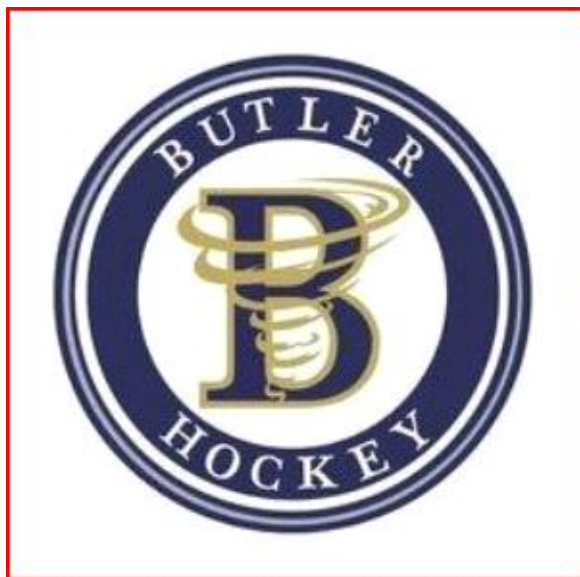


# **BUTLER GOLDEN TORNADO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

## **PLAYER/ PARENT HANDBOOK**



### **2017-18 SEASON**

Revision dates:

Revised May 2017- Approved by the BGTHA Board of Directors May 17, 2017

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## **FOREWORD**

Welcome to the Butler Golden Tornado Hockey Association (BGTHA). Thank you for making the decision to play for the Golden Tornado for the forth coming season. This handbook will cover the rules and guidelines in which all the members of Butler Golden Tornado Hockey must adhere to in order to participate in our Association.

This handbook includes not only rules and guidelines from the Butler Golden Tornado Hockey Association, but also the Butler Area School District, PIHL, Mid-Am Hockey, and USA Hockey Associations respectively. Please take the time to go through and read this handbook and become familiar with its contents so that your participation is not impacted at any time during the year.

There are three essential parts to developing and improving your hockey skills. First, you must have a training program that is challenging, covering all the fundamentals needed to improve your hockey skills. Second, you need coaches with the experience and enthusiasm to help each individual player develop to his or her potential. The third and most important part is you, the athlete, willing and receptive to learning the skills that are presented to you. For the athlete we stress that the development of your character and life skills are equally important as the development of your hockey skills. We promote to our athletes that a positive attitude, good work ethic, strong character and an underlying determination towards succeeding in hockey and life are some of the characteristics that you will need to succeed in anything that you do.

Good luck in everything you do.

Butler Golden Tornado Hockey Board of Directors

## OBJECTIVES

To build and provide a competitive hockey program to represent the Butler Area School District and community. The program will focus and stress fundamentals and values that can be used in all future endeavors through:

- Commitment
- Dedication
- Perseverance
- Positive Attitude
- Sportsmanship
- Teamwork

### Team Objectives

- **Varsity:** Play to win, Ice time earned
- **Junior Varsity:** More competitive, get players ready for varsity. While playing time is equal for the most part, the coach has a right to run a power play or penalty kill. Those who are more advanced may get more ice time during this. Also, at the end of a game the coach can go for a win.
- **Freshmen/Middle School:** Considered developmental. Develop skills, stress fundamentals, install program basic strategies, also, the end of a game the coach can go for a win. Those who are more advanced may get more ice time during this.

## SEASON FEES

The season is defined as the June 1 – January 1. The Season Fee amount is in addition to the Tryout Fees, Cost of Uniforms if needed, the USA Hockey Fees, and any Mandatory Fundraisers. It doesn't include playoffs or tournaments.

Ice fees will vary from team to team (Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Freshmen/Middle School). This year's fees includes professional coaching, all practices, PIHL regular season scheduled games, PIHL league fees, rink ice fees, off-ice training, and other operational expenses. Season fees are also calculated based on a minimum player roster in accordance to PIHL and USA Hockey guidelines. All positions within the BGTH Association are on a volunteer basis, excluding paid coaches, and have no impact on your fee. Please refer to the following guidelines in regards to fee remittance.

- Player fees are to be paid in a timely manner. Please see section below, titled, 'Payment Installment Dates.'
- All accounts must be paid in full by January 31, 2018.
- Any family experiencing financial difficulties must immediately contact the treasurer to make arrangements for payment. Failure to do so can result in suspension from all Butler Hockey Activities including practices and games.

- Season Fees are non-refundable.
- Season Fees will not be prorated due to player injury or inability to participate. This Enables us to keep our fees as low as possible.

