

*CRHA Vision and Philosophy*



*HOME OF THE JUNIOR ROUGHRIDERS!!!!*

Approved 2008  
Reviewed 2009-10

**OPERATING MANUAL FOR 2011-2012**

Cedar Rapids Hockey Association

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Dear Parents and Players of the Cedar Rapids Hockey Association,

New and returning families of the CRHA will find the information in this booklet valuable. The purpose of this booklet is to familiarize you with the CRHA Vision and Philosophy. It is our goal that your son or daughter will have fun with their hockey experience. In order for that to happen, we feel it is important to communicate how our program works.

The CRHA is proud of the dedication and hard work that our coaches, commissioners, board members, volunteer committee members and hockey parents provide. Our association is only as good as our volunteers and parents make it. Please feel free to contact a CRHA Board Member with your feedback regarding this booklet or any aspect of the Cedar Rapids Hockey Association.

Check out our website [www.juniorrougriders.com](http://www.juniorrougriders.com) for more information. We recommend you check the site frequently for updates and other news. Thank you for being part of the Cedar Rapids Hockey Association.

CRHA Board

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## CRHA Vision

The vision of the CRHA is for our participants to master the fundamental **skills** while enjoying the **fun** of playing hockey, as these are essential to the development of a lifelong interest in the sport.

## CRHA Mission

The mission of the CRHA is to provide a consistent framework and environment to optimize the skill development of young players in a positive atmosphere of fun, competition, sportsmanship and fair treatment.

## CRHA Core Values

The following core values, established by USA Hockey, and adopted by the CRHA are the Association's guide in the planning, programming and play of youth hockey.

- ❑ **Sportsmanship:** Foremost of all the values is the ability to learn a sense of fair play, become humble in victory, and gracious in defeat. We will foster friendships with teammates and opponents alike.
- ❑ **Respect for the Individual:** Treat all others as you expect to be treated.
- ❑ **Integrity:** Seek to foster honesty and fair play beyond mere strict interpretation of the rules and regulations of the game.
- ❑ **Pursuit of excellence at the individual, team and organizational levels:** Each member of the organization, whether player, volunteer or staff, should seek to perform each aspect of the game to the highest level of his or her ability.
- ❑ **Enjoyment:** It is important for the hockey experience to be fun, satisfying and rewarding for all participants.
- ❑ **Loyalty:** We aspire to teach the ideals of loyalty to fellow members of the sport of hockey.
- ❑ **Teamwork:** We value the strength of learning to work together. The use of teamwork is reinforced and rewarded by success in the hockey experience. Remember: "Attitude is Everything".

## CRHA History

The Cedar Rapids Hockey Association (CRHA) was formed in 2002 after the unification of two associations, CRYHA and HYISA. The Cedar Rapids Ice Arena (CRIA) was constructed in 2000 through a community effort and is considered one of the best hockey venues in the Midwest. Prior to the completion of the Cedar Rapids Ice Arena, our hockey program was based upon an outdoor rink near Veterans Memorial Stadium. This rink was put together each winter by hearty volunteers. CRHA administers the Travel Programs. We cooperate closely with the resources of the Cedar Rapids Ice Arena and the Cedar Rapids RoughRiders (a Junior A USHL team) to develop interest and participation in the sport of hockey. Our travel teams play in the Midwest League, which is made up of teams from Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. We strive to maintain A and AA level teams at the Mite, Squirt, PeeWee, Bantam and Lady Riders (a U19 girls league) levels. Annually, there will be consideration for mites to be part of the Midwest League as well.

The Cedar Rapids community has a high school team, the Cedar Rapids High School RoughRiders, who participate in the Iowa High School Hockey League. This diverse team is made up of ninth to twelfth graders from the area high schools. CRHA is committed to working cooperatively with the High School RoughRider Board of Directors, Coaches, and Parents to promote High School Hockey for the benefit of the community.

We encourage all boys and girls to participate in the CRHA Hockey Programs. For the CRHA to be successful we work closely and cooperatively with the CRIA Manager, CRIA Hockey Director, Cedar Rapids High School RoughRiders and the USHL RoughRiders to grow interest and participation in our respective hockey programs. The CRIA Hockey Director offers camps, clinics, spring hockey, 3 on 3, checking/goalie clinics, and private lessons. It is important for CRHA players to participate and support these programs for their own skill development.

The rink manager and hockey director are employees of Venue Works, who is the City's contract management firm for the CRIA. CRIA manages the house program, Instructional, Mini-Mites and the Learn to Skate Programs, key feeder systems into the Cedar Rapids Hockey Association Program.

### **CRHA Philosophy**

CRHA is dedicated to providing athletes a positive environment conducive to **learning, skill development, and FUN.**

CRHA is committed to providing a structured system of skill development that progressively develops players from the mite to bantam level. This consistent and sustained approach to player development will enable positive outcomes for players and teams.

An athlete's skill development will take precedence over winning hockey games. CRHA's objective is to develop highly skilled hockey players. The more skilled you are the more FUN the experience will be.

