



**NORTHERN ALASKA**  
HOCKEY ASSOCIATION SINCE 1982

**ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES**

*REVISED 07.2019*

# INTRODUCTION

The goals and objectives of the Alaska Grizzlies youth ice hockey organization is to provide the student-athlete with the opportunity to develop high level hockey skills through advanced on-ice and off-ice training, while stressing sportsmanship and team concepts. Through competition in practice and games, student-athletes are taught the life skills necessary to become successful, contributing, members of the community in which they live.

The Alaska Grizzlies is a volunteer-based organization which thrives on the efforts of our hockey family. The organization encourages parent support through volunteer opportunities in fundraising, board membership, and team support. The Grizzlies are a competitive youth hockey program that participates in the **Alaska State Hockey Association** and is affiliated with **USA Hockey**.

# COMMITTMENT

The coach(es) of AAA/AA/A teams expect dedication, hard work, support, and cooperation of every parent and player. This effort will lead to the best possible environment for the development of skills for the athlete. Players and parents must be prepared to make substantial commitment to the team in both time and finances.

- It is expected of parents of ALL our athletes to exhibit the following:
- Communicate and cooperate with the coaches and managers; and
- Ensure athletes are on-time for all practices, games, and team activities; and
- Ensure athletes have safe and proper equipment mandatory per USA Hockey; and
- Participate in fundraising undertaken by the team and/or the association; and
- Become responsible for familiarity of association policies, rules, and guidelines; and
- Meet all financial obligations.

Throughout the season, there can be parent meetings called by the team Manager or Head Coach. Each player must have at least one parent or guardian in attendance as important information for parents and players is put out at these meetings.

# TEAM RULES

## PLAYER ATTENDANCE

Each player is required to go on all road trips and attend all practices, games and tournaments unless excused by the Head Coach.

## PLAYER BEHAVIOR

Players are expected to show respect and maturity at all times when representing Arctic Lions / Alaska Grizzlies - whether on or off the ice and while traveling. Failure to comply with the organization's expectations could result in suspension from the team. If a suspension occurs while traveling, the player may be sent home at the parent's expense.

## PLAYER AGE GROUP

No player may participate in an age division other than their USA Hockey designated division without board approval. For more information regarding try outs, team selection, and participation in an age group other than your designated division, see **Addendum 1.1 - Player Play Up Policy**.

## TEAM TRAVEL

Refer to USA Hockey Travel Policy <http://www.usahockey.com/page/show/908023-usa-hockey-SafeSport-program>

### **Team Lodging and Transportation:**

All athletes must stay at the designated team lodging unless prior approval has been granted by the Head Coach. The Alaska Grizzlies will not subsidize the cost of transportation for an athlete, parent, or team staff. Transportation arranged for the team as a unit is for coaches, players and managers as well as a designated driver.

ALL 16U/18U teams must travel together on out of town trips by bus or air (whichever is the lesser cost). Players must also room together at the team lodging. Head coach MUST travel with the team and is responsible for the team from start to finish of the trip.

## GUEST PLAYERS ON PRACTICE ICE

Any player from a local competing association will not be able to practice on NAHA ice excluding special events. Any on ice guests, registered with USA Hockey and verified with registrar, may practice/skate with any NAHA team for a fee that will be at the discretion of the Head Coach. Visiting players may not wear any other association's apparel.

## DRUG TESTING POLICY PROCEDURES

All AK Grizzlies players are subject to drug testing up to and including random testing, blanket testing, and testing of individual players upon a request by the Head Coach or the designated Officer of the Association for any illegal drugs or alcohol. Testing shall be conducted by a licensed agency or physician according to that agency's or a physician's standard procedures. Selection for random testing shall be conducted by a licensed agency according to that agency's standard procedures.

Testing done through a licensed agency at the request of the Association shall be paid for by the Association. The licensed testing agency shall notify the Designated Office of the Association of the players selected. The Association's officer shall notify the Head Coach of the players selected and make a request for testing either through the player to the player's parent or directly to the player's parent. The player's parent shall facilitate the test and be responsible for having testing completed properly. Testing shall be done by **Alaska Monitoring and Drug Testing, 815 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Suite 205, Fairbanks, 907-374-8188.**

The selected player is required to take the test within 24 hours of notification and provide a clean undiluted test result to the Association's officer within five (5) business days of the first date of notification of selection for testing. The Association's officer shall report any failure to comply with the Association's drug testing policy to the Head Coach. Failure to comply with the Association's drug testing policy shall result in immediate suspension from the team and the Association.