### **2017-18 Season Fees**

Varsity Fee: \$2100 (including call ups)

-Varsity Goalie- \$1050

Junior Varsity Fee: \$1800

-JV Goalie- \$900

Freshman/Middle School Fee: \$1100

-MS Goalie- \$800

#### Costs not included in the Season Fees

- Player (and parent/guardian) travel expenses for off-ice training, practices, scrimmage games, regular season games, tournaments, and post-season games,
- Scrimmage game referee and EMT fees,
- Uniform jerseys, socks, shells, helmet, and all other required protective ice hockey equipment,
- Nutrition meals for after games (if applicable).

#### **Tryout Fee**

A separate check of \$75.00 is required for a tryout fee and must be turned in along with the commitment check (see below) for the player to go on the ice. No part of the tryout fee will be refunded if one or more of the sessions is missed. No part of the tryout fee will be returned if a player does not accept the team he/she is assigned to. No part of the tryout fee will be returned if a player does not make a team.

#### **Commitment Fee**

A \$300 Commitment Check will be collected at the first tryout session or when joining a team. It is to be paid in a separate check from the Tryout Fee. The Commitment Fee will be held until tryouts are completed and the player has been notified of their team placement. When a player receives notification, the player may take up to 24 hours to accept or reject the placement. If the player accepts the placement, the Commitment Check will be deposited and becomes nonrefundable. It will not be refundable thereafter even if you subsequently withdraw from the team at any later time. If the player declines the placement, the Commitment Check will be destroyed after notification of

the refusal unless you submit a self-addressed stamped envelope. Twenty-four hours after notification if the player has failed to respond, the check will be deposited and become nonrefundable. By accepting a position on a team, you are obligated to pay the entire Season Fee and the Commitment Fee will be deducted from the total team season fee for each player.

### **Multiple Player Discount**

All discounts including goalie discounts, family discounts, etc. will be taken at the end of the season as they do not apply until the player(s) has played the full season. Please see the goalie discount listed in the season fees. The family discount is \$200 given to additional players in the family.

### **Payment Options**

BGTH Association wants to continue to extend to its members the option of paying the Season Fee in installments and at the same time protect the financial stability of its hockey program. To do so, the BGTH Association must ensure its ability to collect overdue amounts from all those participating. ACCORDINGLY, IN THE EVENT YOU FAIL TO MAKE ANY PAYMENTS REQUIRED BY THIS AGREEMENT AND THE PAYMENT REMAINS UNPAID AFTER RECEIPT OF TWO WRITTEN NOTICES FROM BGTH DEMANDNG THE PAYMENT, YOU AGREE THAT BGTH ASSOCIATION MAY COMMENCE PROCEEDINGS BEFORE A DISTRICT JUSTICE OR MAGISTRATE TO COLLECT THE UNPAID AMOUNT, OBTAIN A JUDGMENT FOR SUCH AMOUNT PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS, AND EXECUTE ON SUCH JUDGMENT ALL LAWFUL MEANS.

\*\*\*All Payment Checks should be made payable to BGTH. \*\*\*

Please indicate the name of the team on the Memo line of the check.

Send checks to: Butler Golden Tornado Hockey P.O. Box 1796 Butler, PA 16003-1796

OR

Checks can be placed in the locked slotted mail box located at the Ice Connection in the pro shop, right to your right as you walk through the door.

Beginning for the 2017-18 season, Butler Golden Tornado Hockey Association will now accept online payments. If you wish to pay by credit card, before the first payment is due (except commitment fee) there will be a program on the web site which can be used to pay the monthly payments. Once you sign up, all payments will be charged automatically on the 1st of each month. You can opt to make a onetime credit card payment of any amount and then, if you want, make another payment of any amount.

Paying for the tryout process by credit card does not sign you up to pay the season fees by credit card.

### **Online Payments**

The Butler Golden Tornado Hockey Association has decided to accept online account payments. All online payments will be charged a fee equal to 2.9% of your payment amount plus a \$.30 transaction fee. If you chose to make online payments, your final invoice will reflect all the fees assessed to your account and will need to be paid in full with your final payment.

### **Payment Installment Dates**

Varsity Player:

- Due dates are the first of each month (6/1, 7/1, 8/1, 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1/2018): \$225 each month

Varsity Goalie:

- Due dates are the first of each month (6/1, 7/1, 8/1, 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1/2018): \$93.75 each month

Junior Varsity Player:

- Due dates are the first of each month (6/1, 7/1, 8/1, 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1/2018): \$187.50 each month

Junior Varsity Goalie:

- Due dates are the first of each month (6/1, 7/1, 8/1, 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1/2018): \$75.00 each month

Freshman/Middle School Player:

- Due dates are the first of each month (6/1, 7/1, 8/1, 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1/2018): \$100.00 each month

Freshman/Middle School Goalie:

- Due dates are the first of each month (6/1, 7/1, 8/1, 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1/2018): \$62.50 each month



## **Returned Checks**

The Butler Golden Tornado Hockey Association reserves the right to not accept personal checks following a returned check due to NSF. All checks returned by the bank unpaid for any reason will be charged a fee equal to the fee charged by the bank to BGTH. The player is responsible to make the returned check good and also to pay the returned check fee. If it is determined that BGTH Association can no longer accept personal checks, BGTH Association reserves the right to require that future payments be made by cash, Cashier's check, or money order.

