

Kern County Hockey Club

Travis Blattenberg
President

P.O. Box 20873
Bakersfield, CA 93398-0873



EXECUTIVE BOARD
Rob Spinelli, 1st VP
Scott Royer, 2nd VP
Lisa Borgford, Registrar
Megan Anderson, Treasurer
Charlotte McKay, Secretary

2023-24 SEASON MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Member Code of Conduct and Responsibilities provides the players, parents, managers, and coaches a common reference regarding the expectations of conduct and responsibilities as a member of the Kern County Hockey Club (“KCHC” or “Club”).

All determinations regarding conduct and consequences thereof are at the sole discretion of the Kern County Hockey Club Executive Board, team Head Coach, and affected coaching staff.

1. We understand that this Club is governed by a volunteer Executive Board and Board of Directors and that, as such, the bylaws of the Kern County Hockey Club, SCAHA, CAHA, and USAH will be instituted, adhered to, and enforced at the appropriate level. We understand that these bylaws are available online, and we are responsible for reading and acknowledging them. We understand that any disputes must follow those processes outlined in the appropriate bylaws for that dispute and that any dispute that cannot be resolved within the appropriate guidelines can result in dismissal from the Club and would not be subject to a refund from the Club.
2. We fully recognize that we are role models to all players in the Kern County Hockey Club and will conduct ourselves within the rules and guidelines established by SCAHA, CAHA, USAH, and the Kern County Hockey Club. The Kern County Hockey Club has a Zero Tolerance Policy regarding unsportsmanlike, unprofessional, negative, or damaging conduct, communication, and behavior. We understand that it is our responsibility to ensure that players also understand the expectations. In all locations and situations where a club-related event is taking place, all members of the Kern County Hockey Club are expected to behave in a manner consistent with the sportsmanship and professionalism that USA Hockey and its affiliates, as well as the Kern County Hockey Club demand from their parents, players, coaches, spectators, and other members. Should an issue regarding unacceptable conduct be reported, disciplinary action may be taken, including but not limited to suspension from attending practices, games, scrimmages, tournaments, or other club-related events.
 - a. Verbal abuse of anyone by anyone is not tolerated at any time. This includes but is not limited to coaches, team managers, players, spectators, parents, visiting teams, officials, scorekeepers, board members, facility staff members, etc. Any verbal abuse or foul language reported as contrary to this policy will be subject to disciplinary action that could include removal from all events for part of or the entire season and removal from the club if the behavior is deemed severe or repetitive.
 - b. Verbal abuse includes negative communication, whether around the glass, in an email, a web chat board or page, a board meeting, etc. Negative communication is counter-productive and unnecessary in youth sports. It will be subject to the same disciplinary measures as any other offense contrary to the policies and expectations of the Kern County Hockey Club, USA Hockey, and its affiliates.
 - c. Physical abuse of anyone by anyone is not tolerated at any time. This includes the verbal threat of physical abuse or violence. Any instance of physical abuse or violence reported as contrary to this policy will be subject to disciplinary action that could include removal from all events for part of or the entire season and removal from the club.

