

**GREATER GARDNER
STREET HOCKEY Association
2016 Player/Coaches/Parents Handbook**



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OPENING WELCOME LETTER/PRINCIPLES OF OUR ORGANIZATION

Dear Parents and Players:

Welcome to Greater Gardner Street Hockey Association (GGSHA). The Board of Directors has put together this handbook on our organization to inform our new as well as our returning players, parents and coaches of our policies, procedures, and philosophy.

Our organization goals are to offer a safe and healthy environment for all players who wish to play Street Hockey. The Greater Gardner Street Hockey Association is recreational in nature. All players in our House league should receive equal playing time, regardless of their ability. ***Our emphasis is on learning basic skills, without an over emphasis on winning games.***

All of our board members and coaches are strictly volunteers. The main reason that we all volunteer so much of our valued time is to ensure that all children in our area who wish to play Street Hockey are able to regardless of their financial situation.

Each end of season is celebrated with our annual cookout. Every player and their families are invited to join us at the rink for this event. The cookout is usually held the last Saturday of playoffs for the Penguins, Beavers, and Cadets divisions. Notices are posted at the rink.

Sincerely,
GGSHA Board Members

AMERICAN STREET HOCKEY/DEK-HOCKEY HISTORY

Dek-hockey America is committed to a strong organized program that benefits the players, coaches, officials, teams, leagues and tournaments. Official facilities new and old will contribute to the expansion, growth and success of the sport. We welcome and encourage your individual participation.

Introduction:

In its early days, Street Hockey was played (as it is still today in many areas) in driveways, schoolyards, parking lots, and in the streets. The game was played throughout the United States and Canada, with worn out, cast away hockey equipment, home made goals, punctured tennis balls, a few rules, but plenty of enthusiasm.

Street Hockey was elevated from the neighborhood game to an organized sport in the early 1970's in Leominster Mass., when a group of hockey enthusiasts introduced three essentials to make the game into a sport. A regulation rink (160' x 80') in which to play, a no-bounce ball which replaced a puck and a set of official playing rules which governed the game. This group of dedicated individuals then developed programs including league formation, age divisions, referee training and certification along with Regional, National and International tournaments which accelerated the growth of the sport nationwide.

Organized Street Hockey today utilizes light weight equipment designed for a fast paced, action packed game under an official set of rules, organized leagues and rink facilities. Boys and girls in all age divisions play the sport from 4 years to over 40 years.

Street Hockey/Dekhockey is a running game played similar to ice hockey with exception that body checking is not allowed. Running, stickhandling, passing and shooting are the basic qualities, which provide an exciting and fast game. Games are played in official rinks on all weather playing surface and under the Official Street Hockey/Dekhockey rules. Play consists of 3 periods with officiating and scorekeeping.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

- Registration is held over a specific time period.
- Notices advertising the registration period will be posted at the rink, local media sources, social media and online at www.ggsha.org .
- Board members will be available during the registration time period to answer any questions, to pass out registration forms, accept registrations and payment.
- Payment is due at the time of registration either online or in person at the rink during signups.
NO EXCEPTIONS.
- *As always, it is the intention of the Board of Directors to work with anyone who is having financial difficulty.*
- Any late registrant will be placed on a waiting list. Once team rosters are finalized, no registrants may be placed on a team without the approval of the Board.
- Players participating in more than one division must pay for both.
- **The only requests for "same team" status that will be considered by the Board will be those of coach's children and brothers & sisters, if feasible.** Of course, every attempt will be made to ensure that family members are placed on the same team, while ensuring equality among teams.
- Anyone participating in the GGSHA league who is 18 years of age or older must complete a CORI form. This includes coaches, referees, board members and players.