## **Delinquent Accounts**

If you are unable to make a required payment to BGTH Association, you must contact the treasurer to determine a mutually acceptable payment schedule. In the event you fail to make two scheduled payments on time without contacting the Treasurer you agree that your player will not be permitted to participate in any practices, games, or other BGTH Association activities until the required payments are made, as noted in the No Pay, No Play policy. Since BGTH Association is now accepting credit cards, payments must be made on a regularly scheduled basis and anyone with an extension will be expected to make their adjusted payment via credit card if necessary. If payments are not made, you agree that BGTH may notify governing organizations of hockey (USA Hockey, Mid-Am, PIHL) of any failure by you to make a required payment. Also, if the player still has an outstanding balance by January 31, 2018, and/or at the time of the following season try-outs, the BGTH Association reserves the right to enact the No Pay, No Play policy and he/she will not be allowed to register and/or try-out for any BGTH Association team. BGTH Association also reserves the right to pursue any/all collection avenues for any account in arrears at any time once all efforts have been exhausted and agreements broken.

## **No Pay, No Play Policy**

If a player is 2 months in arrears in payments, the player will not be permitted to play or practice with their team unless alternate payment arrangements are made with the Treasurer. If it is determined that on-time payment has not been made by a BGTH Association player; the No Pay, No Play takes effect and the delinquent family will be notified. Payment must be received by the player's next scheduled ice slot, or the player will not be allowed to skate until the bill is brought current, or arrangements have been made. If that arrangement has been broken for any reason, BGTH Association reserves the right to invoke the No Pay, No Play policy.

## **Additional costs- Uniform Payment**

Uniforms are not included in the season fees. Upon ordering of any component of the uniform, a check shall be made out to the organization for the full cost of the uniform/component of the uniform.

Seniors: Any infractions at the end of the season as assigned by the PIHL that cannot be served due to graduation by the player are assessed by the PIHL a charge of \$250. The fine is the responsibility of the player and will be assessed and paid by the player, as outlined in the Financial Responsibility Agreement.

## **Fundraisers**

Players are responsible to participate in 2 fundraising events each year- Cow Patty Bingo and Pens ticket raffle. Additional mandatory fundraisers are at the discretion and determination of the Board.

## **PLAYER CALL-UP POLICY, GUIDELINES AND RULES**

### **Call – Up Policy**

Butler Golden Tornado Hockey Association (BGTH) will select players for their Junior Varsity and Varsity hockey team(s). Players for these teams will consist of students who are enrolled in the Butler Area School District in grades from 9th-12th.

During the hockey season, the Varsity coaches may utilize players from the Junior Varsity team(s) as call-ups for the Varsity team. Eligible players will include those who are enrolled in the current school year and are in good academic standing. The call-ups will have the opportunity to attend practice and/or dress for Varsity game(s) based upon a variety of factors, including but not limited to the players individual development and team strategy. These call-up players will have the opportunity to practice and/or play with the Varsity team until the need for such player no longer exists.

The calling-up of players will be at the request of the Varsity head coach in cooperation with the Junior Varsity head coach. The BGTH Board Registrar requires 48 hours' notice of any non-rostered call-ups, with exception to emergencies. Failure to comply with notification time-frame could result in/up to game/s forfeiture, fine, and suspension of coach by the PIHL, and USA Hockey. The BGTH board also reserves the right to suspend the coach by applying PIHL Rules. No call-up is official or active until the BGTH Registrar has received approval from USA Hockey and has notified the BGTH President, VP's, and affected coaches of the teams. It is to be understood that any player requested to play up has the choice to accept or decline the request for any reason without reprisal. **It is also understood that being called up to a Varsity team for a game or practice does not guarantee the call up players' ice time.**

A player on the Junior Varsity team(s) that has the opportunity to dress for at least 10 PIHL Varsity games is eligible for a Varsity letter by league policy and by the policy of BGTH. Such player would be assessed an additional fee equivalent to the difference between Junior Varsity and Varsity cost for the season (if, for example, Varsity fees were \$2,100.00 and JV-1 fees were \$1,800.00, the player would be required to pay an additional \$300.00 after they participate in their 10th Varsity PIHL game). This policy is based upon the benefit of additional practices and games (by playing both Junior Varsity and Varsity).

Players can only be called up to the next team level and may not jump 2 team levels at one time per PIHL rules. For example, a player from JV2 could not bypass JV1 to be called up to Varsity (Goalies excluded). That player would have to be called up to JV1, then to Varsity.

## **Guidelines and Rules**

These guidelines and rules are meant to be all inclusive and thus include summer leagues, extended season, regular season, tournaments, practices, and events when players represent Butler Golden Tornado Hockey and when they are under the direction of its approved coaching staff.