CRHA's development philosophy is:

- ❑ **Education:** Educating parents and youth hockey player on the importance of player development is vital to the athlete's understanding of hockey. Technical hockey skills (e.g. skating, puck handling, passing and shooting) are the foundation of every hockey player's success. Without this foundation, it becomes nearly impossible for any hockey player, regardless of age and/or experience, to be a valuable asset to their team.
- ❑ **Skill Development:** Promote and provide a variety of opportunities for skill development including: camps, specialty clinics, and power skating sessions. There is no replacement for QUALITY ice time. CRHA will emphasize team skill level over team win record.
- ❑ **Skating Skills:** Stress the importance of skating skills. Every other technical hockey skill (puck handling, passing, shooting) is in some way related to skating ability. Skill development is the platform in which everything in CRHA is positioned.
- ❑ **Continuous Learning:** Remind parents and players that skating is a learned skill. Like anything, you must practice frequently and routinely to be great. Strive for a 3:1 practice time to game time ratio for youth hockey players.
- ❑ **Athletic Development:** Encourage kids to play a variety of off-season sports. Kids need to get away from the rink and do other things outside of hockey. Hockey players are athletes. To continue to enhance athletic ability, encourage your players to play tennis, lacrosse, basketball, golf, soccer, swimming, and bicycling. Players will find that these are great cross-training sports for hockey, but they also enhance overall athletic development.
- ❑ **Coaching:** The CRHA is committed to providing coaches that are effective teachers, role models, and communicators who focus their attention and energy at developing technical skills (skating, puck handling, passing, and shooting) in their players.
- ❑ **Productive Practice:** Use a mix of full-ice and cross-ice/ half-ice practices. This type of environment greatly increases skill development due to the following:
  - Each player's activity greatly increases
  - All players touch the puck more, improving puck handling skills
  - Tactical skills develop much faster
  - Goalies are forced to react quicker and play varying angles

The CRHA's development philosophy is implemented by our Organization's Skill Development and Practice Framework, containing the CRHA Policies documents, covering each age group from mite through bantam and the Lady Riders.

## **Association Organization Overview**

Membership in CRHA is on a per family basis regardless of the number of players in the family. Membership is automatic at tryout registration and upon completion of payment of all fees. Each parent/guardian has a vote in the elections.

CRHA is a non-profit, 501c3 organization and is governed by a voluntary board of officers. The term of office is defined in the organization's by-laws. Elections and other CRHA business involving the general membership are conducted at the annual meeting in May. The board meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30PM at the CRIA. Membership is welcome to attend. Notice to the president is required seven days prior to the meeting if a time allocation is requested on the agenda. CRHA depends upon the volunteer time of its members to raise funds and provide services.

CRHA is a member of the Midwest League, Tri-State Hockey, and follows USA Hockey guidelines on teams, equipment, penalties, conduct, officials, playing rules and rink features.

## **Hockey Commitment and Expectations**

Players and parents should expect that the commitment to all teams requires a significant amount of time. Coaches at all levels will expect that players attend practices and games. Communication with the coach and team manager when a player will be absent from a game or practice is essential for the coach to prepare properly for either a game or practice. The CRHA cannot stress enough that regardless of the level of play, the commitment your child is making is significant. It is important that both the players and parents understand this at the time of registration.

## **Communication**

Good communication is vital to any successful organization. There are many avenues for CRHA members to voice their opinion and be heard. The first avenue is the CRHA website, [www.juniorroughriders.com](http://www.juniorroughriders.com). This website is updated regularly and there is the ability to request information on the website. The CRHA Board can be contacted by utilizing the board members' email addresses. The CRHA maintains an email list for regular updates. Please be sure and provide this information to us during registration and contact a board member if it changes. The CRHA Board will request that each Team Manager attend board meetings during the year and report back updates to their team. On an annual basis we will conduct a formal satisfaction survey of the membership.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

There are many volunteer opportunities for CRHA members to help the CRHA Organization run smoothly. In fact, every parent is expected to help in some manner. Each team will select a team manager. The team manager will communicate with the CRHA Commissioner. The Commissioner will outline responsibilities of the team manager. Please consider volunteering in one of these ways, which include:

- Timekeepers
- Scorekeepers
- Team Manager
- Team Treasurer
- Team Fundraising Contact
- Equipment Manager
- Coaches
- Team Tournament Coordinator
- Photo Day Coordinator
- Fundraising Committee
- Merchandise Committee
- CRHA Board
- Sponsorship Committee

- Registration/ Tryouts Committee
- CRHA Banquet Committee

If you are asked to help the CRHA in any of the above committees or in any other way, please strongly consider donating your time. It is the hard work of volunteers that make the CRHA grow.

#### **Other Information**

Please visit [www.juniorroughriders.com](http://www.juniorroughriders.com) for more detailed information. This website has CRHA Board Minutes, Policies, By-Laws, Codes of Conduct, and Scholarship/Financial Assistance information available for your review.

If you do not have access to a computer please contact a board member or your team manager for assistance.