TEAM SELECTION AND GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RULES

- We do not have general tryouts. Each returning player is assigned a rating at the end of the previous season by his or her coach. All Division coaches are chosen by Board Members. Board Members meet to draft Chipmunks and Penguins and teams assign coaches to each team. Coaches meet to draft the Beavers, Cadets and Freshman teams. All teams chosen are based on individual ratings, with an eye toward parity. The goal of this exercise is to evenly balance each team.
- Once the season begins, no player will be permitted to transfer from one team to another without approval of the Board.
- There are five divisions divided according to age:
 - Chipmunks ages 4-6
 - Penguins ages 7-9
 - Beavers 10-12
 - Cadets 13-15
 - Freshmen 16-19
- The season runs approximately ten weeks.
- Playoffs and Championship games are scheduled the last week of the season for all divisions except Chipmunks.
- An award will be given to each player on teams that make the finals as well as participation awards in the Chipmunk and Penguin divisions.
- Play in the Chipmunk division will consist of one twenty minute practice and one twenty-four minute running time period. Games in the Penguin, Beaver, and Cadet and Freshman divisions will consist of three fifteen minute running time periods, with the final three minutes stop time in the third period.
- A buzzer system, used to signal shift changes and equal playing time, will be used in the Chipmunk and Penguin divisions. However, all players in all divisions should play equal time. Problems or questions on this rule should be brought to the attention of Board Members by filing a Communication Report. A Communication Report is located in this handbook and online at www.ggsha.org.
- Playing rules are based on the "**Official Street Hockey (Dekhockey) rules**" as well as the supplemental rules contained within this document. Any problems or questions regarding these rules should be brought to the attention of Board Members.
- There are no overtime periods during regular season games. Tie score games will end in a tie and will be recorded as 1 point for each team in the division standings. Overtime periods are used only for playoff games (see Playoff/Overtime Rules on page 13).
- **Fighting** will result in the following:

First Offense: suspension for the remainder of game and of the following two games

Second Offense: suspension indefinitely. No further games played until the situation is reviewed and player reinstatement voted on by the GGSHA Board.

Penalty times:	MINOR	DBL MINOR	MAJOR	MISCONDUCT
	1 1/2 MIN.	3 MIN.	4 MIN.	8 MIN.

(THE THREE PENALTY RULE IS IN EFFECT FOR ALL DIVISIONS. Three penalty rule results in immediate suspension for the remainder of the game. Another player must serve the 3rd penalty.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS/FAMILY MEMBERS - CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Do not force your children to participate in sports but support their desire to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it Fun!
2. Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of BOTH TEAMS!!
3. Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all its participants, your child will benefit.
4. Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
5. Know and study the rules of the game and support the officials on and off the rink. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game and casts a dark cloud over our organization.
6. Applaud a good effort in victory and in defeat, and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell at or physically abuse your child after a game or practice, it is destructive. **Work towards removing the physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.**
7. **Recognize the value and importance of volunteer coaches.** They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Support them in any way that you can. Volunteer to help in some manner.
8. No parents will be allowed into the locker rooms until the team officials or coach opens the door.
9. **Absolutely no one, other than Players, Coaches and Team Managers are allowed on the players' bench at any time during the game.** Insurance regulations mandate this rule. *This includes parents who just want to give water or instructions to their child!*
10. All parents are expected to act in harmony with good sportsmanship while participating or attending a game. The Board will review inappropriate behavior and, based on this review, action will be taken including suspension of play or stoppage of game attendance.
11. All players in all divisions must be fully equipped any time they are playing. Players must also wear their team shirt. (See EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION included in this handbook) There will be no exceptions to this rule; a minor penalty will be given for any of these infractions.
12. Players are required to wear official assigned team shirt. Players are not allowed to play with a defaced shirt. Any shirt defaced shall be replaced at players cost.
13. Social Media should never be used to make derogatory comments about anyone associated with GGSHA. Any incident reported to the Board will be immediately addressed and could result in suspension and/or dismissal from the league.

Any violation of the above American Hockey/Greater Gardner Street Hockey Association guidelines or policies will result in a written warning to the parent. This will notify him/her that such behavior is unacceptable and must cease immediately. Any Board Member or team official who is witness to such an infraction shall notify the Board of Directors who shall draft and issue the warning.

A second infraction in a playing season by the same parent shall exclude him/her from attending any Greater Gardner Street Hockey Association function for the remainder of the season.

