

**Pittsburgh Travel Hockey Association, Inc.**  
**Philosophy and Policy With Respect To High School Hockey**

Hockey is a team sport.

The Pittsburgh Travel Hockey Association, Inc. (the "Association") is committed to AAA Skill development and the pursuit of excellence on and off the ice. The players in our Association participate in one of the most prestigious competitive youth hockey league in the United States.

Accordingly, in order to maximize the development of each player, as well as each team in the Association, it is imperative that every player makes the commitment to their teammates and coaches to attend every scheduled practice and game.

Obviously, there are legitimate academic, health and other personal reasons why a player may miss a practice or game during the season. On such occasions, the player must notify his or her coach that they will not be able to attend a scheduled event as soon as possible prior to the occasion and inform the coach of the reason why they will not be able to attend. Timely notification is essential to afford the coaching staff the opportunity to make any necessary adjustments in the practice or game plan. When all players are not present at practice, teams and teammates suffer because it is impossible to get mentally and physically prepared for Tier I competition without the entire team.

In past seasons, team practices in particular have been adversely affected by player absences due to conflicts with school district related Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman, or Developmental practices of games. Therefore, the Association no longer considers conflicts with High School hockey events a valid reason to miss a Hornets team practice or a game (with the limited exception of Varsity games for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders eligible for Team Pittsburgh if prior approval is given by the head coach). **All players are expected to make the Pittsburgh Hornets their primary hockey commitment.**

In the event a player chooses to miss a scheduled Hornets practice or game for another hockey related commitment, the coaching staff reserves the right to issue a reprimand, which may include limiting the player's ice time for an appropriate period of time. Such reprimands may differ from team to team due to the various stages of development and ages of the participants. The respective coaching staffs have been empowered by the Board of Directors to take the necessary actions to assure that all teams optimize their development. The Board will monitor this policy to assure that it is implemented in a fair and reasonable manner.

Agreed and understood:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Player

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_