Following a suspension for failure to comply with the Association's drug testing policy, a player may return to play only as follows:

- The player must present a drug free test result at his own expense before returning to play; and
- The player's Head Coach must consent to the player's return; and
- The player shall be subject to drug testing at his own expense every 30 days following reinstatement to the Association.

## TEAM FINANCES

It is not the responsibility of the team or the organization to subsidize individual players. All rostered players must pay their share of team budgeted expenses (i.e. ice fees, coaches fees, all transportation arranged for the team as a unit, other expenses determined necessary by team and/or coaches).

"No player shall be eligible to play for an Arctic Lions/Alaska Grizzlies team in any state championship tournament if that player is not current with their financial obligations to their team including having paid in full all prior financial obligations issued by the team's financial manager. In addition, no player shall be eligible to participate in any practice or game if any financial obligation is unpaid."

Per the Alaska State Hockey Association (ASHA), all players' financial obligations must be met prior to the end of the season. A release of financial obligation will not be given to a player to play hockey the following season in any member association if the player owes money for the previous season.

Hotel, team transportation and Coaches expenses will be based on the total number of players on the team and will be shared equally by all members of the team.

## **TEAM FUNDRAISING FOR "A" TEAMS**

All team parents will be required to work 2 shifts at either concession stands run by Arctic Lions/NAHA not to include Ice Dogs Beer Booth. You can elect to buy out of the requirement for a one-time fee of \$250 that must be paid prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season.

Each player is required to sell 3 Raffle books (1 for the association and 2 for team).

## **INDIVIDUAL FEES & REGISTRATION**

A try-out form signed by a parent or guardian, and a NON-REFUNDABLE try-out fee must be paid prior to the first team try-out date. The tryout fee must be paid at every age division, regardless of the number of tryouts the player attends. All players, including players joining the team during the course of the season, are expected to pay try-out fees.

### **Association Fee:**

In addition to tryout related fees, an athlete could expect to incur Association fee and it must be paid by all players including players joining the team during the course of the season upon registering for the team. This fee covers the following:

- ASHA Team registration; and
- Expenses for coach's state scheduling meeting; and
- ASHA board representative travel; and
- Association Christmas Event; and
- Special requests from individual teams;

### **Team Separation:**

If a player chooses to transfer to another team within the Association during the season, all team expenses must be paid to the current team through the end of the calendar month of separation. The player's individual player account money may be transferred AFTER all expenses incurred by the player have been paid to current team. Team fees will be due to the player's new team beginning the first of the month the player is part of that team.

If an athlete separates from the team, voluntarily or involuntarily, all monies due up to the end of the calendar month of separation must be paid - No refund of monies will be made. If fees are unpaid, the player will not be released.

## **FUNDRAISING, TEAM FUNDS & SPONSORSHIPS**

Team fundraisers and sponsorships are essential to cover team fees and reduce individual player expenses. If a Head Coach decides to hold a fundraiser, each player will be required to participate in each fundraiser or contribute a designated amount to the team fund. The Head Coach may choose to have any percentage of the monies raised beyond the designated minimum placed in individual player accounts (IPA's).

*Working at Ice Dog games is considered a TEAM fundraising effort and ALL players and parents are expected to participate.*

The Fundraising Coordinator for the organization must sanction all team fundraisers regarding legality and execution. It is not the responsibility of the fundraising coordinator to determine the financial viability of the proposed team fundraiser, which is the responsibility of the team finance manager.

Team funds are designated for the following:

- Ice fees; or
- Tournament entry fees; or
- Game fees (Scorekeepers, Referees, etc.); or
- 2 Coaches per diem each day, as broken down in the budget (breakfast \$10, Lunch \$15, Dinner \$25 - If hotel provides breakfast or if there are team meals while on the trip, those amounts will be deducted from the coach's per diem); or
- Air and ground transportation (1 car, unless team bus is used) for (2) two coaches; or
- Lodging for 2 coaches (1 room, up to 2 rooms if there is a gender difference in coaches); or
- Team warm-ups for up to 2 coaches;

### **INDIVIDUAL PLAYER ACCOUNTS (IPA'S)**

All athletes rostered on an Alaska Grizzlies teams will have an IPA established on their behalf as a means to collect and track any monies received by the individual athlete through designated fundraisers and personal contributions. Some examples are individual player sponsorships, contributions from relatives, incentives earned from sales of raffle tickets, or other fund-raisers.

