

# **East Grand Forks Youth Hockey**



**Player / Parent Handbook  
2025 – 2026**

# Welcome!

This handbook is designed to provide parents, players, and coaches with an outline of the East Grand Forks Parks and Recreation Youth Hockey Program. Please read and make a copy of this document, as it will be your guide throughout the season. Again, this season, **all hockey registration will be done through our website: [www.egfparks.com](http://www.egfparks.com)**. Should you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact the Parks and Recreation Office at 218-773-8000.

## A message from the Parks and Recreation Office...

On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department, we would like to welcome you to the 2025-2026 youth hockey season. Please take the time to acquaint yourself with the information shared within this handbook, as it will be invaluable. The purpose of this booklet is to familiarize you with the policies, procedures, expectations and guidelines of our youth hockey program so all players, coaches, and parents have the opportunity to have a rewarding experience. Since parents/guardians and other family members are an integral part of that experience, it is important you have as much information as possible about the program.

Five years ago, we introduced a new and more defined Participation Policy for all City of East Grand Forks Parks and Recreation activities. The policy is included in this handbook.

Also, new three years ago is the EGF Parks & Recreation Conduct and Disciplinary Policy. The policy governs all Parks & Recreation facilities and programs. It is a separate document that all participating will be required to sign during the registration process.

As we begin this new season of youth hockey, we are especially proud of the hard work and dedication individuals have shown to help drive our program. There are countless volunteer hours invested by parents, Blue Line Club Board members, general members, and numerous other volunteers. We also recognize that by working together our program can continue to be a success. We welcome feedback and suggestions at any time during the year.

Have a great season!

Jeremy King  
City of East Grand Forks  
Parks & Recreation Superintendent

John Wuitschick  
City of East Grand Forks  
Recreation Coordinator

Brenna Mathiason  
City of East Grand Forks  
Recreation Specialist

# **USA Hockey Mission Statement...**

USA Hockey encourages an environment in which children can learn the basic skills without the distractions that are often associated with an over emphasis on winning. Mastery of fundamental skills and the fun of playing are essential to the development of a lifelong interest in hockey. For more information on USA Hockey guidelines visit the web site at [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com).

## **East Grand Forks Youth Hockey Mission Statement...**

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Youth Hockey Program is to promote, develop and administer a youth hockey program. This program is meant to serve the youth of East Grand Forks who reside within our program's boundaries. The principal purpose is to provide athletes in the appropriate age groups the opportunity to have fun participating in hockey by offering quality coaching, adequate ice time for skill development, team play, and exposure to competition through participation in games and tournaments.

East Grand Forks Youth Hockey is an affiliate of USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey. USA Hockey rules and policies govern the way we manage the programs we offer.

## **EGF Youth Hockey will strive to provide...**

- A chance to play hockey at an age-appropriate level for each child
- A safe, fun, and rewarding hockey experience
- An environment that stresses skill development
- A sense of pride deriving from membership and participation in this organization
- Quality coaching
- Positive adult role modeling - from coaches, parents, and association representatives
- An economically feasible fee structure
- An opportunity for each participant to develop both individual and team skills
- A "no-tolerance," "hockey by the rules" environment
- A setting where sportsmanship and good behavior are always stressed
- An environment in which politics, favoritism, and preferential treatment is not tolerated
- An environment in which discipline and teamwork are learned, valuing the strengths of working together and learning as a team.
- An environment free from profanity, verbal or physical abuse and discrimination
- An environment in which sportsmanship, a sense of fair play, humility in victory and graciousness in defeat is stressed.
- An environment to enjoy the sport of hockey regardless of financial positions
- Reinforcement of the golden rule: players, coaches and parents will treat others as they would expect to be treated.
- Pursuit of excellence in which each athlete, coach and parent will seek to perform to the highest level of their ability
- A mentorship for players to become conscientious adults and hockey ambassadors

# Participation Policy...

## A. PARTICIPATION POLICY FOR RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS OF EAST GRAND FORKS

- a. East Grand Forks Parks & Recreation is a community-based recreation program, which is supported in part by East Grand Forks residents' property taxes. When necessary, program fees will be charged to help cover additional costs to the department, which are not provided for in the total city budget. The City of East Grand Forks will make every effort to keep program fees to a minimum necessary figure.

