

The Hershey Bears Booster Club Broomball Team Bylaws

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Hershey Bears Booster Club Broomball Team (HBBCBT) is to represent the Hershey Bears Booster Club (HBBC) in a positive light, both on and off the ice at team practices, scrimmages, and at the annual AHLBC Broomball Tournament. Members of the team will work together to create a safe and positive environment where everyone can participate in the sport of broomball, improve their individual and team broomball skills, get into good physical shape, enjoy healthy competition, and interact socially amongst ourselves and with the members of other booster club broomball teams.

ARTICLE 1 – Team Membership

1. Team members must be 18 years of age or older prior to the current season's tournament.
2. Team members must be a member of the HBBC (current dues paid in full).
3. Team members must pay their HBBCBT dues in accordance with these bylaws (ARTICLE 2).
4. Team members must agree to abide by and uphold these bylaws.

ARTICLE 2 – HBBCBT Dues

1. HBBCBT dues will be collected by the HBBCBT Treasurer in the following manner:
 - a. \$100 for the entire broomball season, due at or before the first scheduled practice of the new season.
 - b. \$25 per quarter. The first installment is due at or before the first scheduled practice, other installments due by the last day of December, March, and June.
 - i. If the AHLBC Broomball Tournament is held prior to June 30, final dues installment must be paid prior to the tournament date.
 - ii. As per ARTICLE 4, dues for players not selected to participate in the AHLBC Tournament are waived. Those players not playing in the tournament may continue to practice with the team in tournament preparation at no cost – in a role to be determined by the coach and captains.
 - c. NEW PLAYERS and POTENTIAL TEAM MEMBERS are invited to practice with the HBBCBT. The first practice is free. All subsequent practices cost \$10 each, payable prior to each practice.
 - i. When new players decide to officially join the team, they are then eligible to pay regular dues as per “a.” and “b.” above, deducting an amount equal to how many quarters have passed in the current broomball season. Any money paid for individual

practices may be applied to dues payments, provided the payments were made in the current quarter.

- d. PLAYERS FROM OTHER AHL BOOSTER CLUB BROOMBALL TEAMS are welcome to practice with us anytime during the first three quarters of the season. If they become members of the HBBC, these players may pay regular dues per quarter, and not pay the final installment since they will not be practicing with the team during that time. All non-HBBC member players pay \$10 per practice, payable prior to that practice.
- e. It is the ***responsibility*** of each player to pay their dues on time. The treasurer will collect all dues (as per ARTICLE 5). Should dues not be paid on time, the player may receive discipline as per ARTICLE 8.

ARTICLE 3 – Broomball Required Equipment

1. Any player practicing or playing with the HBBCBT should have the following equipment:
 - a. Helmet
 - i. A face shield or cage is recommended for on-ice activity, but is not required.
 - ii. No player is allowed on the ice at any time without a helmet, for safety reasons.
 - b. Protective Gloves
 - c. Shin Guards
 - i. Shin guards must be worn under the uniform pants.
 - d. Broomball Shoes
 - i. Broomball Shoes are highly recommended for any on-ice activity.
 - ii. Players who do not own broomball shoes may use good quality sneakers as a substitute, at their own risk.
 - e. Broom
2. Other protective equipment may be worn as each individual player chooses (i.e. shoulder pads, elbow pads, etc.)
 - a. All equipment worn to protect the body must be worn underneath the uniform. (Helmets and Gloves are the exceptions)
 - b. For tournament play, hockey girdles (padded shorts) may not be worn. These should be avoided during practices and scrimmages as much as possible. Broomball pants, Roller Hockey pants, and/or regular athletic pants should be used.
3. Goaltenders may wear hockey girdles, as well as use a catching glove and blocker. Goaltenders must use regular shin pads.
4. TEAM MEMBERS should purchase and use the official HBBCBT uniform, having both the dark and light colored jersey with individualized number and name at each team practice or game.

ARTICLE 4 – HBBCBT Roster Size and Tournament Eligibility

1. There is no limit to the size of the broomball team membership.
2. To be eligible for the AHLBC Broomball Tournament, players must:
 - a. Meet team membership requirements, including dues being current.
 - b. Possess all required equipment as listed in ARTICLE 3, including the team jersey.
 - c. Practice with the team on a regular basis.
3. Only 18 players may be on the HBBCBT roster for tournament play. Those players will be chosen based on:
 - a. Practice and scrimmage attendance record.
 - b. Broomball skill and individual fitness level.
 - c. The size of the available roster and the roster requirements for tournament play (i.e. number of women, playing position, etc.)
4. The coach, with input from the captains, will be responsible for all personnel decisions.
5. The tournament team will be decided upon and announced within a reasonable amount of time prior to the tournament, as decided upon by the coach.
6. Players not on the official tournament roster are encouraged to continue to practice with the team in preparation for the tournament, and to attend the tournament if available in support of the team's effort.
7. If an extreme personnel shortage exists, the coach may use his/her discretion to remedy the situation.

