

GRAND FORKS YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DOCUMENT

DRAFT VERSION
OCTOBER 2011

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Policies and Procedures Document

These policies and procedures do not supersede rules and regulations of the North Dakota Amateur Hockey Association or USA Hockey, rather, they extend the rules and regulations to locally govern and manage the Grand Forks Youth Hockey Association (GFYHA).

MISSION STATEMENT

To create a youth hockey organization designed specifically to help kids reach their full potential.

CORE VALUES

Respect: Treat others as you would expect to be treated.

Sportsmanship: Foster a sense of fair play, humility in victory and graciousness in defeat, as well as friendship with teammates and opponents alike.

Integrity: Demonstrate honest and fair play, beyond simple adherence to the rules and regulations of the game.

Pursuit of Excellence: Each member of the organization, including players, coaches, and volunteers, should seek to perform each aspect of the game to the highest level of his or her ability.

Affordability: Provide the best program at the most reasonable cost to our participants.

Teamwork: Learn the value of working together. Hockey is a team sport. Success on the ice, as in many aspects of life, is best achieved working as a team towards a shared goal.

Enjoyment: Have fun, and have satisfying and rewarding experiences that benefit all participants. The goal is GFYHA is to be a “player-centered” organization.

Skill Development: GFYHA will put a heavy emphasis on skill development.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is on a per-family basis regardless of the number of players in the family. Membership is automatic at registration. Membership entitles each family to one vote in GFYHA elections.

GFYHA welcomes and encourages participation by its members. More than half of the Board members will be (re)elected by popular vote. We invite you to attend meetings, express your thoughts and concerns, and most important of all, volunteer to support the programs.

A Board of Directors consisting of up to 9 initial voting members, and later becoming 7 voting members, governs the Association. The term of office for a Director is two years. Officers are elected from the members of the Board. The two-year terms are staggered for the Board members.

Monthly Board meetings (12 per year) will typically occur the second Monday of each month and attendance is required. Meetings will start at 7:00 pm, unless noted otherwise, and membership is welcome to attend. Notice to the secretary is requested and required for time on the agenda. The meeting place will normally be the Community Room at the Grand Forks Park District Office, but may vary. Sub-committees and task forces of the Board, as well as the Executive Committee of the Board, may meet as required to conduct business in a timely manner between Board meetings.

COACHES SELECTION

The Coaching Committee selects all coaches. The Coaching Committee will actively solicit applications in the spring and summer each year. The goal of the Coaching Committee is to identify in the spring and summer as many A, B, and In-House coaches as possible, prior to the start of the season in the fall.

If the Coaching Committee chooses to use a parent-coach, the parent coach will have the ability to evaluate players during the tryout process, but will not be part of the team selection process until his or her child has been placed on a team.

Coaches will be selected based on a number of criteria. The Coaching Committee will look for coaches who exhibit the following traits:

- Dedication and commitment to player and personal development
- Respected by peers, players, and parents
- Past hockey coaching experience commensurate with the playing level
- Well developed motivational skills
- Good communication skills
- Strong organizational skills
- Support of GFYHA principles and core values.

Coaches selected by the Coaching Committee will reflect the GFYHA mission statement and will demonstrate good character and support the GFHYA, as well as North Dakota Amateur Hockey Association (NDAHA) and USA Hockey Rules and Regulations.

USA Hockey and North Dakota Amateur Hockey Association require all head coaches to be certified through their Coaching Education Program (CEP). The level of certification depends on the level of team coached.

All coaches will be required to attend several coaching development meetings during the season. Coaches in the GFYHA will be evaluated annually, provided with resources that allow them to do their jobs to the best of their ability, and required to take part in on-ice coaching development sessions.

Age specific coordinators at age classification will assist in the recruitment, training, development, evaluation, and retaining of coaches in GFYHA.

Assistant Coach Selection

At least one and preferably two assistant coaches are recommended per team. All rostered assistant coaches will have to be approved by the Coaching Committee before their position is assigned. Assistant coaches will be selected by the Head Coaches.

Team Managers

Each team will have a team manager, or team managers. The team manager is the team administrator, coordinator, bookkeeper, and central point of communication. The team manager role is a great way to get involved with your child's team as well as with the game of hockey.

Background Checks

All GFYHA coaches are subject to an annual background check in adherence with North Dakota Amateur Hockey Association rules.

REGISTRATION

The goal of GFYHA is to provide the best program at the most reasonable cost to its participants.

GFYHA will open and conduct its annual registration during the month of September. At this time, participants will pay at least a portion of their GFYHA registration fee. This registration fee will cover evaluations / tryouts, games, team practices, team jerseys, tournament fees, coaches' certifications, insurance, referees, and other administrative miscellaneous expenses such as printing, advertising, etc. There will be a payment plan that will allow families to make as many as three payments to complete the registration process, with the last of these three payments due no later than December 15 annually.