## B. YOUTH & TEAM SPORTS PARTICIPATION RULE

- a. It is the policy of the East Grand Forks Parks & Recreation Department to give every youth resident of East Grand Forks an opportunity to participate and compete in Parks & Recreation Department sponsored youth sports programs if they so desire. The opportunity to participate is to be available to all youth residents of East Grand Forks, regardless of ability level. All registrations will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis; with priority being given first to registered participants whose primary residence is within the city limits of East Grand Forks.
- b. Participants on youth sports teams sponsored by the Parks & Recreation department must register for their activity through the EGF Parks & Rec Department. Eligible participants of youth sports teams must meet at least one (1) of the following criteria:
  - i. Registered participants primary home residence of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) is within the City limits of East Grand Forks
  - ii. Registered participants primary home residence of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) is outside of City Limits, but within Polk County and attends a school in East Grand Forks
  - iii. Registered participants primary home residence of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) is outside of City Limits, but within Polk County and the participant does not have the offered sport or activity in the community in which they reside.
- c. Non-Resident Participation Request
  - i. Interested participants who do not meet at least one of the above-listed criteria must file a **Non-Resident Participation Request form** with the Parks & Recreation Department at least 14 days prior to the close of registration. The request will be reviewed and responded to by the Superintendent of Parks & Recreation within 14 days of the request being received.
    - a. Interested participants who must submit a **Non-Resident Participation Request form** prior to registration include:
      - a. Primary residence is outside City limits, but within Polk County and the interested participant does not attend a school within East Grand Forks.
      - b. Primary residence is outside of Polk County, the interested participant attends an East Grand Forks School, and/or the community of their primary residence does not offer the sport or activity in which they are requesting to participate.
      - c. Any other requests not listed under the three criteria described in Category B, Subsection B of this policy.
- d. Recognized East Grand Forks Schools are the following: Independent School District 595, Sacred Heart Schools, and Riverside Christian School. Attendees of Home or Charter Schools will be considered for participation based upon their primary home residence.
- e. East Grand Forks Parks & Recreation may charge a nonresident participation fee to anyone living outside East Grand Forks city limits to ensure equity with East Grand Forks residents who support the program through their property taxes. Please refer to the East Grand Forks Parks and Recreation website for sport/activity specific registration fees.

## C. SUBMISSION OF REQUEST FORM

- a. Non-Resident participation requests must be submitted to the Parks & Recreation Office at least 14 days prior to the close of registration for the requested activity. The request will be reviewed and responded to by the Superintendent of Parks & Recreation within 14 days of the request being received.
- b. Completed Participation Request forms must be submitted along with a Proof of Residence (i.e. picture ID, piece of mail verifying address, etc.), and a Proof of School Enrollment (i.e. school ID or report card). Any Participation Request forms submitted without the requested supporting documentation will be considered incomplete.
- c. Request Forms can be submitted in any of the following ways:

### Mail to:

East Grand Forks Parks & Recreation  
600 Demers Ave.  
East Grand Forks, MN 56721

### Delivered to:

Parks & Recreation Office  
East Grand Forks City Hall  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, East Wing  
600 Demers Ave.  
East Grand Forks, MN 56721

### Emailed to:

Jeremy King  
Parks & Recreation Superintendent  
[jking@egf.mn](mailto:jking@egf.mn)

or

John Wuitschick  
Recreation Coordinator  
[jwuitschick@egf.mn](mailto:jwuitschick@egf.mn)



## **East Grand Forks Parks & Recreation Non-Resident Participation Request**

*Interested participants whose primary residence is outside of Polk County may be considered for participation if they attend an East Grand Forks School, and/or the community in which they live does not offer the sport or activity in which they are requesting to participate.*

*Non-Resident participation requests must be submitted to the Parks & Recreation Office at least 14 days prior to the close of registration for the requested activity. The request will be reviewed and responded to by the Superintendent of Parks & Recreation within 14 days of the request being received.*

Please complete the below:

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
MONTH DATE YEAR

School Currently Attended: ☐ ISD # 595 - Current School & Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Sacred Heart Schools – Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Riverside Christian School – Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Attend a Home/Charter School

*Note: Home/Charter school enrollee's will be considered for participation based upon their primary home residence address*

Activity(s) which you are requesting to participate: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the community of your primary home residence offer this activity? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, has your home community in the past offered this activity, or do they have plans to again in the future? Yes ☐ No, Please Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

*Once you have completed this non-resident participation request form, return it along with proof of residence and school enrollment to the East Grand Forks Parks & Recreation Department office by email or in person for processing. To check the status of this request, contact the East Grand Forks Parks & Recreation office.*

# East Grand Forks Youth Hockey Fees

The cost to fund a player greatly exceeds the City's participation fees per player each season. Volunteer hours and fundraising efforts through the EGF Blue Line Club are essential to help keep costs reasonable and to ensure opportunities for the youth we serve now and in the future. Together, we continually evaluate ways to minimize the cost to participate and keep the opportunities for our youth strong.

Registration is conducted each fall and must be completed prior to any player participating in any on-ice activities. Fees are due based on dates published at the time of registration unless other arrangements are made with the Parks and Recreation Department and/or the City of East Grand Forks. If past fees are owed, the player will not be allowed to participate in current or future activities until such fees are paid. Program fees vary based on the player's level and program of participation. Late fees will be applied to all late registrations.

If a player decides of their own accord to terminate participation, fees paid will NOT be refunded. It is requested that player termination be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department. In the event of an injury in which a medical professional recommends that players shouldn't or cannot continue play, the fees could potentially be pro-rated depending on date of injury. Any decisions would be considered case by case.

