

Barrington Broncos Hockey Club

Member Handbook

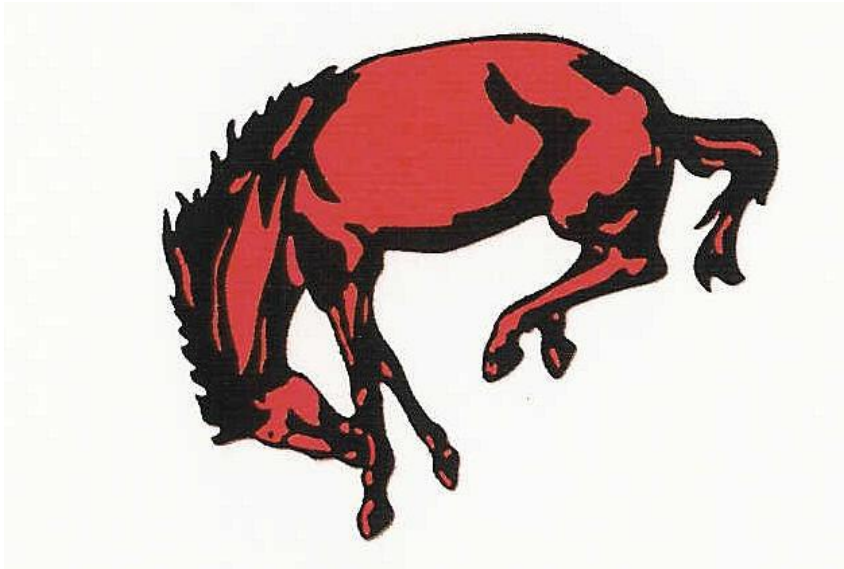


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I. Introduction

The Barrington Broncos Hockey Club Handbook is designed to communicate to parents and student players the philosophy, organization, and values of our club hockey program. If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact any of the parent volunteers who serve as Directors of the club.

Besides providing a source of information, the handbook is intended to encourage participation by all parents in our supportive activities. One of the reasons for the success of our program is the open nature of our organization. Parents have varying talents that are both necessary and welcome. Although our veteran coaching staff has helped our teams establish a tradition of success, we need your active support.

The tradition of excellence of Barrington Broncos Hockey can be measured in many ways. Certainly the Broncos continue to dominate conference hockey play, often reaching elite state status both as teams and individuals. In addition, our teams are recognized by IHOA as being amongst the best sportsmanship teams. Just as important is the history of the majority of our players maintaining “academic honor roll” status. As fellow parents, we hope that you will strive to help your child and his teammates achieve success this year in all of these important areas.

The Board of Directors is committed to providing a balanced approach to the development of our young men and teams, so that each student athlete can reach his maximum potential while attending Barrington High School. We look forward to your family joining us in a successful season.

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II. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is made up of parents of active players and is comprised of 9 members whose name and contact information is maintained on the BBHC Website.

www.bhshockey.com

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III. Organization and Governance

A. USA Hockey (www.usahockey.com)

Amateur hockey in the United States is governed by USA Hockey. USA Hockey was appointed to this role by the United States Congress. USA Hockey promulgates playing rules, provides player and club insurance programs, publishes American Hockey Magazine, and generally oversees the organization of the sport.

B. Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois (AHAI) **(www.ahai.org)**

AHAI was organized in 1975. It is the sanctioned affiliate of USA Hockey for Illinois, the local governing arm of USA Hockey, and it administers the rules of play. AHAI oversees youth, high school and seniors play. At the youth level, AHAI, through its many committees, defines club membership rules, sponsors the annual state tournaments, and disciplines organizations and players.

C. Metro Central Hockey League (Central) **(www.usahockey.com/metro_central/)**

Central is the organizing body for a conference of high school hockey teams located primarily in the central northwest suburbs. Central admits high school hockey teams to its membership, sets

player and team qualification standards, organizes and administers a schedule of games and tournaments, and sets certain other game rules (i.e., game times and penalties).

