YUMA BLAZE HOCKEY

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Mission Statement: The primary mission of Yuma Youth Hockey League (YYHL) is to promote, develop, and instill fundamentally sound skills, sportsmanship, fair play and team unity in Yuma's dedicated youth athletes in the sport of hockey.

Section 1: **Fundraising**

A. As a volunteer organization, our most valuable resource is time, which is what makes Yuma Blaze successful. Blaze members/parents are responsible for participating in all of the organized fundraising activities including, but not limited to: Poinsettia Sales, BBQ and Raffle ticket sales for the Yuma Tournament, volunteering at the Yuma Tournament BBQ and MATO (Midnight at the Oasis). These fundraising guidelines will apply to all Yuma Blaze Teams.

B. Should a parent/member choose not to participate in the fundraising program, there will be a buyout option, the amount will be announced annually by the YYHL Board. This buyout option will apply to all activities, including participation in the Yuma Tournament.

C. Players whose fundraising obligations are not current will not be allowed to play in games until their fundraising obligations are met. Each fundraiser is assigned a monetary value based on the buyout option. If a player does not meet their fundraising obligation the family is responsible to pay an amount corresponding with the event based on a schedule of charges presented annually by the YYHL Board. The charges will be based on the following:
    a. Poinsettia Sales
    b. Yuma Territorial Marathon
    c. Yuma Tournament:
        i. BBQ Ticket Sales
        ii. Raffle Ticket Sales
        iii. Volunteer Slot (Snack Bar/BBQ)
    d. MATO (Midnight at the Oasis)

D. If a player plays on more than one team, he/she will be required to fundraise equally for both teams.

E. Each team will have a manager who will be responsible for organizing each team's fundraising activities in cooperation with the Team Liaison and Fundraising Chairperson. They will track all members' participation in fundraising activities. Delinquencies will result in suspension of play until all obligations are met.
**Exceptions to these rules must be presented to the YYHL Board for approval. See Section 8.*

F. Teams will be provided a “Team Budget” outlined in the Yuma Blaze Team Budget Guidelines.

Section 2: **Fees**

A. If required, uniform fees are to be pre-paid at the time of ordering, unless other arrangements are made in advance. Uniforms will consist of two jerseys, home and away, and inline hockey pants.

B. The YYHL Board may determine other fees as necessary. Most fees will be known prior to the start of the travel season.

C. All known fees will be due one week prior to your team’s first tournament unless other payment arrangements have been made in advance. No fees will be refunded.

Section 3: **Coaches**

A. Prospective coaches must either formally apply to the YYHL Board or be nominated by a minimum of two Board members.

B. All coaches will be approved by a simple majority of the YYHL Board.

C. Head coaches shall be allowed to assign qualified assistant coaches and team managers at their discretion.

D. Head coaches, assistant coaches and/or team managers will be accountable to the YYHL Board for their behavior and actions at practices and tournaments.

E. Head coaches shall determine playing time for each player. *Please remember that these teams play in a competitive league and one of the main goals is to win.

F. No coach shall have any official YYHL Board action taken against him/her without prior notification of all allegations presented against them and an opportunity to present their response to those allegations.

G. In the event that a situation arises where immediate action is necessary with a coach, the agreement of no less than three YYHL Board members shall be sufficient to effect such action.

H. All coaches and assistant coaches shall be required to maintain a Roller Hockey Alliance (RHA) membership, a biennial CDC Concussion Training Certificate and an annual Safe Background Check to be eligible for such a position.

I. Travel expense reimbursement for Yuma Blaze head coaches is available, please see the YYHL Policy For Travel Reimbursement for Coaches.

Section 4: **Rosters**

A. Open tryouts shall be held prior to the beginning of each travel season for the purpose of allowing coaches to evaluate players who wish to be considered for selection to a travel team. Advance notification will be given for any additional tryouts or for the formation of additional teams.

B. Players who are not able to attend tryouts for any reason must advise the head coach or YYHL Registrar in writing (electronic communication is acceptable), prior to tryouts, of their desire to be considered for a team and their reason for not attending tryouts.

C. Team rosters will be selected by the YYHL Board-Approved Head Coach of each team at the beginning of each travel season.