Please pay all registration fees by deadlines to ensure uninterrupted participation for your player. Registration fees must be paid before the season or tryouts begin at the player's age level. If these fees have not been paid prior to the first day, please know that your child will not be allowed to skate.

## 2025 - 2026 East Grand Forks Youth Hockey Levels

### Termites

Born between 6/1/2018 – 12/31/2020

Depending on the number of players registered, groups and practice times will be set up accordingly. Players generally all practice together on Tuesday evenings but may be split into two groups depending on numbers and may be split into two sessions on Saturdays. Coaches are volunteers and typically parents/guardians of players. Please check weekly Arena Schedules for practice times and locations. There is no travel at the Termite Level.

SEASON: Late October - Early March

ICE TIME: 2 scheduled times per week (Tuesdays and Saturdays) plus Open Hockey sessions

FEES: \$155 Registration for EGF City residents plus USA Hockey Registration fees. Additional \$40.00 for those living in Polk County outside of city limits and attending school in EGF.

DAYS: Tuesdays and Saturdays

GOALS: Beginning level to learn and develop basic hockey skills - skating, puck control and shooting, and to have FUN. Practice plans based on and developed through USA Hockey and the American Development Model.

### Mites / Girls 8U

Born between 6/1/16 and 5/31/18

This playing level is set up to continue player skill development. Teams are organized into two playing levels generally based upon age. A Girls 8U team will be set up if registration numbers allow and volunteer coaches are available. The goal is to make teams as even as possible at each playing level. Teams will practice with and play other local teams. Coaches are volunteers and typically parents/guardians of players. Travel is very minimal at this level.

SEASON: Late October - Early March

ICE TIME: 2 to 4 times a week, including games, plus Open Hockey sessions.

FEES: \$260 Registration for EGF City residents plus USA Hockey Registration fees. Additional \$40.00 for those living in Polk County outside of city limits and attending school in EGF.

DAYS: Mondays, Saturdays and Sundays

GOALS: To continue development of hockey skills - skating, puck control, shooting and passing, and beginning introduction to team play and to have FUN! Practice plans based on and developed through USA Hockey and the American Development Model.

## **Squirts / Girls 10U**

Born between 6/1/14 and 5/31/16

The Squirrel / Girls 10U level is a continuation of player skill development and a beginning of travel hockey. The primary focus is player skill development while introducing team concepts. We will play both in-house and travel games.

Players will practice as a group throughout the season. "A" and "B" level teams will be determined following a player evaluation process. Teams will be formed by the coaches focused on assigning each player to the team level that will allow the player to continue developing individual and team skills. Teams at both the "A" and "B" levels will play other district teams as well as year-end tournaments. If numbers allow, we will have multiple Girls 10U teams with both "A" and "B" teams.

SEASON: Late-October – Mid-March

ICE TIME: 4 to 6 times a week, including games and year-end tournaments.

FEES: \$515 registration for EGF City residents plus USA Hockey Registration fees. Additional \$40.00 for those living in Polk County outside of city limits and attending school in EGF.

DAYS: Weeknights, weekends, and school holidays.

GOALS: To allow all players the opportunity to continue to improve the hockey skills of skating, puck control, passing, shooting, and team play among playing groups of similarly skilled players. Also introduce players to competitive team play and to have FUN. Practice plans based on and developed through USA Hockey and the American Development Model.

## **Peewees / Girls 12U**

Born between 6/1/2012 and 5/31/2014

The Pee Wee / Girls 12U level is designed to improve player development. "AA," "A," "B1," and "B2" level teams will be determined following the player evaluation process. Teams will be formed by the coaches through an evaluation process focused on assigning each player to the team level that will allow the player to continue developing both individual and team skills. Teams at the "AA," "A," "B1," and "B2" levels will play other district teams as well as travel games and tournaments. If numbers allow, we will have multiple Girls 12U teams with both "A" and "B" teams.

Teams can also qualify for Minnesota Hockey Regional and State Tournaments.

SEASON: Mid-October – Mid-March

ICE TIME: 4 to 6 times a week, including games. Tournaments are held at various times and locations during the year.

FEES: \$775 registration for EGF City residents plus USA Hockey Registration fees. Additional \$40.00 for those living in Polk County outside of city limits and attending school in EGF.

DAYS: Weeknights, weekends and school holidays.

GOALS: To allow all players the opportunity to continue improve the hockey skills of skating, passing, shooting, and positional play amongst playing groups of similarly skilled players. Also to give players the opportunity to continue to grow in competitive team play and to have FUN. Practice plans based on and developed through USA Hockey and the American Development Model.