- d. Any player, parent, or coach who is found to have, or uses illegal narcotics, alcohol, unauthorized prescription medication, steroids, or any other “mood altering” substances as defined in the USA Hockey Annual Guide Policy shall be immediately suspended from all activities pending a hearing by the Discipline Review Committee which may, in its judgment, expel the member and player from the Club, and refer the matter to SCAHA and CAHA who may take further disciplinary action if deemed necessary.
3. All governing boards and coaches will make popular and unpopular decisions. We understand that every member of the Kern County Hockey Club Executive Board, Board of Directors, and coaching staff act in the best interest of every member. We may not agree with every decision the governing board or coach makes, but we will respect those decisions and act accordingly. We also understand that if we believe decisions are made that are counterproductive, a meeting with the coach, team manager, Director of Coaches, and Director of Managers to discuss our concern can be scheduled. Should our concern not be addressed at that level, it may be referred by the Director of Coaches or Director of Managers to the Executive Board of the Kern County Hockey Club for further discussion and review.
4. We understand that all written and email communication to the Kern County Hockey Club members goes through the Executive Board and team managers.
5. We understand that the parent or legal guardian of the player is determined to be the “member” of the Club representing the player. As such, the parent/guardian is determined to be the designated party who represents the player should any need to address the Board, a coach, or a team manager arise.
6. We agree to keep our financial obligations to the Club and team current. In the event past due balances to the club or team become delinquent in or after the playing year, our name will be reported to SCAHA for placement on their delinquent list, and our child will be unable to tryout for, or play for any SCAHA, CAHA, or USA Hockey sanctioned team or event, until such a time that the past due balance is paid in full and SCAHA and CAHA have been notified. We understand that no refunds or discounts will be considered once the contract documents are signed.
7. In addition to the Club registration fees and dues, as outlined in the registration forms, we understand that our child has paid to learn the skills and concepts associated with the sport of ice hockey and that we have not paid for guaranteed playing time for our child. The Kern County Hockey Club coaching staff is committed to developing player skills, and during competitive games ice times will be determined at the coach's discretion. We understand that our child is expected to attend every game and practice regardless of competitive game ice time.
8. We understand that the home and away ice schedule is not negotiable. Our child is expected to attend every game and practice regardless of the ice time slot assigned to that activity.
9. All practices and games are mandatory. We will make every reasonable effort to have our child attend all the scheduled practices and games. If our child cannot attend a practice or a game, the team manager and head coach must be notified before the start of the practice or game, and acknowledgment must be received.
10. Parents and players agree that playing ice hockey is a privilege. Parents may feel it appropriate to limit their child's participation in ice hockey activities if responsibilities such as school work or family matters are not being met. Should this occur, parents are expected to proactively discuss this with the team manager and head coach and attempt to come to a resolution that does not negatively impact the player or the team.
11. We will leave the coaching to the coaching staff and not interfere with or undermine the coaches at any time. We will avoid excessive yelling and coaching our child during practices and games. Unnecessary participation, pressure on any child, or negative commentary regarding any player or coach will not be tolerated. We will keep any negative comments to any individual player or coach to ourselves. Disciplinary action may result in failure to comply.

12. If we have concerns or questions about our child's status regarding their team, we will follow the process described below to understand the situation.
 - a. No discussion is to take place relating to coaching decisions with the coaching staff for at least 24 hours following the game or practices at which the incident is up for discussion has taken place. Disciplinary action may result in failure to comply.
 - b. Parents will communicate through the team manager to set up a meeting with the coach or Executive Board regarding all hockey-related issues. The team manager will direct all parent concerns to the team head coach. The head coach may respond directly to the parent or through the team manager. However, the team manager will participate in all communications between parents and coaches.
 - c. The coaches are not obligated to explain or defend their decisions, philosophies, or determinations. Topics such as playing time, line combinations, and positions are not up for argument or discussion. The coaches are entrusted by this organization to develop players according to the expectations of USA Hockey guidelines and to formulate competitive criteria that maximize the opportunities for each team to be successful. Should a parent have continued concerns regarding a coach's philosophies, a meeting with the team manager should be requested, and the above protocol should be followed.
 - d. In the event a parent removes a player from a competition site during competition without the knowledge and approval of the head coach and the team manager, Kern County Hockey Club will consider that player to have resigned from the Club, and all remaining money will become due and payable at that time.
13. Parents are not allowed in the player's dressing room at any time per Safesport guidelines. Coaches, team managers, and the assigned locker room attendant will be Safesport certified before the start of the season. All dressing rooms (home and away) will be left clean and orderly, and any damage will be reported to the facility staff members.
14. Any player wishing to obtain a temporary release to play with another organization during the SCAHA season must submit a Request for Temporary Release at least 21 days before the game or tournament in question. No exceptions will be made to this policy. Any parent, coach, or team manager acting outside of this policy could face suspension or release from KCHC. No release will be approved for a Kern County Hockey Club player to play in a playing level lower than their current division and level (i.e., A 12u A player may play with a 12u AA team but may not play for a 12u BB or B team.) All fees associated with processing the temporary release are the responsibility of the person requesting the release.

Contract will be signed electronically through TeamSnap.