D. High School Invitational Tournament (HIT)

(www.redhawkhockey.com/tournaments/invitational.shtml)

Barrington's varsity and junior varsity teams have participated in a round robin tournament with other elite teams from the Chicagoland area. A sampling of the teams that have participated in this tournament in past years include New Trier, Fenwick, Stevenson, Naperville Central, Glenbrook North and South, and Marist. Games are played throughout the year and a season ending tournament is held at the varsity level.

E. Other Tournaments

Both Varsity and Junior Varsity teams compete in select weekend tournaments in the Chicagoland area. Teams may play 4 to 5 of these tournaments. Barrington High School teams have regularly played in "elite" high school tournaments and AA club tournaments.

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IV. The Broncos

A. History

High school hockey in Illinois is a club sport organized under the American Hockey Association of Illinois (AHA). The Barrington Broncos Hockey Club was organized in 1972 and is affiliated as a club sport with the Barrington High School. The Barrington Broncos Hockey Club is a separate organization responsible for its own revenues and expenditures and does not receive any monetary assistance from the high school. Varsity letters and junior varsity awards are provided by Barrington High School. All BBHC

players are subject to the Barrington High School Code of Conduct.

B. Philosophy

The Barrington Broncos Hockey Club philosophy is to provide all necessary and reasonable support for the accomplishment of its mission purposes and its student athletes. Training and support for experienced coaches, conditioning and skill programs, good sportsmanship requirements, competitive schedules and tournaments to improve team performance are some aspects of our "Top Five" program. This program is designed to continue the drive for success and provide opportunities to compete with the top five programs in the state of Illinois at the varsity and junior varsity level.

Educational demands are a player's priority and hockey schedules should be set recognizing finals, college testing and other important high school events. Each player must comply with the Barrington High School weekly academic eligibility requirements. Players who also participate in a fall sport such as football or golf are encouraged to give priority to that other fall sport.

Discipline is also a part of our program. As such, each player and parent is subject to all Codes of Conduct established by AHA, USA Hockey, Barrington High School and this organization.

The Varsity Team is composed of the best players and the primary emphasis is on achieving the highest level of success. Playing time is the coach's decision. The Junior Varsity Team is the foundation for future varsity teams and the primary emphasis is on ensuring all of its players the opportunity for individual development. Some Junior Varsity players may be "double-rostered" on both teams, although league rules limit the number of games that a player may "play-up" without being transferred to varsity. Selection of players to teams is a "coach only" decision and no Board member or other parent is allowed to participate in the selection.

C. Mission Statement

The Barrington Broncos Hockey Club (“BBHC”) strives to provide students in good standing at Barrington High School an opportunity to play hockey at the highest level available for their age group, while simultaneously representing their high school and fellow students through athletics. BBHC will provide its players with the highest level of training available in any program. The BBHC will focus on developing a feeder program and a varsity program that can compete with any high school or midget program.

The combination of development through teamwork, respect and commitment, in addition to the dedication it will take to compete effectively at these high levels of competition, will develop character and skills in BBHC players which can be used throughout their lives.

D. Governance and Meetings

The Board is composed of up to nine voting members, permitting the President to break tie votes. Candidates for the board can be self- or board-nominated. Board members remain on the Board through his or her child’s senior year regular season of play or until their earlier resignation.

The Board meets on the second Monday of each month at the high school during the school year and other nearby locations during the summer months. All meetings are open to the membership in a non-voting capacity except when contractual or disciplinary matters are discussed. Members have the right to address the Board at a time designated by the President. The website will be up-dated regularly with Board meeting specifics.

Minutes of the Board meetings, once approved, are available upon request to the President or Secretary.

E. Financial Disclosure

The Broncos Hockey Club financial statements are available to all members. Please contact the President or Treasurer of the club or your team manager to obtain a copy.

F. Volunteers and Involvement

Volunteers play a most important role in the success of this organization. Without your help, we could not have our annual fundraiser dinner, the year-end banquet, senior night, sportswear sales, etc. Our organization always needs fresh ideas, creative talent and, of course, your time.