## **Bantams**

Born between 6/1/2010 and 5/31/2012

The Bantam level is the most advanced level in youth hockey player development. Body checking is taught and becomes a part of practices and games at the Bantam level. "AA," "B1," and "B2" level teams will be determined following the player evaluation process. Teams will be formed by the coaches through an evaluation process focused on assigning each player to the team level that will allow the player to continue developing individual and team skills. Teams at both the "AA," "B1," and "B2" levels will play other district teams as well as travel games and tournaments. Teams can also qualify for Minnesota Hockey Regional and State Tournaments.

SEASON: Mid-October – Mid-March

ICE TIME: 5 to 6 times a week, including games. Tournaments are held at various times and locations during the year.

FEES: \$875 registration for EGF City residents plus USA Hockey Registration fees. Additional \$40.00 for those living in Polk County outside of city limits and attend school in EGF.

DAYS: Weeknights, weekends, and school holidays.

GOALS: To allow all players the opportunity to continue improving the hockey skills of skating, passing, shooting, and positional play amongst playing groups of similarly skilled players. Also give players the opportunity to grow in competitive team play and to have FUN. Practice plans based on and developed through USA Hockey and the American Development Model.

## Fall Clinics

**Termites** - will begin 1-2 weeks prior to the season beginning. The clinic is offered to allow beginning players the opportunity to get familiar with their equipment while getting a feel for the ice and surroundings. Players get the opportunity to meet their coaches and the other players they will spend the season with.

**Mites / Girls 8U** - will begin 1-2 weeks prior to their season beginning. The clinic is offered as an opportunity for the returning players to get re-acquainted with their hockey equipment, the ice, coaches and other players they skate with and against during the season. It also gives new players a chance to test their skills and get comfortable with the surroundings.

**Squirt, 10U, Pee wee, 12U and Bantam** – will begin 10 days to 2 weeks prior to evaluations / tryouts and the season beginning. These are ice sessions geared towards returning to the ice from the off-season, working on individual skill development and taking part in competitive and fun practice sessions. Depending on the number of registered players, the Squirt, Pee wee and Bantam levels all execute an evaluation / tryout process at the beginning of the season that will determine team assignments. The fall clinics are NOT mandatory, but a time for players to prepare for the upcoming season and evaluation process.

## Player Team Assignment Policy

It is the goal of East Grand Forks Youth Hockey to assign each individual player to the team that gives them the best opportunity to continue in their individual skill development and in a team environment that will allow players to learn, grow and have fun. The best way to achieve individual player team assignments is to assess each player through an evaluation / tryout period. Coaches will observe and assess each player during drills and scrimmages throughout the evaluation / tryout period. At the end of the process, coaches will review the player assessment and place each player based on their performance and coach's observations.

### Team Selection – Squirt, Pee wee and Bantam levels

Teams will be determined by the coaches following the evaluation / tryout process. Again, it is the goal to place each player into a team setting that will give them the best opportunity to continue their development. Players will be placed on a team based on the assessment level of each player as determined by the coaches.

### Playing Levels

East Grand Forks Youth Hockey is committed to placing players at the age-appropriate level. We do not encourage players participating at older levels than the age specific levels created by Minnesota Hockey. Age specific playing levels have been created through extensive and necessary research. There are policies for evaluating a player's request to play at an older age/level. There is a "Move-Up" Request Form available through the Parks and Recreation office should a family inquire about such a move. All requests are dealt with individually. Players born in June, July and August who are a part of a school class advancing a level are allowed to move-up with their classmates. The Move-up Request Form must still be completed.

## Scheduling

Ice time for practices and games is determined based on the availability of ice at our local facilities. Practices will be primarily on weekday evenings and weekends. There will not be any team activities scheduled on Wednesday nights after 6:00pm, except during the Christmas break. Depending on the coach's availability, some teams may practice before school on occasion. Multiple teams will also share ice time for practices to allow for the best usage of practice time available. The number of individual team practices each week will be limited by ice availability. Practice times will fluctuate from day to day depending on ice availability and other factors.



## Game and Practice Schedules

Every effort will be made to post all game and practice schedules in a timely fashion. Weekly Arena Schedules run Monday through Sunday and are usually posted on Tuesday prior to each week. Schedules are posted at [www.egfparks.com](http://www.egfparks.com) and [www.egfhockey.com](http://www.egfhockey.com). Game schedules will be posted by the completion of the team assignment period and are updated as any changes occur. We make every effort to keep game schedule changes to a minimum, but in working with several different communities and teams some changes will happen throughout the season. Please be sure to check the Weekly Arena Schedules often for updates. Also, ice time is a valuable commodity. Players need to be completely ready to go on the ice before the practice/game starts. Coaches will inform players of what time they should arrive at the arena prior to practice/game times.

## Communications

Several communication methods will be used to try to help keep people informed and to assist in having an enjoyable season and experience.

**Youth Hockey Meetings** – meetings will be held throughout the year that will be open to all families and individuals. Meeting times and dates will be posted on websites and ice schedules. Meetings will be setup to discuss activities and happenings throughout our program.

**Team player and parent meetings** – will be held following team assignments at the beginning of the year and as requested by team coaches and/or team managers.