Please remember that the Greater Gardner Street Hockey Association Board of Directors have done their very best to put forth a 1st class program. Your actions, positive or negative reflect on our program.

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Play for the fun, Greater Gardner Street Hockey is a house program and the emphasis is on fun, skill development, and learning some of life's more important lessons. These would be learning to get along with people, respect for officials, coaches, parents, opponents and team members.
2. It is important that each player gets the most out of their involvement in Greater Gardner Street Hockey by working hard during games to improve their skills and at being a team player. Learn to be a Team Player not a "ME" player. There is no "I" in team sports!!!
3. Be on time for games and come prepared to put forth your best effort. Listen to your coaches and accept constructive criticism and learn from your mistakes.
4. Learn the rules and play by them, always be a good sport regardless if a call went for or against you.
5. Never argue, dispute, yell at, or show any disrespect toward any coach, teammate, official, parent or any opponent's coach or parent.
6. Respect the rink facility as well as the staff. If you drop something, pick it up. Make sure that tape, trash or any other unwanted object ends up in the trash containers in the area, not on the floor. Let's keep it clean so we can all be proud of it.
7. Greater Gardner Street Hockey Association will strictly enforce the zero tolerance rule set forth in "Official Street Hockey Rules" in order to make the sport a more desirable and rewarding experience.
8. Players are expected to conduct themselves according to the above policies, before, during, and after the game at any Greater Gardner Street Hockey Association function.
9. All players are expected to act with good sportsmanship while participating or attending a game. The Board will review inappropriate behavior and, based on this review, action will be taken including suspension of play or stoppage of game attendance.
10. Social Media should never be used to make derogatory comments about anyone associated with GGSHA. Any incident reported to the Board will be immediately addressed and could result in suspension and/or dismissal from the league.
11. **Horseplay**: Wrestling, fighting, stick swinging, or conduct of an obscene nature (gestures) will result in discipline by the Board of Directors as it deems necessary.
12. Any player striking an official in the Greater Gardner Street Hockey Association will be suspended for the current season plus the following season. Any violent intent to injure action involving the swinging of a hockey stick or the like will result in lifetime suspension of the individual, subject to the appeal and/or the review of Board Members. There will be no refund of any registration fee to a suspended individual.
13. Coaches are responsible for enforcing players' code of conduct. Any appeal of suspensions as a result of a violation of the GGSHA Rules or Code of Conducts may be made to the Board of Directors. A coach has the authority to discipline inappropriate behavior by any player during a game. This discipline can include up to suspension of the player for the balance of that game. Further punitive action must be brought before the Board of Directors. Any disciplinary action taken by a coach must be followed up with "**Communication Report**" to the Board of Directors.
14. A hearing on any playing rules violation, which could result in a suspension greater than one game shall be conducted if:
 - The member suspended requests it in writing to a Board Member.
 - The Rules or Code of Conduct require a hearing
 - A Board Member requests it.

This hearing shall be conducted within 7 days of a request. This hearing shall be conducted if possible by the full Board of Directors, player or players and coach or coaches involved/witnessed the incident.