Please note that the coaches, with Board approval, may alter these guidelines for summer league play, especially with such areas as the dress code and mandatory attendance. Players will be notified if changes have been made.

- Proper attire is to be worn to games (Varsity, JV and Freshmen/Middle School) Dress shirt and tie, dress or khaki pants, and dress shoes. No jeans, t-Shirts, tennis shoes, sandals, flip-flops, or hats.
- Players are to report on time for all scheduled on and off ice activities and to report to the locker room at the coach's designated time prior to scheduled events. (If a situation arises where that commitment cannot be met, please notify your Coach or Team Manager).
- **Unexcused absences from practices or games** will result in disciplinary action pending further review: (1 period - 1 game suspension) at the discretion of the coaching staff. (An unexcused absence is any absence that has not been reported to the coaching staff prior to that scheduled event).
- Players must wear all required equipment during practices and games in accordance with the safety standards set forth in the PIHL Playing Rules 3.7 (See below). Equipment must be USA Hockey approved.

## **THIS INCLUDES NECK GUARDS AND MOUTH GUARDS FOR ALL PRACTICES AND GAMES!**

### **PIHL Rule 3.7 Protective Equipment:**

All players shall wear the following protective equipment at all times upon leaving the locker room. The only exceptions are:

- Helmets shall be removed during the playing of the National Anthem and
- A glove may be removed during the handshake. It shall be the responsibility of the coaches to enforce this rule. (Note: This includes during warm-ups and during the handshake after the game.)

All protective equipment **shall be designed for use specifically for ice hockey**. All equipment for players and goalkeepers shall conform to size specifications and be subject to measurement consistent with USA Hockey Playing Rules.

Required protective equipment includes the following:

3.7. A. Skaters (other than Goalkeepers):

3.7. A.1. HECC approved hockey helmet.

3.7. A.2. HECC approved face shield/mask.

3.7. A.3. Padded hockey pants or shell and girdle pads.

3.7. A.4. Protective cup and supporter (for male players only).

3.7. A.5. Shin pads.

3.7. A.6. Elbow pads.

3.7. A.7. Shoulder pads.

3.7. A.8. Skates with safety heel tips.

3.7. A.9. Gloves.

3.7. A.10. Internal colored (non-clear) mouthpiece, specified in USA Hockey Rule 304.

3.7. A.11. An "unaltered" throat guard.

3.7. A.12. Other equipment as required by USA Hockey.

- Players are to conduct themselves as adults while representing their team, BGTH, and the Butler Area School District.
- Disruptive behavior, profanity, horseplay, bench misconduct and harassment are NOT permitted. The head coach shall determine when such behavior is serious enough to warrant disciplinary action.
- Fighting is not permitted among team members, opposing team players, or spectators inside or outside of the ice arena. The head coach shall determine when such behavior is serious enough to warrant disciplinary action.
- Hazing or any form of player initiation (commonly known as hazing) is not permitted. (ex. Helmets & Gloves) If, after a thorough investigation under the direction of the head coach and the BGTH Board, it has been determined that hazing has occurred, the player and his parents must present a statement to the BGTH Board regarding the incident before any final action is taken. Because hazing is viewed as a very serious offense involving the welfare and safety of other players, the penalty may range from long term suspension (e.g., up to 10 games) to dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season.
- Bullying: BGTHA has a zero tolerance policy for bullying and will follow the school district disciplinary policy on bullying. If a player bullies another player or teammate, there will be repercussions. The player can be suspended from the team, games or removed from the roster. A special board meeting will be held if such an issue occurs.

- Theft or abuse of locker rooms, arena property, league property, or any other personal property is not permitted. After an investigation has been completed and if such an act has occurred the parents will be held liable for restitution and the player will assessed a suspension.
- **Use of photo or video taking devices is prohibited from the locker room. (This includes camera phones)**

### **Prohibition of Anabolic Steroids**

1. Prohibition of Anabolic Steroids. You are prohibited from using anabolic steroids, except when prescribed by a physician for a valid medical purpose. Bodybuilding, muscle enhancement, increasing muscle enhancement, increasing muscle bulk or strength or the enhancement of athletic ability is not a valid medical purpose. Violation will fall under the Butler Area School District guidelines. Any pupil directly or indirectly involved in a school-related athletic program is prohibited from using anabolic steroids, except for a valid medical purpose. Bodybuilding, muscle enhancement, increasing muscle enhancement, increasing muscle bulk or strength or the enhancement of athletic ability is not a valid medical purpose.