**Team Communications** – Information related to individual teams will be handled by team coaches and team managers.

**Email** – some information will be sent out periodically by mass email to email addresses provided through our hockey registration and/or USA Hockey registration. Please use an email that you use often when registering so you can keep up with information sent out.

**Office:** EGF Parks and Recreation  
218-773-8000  
Office Hours 8am – 5pm Monday - Friday

**Web sites:** Parks and Recreation – [www.egfparks.com](http://www.egfparks.com)  
City of East Grand Forks – [www.egf.mn](http://www.egf.mn)  
EGF Blue Line Club – [www.egfhockey.com](http://www.egfhockey.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/egfparkandrec.com](http://www.facebook.com/egfparkandrec.com)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/EastParks](http://www.twitter.com/EastParks)

## Registration

All participants are required to register on-line at [www.egfparks.com](http://www.egfparks.com). To complete the registration process, you must:

1. Complete USA Hockey registration at [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com) – you must have USA Hockey confirmation number to proceed with local registration.
2. Initial Waiver of Liability form included in registration process.
3. Pay all applicable fees at time of registration.

All first-year players and players new to East Grand Forks must provide a copy of the player's certified birth certificate as proof of age.

The winter registration period will start August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and run through Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Late registrations will be accepted from September 11<sup>th</sup> through September 24<sup>th</sup>. **Fifty (\$50) late fees** will apply to all registrations after Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**ALL registrations must be completed by September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

# Commitments by Parents/Guardians and Families

## Team Managers

Each team will have a volunteer parent/guardian, who is the team manager. This person distributes schedules, organizes team volunteers, helps organize any social events or team meetings, and is a general information source for the team. Also, all parents will be required to work shifts in the concession stand.

## Locker Room Monitors

It is the policy of USA Hockey that all USA Hockey Member Programs must have at least one responsible screened and trained adult (which may include coaches, managers or other volunteers) present at all times and monitoring the locker room during all team events to assure that only participants (coaches and players), and approved team personnel are permitted in the locker room and to supervise the conduct in the locker room. While it is not always possible, two locker room monitors are preferable. Preferred locker room monitoring includes having locker room monitors inside the locker room while participants are in the locker room; at a minimum, locker room monitors must be in the immediate vicinity outside the locker room (near the door within arm's length and so that the monitor can sufficiently hear inside the locker room) who also regularly and frequently enters the locker room to monitor activity inside. The responsible adult(s) who monitors and supervises the locker room shall have completed SafeSport Training in compliance with Section II and completed a background check in compliance with Section III of this Handbook. If the monitor(s) are inside, then it is strongly recommended that there be two monitors, as having a second monitor may help prevent allegations of impropriety by a monitor alone in the locker room. A Member Program or team may impose or follow stricter monitoring requirements. All Member Programs are responsible to work with their teams and coaches to adequately ensure that locker room monitors are in place at all appropriate times. Parents may need to complete necessary training and volunteer/serve as locker room monitors.

## Weather Cancellations

In the case of questionable/stormy weather conditions, please check the internet address: [www.egfparks.com](http://www.egfparks.com) or call the Parks and Recreation weather cancellation line at (218) 773-2402. For out-of-town hockey events, the weather cancellation procedures shall be as follows:

1. Team coaches and team managers shall make the initial decision if an out-of-town game will be cancelled.
2. A team coach or manager shall contact the host town to cancel the game and contact Parks and Recreation scheduler about rescheduling the game(s) if possible.
4. The coach or team manager shall contact their team's families and inform them of the cancellation.
5. Parent/Guardians ultimately reserve the right to determine whether their child should travel to a hockey event out of town. No discipline can occur from this reason for missing a game.

\*\*EGF Parks and Recreation is not tied to the EGF Public Schools for weather cancellation decisions.

In addition, coaches have the authority to cancel practices/games at their discretion.

Parents/Guardians ultimately reserve the right to determine whether their child should participate in activities on day with weather issues. Children who don't participate in hockey events due to questionable/stormy weather conditions will not be reprimanded for their absence.

\*Parents/guardians please make sure the arena is open when dropping a child off. The arenas are not daycare centers, and everyone should be respectful in and around all arenas.

## EGF Blue Line Club

The Blue Line Club is the support organization for the youth hockey program. The club assists yearly in many facets to help all our youth hockey players. Such as: paying for team entry fees for out-of-town tournaments, assisting in buying goalie equipment, managing home tournaments, paying for home tournament costs such as referees, trainers, and awards, purchasing team travel jerseys and helping defray the overall costs with the goal of keeping hockey an affordable activity for our youth. The Blue Line Club has also been instrumental in many of the major projects involving our youth hockey program. Most notably, the construction of the Blue Line Arena and assisting with renovation projects at the Civic Center and addition of the Girls locker room facilities. **The Club took the lead in our recent partnership with Power Edge Pro and in the construction of the BLC Outdoor Rink.** Your yearly Blue Line Club membership fee is very inexpensive in comparison to the benefits gained throughout the program. Active membership is a vital part of the opportunities provided to the youth players. Blue Line Club membership is strongly encouraged to keep our program strong. Please check out the Blue Line Club website at [www.egfhockey.com](http://www.egfhockey.com) for further information on the club and to pay the yearly membership dues.

