

A WORD FROM THE TEAM LEADERSHIP

Thank you for supporting your hockey player in their recreation hockey journey. Participate in the high school hockey program is a big financial and time commitment. The team leadership declares a high school hockey team, each season, with the goal of partnering with every family to provide a good experience for every player, parent, family, and fan. Working with the team leadership will make your families' high school hockey story an enjoyable and memorable one.

The team leadership is accountable to the Utah High School Hockey board of trustees, the Utah Amateur Hockey Association, and the USA Hockey federation. We are accountable to the administration of each of the schools that feed players into the team. These entities have rules, regulations, and expectations regarding the operations of the team and the behavior of the players, parents, and fans. This parent and player agreement attempts to capture those expectations and requirements, conduct, and consequences. It is not exhaustive and could never anticipate all the potential scenarios possible in Utah high school hockey.

This document has grown from two pages to nearly 20 pages due, in part, to the need to address the growing disruptive behavior of participants, coaches, parents, and fans. We appreciate the time it will take to familiarize you with the standards imposed on the team, its leadership, players and you as a parent spectator.

The increase in rules, regulations, and requirements is aimed at regaining a safe and enjoyable youth athletic experience. Recommendations by local governing authorities, have caused our participation Agreement to swell. Consequences for violations over the past several seasons have increased as well. There is a greater expectation that teams do more to manage team & spectator conduct.

Volunteer coaches and team volunteers are being held accountable for the conduct of parents, fans, and players. Discipline leveled on coaches, managers, and teams is more frequent and more punitive than ever before. This player and parent agreement/contract is intended to educate parents and players of their role in being decent & supportive hockey citizens. It describes behavioral boundaries and expectations. We ask that you educate yourselves on the rules of the game recognize the developmental stage of your player, understand training modalities and limiting factors; respect people and rules, the venues, property and academic institutions so that we can keep the team in good standing and thriving.

We need to visit the issue of conduct more often these days. We ask that every player, parent, and volunteer exercise some restraint when things do not go their way. We seem go sideways with coaching decisions and officiating calls, both which hit an emotional nerve. There are tools provided to appropriately communicate concerns and there is law enforcement for filing criminal complaints. Ask the team trustee for guidance.

The league is experiencing the most inexperienced officials ever as the seasoned officials leave the game due, in part, to the conduct of the spectators, players and coaches. Use the mechanisms provided to give constructive feedback to the officials. Yelling at officials is not acceptable. Please find a sensible strategy to manage your dissatisfaction and a communication style that does not jeopardize the team, the league, or your player's participation. If you do not know to whom and how to issue a grievance, contact the team Trustee for guidance.

The standards herein are reasonable, achievement-focused, inclusive of player safety, mindful of the players' academic priorities and steeped in accountability. If you have feedback or desire an explanation as to the purpose for some of the language herein, please reach out to the team Trustee and Head Coach.

We want every player to have great high school hockey memories. Your players' experience will be that which they make of it. They all advance their hockey skills, albeit some faster than others. The coaching staff will move your player along the developmental spectrum and extend more challenging opportunities as your player acquires a higher level of skill, hockey

sense, confidence, and as spots open on higher roster lines. A coach will not move your player up to varsity if it is not safe. Reach out to the coach to understand their guideline on player safety in game situations.

Support your hockey player. Help your player measure their progress against themselves rather than against another player. Are they a more controlled skater, have they improved their puck protection, outlet passes, back-checks, anticipation, pass completions, etc. Coaches do not make superstars. Each player is in control of their success, not a teammate, not the coach. We always encourage players to get training outside of the team's practices. Exposing your player to different coaching styles may result in progress.

Player talent varies on the Utah high school hockey teams. Some 9th graders will be more advanced than 12th graders. The varsity team will play the top players more often. The JV team will rotate players more evenly. Coaches will make line adjustments throughout the season. Varsity roster spots are not automatic, they are earned. Many factors go into who is on Varsity and who is on JV. Reach out to the head coach to understand where your player stands and recommendations for skill development.

Bountiful Hockey coaches are available to have discussions with parents and players. They love it when players ask what they can do to improve, during practice or through TeamSnap. Repeated requests for meetings from the same parent/family, about the same issue will not be honored. We empathize with the frustration over coaching/rostering decisions. Berating a coach at the rink, in the parking lot with other parents, or in written form will not advance your player. Only your player can put in the effort to advance themselves. Be realistic, not every player has exceptional athletic talent. Coaches will no longer schedule parent meetings before or after practices. Those requests have resulted in shortchanging the rest of the team's practice time. Coaches and managers are volunteers with job and family demands that come first. If there is an immediate or pending safety issue that has someone's well-being at risk or in harm's way, please reach out immediately to the team trustee, or report the issue to the proper law enforcement entity. In general, correspondence with the coaching staff and team managers between the hours of 9 am and 9 pm. They will aim to answer in approximately the next 48 hours and after the coach has tended to work, travel, & family obligations. Again, if there is immediate danger to someone, contact law enforcement. We know that this communication standard is not ample for every parent/guardian, and we understand if families choose to leave the team as a result. Leaving the Bountiful Hockey team does not guarantee placement on a different team.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated volunteer coaching staff. They coach because they love the game, and they want to impart that enthusiasm to your player. Coaches like to win too but they are not here solely to play the same players over and over with the hopes of winning all the games. That mentality is for travel hockey teams. We hope that each player loves this game and parents/guardians are involved because they enjoy watching their player make friends, learn new skills and experience the satisfaction working hard.

The Utah High School Hockey Board of Trustees has approved Bountiful Hockey for one Varsity and one JV team.

Thank you for the effort it will take to get your player to the rink for the early morning practices. And thank you, in advance, for committing to partner with the team leadership for a successful Bountiful Hockey season and your player(s).

Jimmy Burns – Varsity Head Coach

Anna Erickson – Team Trustee