation (rec) team, relaxed hockey such as one of our scrimmage groups, and more competitive leagues with balanced skill levels such as our Brew City Blades travel teams.
- By playing on travel teams more commitment is required along with more rules.
- Travel teams generally consist of 20 games (home and away), 15 practices with the opportunity to play in the WCHL playoffs at the end of the season.
- Season runs Oct thru March.
- Brew City Blades belong to the WCHL (Womens Central Hockey League). Currently there are 7 divisions in the WCHL – D1 thru D7
- Each team will help decide which WCHL division they choose to be in.
- A team may decide to play exhibition and not play in the WCHL. This means the team does not need to comply with the WCHL rules. The team does not need to play only players on their roster, nor do they need to play a specified number of games or teams. By choosing not to participate in the WCHL they will not have the opportunity to play in the WCHL playoffs. Our Rec team is an exhibition team.
- For more information on the WCHL please check out their website at <http://www.wchlonline.com/>
- Team Snap is used for all teams to keep track of rosters, schedule, attendance, payments, etc.

All Team Meeting (Travel and Rec)

- At the start of each season the “All Team Meeting” will be held. This meeting is for all Brew City Blades Hockey teams, including the rec team. This is a mandatory meeting.
- This meeting is held to cover all the important, behind the scene items to make your season run smoothly and for all players to have the current and correct information including:
 - Reading and signing the Code of Conduct
 - Collecting fees
 - Issuing Jerseys and socks
 - Determining the Team Manager for each team (description below)
 - Discussing Team Captain and Alternates
 - Coach time with each team to talk about the upcoming season.
 - Determining which direction the team goes
 - All players get equal ice time no matter the situation, improving the skill of all players
OR
 - Special teams are created (i.e. PP and PK) and used as determined by the coach. This direction is used more for the win than for strengthening of the team as a whole.

Travel Teams

- Playing on a travel team requires more commitment along with more rules.
- Travel teams generally play 20 games (home and away), have 15 practices, and have the opportunity to play in the WCHL playoffs at the end of the season.
- The season runs October through March.

- The Brew City Blades belong to the WCHL (Women's Central Hockey League). There are 7 divisions in the WCHL – D1 thru D7 (D1 is the highest skill level).
- Each team decides with the WCHL which WCHL division they choose to be in. (WCHL has final say)
- A team may decide to play exhibition and not play in the WCHL. This means the team does not need to comply with the WCHL rules. The team does not need to play only players on their roster, nor do they need to play a specified number of games or teams. By choosing not to be in the WCHL they will not have the opportunity to play in the WCHL playoffs.
- Team Snap is used for all teams to keep track of rosters, schedule, attendance, payments, etc.
- For more information on the WCHL please check out their website at <http://www.wchlonline.com/>

Travel Team Try outs (evaluation session)

- In place of doing tryouts for the entire organization, teams are as they were for the last season. The reason for this is to build on skill from season to season. There will still be a tryout session. That session (time and date TBD) will be for players new to the organization and for players who are interested in playing for a different team than the one they are currently on.
- Those players who feel their skills have improved enough to try out for a higher level team will be afforded the same opportunities to try out as players new to the organization.
- Players will be added to teams as needed.
- If teams are full (13-15 fulltime skaters), the new recruit may choose to sub or play on a team that needs skaters until an opening is available. In addition, the player can be added to our rec team, if they so choose.
- Players coming in after the season has started will need to be evaluated at a team practice (to be determined by Metro board) and added to a team of their skill level as openings are available.
- No player may be added to a roster without an evaluation, unless approved by Metro board.
- All rosters are frozen as of Dec. 31 of each season. No players may be added after that date, with the exception of the rec team.
- Each season this process will be reviewed and adjusted if needed.

Travel Full-time or Sub Players

- We understand that everyone has other responsibilities such as school, work, family, kids, etc. As a full time skater you are expected to attend at minimum 75% of all games and practices.
 - If you feel you cannot commit to 75% of all practices and games, we ask that you play as a sub on your team. It is not fair to your teammates to frequently miss practices and games.
- **Subs**
 - Players that choose to play as a sub will pay as they play. Subs are not guaranteed a specific number of games and are called in as needed for games. Subs are highly encouraged to attend any and all practices. Subs that do attend practices may be afforded a higher call in rate to play games since they have worked with the team and know what is expected in games.
 - **Double Rostered Subs**
 - There is an opportunity for players that are rostered full-time on one team to play as a sub on a 2nd neighboring team within Brew City or outside of the organization (e.g. If the player is rostered on D4, they could potentially sub on D5 or D2 depending on skill level). If interested, please let the board know.