Violation of this policy concerning anabolic steroids will mean:

- For a first violation, as reported to and verified by the districts school physician, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season.
- For a second violation, as reported to and verified by the district's school physician, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season and for the following season.
- For a third violation, as reported to and verified by the district's school physician, permanent suspension from school athletics. No student shall be eligible to resume participation in school athletics unless there has been a medical determination that no residual evidence of steroids exists. The Board may require participation in a drug counseling, rehabilitation, testing or other program as a condition of reinstatement into a school athletic program.

### **Alcohol or Illegal/Narcotic drugs**

As a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League, BGTH shall follow its rules (PIHL Playing Rule 8.1, See below) in regards to possession or use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal or narcotic drugs. BGTH's responsibility shall be to enforce the rules as assessed and as directed by the PIHL officials, including the league's directives regarding suspensions pending hearings and the like.

Although the PIHL rules apply to its league's games or any other league sanctioned or tournament games, BGTH has determined that it shall also apply these same situations and circumstances for any other games including summer league, playoffs, regular season, tournaments, practices, and events in which the players represent the Butler

Golden Tornado Hockey and when they are under the direction of its approved coaching staff, and/or person/s under the direction of the BGTH Board of Directors.

- Any participant found under the influence of alcohol or illegal narcotic drugs of any kind shall be immediately ejected from the game or practice or event and suspended from BGTH ice hockey for the remainder of BGTH's Association's fiscal year (June 1- May 31— no refunds).
- Any participant found to have in his or her possession alcoholic beverages or illegal narcotic drugs within the confines of the arena- - before, during or after a game, practice or event shall not be permitted to participate in any further BGTH ice hockey activities for the remainder of BGTH's fiscal year (June 1-May 31— no refunds).
- **Any participant found using any type of tobacco products** on or within the confines of the arena property-- before, during or after a game, practice or event – shall be suspended for the remainder of the activity and for the next scheduled game.

**Upon verification by the respective head coach of each team that this rule has been violated, the head coach shall:**

- Immediately notify the board president or one of the vice presidents who in turn will notify the other board members.
- Further investigate the matter and make a full report to the board.
- If the facts are substantiated, immediately suspend the player from all activities associated with BGTH hockey and written notification will be issued as to the term of the suspension.

All discipline (including practice suspensions) and game suspensions imposed by BGTH shall be shall be handled in accordance with the Bylaws of BGTH. See, Article 12, Section 8.

**PIHL Playing Rule 8.1: Condition of Players, Team, and League Officials** Condition of Participants: The following rule applies to all league games and any sanctioned or tournament games (including State Play-offs, All-Stars, or Team Pittsburgh).

8. I.A. Any participant, which includes players, team officials or league officials, found under the influence of: or found to have in their possession, alcohol or illegal narcotic drugs of any kind before, during, or immediately after a game, shall be immediately ejected from the game. He/she shall be automatically suspended from the League pending a hearing in front of the League Discipline Board.

8. I.B. Any participant, which includes players, team officials, or league officials, found using any type of tobacco product within the confines of the arena before, during, or immediately after a game shall be suspended for the remainder of the game. He/she shall be automatically suspended from the League pending a hearing in front of the League Discipline Board.

## **Season Ending Infractions**

For suspensions that cannot be carried-over to the next hockey season the Player will not be permitted to attend the hockey banquet or be eligible to receive any player awards or gifts. Any refunds due to the player will be retained by BGTH not to exceed the amount for any season-ending fines to the player and, if this amount does not cover the total costs, the player will be assessed the full costs of any penalties.

**Reminder to Seniors: USA Hockey rules are also in effect for such incidents and may result in ice hockey sanctions after high school graduation.**

## **TEAM ACADEMIC AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

### **Academic & Eligibility Requirements**

- A student must be enrolled in a school and be in full time attendance. Attendance policies will be the same as those required by the Butler Area School District. Notification is to be made immediately to the registrar if the player changes schools (i.e. changes from school district to another school district, changes to home school, charter school, Cyber School, etc.)
- You **MUST** be in school before 10:45 a.m. to be eligible to practice, compete or tryout on that given day. Exceptions can only be made by the building principal or his/her designee and prior notice must be given whenever possible.
- If you are suspended from school, in or out, you are **NOT** eligible to practice or compete until the suspension is concluded: the duration of the suspension will include weekends and vacation days (example: if you are suspended Friday and including the following Monday, you are not eligible to compete or practice that Saturday or Sunday during that weekend.
- You **MUST** be passing at least four full-credit subjects of the equivalent as of each Friday during the grading period or the previous grading period. If you fail to fail to meet this requirement, you will lose your eligibility for the following Sunday through Saturday. You will remain ineligible until you meet this requirement. If it is from the preceding grading period, you will be ineligible for a period of 15 days.
- If you are absent from school during a semester for a total of 20 or more school days, you will lose your eligibility until you are in attendance for a total of 45 school days following your 20th day of absence. This carries over to the next semester, even after summer. Regardless of the reason, when you are not present in school, this absence counts towards the 20 days.
- A Student must be under nineteen years of age at the time of the contest, unless the nineteenth birthday occurs on or after July 1st of the current school year. In this case the student is eligible for the balance of the school year.