If additional team expenses are considered by a team, parents of the team must approve of these expenses in advance. GFYHA may then assess a separate team fee in December or January for these additional items, such as additional practice ice or additional tournament entry fees.

TRYOUTS AND TEAM SELECTION

GFYHA will conduct tryouts. The objective of the tryout process is to ensure that each player is given a fair evaluation and that all players are placed at the most appropriate level for their current abilities. The tryouts will consist of several separate sessions, usually over the course of a one to two-week period. GFYHA has a process it uses when conducting team tryouts prior to the season. The objective of the tryout is to ensure that each player is given a fair evaluation and that **ALL** players are placed at the most appropriate level for their abilities. Tryouts are under the direction of the GFYHA Coaching, Coaches Selection, and Player Evaluation Committee. Players will be selected then go into the draft from there the coaches will select their teams.

Players will designate which position they would prefer to play at the start of the tryout session, but the tryouts will not be position-specific, other than those age classifications with full-time goaltenders. The stated position preferences will be used as a tool during the tryout process, but players will not be limited only to their stated preference in the final ranking of the players.

Selection to a particular team as a first year player will not entitle that player to a roster spot in subsequent years. If a player would like to be placed on a "B" Team before tryouts they may do so but they can still go through the tryouts to gain ice time and go through the drills.

Coordinators will be appointed for each age classification within GFYHA. These Coordinators will be involved with the organization and execution of the respective tryout. The Coordinators will work with the coaches and graders during the tryout process. There shall be no graders who have children under evaluation at the level(s) they are grading. The graders and/or coaches responsibility is to rate the skills of all players trying out. Tryouts will consist of a combination of drills and scrimmages depending on the level of the players. Tryout drills will be designed to test both individual skills and team play.

Evaluators will be evaluating the following:

- Player's Skating Skills

- Player's Individual Hockey Skills (puck handling, passing, receiving, shooting, etc.)

- Player's Team Skills (hockey sense, offensive skills, defensive skills, etc.)

- Player's Positional Play, Teamwork, Game Skills, and Awareness

- Desire, Work Ethic and Self-Control

- Others TBD

At the conclusion of the tryout sessions, teams will be selected based on the tryout ratings and the judgment of the evaluators. Rosters will be open at the start of each team / player draft and filled based on performance in tryouts.

At the Squirt, Pee Wee, and Bantam levels, all goalies that try out and are selected for a travel team must play goal throughout the season.

Any player unable to participate in tryouts due to injury or illness will be evaluated based on their prior year performance and coaches' recommendations to determine team placement.

When parent coaches are involved in player drafts, their son/daughter will be placed on the draft board by the Coordinator for that level.

GOALIE TRYOUT INFORMATION

All travel teams in the Pee-Wee and Bantam levels will carry two goaltenders if the number of tryout candidates supports this. If there are not enough goalies to have two on each team, the teams playing at the highest levels will have two goalies and the lower level team will have one goalie.

TRYOUT PROCESS

Let's not kid ourselves – kids will feel pressure during tryouts. During the tryout process it is important for parents to provide support and be upbeat. The GFYHA believes the best advice for parents is to tell your son or daughter that you are proud of them, and to go out and do the best they can. Advise them to have fun, and that whatever happens, you love them and they are going to have a great season.

There will be disappointments. It is inevitable that some players will not make a level that he or she thought they would make in the tryout process.

Just because a player doesn't make a level they wanted to, does not mean that player don't play at that level in future seasons. Parents are asked to positively reinforce their child's play rather than critiquing the tryout process or criticizing other players in an attempt to assist the player's development.

COMMITMENT AND EXPECTATIONS

Teams will be selected for A, B, and In-House levels in an attempt to provide players an opportunity to play at an appropriate skill level that maximizes their development at that point in time.

Players and parents should expect that the commitment to all teams will require a significant amount of time. Coaches at all levels expect their players to attend all practices and games.

MOVE-UP POLICY

GFYHA will enforce a policy of placing all participating players in the level of play associated with their age / birth date. While some players may be more advanced at a particular age than others, GFYHA agrees with USA Hockey that overall development of the player emotionally and physically is best served by having him or her progress normally through the age level and age classifications. A player may request GFYHA Board approval to “move up” to a level of play when such movement allows a player to play with their “peer” grade in school. Permission to move up is granted solely at the discretion of the Board and will only be granted in cases of “peer” grade movement into the Squirt (4th grade), Pee-Wee (6th grade) or Bantam level (8th grade). Criteria include, but are not limited to the following, maturity level, skill level, and physical size.

This policy affects skaters who are young relative to their grade in school, as follows:

Player not eligible

[per birth date] for:

SQUIRTS

PEEWEEES

BANTAMS

But Entering:

4th Grade

6th Grade

8th Grade

Once a player has been granted permission to move up and has begun the tryout process at a higher level, he/she must remain at the level chosen for that season and further, may only play two seasons at each age classification from that point forward. GFYHA will not allow players to play “down” an age level.