- This is for the person that wants and will attend both home and away games as well as practices for the 2nd team at a reduced fee.
- These subs pay as they play.
- WCHL rules for double rostering are followed. (see below)

➤ **WCHL explanation of double rostering**

- Players can only roster on two league teams, and they must be in neighboring divisions. However, organizations that have multiple teams that are not in neighboring divisions can double roster players per approval of the Board.
- Each team can "host" a maximum of two double rostered players. This means that the host team is their first priority. For example, let's look at a hockey organization called Our Team that has Green and Blue level teams. According to the double rostering rule, two Green players can play up on Blue, and two Blue players can play down on Green.
- All double rostered players must declare to the league which team is the primary team prior to the first league game.
- Goaltenders do not count toward the double rostered players. Teams are allowed to double-roster one goalie.

Recreational (Rec) Team

- The Brew City Rec team is comprised of players of all skill levels.
- The season consists of 8-10 home games. The team does minimal traveling.
- No practices.
- The cost for this team is higher since they are playing primarily at home. This team does not have the reciprocating game to play so pays for all games played.
- Need a minimum of 10-13 full time skaters for the team to be established.
- Games are played on Sunday, early afternoon with holidays off.
- Games start in late October and run through February.
- Any person may sub on the rec team on an as needed basis.
- No USA Hockey registration is needed for the player that only plays rec.

Rec Team Subs

- Players must be on the Sub list (Metro Milwaukee Women's Hockey roster) to play in games.
- Players must sign the waiver of liability prior to playing games.
- Each sub must pay for the games they play in.
- USA Hockey Registration will not be required for Rec team players.
- The team manager (see description below for details) keeps track of subs playing and collects fees for each game.
- Subs are called in, as needed for games in the order listed:
 - 1-Rostered subs (not on a travel team), regardless of skill.
 - 2- Rostered subs (double rostering onto rec from a travel team) regardless of skill.
 - 3-Non rostered player. If calling in a non rostered sub, contact Erin Doxtator for approval and liability waiver signature.
 - Rotate subs so all have an opportunity to sub.

Coaches

- Metro strives to obtain a coach for each team.
- Coaches are volunteers (they do not get paid any money) and coach for the love of the game.
- In the event there is no coach, there will be a player that serves as coach.

Fees

- D2-D7 Full Time Skater - \$450 (give or take \$50) depending on how many games and practices are scheduled. This is subject to change as ice fees change.
- D1 is offered full, half time and sub spots on the team. Fee will depend on the amount of reg.
- Full Time Goalie - half the skater fee
- Sub Skater - pay as you go - \$15 per game -\$10 per practice
- Rec Subs not on another Brew City travel team - \$20 per game
- Rec Subs on a Brew City travel team - \$10 per game
- Fees may be paid in 2 installments, at the All Team Meeting in August/September and on November 1st.
- You are not allowed to play unless you payments are up to date or you have made arrangements with the Treasurer for payment.

Schedules

- Schedules will be available after the WCHL scheduling meeting which is held the week after Labor Day.
- Each team needs 2 volunteers to attend the schedule meeting to create their team schedule. Contact the Metro board for more details.
- Metro secures ice in July/Aug for the upcoming season. We will secure enough ice for 10 home games and 15 practice ice times per team, unless otherwise requested by a team. This may change as the schedule is created depending on what is needed.

Rinks

- Our home rink is Pettit National Ice Center. 500 S 84th St. Milwaukee, WI 53214.
- Some early ice times may be at Eble Ice Arena 19400 W. Bluemound Rd. Brookfield, WI 53045

Team Apparel

- A variety of team apparel will be made available to you at our "All Team Meeting" held in August/September.

Fair Ice Time

- Full time players will not sit the bench or be shorted ice time for subs to play.
- Full Time players have priority of ice time over subs. They have committed more time to the team and therefore should receive fair ice time regardless of skill.
- Goalies- A full time goalie always gets priority playing time. A sub goalie should not play over a full time goalie. If a team has two full time goalies, they should play equal game time. This applies for all exhibition, league, playoff or national game times.

- Players – “sitting the bench” explanation. Shorting the bench is defined as playing a “special” line for a short period of time such as power play, penalty kill or to generate a score. It is NOT having select player(s) sit for more than half of each period per game.
- Should a situation arise that any of this cannot be accomplished; it must be brought to the board for approval/guidance ahead of time.

Team Snap

- All travel teams use Team Snap as a way to communicate with the team. We ask that all players do their part to fill out their availability in a timely manner. Failing to do so by the Wednesday prior to the game weekend may result in not being able to play. The reason for this is that Managers need to find subs and need time to do so.

Tournaments

- Each team may attend any tournament they choose to. Your team fees do not cover any tournaments.
- Your team manager will need to collect the fees from players and register for the tournaments.
- Metro will front the registration fee for 1 tournament of your choice; reimbursement will be made to Metro within 1 month of registering.
- We do have ice scheduled for most of weekends. If you do decide on a tournament please email us at mmwhockey@gmail.com prior to the schedule meeting so we know to leave that weekend open for your team. (Nothing is scheduled the weekend of Pond hockey)

Jerseys

- New Fulltime players will receive 2 team jerseys at a cost of \$100.
- Rec team players will receive 1 jersey upon signing a jersey return form.
- Once a jersey is purchased, it is yours. There are no refunds.