# Equipment

The following equipment is required to participate in youth hockey. Players not wearing the required equipment will not be allowed to play or practice.

Required: HECC approved helmet with face mask, neck, and chin straps  
Mouth guard - must be colored, non-clear  
Skates  
Breezers / Pants  
Gloves  
Shoulder Pads  
Pelvic protector (girls)

**Neck Laceration Protector** – new as of Aug 1, 2024  
Stick  
Elbow pads  
Shin Pads  
Cup and supporter (boys)

**Jerseys:** A team jersey or jerseys will be provided for all Mite teams and above. Jerseys are to be returned at the end of the season. Termite players will receive a team-colored jersey to keep at the end of the season. Names and numbers can be imprinted on the jerseys if the families wish.

**Travel Jersey Care:** Keep jerseys clean for games. It is recommended that jerseys be kept in a garment bag. Wash in cold water in a detergent without bleach and air dry. If tears occur, mend immediately to prevent further damage. DO NOT PUT JERSEYS IN A HOT DRYER. Travel jerseys are for game use only or at coaches' discretion for special events or circumstances as directed or permitted by your coach. Do not wear team jerseys for practices. All team jerseys are to be cleaned and returned upon completion of the season.

**Practice Jerseys:** All players (except for goalies) at the Mite, Girls 8U through Bantam levels will be responsible for purchasing a reversible green and white practice jersey to be worn for all practices.

## General Policies

### Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug

The use, possession, consumption, or knowing presence of chemical substances, alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, or illegal drugs are strictly prohibited. Any participant found in violation during participation in a Parks & Recreation program will be penalized as outlined below.

- Use, possess, consume or knowingly be in the presence of drugs, tobacco and nicotine products, alcoholic beverages or any other substance that is used with the intent of inducing intoxication on the central nervous system. Such substances include inhalants, synthetic drugs, gasoline, aerosol devices, bath salts, vaping products, etc;
- **Possession** is defined as a person knowingly and willingly possessing a beverage containing alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.
- **In the presence of** is defined as a participant knowingly or willingly remaining in the presence of others who are in the possession or using alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs. This would not include attending an event with the participant's parents.

#### 1. First Violation Penalty:

- The participant shall be immediately suspended from all contests for 14 calendar days or two contests, whichever is greater.

#### 2. Second Violation Penalty:

- The 2nd violation shall immediately suspend the participant from all contests for 30 calendar days or six contests whichever is greater.

#### 3. Third Violation Penalty:

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> violation shall immediately suspend the participant from all contests for 84 calendar days (12 weeks) or 12 contests whichever is greater.

#### 4. Fourth Violation Penalty:

- The fourth violation shall result in expulsion from all Parks & Recreation youth activities.

Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with and throughout the participant's time in the EGF Parks and Recreation programs.

*\*If a season would end during a suspension period, the penalty will continue into the next activity the participant registers for.*

*\*\*If a participant completes a treatment program during a suspension period, they may be eligible to be re-instated upon review and after a minimum of 60 days.*

## **Bullying**

Bullying will not be tolerated in any Parks and Recreation program. Bullying and intimidation are actions that are contrary to the teachings of good sportsmanship and deprive individuals a safe, caring and fun environment.

"Bullying" is defined as any overt acts by an individual or a group directed against another individual with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate, or intimidate. Bullying includes but is not limited to physical intimidation or assault, extortion, oral or written threats, teasing, name calling, threatening looks, gestures or actions, cruel rumors, false accusations, and social isolation.

Upon an investigation, any participant confirmed in a form of bullying will be disciplined according to the EGF Parks & Recreation Discipline policy. Disciplinary actions will be determined according to the written policy and can include verbal and/or written warnings, loss of privileges or suspension from practices and games.

The following is the hierarchy for discussion among parties to resolve issues. If resolve can't be attained by the first group, then the next group will attempt to find resolve, etc.:

1. Coaches and player(s)
2. Coaches, player and parents
3. Coaches, player, parents and Recreation Supervisor and/or Parks and Recreation Superintendent.

## **Practice Attendance and Behavior**

Practice attendance and behavior standards will be set by individual team coaches. Coaches, at their discretion, may discipline players who have unexcused absences from practice, whose behavior at practice is not conducive to learning, who are disruptive, disrespectful, show negative attitudes, or negatively impact the ability of other players to experience optimal practices or games. Such standards will be stated at the beginning of the season and be applied fairly to all players on the team without regard for their playing ability. Coaches shall have the option to discipline players for abuse of rules.