Here are just a few of the opportunities for volunteers:

Team/Game Pictures: Used for year-end CD and Ad Book;

Picture Day: Make arrangements with photographer, disseminate information to teams;

Senior Night: Decorations, posters, questionnaires, pre-game dinner, announcer;

Freshman Orientation Night at BHS: Represent the team, answer questions of incoming freshmen;

Sportswear: Choose items and designs, track orders and payments, deliver items;

Alumni Game: Help with invites, event logistics, promotion, etc.;

Videotaping of games: For the coaches’ use and/or presentation at the spring banquet;

Fundraising: Plan events, solicit auction items, send invitations, set-up/clean-up, print programs, decorate, send thank you notes;

Year-end banquet: Plan dinner, send invitations, create agenda, order awards, decorate, collect payments;

In addition to the above, parents' services are required at Metro Central games in the following capacities: security, recording the scoresheet, collecting the admission fees, running the clock, helping in the penalty box. It is expected that each family will contribute approximately 15 hours of game-related volunteer time, which is needed to make this program a success. If you would find it more convenient, you may donate \$500 in lieu of giving your time.

V. Program Description

The BBHC operates four programs each year. They are:

- Spring Hockey;
- Summer Program
- Pre-Season Conditioning/Selection Camp;
- Fall (Regular) Season.

A. Spring Hockey

The BBHC Spring Program is the beginning of the development of the Fall Program teams. Tryouts are formally held in late March. Players who will be eligible to attend BHS in the fall are eligible for this program. Each year in January and February, the BBHC Board reviews the potential spring leagues that are available for our teams based on competition levels. The Board, with input from the Director of Hockey Operations selects a program that best fits our overall development needs.

Typically the spring program will offer each team:

- ten (10) skill sessions,
- four (4) to six (6) practices,
- eight (8) to fourteen (14) games.

The BBHC Board and coaching staff strongly encourage all potential players, particularly new BBHC players and players

looking to make higher teams, to participate, as this is the beginning step in the formation of the fall program.

B. Summer Program

The BBHC summer program is an optional program for players to continue to develop and train. Summer program details will be provided during the Spring Program. Players who do not avail themselves to at least some summer ice will find the Pre-Season camp very difficult. Some type of summer clinic/camp is highly recommended.

C. Pre-Season Conditioning/Selection Camp

Designed in 2004-05, this program was created to present an opportunity for our players to be competitive with other Top Five organizations in terms of speed, strength, systems training and general conditioning. It is structured as an NHL pro-style training camp and is the camp from which the coaching staff will make its team player selections. The schedule will include two-a-day practices. Coaches, after the first few sessions, will advise players as to which sessions the coaches want the players to attend. Those requests are based on many factors as they try to find the right "fit" for the upcoming fall teams. **It is a very competitive camp and players are urged to come to camp in condition to handle the intensive training.** The Program is approximately 20 hours of on-ice training beginning the week prior to the start of the school year and continuing through September 1st. This program also allows our players to be physically ready early in the season and serves to limit injuries throughout the year due to the conditioning curve versus our competition. We participate in very competitive tournaments early in September, so the camp is extremely important to starting the season on the right track.

The dates and costs for the camp will be posted on the BBHC website. Participation in the BBHC Pre-Season

Conditioning/Selection Camp is required in order to be considered for selection to a fall BBHC team. Exceptions to this requirement would be extremely limited.

D. Fall (Regular) Season

The Fall season for each BBHC team begins September 1st and ends with the last state game in which each team is eligible to participate.

1. Varsity

The Broncos Varsity team is the top team in the BBHC program. Its program is second to none in the State of Illinois.

Games: The team will typically play between fifty-five (55) and seventy-five (75) games. Varsity home game slots are generally as follows in prime time weeknight, or Saturday afternoon time slots. Away games are subject to opponents’ ice times.

The Varsity team will typically have three (3) to four (4) games per week and be on-ice approximately six (6) times per week.

Practices: *Practice and Team Systems Training; Off-Ice Training:*
Practices are held immediately after school on weekdays and on weekend afternoons. Off-ice training is scheduled to coincide with on-ice practice sessions.

Leagues: The Varsity team competes in the Chicago Metropolitan High School League Central Division. The league structure is set each

year and typically includes twenty (20) to thirty (30) games.