ARTICLE 5 – Team Leadership Positions

1. There are 5 leadership positions on the HBBCBT. Positions are to be elected by a vote of all team members, with the candidate receiving the most votes for the position declared the winner. Elections are held at a team meeting, requiring a nomination, and accepting of the nomination. The vote may be done by voice vote if only one candidate is nominated, or by secret paper ballot or e-mail ballot if there are multiple nominees.
2. The highest ranking member of the leadership should organize and run elections for open positions as necessary.
3. Those elected to a position are responsible to hold and execute that position until such time as they resign the position, retire from the team, or are deemed ineligible according to ARTICLE 1 of these bylaws.
4. Leadership Job Descriptions (in ranking order):
 - a. COACH: The coach will schedule practices and scrimmages, as well as notify the team members within a reasonable amount of time. The coach is responsible for all personnel decisions for scrimmages and tournament play. The coach will give feedback to the team and individual players as necessary concerning strategy, playing decisions, and individual on-ice performance. The coach will run the team from the bench during scrimmages and tournament play. (If there is no coach, the team captain

assumes all coaching duties until such time as a coach is elected to the position).

- b. **CAPTAIN:** The team captain will, in conjunction with the coach, organize and run all practices. This will include, but is not limited to, creation of drills and on-ice work that will enable the team members to improve their individual skills, level of fitness, and enhance team play. The team captain will serve as a leader on the ice during scrimmages and tournament play for communicating with officials and members of the other team. The team captain will encourage and motivate team members. The captain is responsible to call for team meetings whenever necessary, but is **REQUIRED** to call a team meeting prior to the first scheduled practice of the new season to organize the players for the coming year, address any amendments to the bylaws, and otherwise receive input from team members in planning for the new season.
- c. **ASSISTANT CAPTAIN:** There will be two assistant captains. They will provide assistance to the team captain during practices as necessary. The assistant captains will be responsible to keep track of actual practice/scrimmage attendance during the season, and provide this information to the coach and captain regularly. The assistant captains will encourage and motivate team members, helping to maintain order and organization on the bench during scrimmages and tournament play. They will serve as a means of communication with officials and members of other teams in the absence of the captain.
- d. **TREASURER:** The treasurer will be responsible for collecting all dues and other monies as required and turning them into the HBBC treasurer, as well as coordinating with the HBBC treasurer in order to pay all expenses as necessary in accordance with ARTICLE 6. The treasurer will provide current financial information to the coach and captains as necessary; including the names of any players whose dues are not current. The treasurer will work closely with the official HBBC treasurer to ensure all monies are deposited, checks written, and money otherwise accounted for in the “broomball account”.

ARTICLE 6 – Off-Ice Policy

1. The treasurer is responsible for payment of practice ice-time fees, scrimmage ice-time fees, and tournament fees. These are considered essential to the working of the team and do not require team authorization. The HBBCBT will pay for any home scrimmage ice-time, and invite opponents to play at no charge to them.
2. The team will determine by a vote any non-essential expenses to be incurred. This may include, but is not limited to, the purchase of extra broomball equipment, replacement netting for the broomball goals, Gatorade/Water for team scrimmages and tournament play, etc. A majority vote is required for acceptance of any proposed non-essential expenditures.
3. The coach and team captains will accept input from any team member who has a suggestion on team policy or strategy.

ARTICLE 7 – On-Ice Policy

1. All team members will fully support team members during all on-ice activities.
2. Players will abide by the rules of broomball, and though effort and competitiveness is welcome, no team member will engage in reckless, unsafe, or otherwise dangerous behavior on the ice.
3. Any input about the team, or an individual on the team should be directed to the coach and/or captains, and done so privately.

ARTICLE 8 – Provisions for Suspension from the Team

1. Should a situation arise during the year in which a team member is in violation of the bylaws, it may become necessary to suspend or otherwise remove a player from the team.
2. Suspensions will be decided upon by the elected leaders of the team. Each situation will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
 - a. A meeting with the offending team member may or may not be necessary as the situation warrants.
 - b. In all situations, the best interests of the entire team will be given first and foremost consideration.
 - c. The length of any suspension is decided upon by the leadership of the team, and should be proportionate to the offense being considered.
3. In lieu of a suspension, team leaders may decide to give a formal warning to the offending team member instead. A formal warning is not a pre-requisite for a suspension, and vice-versa. Each situation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
4. The coach will inform the offending player of any warning or suspension decision. The coach will then communicate any pertinent information to the entire team at a later time.
5. Any player suspended may appeal the decision by requesting a meeting with the team leadership to discuss the decision.
 - a. Until this meeting takes place, the player is considered suspended until the time of suspension passes or the team leadership changes its ruling.
6. Suspended players may not practice or play with the team during the length of their suspension. There will be no refund of dues money paid for that period of time. Any non-payment of future dues or refusal to pay dues on time during a term of suspension violates ARTICLE 4, and that player will be declared ineligible for the current year's tournament roster.
7. The following is a list of offenses for which a team member may be suspended:
 - a. *Category A: Administrative Offenses*
This category includes administrative infractions and/or all non-physical offenses which violate the bylaws and diminish the quality of