IPA money can only be used to cover team related expenses including but not limited to:

- Air and ground transportation for players; or
- Lodging expenses for athletes; or
- Player meal per diem in the amount of \$50 per day on all out-of-town trips (per diem requests can be made after trip completion but MUST be given to the team Financial Manager within 5 days of trip completion) (breakfast \$10, Lunch \$15, Dinner \$25-if hotel provides breakfast or if there are team meals while on the trip, those amounts will be deducted from the total per diem); or
- Coaching fees, ice fees and other team fees; or
- Team fees owed but not yet paid transferred from the players IPA account to the team account by the Financial Manager; or
- End of season team celebration(s);

IPA money CANNOT be used for the purchase of tape, miscellaneous hockey equipment, hockey gear, or clothing. All money in the athlete's IPA account will revert back to the Association at the closure of the Association's fiscal year and will under no circumstance be refunded back to the athlete.

Per Alaska Statutes for non-profit organizations, all funds raised must be used for programmed services. Accordingly, all checks issued, including those issued against IPA's, will be issued upon "proper receipt" of expenses incurred, as outlined above (i.e. airline tickets, hotel accommodations, and gas). Checks may be issued prior to travel, but can only be made payable to hotels, travel agencies, airlines, etc., with the exception of per diem. Checks will be made payable to PLAYERS ONLY. Proper receipts must be turned in following the trip. You are NOT required to keep receipts for the \$50 per day meal allowance.

Each player has the opportunity to solicit player sponsorships. See association approved player sponsorship form located on the organization website.

## HEAD COACHES – AAA/AA

All coaches, including the Head Coach, must be registered through **USA Hockey** as a coach and have appropriate level USA Hockey Certification. All coaches, including the Head Coach, must pass Alaska State Hockey Association background screening, age appropriate USAH modules, USAH Safe Sport Screening.

### HEAD COACH RESPONSABILITIES

In addition to being properly certified with appropriate certification, module, and screening completion - Head Coaches are in charge and accountable for the following:

- Selecting assistant coach(es), manager, and finance manager with board approval.
- Ensuring their team exhibits appropriate behavior during all on and off-ice activities. When traveling, Head Coaches will be responsible for the ALL team members and functions according to the USA Hockey Travel policy.
- Attending all coaches meeting unless otherwise excused.
- Attending the annual ASHA League game meeting held in Anchorage the end of August each year.
- Providing on ice support for NAHA Advanced Skate events.
- Working directly with the association ice scheduler with regards to all ice matters. A coach scheduling ice directly through local rinks or other associations is prohibited.
- Becoming a Lions Club member by completing the required membership application.
- Ensuring that their team will not participate in any tournament scheduled at the same time as the **Alaska Selects Team** try outs.
- Complying with all Alaska State Hockey Association and USA Hockey rules and guidelines.
- Completing a satisfactory W-9 form.

### COACHING PAY

All coaches will receive an IRS Form 1099 at the end of the calendar year for coaching pay not to exceed \$6,000 per team. No position receiving money may OPT-OUT of their pay in lieu of using their monies to be directly applied to his/her player's expenses or other financial obligations. These services and/or positions are all considered taxable income per IRS rules.

## COACHING REIMBURSEMENT

There are certain items and fees that all coaches will incur during the season that the team reimburses with the proper submission of receipts and or completion of the items. Coaches reimbursable items from team may include:

- USA Hockey certification up to Level IV upon approval; or
- Modules cost; or
- Team Used Equipment per approved team itemized budget; or
- Background Screening and SafeSport fees; or

Air-fair, ground transportation, and per diem may only be collected from one team or it can be divided between two teams if the coach is coaching both teams and traveling together. All coaches are responsible for their own transportation costs if they are unable to travel with the pre-arranged team transportation.

Coaches will not be reimbursed for anything not contained on this list unless previously approved by the Board of Directors.

## COACHING COMMUNICATION

The Head Coach operates the team. The Head Coach's decisions concerning the game of hockey, i.e., positions, playing time, and team conduct are final. If their rules are broken, the Coach may suspend a player from the team. Decisions regarding team travel and other team activities should and will be made with the team's best interest in mind. Discussions with the Coach will be at his/her convenience and under calm and reasonable circumstances.