The girls program can bring about special circumstances as the numbers are often lower and require moving players around to fill teams in the best interest of the players and the program. The girls program will follow the formal approval process for move-ups unless the need to create or fill out an existing team’s roster becomes an issue.

VOLUNTEER POLICY

GFYHA will be a volunteer driven organization. In order to provide quality programs and to create a positive, fun, and quality environment for our players, we will need help from every participating family. The association will need volunteers to fundraise, run home tournaments, and perform various other “jobs”.

There are also volunteer responsibilities to make sure your team runs smoothly. In fact, every parent is expected to help in some manner. Once the team manager has been selected by the coach, the team will need volunteers for the following:

- Timekeepers / Scorekeepers
- Tournament Coordinators
- Fundraising
- Travel Coordinators

Families of players will be required, at a minimum, to work multiple shifts at their players' GFYHA home tournament. Specific volunteer obligations will be coordinated through each team manager.

FINANCAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is designed to help families cover GFYHA registration fees. GFYHA will work with the Grand Forks Park District Foundation and the Grand Forks Blue Line Club to provide financial assistance opportunities for participants.

PLAYERS RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

The new Board of Directors will create a list of responsibilities and rights. Lots of good examples to utilize from other associations.

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT AND CONSEQUENCES

The new Board of Directors will create a Code of Conduct document and a corresponding list of consequences for non-compliance. Lots of good examples to utilize from other associations.

PARENTS RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

The new Board of Directors will create a list of responsibilities and rights. Lots of good examples to utilize from other associations.

PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT AND CONSEQUENCES

The new Board of Directors will create a Code of Conduct document and a corresponding list of consequences for non-compliance. Lots of good examples to utilize from other associations.

COACH'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

The new Board of Directors will create a list of responsibilities and rights. Lots of good examples to utilize from other associations.

COACH'S CODE OF CONDUCT AND CONSEQUENCES

The new Board of Directors will create a Code of Conduct document and a corresponding list of consequences for non-compliance. Lots of good examples to utilize from other associations.

GRIEVANCE POLICY

All members have the right to appeal the decisions or penalties assessed by the GFYHA Board of Directors. The GFYHA provides an orderly procedure for discussion and resolution of all problems, concerns, and formal grievances. The objective is to resolve issues at the most immediate level. The key criteria in any resolution are as follows – what is best for the team, what is best for the player, and what is best for GFYHA.

1. Problems or concerns that have to do with the coaching of the team, such as playing time, positions, practices, etc. should be taken to the coach or team manager of the respective team.
2. If the problem cannot be solved at coach or manager level, the Coordinator for that age level should be contacted.
3. Problems or concerns that have to do with any other team issues that cannot be resolved by the Coordinator, or are broader issues, should be directed to the Executive Director of the Association.

It is recommended that before any grievance is presented to a coach, manager, or Coordinator, a “24-hour cooling off period” be observed.

GFYHA POLICY STATEMENT REGARDING THE USE OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND DRUGS

The use of mood-altering chemicals, i.e. alcohol, tobacco, and drugs is expressly prohibited. During the playing season, regardless of quantity, a player shall not: (1) consume a beverage containing alcohol; (2) use tobacco, including chewing tobacco or; (3) use, consume, possess, buy, sell, or giveaway any other controlled substance defined by law as a drug. This rule applies to the entire season. It is not a violation for a player to be in possession of a controlled substance specifically prescribed for the player’s own use by his/her physician.

Penalties:

1. First Violation – Player shall lose eligibility for the next two (2) consecutive games or two (2) weeks of a season, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted for a player who becomes a participant in a treatment program.
2. Second Violation – Player shall lose eligibility for the next six (6) consecutive games. No exception is permitted for a player who becomes a participant in a treatment program.
3. Third Violation – After confirmation of the third or subsequent violations, the player shall lose eligibility for the next twelve (12) consecutive games. If after the third or subsequent violations, the player becomes a participant in a chemical dependency program or treatment program, the player shall be certified for reinstatement in GFYHA activities after a minimum period of six (6) weeks. The director or counselor of a chemical dependency treatment center must issue such certification,

PHYSICAL ABUSE POLICY

Per USA Hockey Policy

SEXUAL ABUSE POLICY

Per USA Hockey Policy

UNIFORMS

Travel Teams: Each player will receive two game jerseys of contrasting colors that they will keep until season's end. Players will be responsible for purchasing their own hockey socks.

In-House Teams: Each player will receive a single game jersey that they will keep at season's end. Players will be responsible for purchasing their own hockey socks.

Mites and Termites: Each player will receive a single game jersey that they will keep at season's end. Players will be responsible for purchasing their own hockey socks.

No teams in the GFYHA will have uniforms that differ from the GFYHA approved uniform.

MOUTHGUARDS

A mouthguard is required of all players in the GFYHA. All guards must be colored and must be attached for the facemask of the helmet.