## **Other Behavior Issues May Include but are Not Limited to:**

- Not listening to coaches
- Disruptive at practice
- Degrading teammate(s), officials, or competition
- Not wearing required equipment
- Harmful teasing
- Abusive or foul language.
- Arriving late for practices or games
- Theft
- Fighting – Per rule book and District 16 rules\*
- Excessive Penalties Major or minor\*
- Damage or disregard to locker rooms, benches or anywhere in an arena
- Missing practice or game (unexcused) – Players/parents must call one of the coaches prior to practice letting them know they will not be able to attend and why. Events to be viewed as excused absences: school related, such as band or choir; family functions; illness: a note from a parent or physician may be required if someone misses an inordinate number of practices or games.

\*District 16 has authority to assess and will assess additional game penalties upon review of game score sheets

If a player is required to sit out a full game, they will be required to be at the game.

## **Player Expectations of Coaches**

Players have a right to:

- . Be informed of requirements needed to successfully participate on the team.
- . Be protected from verbal or physical abuse by coaches or other players.
- . Be disciplined or reprimanded in private, if possible.

Parents may not directly approach a coach with any complaint, without first waiting 24 hours from the time of incident. Parents should then set a meeting time with the coaches and a liaison to discuss the issue.

Coaches are accountable to the Recreation Supervisor and/or Parks and Recreation Superintendent.

## **Parent or Spectator**

Unwarranted involvement or actions of a parent or spectator can result in suspension from arena(s) for a specified length of time. Before a suspended person can regain privileges a written letter of apology must be submitted to necessary parties.

## **Discipline Guidelines**

The East Grand Forks Parks & Recreation Department has implemented a Conduct & Discipline Policy that will be used as our policy and guideline for handling personal or team conduct problems that may occur throughout the year. This policy is meant to be a guide for the expectations we have for the members of our youth hockey program, while also serving as a policy for the punishment of any conduct issues which arise.

Within the policy, it does allow each coach to set forth their own rules, or expectations for their team throughout the season. Provided that the team rules have been informed to all participants, and that such rules are enforced consistently and fairly with all participants.

In the event a parent or participant has a concern, complaint, or suggested change regarding the sport of Hockey or the operation of the hockey program, the following process should be followed:

- 24-hour Cooling Off Period Requirement: Allow 24 hours to pass before reporting the situation. In many cases, people will have issues that they feel very passionate about, and this passion can cause instant reactions, both positive and negative. This requirement will allow people to think about workable solutions to a situation and be able to discuss them in a rational manner.

The following is the hierarchy for discussion among parties to resolve issues. If resolve can't be attained by the first group, then the next group will attempt to find resolve, etc.:

1. Coaches and player(s)
2. Coaches, player, and parents
3. Coaches, player, parents, and Recreation Supervisor and/or Parks and Recreation Superintendent.

## **Coaches**

Coaches will communicate the time for players to arrive at the arena for all practices and games. Coaches will be on time and present for practices and games. Coaches not able to attend practice or game with inform team manager and the Parks and Recreation office. Coaches will complete USA Hockey registration, CEP clinics and modules, Safe Sport training and required background screening by designated dates.

Coaches are accountable to the Recreation Supervisor and/or Parks and Recreation Superintendent.

## **Notes**

This program exists for the development of skills, attitude, and self-esteem of the athletes. The program is intended to enhance the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of the youth players. Hockey should be a FUN activity for the players.

Parents are encouraged to be positive and supportive with team players, coaches, and fellow parents.

## **Player, Parents and Coaches Codes of Conduct**

The purposes of the codes of conduct are to help players, parents and coaches to be informed of the standards of behavior, conduct and appearance that is appropriate for those involved within this program and our community.

## **Sanctions for Violations of Code of Conduct**

Upon a claimed violation or incident, the Parks and Recreation staff will follow the Conduct and Discipline Policy to investigate the claimed violation. The procedure described in the policy will determine if a violation has occurred, and what disciplinary action is warranted for the violation. The imposed sanctions for violations of the Code of Conduct and Policy may range from verbal and/or written warning, a temporary suspension or expulsion from youth hockey activities.

## EAST GRAND FORKS PARKS AND RECREATION PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1) I will learn the rules of my sport and the policies set by my coaches and the EGF Parks and Recreation.
- 2) I will encourage **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** from fellow players, coaches, officials, and parents at every contest and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship myself.
- 3) I will attend every practice and contest that I can and will notify my coaches if I can't attend **BEFORE** the practice or contest.
- 4) I will do my best to **LISTEN** and **LEARN** from my coaches.
- 5) I will treat other players, coaches, officials, and fans with **RESPECT**, regardless of **RACE, CREED, COLOR, SEX, or ABILITY** and I will expect treatment accordingly.
- 6) I will not engage in any kind of **UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT** with any official, coach, player, or parent such as: booing, taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
- 7) I deserve the right to have fun and will tell my parents and coaches if the sport I am playing stops being fun.
- 8) I will refrain from use of social media outlets in any negative or harmful ways regarding my team, organization, opponents, and officials.
- 9) I will demand a sports environment for myself that is free from **DRUGS, TOBACCO**, and **ALCOHOL**, and refrain from their use always.
- 10) I will remember that sports are an opportunity to **LEARN** and **HAVE FUN**.
- 11) I promise to be positive about my experience in EGF Parks and Recreation and accept responsibility for my participation by following the **PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT**.
- 12) **I have read the EGF Parks and Recreation Players Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth. I understand that failure to follow the rules set will result in disciplinary actions.**