OFFICIALS/COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

1. All Coaches must read and sign a GGSHA Coach Consent form.
2. The winning of Hockey games "shall" be a secondary consideration of all Greater Gardner Street Hockey games.
 - Care more for the child than winning games.
 - During all games the players are to receive as equal playing time as possible regardless of their abilities. The only exceptions are for injury, illness, or documented discipline problem. At no time will a coach be allowed to double shift a player when there are two full lines.
3. Be a positive role model to your players.
4. Be generous with praise when it is deserved, and be consistent, fair, and do not criticize a player publicly or yell at them.
5. Adjust to the personal needs and problems of your players, be a good listener, never verbally abuse a player or official. Give all players the opportunity to improve their skill, gain confidence, and develop self-esteem.
6. Encourage all your players to be team players.
7. Maintain an open line of communication with your players and parents and explain your goals.
8. Coaches listen to suggestions of their players and keep an open mind to your players.
9. Coaches shall meet with parents before the regular season to review rules and to give an overview of what his/her intentions are and also to answer any questions.
10. Coaches have the authority to discipline inappropriate behavior by any player during a game. This discipline can include up to suspension of the player for the balance of that game. Further punitive action must be brought before the Board of Directors. Any disciplinary action taken by a coach must be followed up with a **"Communication Report"** to the Board of Directors.
11. Any coach striking an official in the Greater Gardner Street Hockey League will be suspended for the current season plus the following season. The suspended individual will have the right to petition the Board for reinstatement.
12. All coaches are expected to act in harmony with good sportsmanship while participating or attending a game.
13. All coaches must fill out a Player/Team Rating form and return to their Division Coordinators. Division Coordinators will supply rating forms midway through the season. The rating of your players and team is an important part of trying to keep parity amongst the teams. Remember this league is for FUN and recreation. **Please take the time to seriously rate your players as honestly and as fairly as possible.** Contact Division Coordinators should you have any questions or concerns.
14. Coaches not allowed on playing surface at anytime during games (ex Chipmunk and Penguin Divisions). Unless requested by an official. A minor penalty and/or ejection may result.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION

The following equipment is necessary to participate in Greater Gardner Street Hockey Association. This includes all Practices, Scrimmages, Games and Tournaments, at any rink a player may participate in as a member of GGSHA.

All players in all divisions must be fully equipped any time they are playing

1. Helmet and facemask – Must be worn at all times on the deck and on the bench
2. Elbow pads
3. Hockey/street hockey gloves
4. Knee/shin guards
5. Street/Dek-Hockey stick - plastic blade/composite (no wooden ice hockey sticks)
6. Good sneakers
7. Cup and supporter
8. Team shirt, provided by the GGSHA. (Players are not allowed to play with a defaced shirt. Any shirt defaced shall be replaced at players cost.)

There will be no exceptions to this rule; a minor penalty will be given for any of these infractions.

*Note: street hockey equipment can be purchased at most sport shops and several Department stores also carry this equipment.

SUBSTITUTIONS POLICY (REGULAR SEASON PLAY ONLY)

1. **No** substitutes are allowed from outside the GGSHA organization.
2. The Freshman division may have substitutes from the Cadet Division*.
***If and only if** they can not field a team of roster players, minimum of 7 players.
3. The Cadet division may have substitutes from the Beaver Division*
***If and only if** they can not field a team of roster players minimum of 7 players.
4. The Beaver division may have substitutes from the Penguin Division*
***If and only if** they can not field a team of roster players minimum of 7 players.
5. The Penguin division may have substitutes from the Chipmunk Division*.
***If and only if** they can not field a team of roster players minimum of 7 players.

If substitutes are used they **can not** be used in more than 2 games.

Substitutes will be marked on score sheet with: **regular name – substitute.**

Substitute will have a team shirt. A maximum of 2 substitutes is allowed.

Opposing coach will be **notified of substitute(s)**, who have met above guidelines.

If both coaches agree, teams may play 4 on 4, if **no** substitutes are available.

All teams have rosters with 12 or more players, if a coach is having a problem fielding a team, from roster players, **notify division head**. The division head will then **call roster players** and find out, why they signed up and are not playing.

The league is a participation league and **everyone on a roster should be playing, an equal amount of time.**

**GREATER GARDNER STREET HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
PLAYOFF /OVERTIME RULES**

OVERTIME

- **Length of Period:** All divisions (ex. Chipmunks); a six minute overtime period will be played with the time running. Penguins will have a buzzer at the three minute mark to change lines.
- A maximum of two sudden-death overtime periods will be allowed.
- If a tie still exists after the second overtime period they will then go to a five-player penalty shot shootout. All five players for each team will have a penalty shot.
- *If a tie still exists after the first shootout, the remaining (different) players will then start with penalty shots.* If the first shooter scores and then the other teams first shooter will have the opportunity to shoot, if he/she misses the game is over. This will continue down the line until the deadlock is finally broken.

SHIFTING FAIRLY

- During playoffs, anyone who does not shift fairly throughout the game is subject to board discipline, which could result in a forfeit.