INSURANCE

The GFYHA will provide excess coverage medical insurance through USA Hockey Team Registration, for applicable teams and applicable players. Some teams may not register with USA Hockey, for example, In-House Termites and In-House Mites. For more information, contact the Executive Director of GFYHA.

TRAVEL HOCKEY PROGRAM

The highest competitive level in Grand Forks Youth Hockey will be the "A" or "A1" level. The "A" or "A1" level will essentially be a development program designed to enhance team and individual skills.

The intermediate competitive level in Grand Forks Youth Hockey will be the "A2 Development" level at PEE WEE, and BANTAM. The "A2" level is primarily a

development level intended to provide a uniform competitive experience for players whose skills are not currently at the “A1” level.

The “B” level at SQUIRT, PEE WEE, and BANTAM will provide a good competitive experience for players until they are ready to advance to a higher competitive level.

IN-HOUSE HOCKEY PROGRAM

If a player is not selected for a travel team, this means they currently lack the skill to perform at those levels, but it does not mean the child does not have the *potential* to make a travel team in the future. The primary purpose of the IN-HOUSE program is to develop hockey skills, a hockey work ethic, and to learn about the highest level of sportsmanship. The IN-HOUSE program is not a recreational league. IN-HOUSE players and parents expect coaches to advance their player’s game just as at the travel program level. Recreational programs are typically run for kids who have a casual interest in playing hockey. IN-HOUSE players, parents, and coaches have higher expectations. IN-HOUSE programs are the backbone of youth hockey and provide opportunities to play for enjoyment, fitness, relaxation, and fellowship.

INTRAMURAL PROGRAM – *RUN BY THE GRAND FORKS PARK DISTRICT*

Designed for players who have a casual interest in the game of hockey and seek to play the game at strictly a recreational level. The Intramural Program provides limited ice time (once a week) and a minimal number of games. There is no body-checking in any of the intramural programs. Intramural programs are offered in the PEE WEE, BANTAM, and HIGH SCHOOL age classifications. This program will be offered, administered and run by the Grand Forks Park District, not the Grand Forks Youth Hockey Association.

BOYS AND GIRLS PROGRAMS

Boys and Girls will all play together at the TERMITE and MITE level and boys and girls may also play together in the youth SQUIRT, PEE-WEE, and BANTAM levels. Girls in the MITE, SQUIRT, PEE-WEE, and BANTAM age classifications may tryout for the travel programs offered at each age level and may play on youth MITE, SQUIRT, PEE-WEE and BANTAM travel teams.

GFYHA recognizes that girls may elect to play in girls-only programs and the intent is to have *girls only* teams at each of the 10U, 12U, and 14U levels. Player registration numbers will ultimately determine the number of teams at each level.

YOUTH LEARN TO SKATE / INTRO TO HOCKEY PROGRAM

GFYHA plans to offer Learn to Skate / Intro to Hockey Programs for young children in the community to prepare them for the TERMITE program. Girls and Boys will play skate together in the LEARN TO SKATE program. The LEARN TO SKATE program will run for approximately 16 weeks with a single session of 30 minutes per week, per participant. Limited to a skating development program.

YOUTH TERMITE LEVEL

This program is designed for pre-K, kindergartners, and new to hockey first-graders. The minimum age for the TERMITE program is 4 years-old. The mission of the TERMITE program is to create a welcoming environment for the kids and to foster a love of the game. To best succeed with our mission, we will segment the players in three distinct skill levels (1/3, 1/3, and 1/3) for practices to ensure that each child feels comfortable with the drill and skill requirements, is able to compete, and have an impact in the scrimmage environment. Equal coaching attention and effort will be given to players in each of the three groups. Girls and Boys will play together in the TERMITE level. This program is designed to meet the needs of the beginning players. Basic skills will be taught in a non-competitive environment. Fun, physical development and sociable environment will be stressed.

The three skill levels for practices will be defined as follows:

- Red (Senior 1/3)
- White (Intermediate 1/3)
- Blue (Junior 1/3)

There will be a lot of half-ice and cross-ice competition in the TERMITE program. Practices will include players from any / all of the three skill levels. Team composition is ideally at a maximum of 9-11 players per team. The teams in the TERMITE program will be equally balanced. The goaltender position will be rotated between team members.

Competition will be limited to events within the city of Grand Forks to reduce time and financial commitment for players and families. USA Hockey has determined that extended competition (out of town) at this level has no long term benefit for the player. There will be a focus on skill and skating development at the TERMITE level.

Number of Players Per Team:	9-11 players per team
Ice Touches Per Week:	2-3 (practices and games)
Ice Sessions:	45 – 60 minute ice sessions
Number of Players Per Session:	Approx. 40 players on ice per session
Season Length:	Approx. 4 -5 month season
Ice Touches Per Year:	40 - 45 ice touches per year (practices and games)
Number of Games Per Year:	12 - 20 cross ice games per year with scrimmages as part of practice sessions

NOTE: In-House TERMITE program participants will not register with USA Hockey.