D. All participants in tryouts will be notified by the head coach within five (5) days of the conclusion of tryouts whether or not they were selected for the team.

E. Once team rosters are determined, players may be added on a case-by-case basis for replacement purposes with YYHL Board approval. Players will not be removed from a roster without YYHL Board approval.

F. Once team rosters are determined, if a player chooses to quit the team for any reason, future eligibility to play will be at the discretion of the YYHL Board and head coach as applicable.

G. All participants' age as of January 1st will dictate their primary qualifying age division. The minimum age is 4 years old. Age divisions are the following:
    a. **18U
    b. *16U
    c. 14U
    d. 12U:
    e. 10U:
    f. 8U:
    *g. *6U:*

**These age groups may not be available*.
***There may be exceptions to participant ages at the discretion of IHAAZ.*

H. Players are permitted to "play up" in an age division limited to one level above their chronologically determined (primary) team. Players must participate in tryouts for each age division. Continued participation in the older/higher age team is contingent upon: 1) agreement by coaches from both age divisions that the player may participate in both divisions, and 2) the player playing in their primary division; i.e. if a player chooses to not participate on their primary team, they forfeit participation in the older/higher team.

I. Girls shall be allowed to have one additional year of eligibility to determine primary age division at tryouts. Girls can determine their primary age.

J. If a player makes two (2) teams they will be expected to attend both team's practices regularly.

K. If there is a conflict of which team to play for due to scheduling, the priority will go to the player's primary age group. This includes having to miss a tournament or when both teams play on the same day. This may be adjusted with the agreement of both coaches.

L. Placement of goalies is at the discretion of the YYHL Board of Directors and coaches.

Section 5: **Tournaments**

A. Yuma Blaze is a Host member of the Inline Hockey Association of Arizona (IHAAZ) Zona Cup Tournament series. The YYHL organization will pay for the tournament registration fees for all IHAAZ tournaments.

B. Each team, at the discretion of the Head Coach and parents, may choose to participate in additional tournaments outside of scheduled IHAAZ events.

C. Payment of optional tournament registration fees, if they exceed the team budget, will be divided equally by the number of players participating and is due one week prior to the tournament. Additional travel expenses are the sole responsibility of the players/parents for all optional tournaments.

D. Each travel team will provide the YYHL Board with a planned spending report which will be used to fund team expenses. If team expenses exceed the budgeted amount, the players/parents will be responsible for any additional expenses divided equally among the participating parents, payable one week prior to the team's next scheduled tournament.

Section 6: **Conflict of Interest**

A. If a player decides to play for more than one organization, he/she must notify the YYHL Board and the Head Coach. Any conflicts will be addressed by the YYHL Board as the need arises. Priority will be to Yuma Blaze hockey club for participating tournaments.

Section 7: **Player Conduct and Association Rules**

A. All players and coaches agree to abide by the rules and code of conduct set forth by the organization/association/league sanctioning the event(s) that the Yuma Blaze participates in. (i.e. RHA, USA Hockey In-Line, NARCh, WIHA etc.) This includes but is not limited to player/coach suspensions issued by referees and tournament officials.

B. If a Blaze player receives three (3) penalties in one game or otherwise exhibits poor sportsmanship through attitude or dangerous/aggressive play; the Head Coach, at his/her discretion, will have the authority to remove that player for the remainder of the game. The player in question may be subject to further disciplinary action and/or suspension.

C. Supplementary Discipline: In addition to suspensions assessed by recognized authorities, the YYHL Board reserves the right to investigate any incident that occurs in connection with any practice, game or tournament whether during play or not, and assess further discipline if deemed necessary by the YYHL Board based on the facts available.

D. Any misconduct, incidents or injuries must be reported to the YYHL Board via email at board@yumahockey.com within 3 days of the incident.

Note: These rules support the YYHL Mission Statement which is to promote both fair play and sportsmanship among our players at all age and skill levels.

Section 8: **Amendments and Exceptions**

A. These rules and regulations shall be in effect for the entire “Blaze Travel Season”. They shall be reviewed and updated by the YYHL Board on an annual basis.

B. Exceptions to these rules will only be considered when they are formally presented to the YYHL Board and must receive approval of ¾ of the Board members present in order to be enacted.