All Head Coaches report to the coaching coordinator. **Proper chain of command for discussions regarding coaching decision should be handled in the following order: 1. Head Coach; 2. Coaching Coordinator; 3. Board of Directors.**

# HEAD COACHES – A

All coaches, including the Head Coach, must be registered through **USA Hockey** as a coach and have appropriate level USA Hockey Certification. All coaches, including the Head Coach, must pass Alaska State Hockey Association background screening, age appropriate USAH modules, USAH Safe Sport Screening.

## HEAD COACH RESPONSABILITIES

In addition to being properly certified with appropriate certification, module, and screening completion, Head Coaches are in charge and accountable for the following:



- Selecting assistant coach(es), manager, and finance manager with board approval.
- Ensuring their team exhibits appropriate behavior during all on and off ice activities. When traveling, head coaches will be responsible for the team according to the [USA Hockey Travel policy](#).
- Attending all coaches meeting unless otherwise excused.
- Scheduling required minimum number of ASHA season games.
- Providing on ice support for NAHA Advanced Skate events.
- Working directly with the association ice scheduler with regards to all ice matters. Coaches scheduling ice directly through local rinks or other associations is prohibited.
- Becoming a Lions Club member by completing the required membership application.
- Ensuring that their team will not participate in any tournament scheduled at the same time as the **Alaska Selects Team** try outs.
- Complying with all Alaska State Hockey Association and USA Hockey rules and guidelines.
- Completing a satisfactory W-9 form.

## COACHING PAY

All coaches will receive an IRS Form 1099 at the end of the calendar year for Coaching Pay not to exceed \$3,000 per team. No position receiving money may OPT-OUT of their pay in lieu of using their monies to be directly applied to his/her player's expenses or other financial obligations. These services and/or positions are all considered taxable income per IRS rules.

## COACHING REIMBURSEMENT

There are certain items and fees that all coaches will incur during the season that the team reimburses with the proper submission of receipts and or completion of the items. Coaches reimbursable items from team may include:

- USA Hockey certification up to Level IV upon approval; or
- Modules cost; or
- Team Used Equipment per approved team itemized budget; or
- Background Screening and SafeSport fees;

Air-fair, ground transportation, and per diem may only be collected from one team or it can be divided between two teams if the coach is coaching both teams and traveling together. All coaches are responsible for their own transportation costs if they are unable to travel with the pre-arranged team transportation.

Coaches will not be reimbursed for anything not contained on this list unless it goes to the Board for approval.

## COACHING COMMUNICATION

The Head Coach operates the team. The Head Coach's decisions concerning the game of hockey, i.e., positions, playing time, and team conduct are final. If their rules are broken, the Coach may suspend a player from the team. Decisions regarding team travel and other team activities should and will be made with the team's best interest in mind. Discussions with the Coach will be at his/her convenience and under calm and reasonable circumstances.

All head coaches report to the coaching coordinator. **Proper chain of command for discussions regarding coaching decision should be handled in the following order: 1. Head Coach; 2. Coaching Coordinator; 3. Board of Directors.**

## TEAM MANAGER

All Team Managers, must be registered through [USAH](#) as a volunteer, must pass Alaska State Hockey Association background screening and [USAH Safe Sport Screening](#).

### TEAM MANAGER RESPONSABILITIES

Team managers are in charge and accountable for the following:

- Act as the primary point of contact for information between the Coach and team parents, ASHA Division Coordinator and Organization; and
- Work with Head Coach to facilitate parent and/or team meetings; and
- Work with the Coach regarding team scheduling. The coach is the only member of the team to work directly with the association ice scheduler; and
- In coordination with Association Registrar maintain the Team Roster and IT; and
- Maintain team credentials book (per USAH and ASHA guidelines). These guidelines will be provided to you at the start of each season; and
- Attend scheduled Team Manager's meetings; and
- Send application for necessary travel permits 45 days prior to travel out of state to association registrar; and
- Complete necessary entry forms and fees for tournaments the team will be attending; and
- Attend any required credentials meeting prior to tournaments; and
- Ensure all Team volunteer positions requiring contact with players are properly certified by USA Hockey volunteer registration, SafeSport certification and ASHA background screening and be verified by Association Registrar; and
- Ensure each player has read and signed the "Code of Conduct" form and retain a copy in the credentials book;

Team managers are also responsible for coordinating with the Head Coach to fill responsibilities for volunteer positions such as (but not limited to):

- Raffle Coordinator
- Clothing Coordinator
- Scorekeepers/Timekeepers Coordinator
- Penalty Box Attendants
- Referee Coordinator
- Travel Coordinator
- Website Coordinator
- Fundraising
- Dryland Coordinator

All Team Managers report to the Director of Managers & Administrators. **Proper chain of command for discussions regarding Team Manager decisions should be handled in the following order: 1. Head Coach; 2. Director of Managers 3. Board of Directors.**

## TEAM FINANCIAL MANAGER

Team Financial Managers, must be registered through [USAH](#) as a volunteer, must pass Alaska State Hockey Association background screening and [USAH Safe Sport Screening](#).