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### **I AGREE TO THE EGF PARKS AND RECREATION PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT:**

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ PLAYING LEVEL: \_\_\_\_\_

## EAST GRAND FORKS PARKS AND RECREATION PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1) I will remember that children participate to have **FUN** and the game is for the youth **NOT THE ADULTS**.
- 2) I will learn the **RULES** of the game and regulations set by the EGF Parks and Recreation and the sport's governing body.
- 3) I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child.
- 4) I will not engage in any kind of **UNSPORTSMANLIKE** conduct with officials, coaches, players, and others in attendance, such as: taunting, loud behavior or use profane language or gestures. Remember parents volunteering in the penalty box / scorer's table will refrain from criticizing officials, coaches, or players.
- 5) I will not encourage any behaviors that would endanger the health and well-being of any of the players.
- 6) I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility, violence or name calling.
- 7) I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with **RESPECT** regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
- 8) I will teach my child that **"playing hard" and "doing one's best" is the most important thing** so that the outcome of a game or their performance will never defeat them.
- 9) I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- 10) I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of all the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
- 11) I will refrain from using social media outlets in any negative manner regarding the team, coaches, opponents, and officials.
- 12) I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from **DRUGS, TOBACCO, and ALCOHOL**, and refrain from their use at all EGF Parks and Recreation sporting events.
- 13) I will respect the **OFFICIALS** and their authority during contests and will not confront them at any arena or sport field.
- 14) I will **NEVER** question or confront coaches or staff **AT ANY ARENA OR SPORT FIELD** and will take time to **speak with them at an agreed upon time and place** that is at least 24 hours after any incident. I will resolve any issues first through the coaches and then through the coaches and the Parks and Recreation Department.
- 15) I will refrain from **COACHING MY CHILD** or other players during contests and practices unless I am an official coach of the team or have been **ASKED** by an official coach to help.
- 16) **I have read the EGF Parks and Recreation Parent Guidelines and agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth.**

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### I AGREE TO THE EGF PARKS AND RECREATION PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT:

Print Players Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Print Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## EAST GRAND FORKS PARKS AND RECREATION COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1) I will remember that children participate to have **FUN**, learn and develop and are the most important part of the program. The game is for the youth **not the adults**.
- 2) I will follow the **RULES** of the game and the regulations set by the EGF Parks and Recreation as well as my sport's governing body.
- 3) I will be a positive role model for my players and encourage **SPORTSMANSHIP** by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating **POSITIVE SUPPORT** for all players. I will praise my players for competing fairly and trying hard, and making my players feel like **WINNERS**.
- 4) I will not engage in any kind of **UNSPORTSMANLIKE** conduct with officials, coaches, players, and parents such as: taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
- 5) I will not encourage any behaviors that would endanger the health and well-being of any of the players.
- 6) I will demand that my players treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with **RESPECT** regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
- 7) I will teach my players that **"playing hard" and "doing one's best" are more important than winning** so that the outcome of a game or their performance will never defeat them.
- 8) I will refrain from using social media outlets in any negative or harmful ways regarding my team, organization, opposing teams and officials.
- 9) I will never ridicule or yell at my players or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition. I will treat all players in a professional and fair manner.
- 10) I will emphasize **SKILL DEVELOPMENT** at practices and how they benefit my players, over winning a game.
- 11) I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of all the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my players to win.
- 12) I will demand a sports environment for my players that is free from **DRUGS, TOBACCO, and ALCOHOL**, and refrain from their use at all EGF Parks and Recreation sporting events. All underage coaches will adhere to State and Federal alcohol and tobacco laws.
- 13) I promise to be positive about my players' experience in EGF Parks and Recreation and accept responsibility for my participation by following the **COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT**.
- 14) **I have read the EGF Parks and Recreation Coaches Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth. I understand that failure to follow the rules set will result in disciplinary actions.**

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### I AGREE TO THE EGF PARKS AND RECREATION COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT:

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Statement to be signed by Participants and Parents

By signing below, I signify that I have received a copy of the East Grand Forks Youth Hockey Handbook. I have read and understand the rules and regulations as set forth by East Grand Forks Parks and Recreation.

Participant Name\_\_\_\_\_

Participant Signature\_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Parent Name\_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Parent Name\_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_

\*Participant signature not required for Termite, Mite and Girls 8U Players

\*\*Please return this page along with the signed Codes of Conduct to your team manager