The Varsity team also competes in the High School Invitational Tournament (HIT League), which is the premier high school league in the state, combining the best public high school teams, the top Catholic high

school teams and the leading prep school league teams. Invitations are sent each summer, and the Varsity team once again was invited to participate. This league typically includes the following Illinois hockey powerhouses:

New Trier Green	Stevenson
Loyola Academy	Glenbrook South
Fenwick	Glenbrook North
Naperville Central Red	Marist

While the format may change from year to year, each team does play each other once prior to playoffs.

Tournaments: The Varsity team competes in approximately six (6) tournaments as part of its season. Most of the tournaments in which the Varsity team participates are invitational tournaments.

In prior years, the Varsity team competed in the following tournaments:

1. The New Trier Preseason Invitational Tourney
2. Advanced Arenas Midget AA1 Chicago Cup
3. Loyola High School Thanksgiving Invitational Tournament
4. The Blackhawk Cup – Christmas
5. The Chicago Metropolitan League Playoff Tournament
6. The HIT League Playoff Tournament
7. The Blackhawk Cup – State Championship

The Varsity team has not participated in away tournaments, although the BBHC Board reserves the right to schedule away tournaments.

2. **Junior Varsity**

The Broncos Junior Varsity team is the second team in the BBHC program.

Games: The team will typically play between sixty (50) and seventy (70) games. Junior Varsity home game slots are generally as follows in prime time weeknight, or Saturday afternoon time slots.

Away games are subject to opponents' ice times.

The Junior Varsity team will typically have three (3) games per week and be on-ice approximately five (5) times per week.

Practices: *Practice and Team Systems Training:*

Practices are held immediately after school on weekdays and on weekend afternoons. Off-ice training is scheduled to coincide with on-ice practice sessions.

Leagues: The Junior Varsity team competes in the Chicago Metropolitan High School League Central Division. The league structure is set each year and typically includes twenty (20) to thirty (30) games.

The Junior Varsity team also competed in the High School Invitational Tournament (HIT League) which is the premier high school league in the state, combining the best public high school teams, the top Catholic high school teams and the leading prep school league teams. Selections of participants are made each summer, and the Junior Varsity team once again was invited to participate.

Tournaments: The Junior Varsity team competes in approximately four (4) to five (5) tournaments as part of its season. Many of the tournaments in which the Junior Varsity team participates are Invitational Tournaments. In prior years, the Junior Varsity team competed in the following tournaments:

1. Chicago Preseason Challenge – Advanced Arenas Midget A/JV
2. Loyola Ramblers Thanksgiving JV Hockey Tournament
3. New Trier JV Invitational Hockey Tournament

4. Crystal Lake South H.S. Gators New Years' Hockey Tournament
5. Chicago Showdown - Advanced Arenas Midget/JV
6. The Chicago Metropolitan League Playoff Tournament
7. The Blackhawk Cup – State Championship

The Junior Varsity team has not participated in away tournaments, although the BBHC Board reserves the right to schedule away tournaments.

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VI. Program Philosophy

Playing high school hockey for BBHC is significantly different than playing in Tier I and Tier II programs. Our program is typically comprised of players from both such hockey backgrounds. Our top team includes players who have AAA, Central States or high level Tier II hockey backgrounds or players who are being recruited to play at those levels. Competition is high and players are selected for the teams based on the coaches' view of who will help our organization achieve its goals. As such, players and their parents choosing to play for the high school need to fully understand the commitment they are making.

All player selection and playing time decisions are made by the coaches only. The Board of Directors does not participate in player selection or playing time decisions at any time. The player selection/playing time policy is as follows:

1. BBHC teams are selected solely by the coaching staff within the team size guidelines set forth by the Board of Directors.