YOUTH MITE LEVEL

The mission of the MITE program is to design a development system that fosters skill development in a fun environment. To best succeed with our mission, we will segment the players in three distinct skill levels (1/3, 1/3, and 1/3) for practices to ensure that each child feels comfortable with the drill and skill requirements, is able to compete, and have an impact in the game and scrimmage environment. Equal coaching attention and effort will be given to players in each of the three groups. Girls and Boys will play together in the MITE level. Players will be placed at the level which best matches their skill level. Occasionally, there may be moves early in the season if a player demonstrates that the move is needed due to the skills demonstrated.

The three skill levels for practices will be defined as follows:

Red (Senior 1/3); White (Intermediate 1/3); Blue (Junior 1/3)

There will be lots half-ice and cross-ice competition in the MITE program. Practices will include players from any / all of the three skill levels. Team composition will ideally be at a maximum of 9-12 players per team. Teams will be equally balanced. The goaltender position will be rotated between team members.

Competition, other than the MITE travel program outlined below, will be limited to events within the city of Grand Forks to reduce time and financial commitment for players and families. USA Hockey has determined that extended competition (out of town) at this level has no long term benefit for the player. At this level, the focus will be on skill, skating, and game development.

Number of Players Per Team:	9-12
Ice Touches Per Week:	2-3 (practices and games)
Ice Sessions:	45 - 60 minute ice sessions
Number of Players Per Session:	Approx. 40 players per session
Season Length:	Approx. 4 – 5 month season
Ice Touches Per Year:	40 - 45 ice touches per year (practices and games)
Number of Games Per Year:	12 - 20 cross ice and half-ice games per year with scrimmages as part of practice sessions
Projected Tournaments:	1 Home Tournament

Mite Travel Program: Formal tryouts will not take place for the MITE travel program. Second-year or last-year MITES from the MITE in-house program will be provided with an opportunity to play on one of the MITE travel programs at the conclusion of the in-house season, including participation in the Grand Forks Classic. Families of second-year MITES interested in taking part in the MITE travel program will be provided with an opportunity to submit an Expression of Interest Form to the MITE Coordinator by December 31 annually. Players will then be divided equally for the MITE travel teams from those submitting an Expression of Interest Form. MITE travel teams will be allowed to take part in as many as two or three practices and the Grand Forks Classic. None of the MITE travel program practices or tournaments will interfere with the GFYHA Mite schedule. **The MITE travel program is in addition to the GFYHA Mite program**

noted above and is intended to provide an introduction to full-ice games before players graduate into the SQUIRT program. The MITE travel program will require an additional registration fee from participants to pay for tournament entry fee, ice time and other costs, as well as USA Hockey registration fees. Any second-year MITE who wants to play will be placed on a travel team for the Grand Forks Classic.

NOTE: In-House MITE program participants will not register with USA Hockey.

YOUTH SQUIRT LEVEL

Travel Team Structure

Two (2) "A" Travel Teams	Approx. 26 skaters, 2 goalies (equally balanced)
Two (2) "B" Travel Teams	Approx. 26 skaters, 2 goalies (equally balanced)
Balance on "In-House" Teams	Remainder of Players (equally balanced)

The team structure is subject to change based on final player registration counts.

"A" and "B" travel programs require an increased commitment from both players and parents. One may expect two or three practices a week and one or two games per week during the season. Members of travel teams should expect to attend as many as three or four out-of-town tournaments a year that will require overnight travel and lodging. Players on travel teams will incur a higher registration fee than those participating on "In-House" teams due to additional ice purchases, tournament entry fees, and other associated expenses.

At this age group, the focus will be on individual skill development in what USA Hockey calls the "window of optimal trainability". Team structure will allow players to be grouped into teams of like abilities, with the overall focus on evenly distributing the player pool across all teams within their skill level. This is the age that we will begin to introduce a regular pattern of club-to-club competition and full-ice games. The need for extensive competition at this level is counter-productive to maximizing player potential. The more community-based the club can be at this age level, the better stability that will be displayed in older age groups. The goal at this level is still the maximum individual development with a process-driven model not an outcome-based model.

Travel Teams

Number of Players Per Team:	13-15 players
Ice Touches Per Week:	3-4 ice touches per week (practices and games)
Ice Sessions:	60 minute ice sessions
Season Length:	Approximately 5 month season
Ice Touches Per Year:	65 – 70 ice touches per year (practices and games)
Number of Games Per Year:	30 - 35 games per year
Projected Tournaments:	3 - 4 per year (includes GF Clasic)

** Ice touches may include off-ice practices at the SQUIRT level.*

In-House Teams

Number of Players Per Team:	13-15 players
Ice Touches Per Week:	2-3 ice touches per week (practices and games)
Ice Sessions:	60 minute ice sessions
Season Length:	Approximately 4 to 5 month season
Ice Touches Per Year:	45 – 50 ice touches per year (practices and games)
Number of Games Per Year:	20 - 25 games per year
Projected Tournaments:	2 per year (includes 1 Home Tournament)

** Ice touches may include off-ice practices at the SQUIRT level.*

YOUTH PEE WEE LEVEL

Travel Team Structure

Two (2) “A” Teams	Approx. 30 skaters, 4 goalies (equally balanced)
One (1) “A2” or “B1” Team	Approx. 15 skaters, 2 goalies
Balance on “B” Teams	Approx. 15 skaters, 1 goalie per team (equally balanced)

The team structure is subject to change based on final player registration counts.

