

## **Willowdale Blackhawks Executive Summary**

Since 1965, the Willowdale Hockey Club (**WHC**), a not-for-profit organization previously known as Willowdale Sports Club, has provided a variety of hockey, lacrosse, basketball and baseball programs to the community of Willowdale and surrounding regions. This text relates to the GTHL hockey operations of **WHC** only.

More information can be found at the Club website at [www.willowdalesportsclub.com](http://www.willowdalesportsclub.com). This summary is to be provided to all player families before or as they register to play. This is the normal season Executive Summary. For 2020-21 we understand that there may be some practical variances due to Return to Hockey policies from the pandemic shutdown.

### ***Guiding Principles***

Fairness is the guiding principle of **WHC**. This must be evident in the selection of players, the determination of roster size, and ice-time.

The players, team management and supporters are all goodwill ambassadors of the **WHC**. It is expected that players show respect to their coaches, to their fellow teammates, to opponents and to the referees. Under GTHL regulations, one parent of each player must complete the Respect in Sport Parent Program and both Player and Parent must review and sign a Rowan's Law declaration. In occasional circumstances, both parents will be asked to complete the program.

Player safety is a priority of **WHC**. It is mandatory for teams to have at least one accredited trainer, two is encouraged. Upon successful completion of accredited trainer's courses, the individuals may submit an invoice through the team for reimbursement by **WHC**.

**WHC** has a responsibility to parents to ensure that its coaching staff has the ability, temperament and knowledge to instruct, as well as serve as role models for their children.

Parents are required to sign a document indicating that they have reviewed the Club's Guiding Principles and the Team Handbook including budget.

### ***Community***

**WHC** has a favourable reputation within the hockey community. We expect everyone associated with our organization to be aware and proud of this reputation. Teams are held responsible for the activities of players and parents as soon as they enter onto the property that the arena is situated and until they leave.

### ***Player Development***

Willowdale Blackhawks A and AA teams are developmental programs. Player skills can only be enhanced through practice and game participation. Coaches are solely responsible for the selection and utilization of players. Each player should have equal opportunity but will not necessarily have equal ice time.

At the start of the season each player should have the opportunity to participate in power plays and shorthanded situations. Shortening a bench in a close game with five minutes to play is understandable and supportable.

### ***Player Releases***

It is the policy of **WHC** to not release players during the season. We believe that commitments should be fulfilled by both parties. However, circumstances may exist that a release is in the best interests of all concerned.

The Club is not permitted to release a player if this would cause the team to fall below the 15 player minimum, without approval of the Board of Directors of **WHC** & ratified by **GTHL**.

According to **GTHL** rules, for a player release to be valid, the General Manager or President must advise the **GTHL** Office in writing prior to 5:00 p.m. on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Team Budget***

All teams must submit a team budget to parents for approval. Team management must also provide regular updates to parents as to the financial position of the team. The approved team budget with parent signatures on the same page is to be provided to the **WHC** by Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 and updated as players join later. Further statements of account are to be provided to **WHC** at intervals during the year as specified in the **GTHL** Rulebook.

Each team is entirely responsible for its own finances. For the 2020-21 season, the non-refundable per team levy is \$16,100. This levy covers the cost of game and practice socks, 24 hours of practice ice (1hr per week approx), team pictures, insurance for players and Team Officials, reimbursement of team officials accreditation and \$2,100 for the **GTHL** team entry fee, plus a variety of smaller expenses which are provided on request. Willowdale does not levy or refund any per-player charges.

Team dues are paid in post-dated cheque installments of \$4,100 due on Sept 16<sup>th</sup> 2020, \$5,000 on October 9<sup>th</sup> 2020 and \$7,000 on Dec 16<sup>th</sup> 2020. \$100 late fees apply for each.

Sept 16<sup>th</sup> payment, signed budget and acknowledgement of this and team documents are required for the team to be registered for the season.

Other costs such as gamesheets, equipment, jackets, additional ice-time, hired instructors, exhibition games, tournament entry fees and team parties are the responsibility of the individual teams and all team expenses will be recorded through the team budget. Additional funds may be obtained through sponsorships, additional player levies and fundraising activities. All fundraising activities must be pre-approved by the parents and the Club and tracked through the team financial reporting.

Team officials are not hired by **WHC**. Where a team official or other party related to the team is to receive payment aside from immediate expenses, this will be recorded clearly in the team budget including but not limited to contractual payments and tournament expenses. Similarly, the Club is allowed to pay a Director or Officer if time is dedicated beyond that of a reasonable volunteer position to ensure that Willowdale is run in a professional efficient manner. For the 2020-21 season the AGM/Registrar only is affected. **All volunteers are recognized and thanked for their generosity of time and energy.**

### ***Communication***

Each season there are approximately 500 **GTHL** Rep teams with an average of 16 players per team. In order for the **GTHL** to operate efficiently, all communication with the **GTHL**, by parents, team managers and coaches, must go through the General Manager or President.

In the event of questions or disputes, the appropriate process to follow is;

Parent > Manager > Coach > General Manager/President > **WHC** > **GTHL**

In some circumstances, it is appropriate for the parent to contact the General Manager or President directly, on a confidential basis.

Sept 8<sup>th</sup> 2020