- Semester eligibility begins when the student enters ninth grade for the first time. A Student is only eligible for 8 consecutive semesters throughout their 9th through 12th grade history.
- A player must be in good financial standing with BGTH Association to be eligible to compete.
- Concussion Testing: A player must have a current concussion baseline test in accordance with PIHL regulations and have signed the BGTH Association's form stating as such.
- A player cannot be on the ice for tryouts, practice or games without a parent or guardian completing a consent form and having a current USA Hockey registration.

### **Varsity Players –**

Additional student-athlete academic requirements are outlined in the Butler Hockey Player Development Program (PDP).

They are as follows:

- Student-athletes must develop at least one written academic goal for each term using the 'S.M.A.R.T. Goals' format II.
- Student-athletes must attend no less than 2 team study-hours sessions per month

Varsity players that fail to meet the PDP's academic standards will be required, with the assistance of Butler Hockey's Academic Advisor, to develop a personalized written academic plan that will outline their strategies to achieve sufficient academic marks in the following term.

### **Electronic Communications Policy**

As part of Butler Golden Tornado Hockey (BGTH) Association emphasis on safety, communications involving any participant, and especially our minor participants, should be appropriate, productive, and transparent. Effective communication concerning travel, practice or game schedules, and administrative issues among coaches, administrators, players and their families is critical. However, the use of mobile devices, web-based applications, social media, and other forms of electronic communications increases the possibility for improprieties and misunderstandings and also provides potential offenders with unsupervised and potentially inappropriate access to participants. The improper use of social media, mobile and electronic communications can result in misconduct. Adherence to the Electronic Communications Policy helps reduce these risks.

All electronic communication between coach and player should be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Coaches, players, and all team personnel must follow common sense guidelines regarding the volume and time of day of any allowed electronic communication. All content between coaches and players



could be shared with the public or families of the player or coach and are, thus, “non-personal in nature” as the phrase is used in this policy. If the player is under the age of 18, any email, text, social media, or similar communication may also copy or include the player’s parents.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, BGTH Association also understands that there will be times when communication, in any form of electronic communication, may be considered “personal in nature” and not related to team activities is necessary between the coach and player. Coaches, players and all team personnel must follow common sense guidelines regarding the content, volume, and time of day of any electronic communication.

### **Social Media**

Coaches are discouraged from having players joined to or connected through their personal Facebook page or any other similar social media application. To facilitate communication, an official BGTH Association or team page may be set up and players and parents may join (i.e., “friend”) the official BGTH Association or team page and coaches can communicate to players through that site. All electronic communication of any kind between coach and player, including use of social media, should be non-personal in nature, and may include the parents of the participant and be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team oriented motivational purposes.

**Email, Text Messaging and Similar Electronic Communications** Coaches, team managers, and players may use email and text messaging to communicate. All email and text message content between coaches/team managers and players should be non-personal in nature and be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Emails and text messages from a coach or team manager to any minor participant may include a copy to the player’s parents. Where possible, a coach should be provided and use the BGTH Association web site email center (the coach’s return email address will contain “@Association.com”) for all communications with the team, players, and player’s parents, where applicable.

### **Request to Discontinue All Electronic Communication or Imagery with Athlete**

Following receipt of a written request by the parents/guardians of a minor player that their player is not to be contacted through any form of electronic communication by coaches or other adults in the program, the local program, team, coaches and administrators shall immediately comply with such request without any repercussions for such request.

**Locker Room Cell Phone, Camera Phone, and/or Recording Device Policy** All recording devices are discouraged in the locker room, including cell phones and

cameras. **Absolutely NO picture taking or recording is permitted in the locker room.** It is the responsibility of the locker room monitor to collect and safeguard any cell phones or other recording as necessary to protect the players.

## **COACH AND PARENTAL CONDUCT**

Any parent, guardian or responsible individual in charge of a player who abuses, either verbally or physically, a player, coach, game official, minor official, parent or spectator could result in the PIHL and or BGTH issuing permanent disbarment from future games. USA Hockey rules require a 24 hour “cooling off” period before contacting a coach after a game. If there is a disagreement or dispute between coaches, players and/or parents initial concerns should be directed to the Vice President of Players, which will lead to the following course of action:

- VP of Players & VP of coaches will consult with coach/coaches in hopes of coming to a resolution.
- If necessary coach/coaches and the Board will convene to determine course of action.
- Parents and players have the right to appeal any disciplinary action before the BGTH board.

### **Allow Coaches to Coach**

Accept and respect the decision of the coaches to allocate ice time. Ice time is a privilege and the team member will earn that privilege by their attitude and hard work. Equal ice time is not guaranteed nor should it be expected. Coaches reserve the right to remove a player, or players, from any BGTH function if player’s conduct is deemed to be detrimental or disruptive.