“A”, “A2/B1”, and “B” travel programs require an increased commitment from both players and parents. One may expect two or three practices a week and one or two games per week during the season. Members of travel teams should expect to attend as many as three or four out-of-town tournaments a year that will require overnight travel and lodging.

The goal at this level is still the maximum individual development with a process-driven model not an outcome-based model.

The focus at this age should be on individual skills and small group tactics. More formal competition is introduced at this age, although it must not divert the focus from training.

Travel Teams

Number of Players Per Team:	13-16 players
Ice Touches Per Week:	4-5 ice touches per week (practices and games)
Ice Sessions:	60 minute ice sessions
Season Length:	Approximately 5 month season
Ice Touches Per Year:	80 – 90 touches per year (practices and games)
Number of Games Per Year:	35 - 40 games per year
Projected Tournaments:	3 – 4 per year (includes 1 Home Tournament)

** Ice touches may include off-ice practices at the PEE-WEE level.*

YOUTH BANTAM LEVEL

Travel Team Structure

Two (2) "A" Teams Approx. 30 skaters, 4 goalies (equally balanced)
One (1) "A2" or "B1" Team Approx. 15 skaters, 2 goalies
Balance on "B" Teams Approx. 15 skaters, 1 goalie per team (equally balanced)
The team structure is subject to change based on final player registration counts.

"A", "A2/B1" and "B" travel programs require an increased commitment from both players and parents. One may expect two or three practices a week and one or two games per week during the season. Members of travel teams should expect to attend as many as three or four out-of-town tournaments a year that will require overnight travel and lodging.

Travel Teams

Number of Players Per Team: 13-16 players
Ice Touches Per Week: 4-5 ice touches per week (practices and games)
Ice Sessions: 60 – 80 minute ice sessions
Season Length: Approximately 5 month season
Ice Touches Per Year: 80 – 90 touches per year (practices and games)
Number of Games Per Year: 35 - 40 games per year
Projected Tournaments: 3 – 4 (includes 1 Home Tournament)

** Ice touches may include off-ice practices at the BANTAM level.*

GIRLS 10U LEVEL

Team Structure

One (1) "A" Team Approx. 10-12 skaters, 1 goalie
One (1) or More "B" Teams Approx. 10-12 skaters, 1 goalie per team (equally balanced)
The team structure is subject to change based on final player registration counts.

"A" and "B" travel programs require an increased commitment from both players and parents. One may expect two or three practices a week and one or two games per week during the season. Members of travel teams should expect to attend as many as three or four out-of-town tournaments a year that will require overnight travel and lodging. Players on travel teams will incur a higher registration fee than those participating on "In-House" teams due to additional ice purchases, tournament entry fees, and other associated expenses.

At this age group, the focus will be on individual skill development in what USA Hockey calls the "window of optimal trainability". This is the age that we will begin to introduce a regular pattern of club-to-club competition.

The goal at this level is still the maximum individual development with a process-driven model not an outcome-based model.

Travel Teams

Number of Players Per Team:	10-12 players
Ice Touches Per Week:	3-4 ice touches per week (practices and games)
Ice Sessions:	60 minute ice sessions
Season Length:	Approximately 5 month season
Ice Touches Per Year:	60 – 70 ice touches per year (practices and games)
Number of Games Per Year:	30 - 35 games per year

* Ice touches includes off-ice practices.

GIRLS 12U LEVEL

Team Structure

One (1) “A” Team	Approx. 13-16 skaters, 2 goalies
One (1) or More “B” Teams	Approx. 13-16 skaters, 2 goalies / team (equally balanced)

The team structure is subject to change based on final player registration counts.

“A” and “B” travel programs require an increased commitment from both players and parents. One may expect two or three practices a week and one or two games per week during the season. Members of travel teams should expect to attend as many as three or four out-of-town tournaments a year that will require overnight travel and lodging. Players on travel teams will incur a higher registration fee than those participating on “In-House” teams due to additional ice purchases, tournament entry fees, and other associated expenses.

The goal at this level is still the maximum individual development with a process-driven model not an outcome-based model.

The focus at this age should be on individual skills and small group tactics. More formal competition is introduced at this age, although it must not divert the focus from training.