sportsmanship on and off the ice. Examples include, but are not limited to: failure to pay dues on time (ARTICLE 2), arguing with a referee or member of another team (during scrimmages or tournament play), arguing with members of the HBBCBT during practices, or other events, and purposefully practicing or participating in HBBCBT events without proper equipment (ARTICLE 3).

b. *Category B: Cheating, Foul, or Otherwise Unsafe Play*

While there are inherent risks of injury in playing any sport, and all players should feel to play the game competitively within the rules to the very best of their ability, this category includes player actions that purposefully or recklessly (whether intentional or not) cause or may cause injury to one self or another player. The HBBCBT will not cheat or “play dirty” in an effort to win.

c. *Category C: Verbal and Physical Abuse*

This category includes episodes of vulgar verbal abuse toward a teammate, referee, or opponent. This includes any language used which personally degrades or is seen as argumentative. Any acts which are considered violent (fighting or roughing) and/or threats of bodily harm towards anyone, even in retaliation for another’s actions, are considered in this category, as do unsportsmanlike/vulgar gestures or actions meant to aggravate or offend.

8. Permanent Removal from the HBBCBT.

The team leadership may decide that a player’s negative actions require that person to be removed from the team on a permanent basis. In order to ban a player from participating the following must occur:

- a. The leadership must decide that a player’s negative actions require removal from the team.
- b. The leadership must call a team meeting, at which time they will give the entire team their recommendation to remove the player. Team leadership will give what evidence and/or reasoning they have used to come to this decision.
- c. The player being considered for removal will be offered the opportunity to present their side of the situation to the team if they choose to do so, provided it does not become a negative forum for bashing the team, team members, and does not constitute a filibuster which prevents team discussion and a final decision.
- d. The team will have time to discuss the situation without the team leadership or the defendant present.
- e. The team will vote on the permanent suspension, with a SUPER-MAJORITY being required for a player to be banned from the team. A super-majority in this situation is defined as 80% of the members in attendance. Absentees do not vote, and do not count against the super-majority. The team leadership and defendant do not vote, and do not count toward the super-majority.

ARTICLE 9 – Amendment of the HBBCBT Bylaws

1. Amendments to the bylaws may be proposed during the off-season (defined as from the day after the AHLBC Tournament until the first official scheduled practice). Any team member may propose amendments, by submitting the amendment to the Coach or Team Captain.
2. When an amendment is proposed, the Coach or Captain will communicate the proposition to the team for consideration. Discussion will be held at a team meeting which is to be held prior to the first official practice.
3. For amendments to the bylaws, a vote must occur, with a SUPER-MAJORITY voting in favor of the amendment for it to become part of the bylaws. A super-majority in this case is considered to be two-thirds (66%) of the team membership. Absentee votes will be secured and counted by the team captain.
4. The team captain will tally all votes and inform the team of the acceptance or rejection of the amendments.

THE HERSHEY BEARS BOOSTER CLUB BROOMBALL TEAM LEADERSHIP

Current Leadership

Coach: *VACANT*

Captain: Scott Siegel (2004)

Assistant Captain: Ron Gembic (2004)

Assistant Captain: Deb Myers (2001)

Treasurer: Connie Mara (2001)

Past Leadership Members

Coach: Don Potter (2004-2005)

Captain: Tom Mara (2001-2004)

Assistant Captain: Dan Hogan (2001-2004)

THE HERSHEY BEARS BOOSTER CLUB BROOMBALL TEAM HISTORY

2001 – 2002

Host: Adirondack, NY

Record: 0-5-1 *Playoff:* Rd. 1 Loss

Finished 7th out of 7 teams

2002 – 2003

Host: Albany, NY

Did not participate in AHLBC Tournament this year

2003 – 2004

Host: Hershey, PA

Record: 1-2-2 *Playoff:* Rd. 1 Loss v. Worcester (2OT)

Finished 7th out of 8 teams

2004 – 2005

Host: Syracuse, NY

Record: 1-3-1 *Playoff:* Rd. 1 Loss v. Albany

Finished 7th out of 9 teams

2005 – 2006

Host: Wilkes-Barre / Scranton, PA

Record: 1-2-2 *Playoff:* Rd. 1 Loss v. WB/S (2OT)

Finished 5th out of 6 teams