SUBSTITUTIONS

- There are NO subs allowed during playoffs.
- Any team who does not have at least 4 players and a goalie must forfeit the game.

A Board Member will be present at all playoff games to oversee and resolve disputes regarding these rules.

HARASSMENT POLICY

As part of Greater Gardner Street Hockey's overall policy, the harassment of others because of their sex, race, religion, etc., will not be tolerated. In particular, an atmosphere of tension created by ethnic or religious remarks or animosity, unwelcome sexual advances, and requests for sexual favors or other conduct of a sexual nature does not belong in our organization. When any such verbal or physical conduct unreasonably interferes with any individual's participation, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment, we urge that the offended individual notify the Board of Directors so that we may have an opportunity to investigate and deal with the problem. All inquiries will be held in the utmost confidence, but the matter will be investigated and dealt with expeditiously.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY
CONSUMPTION/USE/ABUSE OF MOOD ALTERING SUBSTANCES**

It is the considered judgement of the Board of Directors that consumption/Use/Abuse of mood altering substances is detrimental to a healthy state of mind, body, and spirit in an athletic participant. This is especially true for those participants aspiring to develop their talents in the furtherance of their playing, or coaching or officiating careers in the sport of street hockey. Therefore, with the best interests of its participants in mind, the Board prohibits use by any participant of mood altering substances during active participation in its programs, and upon discovery of any violation shall take action to remove the participant in its programs for a reasonable period of time.

For the purpose of this policy the words "mood altering substances" shall include the following:

- Intoxicating beverages
- Non-prescription or prescribed controlled substances
- Prescription or prescribed controlled substances when used to an excess in violation of doctors orders, or to produce the state of intoxication in the participant.

Further, a participant shall include players, coaches, referees, and all persons involved in the conduct of a street hockey contest.

DISCIPLINARY LETTER

If a player or Coach is found to be in violation of any rule, the Board may deem it necessary to issue this letter stating the violation and recommended action, if any.

Date: _____

To: _____

From: Greater Gardner Street Hockey Association

Subject: Violation

This is a written notification that you have been found to be in violation of our

_____. This is a direct result of the

Incident you were involved in on (date) regarding (describe incident).

Any future offense by you will result in immediate league suspension for the remainder of this season.

To alleviate any future actions brought against you by the Board,

(insert recommendation).

I hereby acknowledge and understand the seriousness of my offense as stated above.

Player's Name

Date

Failure to sign and acknowledge this document results in immediate league suspension.

Participant understood offense and signed document

Yes

No

Board Members present:

COMPLAINTS, PROBLEMS OR QUESTIONS?

GREATER GARDNER STREET HOCKEY COMMUNICATION REPORT

The preceding page is an example of the "**Communication Report**" that Greater Gardner Street Hockey Association uses. These forms are available online at the G.G.S.H.A. web site, www.ggsha.org. This form is to be used to report problems, make formal complaints and ask questions about situations that you have been unable to get resolved. It can also be used to express ideas of things that you would like to see GGSHA involved with.

The reports will also be used by coaches and administration to record and document discipline problems.

After you fill out the form, please enclose it in a sealed envelope and send it to:

Greater Gardner Street Hockey Association

Attn: Board of Directors

PO Box 804

Gardner, MA 01440

You may also, hand deliver to any active GGSHA board member or coach as well.

These reports will be kept in strict confidence. All reports will have action taken on them at the next Board of Directors Meeting.

**GREATER GARDNER STREET HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
COMMUNICATION REPORT**

Required Information:

Name (Please Print) _____ Date: _____
Time: _____

Division: _____ Team: _____

Regarding:

Game Date: _____

Coach: _____ Asst: _____

Referee #: _____

Scorekeeper: _____

Other: _____

Comments (Describe problem/situation)

_____ Phone #: _____

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Please be advised that no issue will be addressed unless all information is completed above and signed by you. This information is required so we may investigate the issues at hand. All reports will be addressed at the next scheduled board meeting and will be strictly confidential. We would like your opinions on any issues both positive and negative.