Travel Teams

Number of Players Per Team:	13-16 players
Ice Touches Per Week:	4-5 ice touches per week (practices and games)
Ice Sessions:	60 minute ice sessions
Season Length:	Approximately 5 month season
Ice Touches Per Year:	80 – 90 touches per year (practices and games)
Number of Games Per Year:	35 - 40 games per year

* Ice touches includes off-ice practices.

GIRLS 14U LEVEL

Team Structure

One (1) "A" Team Approx. 13-16 skaters, 2 goalies
One (1) or More "B" Teams Approx. 13-16 skaters, 2 goalies / team (equally balanced)

The team structure is subject to change based on final player registration counts.

"A" and "B" travel programs require an increased commitment from both players and parents. One may expect two or three practices a week and one or two games per week during the season. Members of travel teams should expect to attend as many as three or four out-of-town tournaments a year that will require overnight travel and lodging.

Players on travel teams will incur a higher registration fee than those participating on "In-House" teams due to additional ice purchases, tournament entry fees, and other associated expenses.

Travel Teams

Number of Players Per Team: 13-16 players
Ice Touches Per Week: 4-5 ice touches per week (practices and games)
Ice Sessions: 60 – 80 minute ice sessions
Season Length: Approximately 5 month season
Ice Touches Per Year: 80 – 90 touches per year (practices and games)
Number of Games Per Year: 35 - 40 games per year

* Ice touches includes off-ice practices.

AGE CLASSIFICATIONS for 2011-2012 Season

Chart will change for the proposed 2012-2013 season as it does every season, but the plan for GFYHA will still be to have two-year age windows in each of the age classifications.

YOUTH

Level	Start	End	Age Window
Bantam	7/1/1996	6/30/1998	2 Year Age Window
Pee Wee	7/1/1998	6/30/2000	2 Year Age Window
Squirt	7/1/2000	6/30/2002	2 Year Age Window
Mite	7/1/2002	6/30/2004	2 Year Age Window
Termite	7/1/2004	n/a	2+ Year Age Window

GIRLS

Level	Start	End	Age Window
Girls 14U	7/1/1996	6/30/1998	2 Year Age Window
Girls 12U	7/1/1998	6/30/2000	2 Year Age Window
Girls 10U	7/1/2000	6/30/2002	2 Year Age Window
Girls 8U	7/1/2002	6/30/2004	2 Year Age Window

Grand Forks Youth Hockey – Registration Fee Summary (Projected)

Youth Programs

Level	Projected Annual Registration Fee
Termite	\$150
Mite In-House	\$150
Mite Travel	\$100 (in addition to Mite In-house)
Squirt In-House	\$250
Squirt A and B	\$750
Pee Wee A1 and A2	\$750
Pee Wee B	\$750
Bantam A1 and A2	\$850
Bantam B	\$850

Girls Programs

Level	Projected Annual Registration Fee
Girls 10U	\$600
Girls 12U	\$650
Girls 14U	\$650

Notes and Assumptions to Accompany Registration Fee Summary Projections

Net Profit from Local (Grand Forks) Tournaments = \$65,000 estimate

Grand Forks Park District Support = \$48,000 in Y1 and Y2; \$36,000 in Y3, Y4, and Y5.

Stipends = \$8,000 for Coaching and \$8,000 for Hockey Development

Ice Time = \$80,000 estimate

- Blues and Supras ice time, plus approximately 30% for additional ice rentals that may occur

Coaches

- Bantam Travel: Maximum of 2 coaches waivers per team for parent coaches (may be split by coaches if more than 2 parent coaches)
- Bantam Travel: \$2,500 for a head coach and \$1,500 for an assistant coach for non-parent coaches, plus expenses for hotels and mileage
- Pee-Wee Travel: Maximum of 2 coaches waivers per team for parent coaches (may be split by coaches if more than 2 parent coaches)
- Pee-Wee Travel: \$2,500 for a head coach and \$1,500 for an assistant coach for non-parent coaches, plus expenses for hotels and mileage
- Squirt Travel: Maximum of 2 coaches waivers per team for parent coaches (may be split by coaches if more than 2 parent coaches)
- Squirt Travel: \$1,500 for a head coach and \$1,000 for an assistant coach for non-parent coaches, plus expenses for hotels and mileage
- Squirt In-House: 2 coaches waivers per team for parent coaches / no paid coaches
- Mite: No paid coaches and no coaching waivers, applies to both in-house and travel.
- Termite: No paid coaches and no coaching waivers

For girls hockey, 14U = Bantam Travel, 12U= Pee Wee Travel and 10U = Squirt Travel.

Coaches Certifications

- Reimbursed by Grand Forks Youth Hockey Association, including expenses for coaches who have to travel to certification programs not offered locally. Assume three (3) per team.