2. The BBHC authorizes the fielding of two teams, Varsity and Junior Varsity. A third team will be added only if the player counts and talent warrant such a team. The Board will respond positively to a third team, if and only if, there is a clear and evident indication of commitment by fifteen (15) or more players and their families to form a team under the BBHC program.
3. Team player counts for the Varsity and Junior Varsity-1 team shall be no less than seventeen (17) players and no greater than nineteen (19) players.
4. Player fees are not changed by the size of the team selected.
5. Fall teams will be selected no later than September 1st in each year to offer all players the opportunity to explore other options should they not be selected to a BBHC team.
6. Participation in the BBHC Pre-Season Conditioning/Selection Camp is required in order to be considered for selection to any team. Exceptions to this requirement will be extremely limited. BBHC does not conduct a formal tryout process. The teams will be named when the coaching staff determines it has all the information it needs to make its player decisions.
7. The coaching staff is directed to select and place players at levels where they believe, based on playing time and development, they will best fit the long-term primary goal of the organization, which is to offer a Varsity program that can compete with the Top Five teams in the State of Illinois each year.
8. A player's ice time is **not** guaranteed at any level at any time. There is no correlation between ice time and

player fees, and fees will not be prorated based on ice time.

9. A certain number of players will be designated as double rostered between two BBHC teams. This allows the coaching staff to move players up and down based on the needs of the program and player development. The player can participate in no more than six games for the team on which they are double rostered. The coaches reserve the right to call up or place down any player on a permanent basis if they deem it appropriate and if that player is still eligible for movement between teams.
10. The Varsity team shall have a sole focus on achieving the Top Five goal. This will create inequities in game playing time throughout the season. It is the sole discretion of the coaching staff to allocate game playing time. Players selected to this team must expect to continuously earn their game ice time through performance, commitment, discipline and training.
11. The Junior Varsity team shall have a dual focus of player development and Top Five performance at their level. This concept allows the coaches to make decisions in the best interest of the team and the organization. The Board intentionally has given the coaching staff a wide range in which to operate to ensure the constant source of Varsity players in the future with the types of game experiences necessary for their future success.
12. Academics are a high priority for all players in the Barrington Broncos program. Each player will be required to sign a release that provides BBHC access to each player's academic progress directly from Barrington High School. Players with academic challenges will be encouraged to discuss their issues

with the Hockey Director in an effort to strike a better balance between the Hockey and School Work.

Playing high school sports is very much a performance-based concept. It may not be the right choice for everyone. In many cases, club hockey may be a more appropriate placement for a player or player's family who prefers a less competitive system. It is the intention of the BBHC Board of Directors to make clear to all players and their families that this is a high school sport and winning is a clearly defined goal.

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VII. Key Personnel and their Roles

A. Coaching

Coaches for all teams are hired by the Board of Directors. It is the policy of the BBHC that no Board member participate in any coaching decisions as it pertains to player team placement at team selection or player playing time during the season. These decisions are solely those of the coach. In addition, no non-rostered individuals are allowed on the ice, in the locker room or behind the bench at any BBHC game, practice or try-out session.

The coaching staff is as follows:

Varsity Head Coach	Rob Hutson
Varsity Assistant Coach	Steve Sarauer
JV Head Coach	Steve Sarauer
JV Assistant Coach	Rob Hutson

B. Team Managers

Each team within the BBHC shall have a parent designated as the team's manager. At the conclusion of the team selection process, the Board will request that any parent or guardian who desires to be considered for the manager's position submit a resume and

cover letter outlining his interest. The Board will select a manager from those who expressed interest. The manager shall be responsible for team communication subject to Board review and approval. The Board will act in lieu of the manager and fulfill the manager's responsibilities until such time as a manager is selected.

C. Code of Conduct Committee

The BBHC Board has authorized the formation of a Code of Conduct Committee. This Committee shall be comprised entirely of Board Members. Its role is to review any violation or report of violation of the:

1. Barrington High School Code of Conduct; and/or
2. BBHC//USA Hockey/AHAI Zero Tolerance Policy; and/or
3. any substance abuse violation; and/or
4. any coaching policy violation; and/or
5. any conduct by any player or parent detrimental to the BBHC or any of its members; and/or
6. any other matter the Board of Directors shall refer to the Committee.

The Committee shall investigate all matters under its authority and shall report its conclusions and recommendations to the Board. The Board shall consider all such information and reserves the right to conduct additional investigations and interviews as it deems necessary. Prior to any determination by the Code of Conduct Committee and/or the Board of the BBHC, any player or parent under review shall have an opportunity to address the committee and/or the Board.