### TEAM FINANCIAL MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES

Team Financial managers are in charge and accountable for the following:

- Act as the primary point of contact for team financial information; and
- Work with the Coach and Team Manager regarding team finances; and
- Maintain team financials by direction of the Association Treasurer; and
- Collect monies owed (to include but not limited to): Parents, 50/50, Ice Dogs Beer Booth, Concessions and other teams; and
- Attend scheduled team Financial Manager meetings; and
- Disseminate team financial information as required to appropriate parties in a timely manner; and
- Acts as Team Manager in their absence; and
- All team expenses should be charged to the team account.

**May not serve as financial manager if seated as the association treasurer.**

All Team Financial Managers report to the Association Treasurer. **Proper chain of command for discussions regarding Financial Manager decisions should be handled in the following order: 1. Head Coach; 2. Association Treasurer 3. Board of Directors.**

## LOCKER ROOM MONITOR

Locker Room Monitor must be registered through [USAH](#) as a volunteer, must pass Alaska State Hockey Association background screening and [USAH Safe Sport Screening](#).

As per USAH rules and regulations, whenever players are present in the locker room, there must be at least one screened and SafeSport-trained adult present either in the locker room or near the door (within arm's length and so the monitor can sufficiently hear inside the locker room), frequently checking and communicating with the players so they understand they are being monitored.

Coaches can act as locker room monitor; however, we strongly encourage volunteer parents to fill this role to enable the coaches to focus on game or practice planning and preparation.

The designated locker room will only be opened once players arrive. If a single player is present, the locker room should be monitored by at least two adults until additional players arrive. If there is only one adult present, whether a coach or volunteer parent, they should wait for multiple players to arrive before allowing access to the locker room.

All Locker Room Monitors report to the Head Coach. **Proper chain of command for discussions regarding Locker Room Monitor decisions should be handled in the following order: 1. Head Coach; 2. Association SafeSport 3. Board of Directors.**

## ICE RULES & POLICY

The Association ice scheduler is the only person permitted to communicate with the rinks regarding inside and outside ice on behalf the Alaska Grizzlies when dealing with matters including buying additional ice, canceling ice, and selling or trading ice to other organizations. Using the skate rooms and attendants as a go-between to alter the team's schedules is prohibited. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach, or the contact person designated by the Head Coach, to work with the Association ice scheduler regarding all ice matters.

The Head Coach, or designated ice personnel on behalf of the Head Coach, must let the ice scheduler know if any changes or alternations are made to the teams assigned ice. Examples are, but not limited to:

- Converting practices to games/scrimmages; or
- Converting scrimmages/games to practices; or
- Transferring ice to a different team within the same organization; or
- Converting solo ice to shared ice with one or more teams; or
- Converting shared ice to a single team solo ice; or
- Scheduling ice for on and off ice team parties or events;

**Per USA Hockey rules - all practices, scrimmages, games, tournaments, jamborees, and team on and off ice special events must be sanctioned. Please contact your ice scheduler for information.**

### RINK RULES

Selling or trading ice between associations other than AL/NAHA is a direct violation of the rink contracts. Selling or trading ice to other associations must go through the rinks via their ice

schedulers. If a team is unable to keep its assigned ice it is the responsibility of the Head Coach or designated ice person to find another **AL or NAHA** team who can and notify the ice scheduler of the change. Under no circumstances is a team allowed to be a *NO SHOW*.

## **CANCELLATIONS**

Each rink has different cancellation policies and the number of days required before associations become liable for payment. Because of these rules, NAHA has its own cancellation policy to avoid being charged for canceled ice.

### **Polar Only:**

THURSDAY NIGHT ICE CAN NOT BE CANCELLED – NO EXCEPTIONS - If a team is unable to keep its assigned ice it is the responsibility of the Head Coach or designated ice person to find another AL or NAHA team who can and notify the ice scheduler of the change.