Tournament Entry Fees

- Bantam A: \$3,000 (3 road and 1 home)
- Bantam B: \$3,000 (3 road and 1 home)
- Pee-Wee A: \$3,000 (3 road and 1 home)
- Pee-Wee B: \$3,000 (3 road and 1 home)
- Squirt A and B: \$3,000 (3 road and 1 home)
- Squirt In-House: \$500 (1 road and 1 home)
- Mite Travel: \$0 (1 home); Mite In-House: \$0 (1 home – in-house); Termite: \$0 (1 home – in-house)

For girls hockey, 14U = Bantam, 12U= Pee Wee and 10U = Squirt

Referees for 2012-2013 Season

- Bantam = 3 man (\$200 game for all 3)
- Pee-Wee = 2 man (\$100 game for 2)
- Squirt = 2 man (\$60 game for 2)
- Mite = 2 man (\$50 game for 2)
- Termite = \$0 referees (coaches ref)

Socks and Nameplates

- Provided by each individual player

Jerseys

- Grand Forks Youth Hockey to provide returnable game jerseys for travel
- Grand Forks Youth Hockey to provide "keeper" jerseys for in-house programs

USA Hockey Fees

- Kids pay \$45 each to USA Hockey and register online (where applicable)
- TERMITE and MITE in-house players will not register with USA Hockey

Auxilliary Training Fees / Skills Training:

- Bantam "A1" and "A2" Travel: \$300 each (opt out drops registration fee by \$150)
- Bantam "B" Travel: \$300 each (opt out drops registration fee by \$150)
- Pee-Wee "A1" and "A2" Travel: \$300 each (opt out drops registration fee by \$150)
- Pee-Wee "B" Travel: \$300 each (opt out drops registration fee by \$150)
- Squirt Travel: \$300 each (opt out drops registration fee by \$150)
- TERMITE and MITE as individual options (not part of registration fees)
- Girls 10U, 12U and 14U Travel: \$200 each (opt out drops registration fee by \$150)

Miscellaneous

- Estimate of \$100 per team in year #1

Equipment / Jerseys

- \$20 jersey for Termite and Mite In-House; \$50 jersey for others (most with home and away)

Payment Plans

- This is something that we want to do and can do (3 payments = registration, Nov. 1 and Dec. 15).

FUNDRAISING

The GFYHA will set a fundraising goal each season based on the Association's goals for the year. As part of the budgeting process, fees and expenses will be discussed regarding the specific fundraising goal amount. It is the intention of the GFYHA to use the projected revenues to continue subsidizing the cost of participation while maintaining reasonable and competitive registration fees. Each team will have a fundraising representative. Fundraising participation will be MANDATORY for all players. A family may elect to "buy-out" of a fundraiser for a cash payment if that option is available with a fundraising activity. Some fundraising activities will not allow for a "buy-out" option.

EQUIPMENT

Each player in the GFYHA is responsible for providing their own equipment, except for special goal equipment through Squirt / 10U that is worn by goalkeepers. Through Squirt / 10U, GFYHA will provide, as needed, a blocker, a catching glove, goal pads, and a chest, abdominal and arm protector for each team. GFYHA will also provide a puck bag and pucks for each team.

ATTENDANCE

Players must attend the scheduled practices and games or notify the coach to be excused. Players will be excused without consequences for legitimate reasons, such as sickness, injury, or religious / school obligations.

ACE COORDINATOR

An ACE Coordinator will be appointed per USA Hockey guidelines, "Each association must appoint an individual to be their association ACE Coordinator..." The ACE Coordinator is an individual with a high level of technical hockey expertise, appointed to assist in furthering the development of association coaches and players. The Executive Director of Grand Forks Youth Hockey will be appointed as the association's ACE Coordinator.

PAYMENT PLAN POLICY

The Grand Forks Park District will help us create a payment plan system that will allow families to make as many as three payments for their registration fees, with payments due at time of registration, November 1, and December 15. Cash, check, and credit cards are all acceptable forms of payment.

RESIDENCY OR PARTICIPATION POLICY

GFYHA is a community-based amateur hockey program. Members in good standing are to participate on teams from their local affiliate (local association) based on where they attend school and/or their place of residency. Residents of communities like Manvel and Thompson are allowed to play in Grand Forks, provided they pay the non-resident registration fee.

INJURY POLICY

Coaches and managers must keep record of all injuries that require medical attention or cause a player to miss a game or practice. For injuries that require medical attention, a doctor's release is necessary before the player can return to practice or games.

OPEN HOCKEY / OUTDOOR HOCKEY

Open hockey is a time when players can work on individual skills such as skating, stickhandling, and shooting, as well as team skills such as passing, positional play, and team organization. All youth hockey players in Grand Forks are encouraged to utilize the outdoor rinks in the community to work individually, in groups, or to scrimmage. GFYHA will seek to create programs and promotional opportunities to increase utilization of the outdoor rinks and increase the amount of time youth players spend "informally" working on their skills.

SUGGESTED LEVELING

North Dakota Amateur Hockey Association requires Grand Forks to have two "A" programs at each age classification due to the fact that Grand Forks has two varsity high school hockey programs, regardless of how many teams in an age classification.