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VIII. Codes of Conduct

Copies of the following Codes of Conduct will be provided to each player at the Code of Conduct meeting held in September:

BBHC Code of Conduct
USA Hockey Code of Conduct
AHAI Zero Tolerance
BBHC Coaches' Team Rules

A. Barrington Broncos Hockey Club Code of Conduct

BBHC, as a recognized club of Barrington High School, abides by and is subject to all rules and regulations that apply to BHS athletes as set forth by the administration of BHS. The following is the Athletic Code of Conduct to which every BBHC player is subject:

Hazing in any form is strictly prohibited by BHS and BBHC. Any player or parent/guardian should immediately refer any such incident or anticipated incident to any board member. Any such report will be reviewed immediately and dealt with severely.

Use and/or abuse of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, steroids, etc. are prohibited activities. Violations will result in immediate notification to the appropriate authorities at Barrington High School and AHAI, with further actions to be determined by those governing organizations. Altering substances shall be defined to include, but not limited to, the following:

- Intoxicating beverages, including, but not limited to, alcohol;
- Non-prescription, prescription or prescribed controlled substances when used to excess in

violation of doctor's orders or to produce a state of intoxication in the participant;

- All forms of tobacco/nicotine;
- Steroids or any other illegal performance enhancing substances;
- Any illegal drugs/substances not described above;
- Possession, sale or distribution of any of the above.

Each year, all players and at least one parent or guardian will be required to attend a mandatory athlete meeting held in September to review the BHS Code of Conduct. Players and parents who do not attend will not be eligible to play for the BBHC until such requirement is satisfied.

B. USA Hockey/AHAI Zero Tolerance Policy

BBHC is a member organization of the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois and USA Hockey and, therefore, supports in full and is required to administer AHAI's Zero Tolerance Policy as it pertains to member clubs. The Policy provides all participants and spectators direction in developing self-discipline, leadership, integrity and respect for the rules and for all participants, officials and spectators.

C. BBHC Coaches' Team Rules

Each year, in addition to the BHS Code of Conduct meeting, the BBHC will conduct a player meeting to outline the coaches' expectations and their rules. Each player and each parent/guardian shall be required to acknowledge receipt of this policy by signing for his copy of the rules.

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IX. Bronco Policies and Procedures

A. Process for Handling Player/Parent Concerns

Should the occasion arise that a parent or player has an issue with the coach, team, board or program, that parent/player should initially contact the team manager. If the concerns cannot be resolved, it should then be brought to any Board member in writing. The Board member will then present it to the entire Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting. At no time should the coach be approached regarding any dispute or disagreement.

B. Fees

The fees for each player in the BBHC are set each season by the Board of Directors.

C. Payment Arrangements

Special payment arrangements are not encouraged because extended payment plans place a burden on our volunteer staff to track such accounts. However, should special arrangements be necessary, they should be requested by letter to the Treasurer who will discuss the issue with the Board of Directors.

D. Pro-rations

The BBHC bases its player fees on expected costs and expected team sizes. Under such a financial plan, it is impossible to offer any refunds or pro-rations of fees for any reason.

E. Sponsorships/Ad Book

The BBHC offers families the opportunity to solicit sponsorship and/or Ad Book advertisements to offset the cost of player fees. The BBHC credits each players account seventy-five (75%) of all monies raised through this program at the time such revenues are received by BBHC. Ad Book sponsorship letters and forms, as well as specific instructions, are distributed at the Code Meeting each year.

F. Limitation of Play

If a player is rostered on the BHS hockey team, by the Barrington Broncos Hockey Club rules, he may not be rostered on any other hockey team during the regular season. However, during the spring season a player may play for another team in addition to the Barrington Broncos Hockey Club.

F. Team Equipment

The following equipment colors are required for both varsity and junior varsity players:

Red helmets (Goalies are exempt from the
red helmet rule.),
Black or red gloves,
Black pants,
Appropriate game socks.

Two “B” stickers will be given to new players to affix to each side of the helmet. Players must purchase a team jacket, team tearaways and a team equipment bag. Should the Board change the style of the apparel/equipment, all players will be required to purchase the new items.