NAHA teams **must be present on every Thursday night sheet** - NO EXCEPTIONS – Polar will not permit changes or the altering of the season ice schedule, to include trading or selling ice to other associations. NAHA cancels any Thursday night sheets, Polar will bill the team plus have the right to resell the sheet. If canceling Thursday night ice happens too frequently Polar has the right to cancel all Thursday night ice for the remainder of the season.

## **ASSIGNMENT OF ICE**

The Head Coach or designated ice person will receive the team's ice assignments on the **1<sup>st</sup> of each month** for the upcoming month. (Oct 1<sup>st</sup> for Nov ice etc.) The Head Coach or designated ice person will have **10 days** to review and make changes to the team's schedule, i.e. add ice from the provided OPEN list, cancel ice, request ice that is not listed on the OPEN list etc. The Head Coach or designated ice person will have a **DEADLINE** on the **10<sup>th</sup> day of each month at 5 pm** to let the ice scheduler know their preferred monthly schedule. The schedule becomes "set" from that point forward. Coaches should consider the teams travel plans, family commitments, holidays, super bowl, etc. when determining ice for the upcoming month.

On the **15<sup>th</sup> of each month**, the ice scheduler will send each team's ice person the **FINAL** schedule for the upcoming month. Any cancellations from this point forward are not permitted without penalty to the team. The ice scheduler will return/cancel all unused and OPEN ice to the rinks on the **15<sup>th</sup> of each month** for the upcoming month. Only the designated team's ice person will receive these communications and **all communications must be via email** between ice scheduler and the designated ice person.

**The ice scheduler can alter or change a team's ice schedule as deemed necessary.**

Questions or concerns regarding all ice matters for NAHA should be directed to:

Karin Wolfe  
Ice Scheduler  
Northern Alaska Hockey Association  
[kwolfe@gci.net](mailto:kwolfe@gci.net)  
907-388-1922 Cell

# NORTHERN ALASKA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b>	Jack Tragis	<a href="mailto:j_tragis@yahoo.com">j_tragis@yahoo.com</a>	(907) 388-5210
<b>Vice President</b>	Jason Witt	<a href="mailto:coachjasonwitt@gmail.com">coachjasonwitt@gmail.com</a>	(907) 460-1925
<b>Secretary</b>	Shana Pilkinton	<a href="mailto:jandsp@gci.net">jandsp@gci.net</a>	(907) 378-8279
<b>Treasurer</b>	Andra Lozano	<a href="mailto:alozano@denalystatebank.com">alozano@denalystatebank.com</a>	(907) 750-7531
<b>Member at Large</b>	Jared Bounds	<a href="mailto:jaredbounds@hotmail.com">jaredbounds@hotmail.com</a>	(907) 987-2034
<b>Member at Large</b>	Nicole Valentine	<a href="mailto:lotstodo@gmail.com">lotstodo@gmail.com</a>	(907) 388-5190

Nominations for board seats are typically presented in March. New board members are voted into office by April. Installation of Officers takes place in June and new board members assume their duties in July.

## **Addendum 1.1-Play Up Policy**

If a parent requests their player to play up, they must email the NAHA Player Development Coordinator (NAHAPDC). The NAHAPDC and both respective age coaches will discuss the request and the NAHAPDC shall make a recommendation as to whether the request is in the best interest of the player and teams affected. The NAHAPDC's recommendation shall then be submitted to the Selection Committee for consideration of the effect on the entire organization before final approval.

It is the policy of the Alaska Grizzlies that each registered player will play in his/her age level as set forth by USA Hockey rules. However, individual requests to play-up may be considered by a Selection Committee, and reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The Alaska Grizzlies recognize that in certain situations it may be appropriate and/or beneficial to a player's development to play-up to the next age level. The Selection Committee will consider and evaluate a player's development potential in his/her actual age level versus potential for success in an older age level. The Committee will also consider the fine balance between the best interest of a player requesting to play-up and the organizations teams and players in both their actual age level, as well as older level.

A player requesting an opportunity to play-up must also register and try-out for his/her actual age level team, except for 8U aged player. Criteria for allowing a player to play-up will be based on the evaluation of the player's skill and ability to contribute to the older team, the player's emotional and physical maturity level compared to the older team's players, physical size and number of players at each level. The play-up player must be projected to be a dominant player on the older team.