### **24 Hour Rule**

Do not approach or contact a coach to discuss your concerns related to game or practice events until 24 hours after a game or practice. It is highly recommended that you contact a coach via e- mail or phone after the 24 hour “cooling off period” to discuss your issue. In this way, your issue can be discussed more privately and candidly. Many times as parents we see our children in a different light and this policy is to allow a “cooling off period” for all parties. If a parent or guardian refuses to follow this policy, an immediate suspension of their player may occur, including all games, practices and team functions, subsequent to a disciplinary hearing before the BGTH Board of Directors.

### **Coaching Concerns**

Concerns regarding the coaching staff should be addressed to the BGTH VP of Coaches via the BGTH Dispute Resolution Policy. Should there be a need for additional

discussion or resolution, the BGTH Board will take the matter under advisement and provide a ruling.

### **Board Decisions**

All decisions made by the BGTH Board of Directors are final. Failure to abide by or cooperate with the decisions of the BGTH Board of Directors may result in disciplinary action up to and including player suspension or dismissal; no refunds will be given for any reason. The Board will designate the time frame for the dismissal or suspension.

### **Appeals**

In the event that a ruling is made by the PIHL that affects a player or coach the following steps are to be followed to submit an appeal:

- Request an appeal form and fill out the form, including a written detailed description, explaining the reason for requesting an appeal.
- Attend the regularly scheduled monthly board meeting or during the regular season contact a board member to request a special board meeting. The Butler Golden Tornado Hockey Board usually meets once per month at various locations in the Butler Area. The meeting location is posted on the website and is based on availability during the off-season.
- Formally present the appeal request at the board meeting.

Failure to present the appeal will result in no action by the board. The board will discuss the merit of the appeal. If the appeal is approved to proceed it will be submitted to the PIHL by the President or Registrar.

## **ACADEMIC AND VARSITY AWARDS**

### **Academic Awards**

The BGTH Association recognizes the importance of academics and recognizes our student athletes at the year-end banquet. Awards are given according to the current year GPA as of March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Gold: 4.0+

Silver: 3.5- 3.99

Bronze: 3.0- 3.49

## **Varsity Awards**

The following criteria must be met by each Varsity player in order to qualify for a Varsity Letter as a member of the Butler Hockey team.

- A player must have participated in one half (1/2) of the regular season, P.I.H.L. scheduled, Varsity Team game periods. This does not include game periods that are the result of the post season play off schedule.
- A player who is moved up from the Junior Varsity (JV) Team to the Varsity Team, at any time during the regular season, can qualify for a Varsity Letter if they have participated in one half (1/2) of the regular season, P.I.H.L. scheduled, Varsity Team game periods. This does not include game periods that are the result of the post season play off schedule.
- A player who is transferred from the Junior Varsity (JV)T roster to the Varsity Team roster at any time up to the half way point of the regular P.I.H.L. season, can qualify for a Varsity Letter if they have participated in one half (1/2) of the remaining regular season, P.I.H.L. scheduled, Varsity Team game periods. This does not include game periods that are the result of the post season play off schedule.

## **Varsity Awards**

First Award: Letter and Gold Pin (if available)

Second Award: Gold bar Pin

Third Award: Gold bar Pin

Fourth Award: Gold bar Pin

# Butler Golden Tornado Hockey Player/Parent Handbook Agreement



We, the undersigned, have received the PLAYER'S/PARENT'S HANDBOOK and do hereby agree to the terms as stated. It is our responsibility to read and understand the Rules and Guidelines set forth by the Butler Golden Tornado Hockey Association, Butler Area School District, Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League, Mid-Am Hockey, and USA Hockey for the current season and do hereby agree to abide to the terms as stated by these organizations. If this document is not signed and submitted within the designated time period to the team manager, the player will not be eligible to participate until it is submitted.

Player: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please detach and return this completed form to your team manager at the first player/parent meeting.*



Butler Golden Tornado Hockey Association  
2017-18 Payment Schedule and Agreement

THIS FORM SETS FORTH THE 2017 – 2018 FEE PAYMENT SCHEDULE AND AGREEMENT BETWEEN YOU AND THE BUTLER GOLDEN TORNADO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION, HEARAFTER KNOWN AS BGTH.