Socks

- Full time travel players are required to purchase a set of home and away socks for \$12 each pair (\$24 total). The player owns the socks.
- Rec team players may purchase dark socks for their jerseys. (not required)
- Returning players may purchase socks at any time for a cost of \$12 per pair.

Pond Hockey

- [Labatt pond hockey tournament](#) is held in Eagle River in February.
- Metro does not schedule ice during that weekend.
- Players wishing to attend that do not have a team, please notify us at mmwhockey@gmail.com. Metro will try to find you a team to join.
- Players must be 21 years of age by tournament start date.

Fundraising

- Alpine Valley Music Theatre in East Troy, WI allows non-profit organizations, like ours, to work a concession or beer stand and in turn we receive a percentage of the profits for our fundraising efforts.
- Available to all Metro members!
- The stand/s we work depends on our commitment as well as Alpine's openings. The goal is to work an alcohol only stands.
- If interested and for more details contact Nikki Becker at rinkrnr12@hotmail.com.
- 100% of the money you earn (including tips) will go into your personal account. This money will help offset your hockey fees.
- Script is offered. Please contact Nikki Becker at rinkrnr12@hotmail.com for more information.
- If you have ideas for more fundraising ideas please let us know.

USA Hockey Registration

- All Brew City Blades players playing in the WCHL must be USA Hockey registered.
- USAH registration is required for all USAH sanctioned events which includes WCHL league and exhibition games as well as tournaments.
- Not all games we play in for our travel and rec teams are USA Hockey sanctioned (i.e. some exhibition games or tournaments). We do play some exhibition games with teams that are not insured and for those games we will not have USAH coverage.
- Email a copy of your USAH confirmation page with the bar code on it to Erin Doxtator at tatordox@yahoo.com

Captains and Assistant Captains

- Each team will discuss when team leaders will be selected.
- There will be 1 Captain and 1 or 2 Alternate(s) per team.
- Captain responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:
 - The captains are strong leaders that lead by example.
 - They get to practices and games, are dressed and ready to get on the ice on time.
 - They set the mood in the locker room, on the ice and on the bench.
 - During the game, whether the team is winning or losing, the captains are expected to motivate their team with positive remarks at all times.
 - Everything the Captains do is done with the team in mind.
 - Sets the standard everybody else needs to strive to attain.
 - If the Captains lower or compromise that standard, you can be guaranteed that other players on the team will as well.
 - The Captains are often considered the primary representative of the team.
 - The Captains need to address and/or relay any of the players concerns to the board.
 - The Captain is the only player allowed to speak with the referees about rule interpretations or if the captain is not on the ice, an alternate may do so. They are not to argue with the call but should ask questions.
 - Captains are role models to your team and are watched, so how the Captains act is basically saying "this is okay" to the rest of you team.
 - In the absence of the Coach, the Captains run the practice or game as directed by the Coach.

- After the game, the Captain collects, checks over the score sheet (or delegates the task to another team member) then gives to the team manager.

Team Manager

- Each team needs a manager that will be responsible for running the “behind the scenes” duties of the team. It is strongly encouraged to delegate many of these responsibilities to teammates and ensure that they are completed.
- \$50 will be deducted from The Team Manager’s fees. The deducted fees from the team manager are split evenly and paid by the rest of the team.
- Duties include:
 - Pucks brought to games and practices.
 - Sub jerseys handed out to sub players and collected after each game. Wash (inside out in cold water) and hang dry as needed. Subs cannot keep jerseys.
 - Send in scoresheets to WCHL within 5 days of game.
 - Bring clean water bottles and fill for each game.
 - Responsible for filling out scoresheets. Scoresheet is provided by the home team.
 - Confirm with other team for team color. (Generally white for home and dark for away)
 - Keep track on a Metro spreadsheet (link will be provided) all sub game and practice attendance.
 - Collect Sub money 2 times per season. First ice time in Jan and Last ice time of season.
 - Be in charge of signing team up for tournaments, collect fees and send to Metro.
 - All money collected needs to be given to the treasurer in an envelope with total money and list of how each person paid. Some will pay per paypal, it just needs to be listed as such.
 - Communicating with the board any players changing playing status whether it is sub to full or full to sub. Also work with team captains on communicating any other issues to the board.
 - Confirm all games - The Monday prior to the weekend's game e-mail the contact of the team you will be playing to confirm the game. It is crucial that you do this. It will eliminate any last minute surprises. A contact sheet will be provided.

Example of e-mail:

Hi (contact name),

Confirming our league game this weekend. Brew City Blades vs (team name) on Oct. 10th at 1:00 pm at Pettit. Please e-mail back to confirm.

Thanks!

(Your Name)

(Your Team)

555-555-5555