Player's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Team \_\_\_\_\_

- The Season Fees and Payment Schedule are listed on the reverse side. The season is defined as the June 1 – May 31. The Season Fee amount is in addition to the Tryout Fees, Cost of Uniforms if needed, the USA Hockey Fees, and any Mandatory Fundraisers. It doesn't include playoffs or tournaments.
- A \$300 Commitment Check will be collected at Tryouts or when joining a team. At the conclusion of Tryouts, you will be notified of team placement. By accepting a position on a team, you are obligated to pay the entire Season Fee and the Commitment Check will be applied to the Season Fee. It will not be refundable thereafter even if you subsequently withdraw from the team at any later time. If you do not accept a position with the team your Commitment Check will be destroyed unless you submit a self-addressed stamped envelope. A separate check of \$75.00 is required for a tryout fee and must be turned in along commitment check for your player to go on the ice.
- All discounts including goalie discounts, family discounts, etc. will be taken at the end of the season as they do not apply until the player(s) has played the full season. Please see 'Season Fees' below in #6. Additional players in a family will receive a \$200 discount per additional player. Further information on family discounts can be found in the Player/Parent Handbook.
- All checks returned by the bank unpaid for any reason will be charged a fee equal to the fee charged by the bank to BGTH. All online payment fees will be added to your final balance payment. The fees are 2.9% of the payment amount and \$.30 per transaction.
- If you are unable to make a required payment to BGTH, you must contact the treasurer to determine a mutually acceptable payment schedule. In the event you fail to make two scheduled payments on time without contacting the treasurer you agree that your child will not be permitted to participate in any practices, games, or other BGTH activities until the required payments are made. Since BGTH is now accepting credit cards, payments must be made on a regularly scheduled basis and anyone with an extension will be expected to make their adjusted payment via credit card if necessary. If payments are not made, you agree that BGTH may notify governing organizations of hockey (USA Hockey, Mid-Am, PIHL) of any failure by you to make a required payment.

- BGTH wants to continue to extend to its members the option of paying the Season Fee in installments and at the same time protect the financial stability of its hockey program. To do so, BGTH must ensure its ability to collect overdue amounts from all those participating. ACCORDINGLY, IN THE EVENT YOU FAIL TO MAKE ANY PAYMENTS REQUIRED BY THIS AGREEMENT AND THE PAYMENT REMAINS UNPAID AFTER RECEIPT OF TWO WRITTEN NOTICES FROM BGTH DEMANDNG THE PAYMENT, YOU AGREE THAT BGTH MAY COMMENCE PROCEEDINGS BEFORE A DISTRICT JUSTICE OR MAGISTRATE TO COLLECT THE UNPAID AMOUNT, OBTAIN A JUDGMENT FOR SUCH AMOUNT PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS, AND EXECUTE ON SUCH JUDGMENT ALL LAWFUL MEANS.

## **2017 – 2018 PAYMENT SCHEDULES**

VARSITY, JV AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAMS PLAYING FOR BGTH IN THE PIHL

### **2017-18 Season Fees**

Varsity Fee: \$2100

-Varsity Goalie- \$1050

Junior Varsity Fee: \$1800

-JV Goalie- \$900

Freshman/Middle School Fee: \$1100

-MS Goalie- \$800

The Commitment fee of \$300 is included in the season fee and collected at tryouts. Tryout \$75 is not included or deducted in the season fee but is collected at tryouts.

### **Payment Installment Dates**

Varsity Player:

- Due dates are the first of each month (6/1, 7/1, 8/1, 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1/2018): \$225 each month

Varsity Goalie:

- Due dates are the first of each month (6/1, 7/1, 8/1, 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1/2018): \$93.75 each month

Junior Varsity Player:

- Due dates are the first of each month (6/1, 7/1, 8/1, 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1/2018): \$187.50 each month

Junior Varsity Goalie:

- Due dates are the first of each month (6/1, 7/1, 8/1, 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1/2018): \$75.00 each month

Freshman/Middle School Player:

- Due dates are the first of each month (6/1, 7/1, 8/1, 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1/2018): \$100.00 each month

Freshman/Middle School Goalie:

- Due dates are the first of each month (6/1, 7/1, 8/1, 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1/2018): \$62.50 each month

\*\*\*All Payment Checks should be made payable to BGTH. \*\*\*

Please indicate the name of the team on the Memo line of the check.

**Mailing Address:**

Butler Golden Tornado Hockey Association

P.O. BOX 1796

Butler, PA 16003-1796

OR

Checks can be placed in the locked slotted mail box located at the Ice Connection in the pro shop, right to your right as you walk through the door.

If you wish to pay by credit card, before the first payment is due (except commitment fee) there will be a program on the web site which can be used to pay the monthly payments. Once you sign up all payments will be charged automatically on the 1st of each month. You can opt to make a onetime credit card payment of any amount and then, if you want, make another payment of any amount. Paying for the tryout process by credit card does not sign you up to pay the season fees by credit card.

**Seniors:** Any infractions at the end of the season as assigned by the PIHL that cannot be served due to graduation by the player are assessed by the PIHL a charge of \$250. The fine is the responsibility of the player and will be assessed and paid by the player, to BGTHA.

As outlined in the BGTHA By-laws, the association reserves the right to pursue any and all means necessary to collect on unpaid accounts, including fines assessed to the player.



Parent or Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_