

# THUNDER BAY KINGS HOCKEY CLUB



PARENT & PLAYER HANDBOOK  
FOR 2024-2025 SEASON



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## HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION

In 1980, the Thunder Bay Hockey Development Association was created and presented a report to restructure minor hockey organizations in Thunder Bay. One key outcome from that report was the establishment of the AAA hockey program. Through the leadership of Jim Johnson, the Thunder Bay Kings AAA Hockey program was created in 1989.

As a member of Thunder Bay Minor Hockey Association, The Thunder Bay Kings AAA Hockey Association is the governing body of AAA hockey in Thunder Bay and is associated with Hockey Northwestern Ontario and Hockey Canada.

The Thunder Bay AAA Kings have appeared in 4 National Championships winning twice in 1994/95 and 1996/97. They have also won 4 Ontario Bantam Championships in 1994/95, 1995/96, 1998/99 and 1999/00 and our Peewee team won a Silver Medal in the 1996/97 Ontario Championships and a Bronze Medal in 2022/2023.

The Thunder Bay Kings have produced numerous players who have played professional hockey from the NHL to European leagues. Former Kings have represented Canada in many international tournaments. Major junior, the USHL and many tier two junior leagues have drafted and recruited Kings players. The NCAA and CIS has scouted and successfully recruited many players who have gone on to very successful careers.

This handbook offers a brief overview of the upcoming hockey season with Thunder Bay Kings AAA Hockey Association. Please acquaint yourself with this handbook as it should answer most of your questions on our organization's policies and procedures.

If you have any questions that are not covered in this handbook, please contact your designated team liaison or team manager directly for information.

Our website will contain ongoing news, statistics, schedules and other pertinent information. We encourage you as players and parents to view the website regularly.

Our website is: [www.thunderbaykings.com](http://www.thunderbaykings.com).

We are all involved in minor hockey to share our love of Canada's past time with the youth playing our game. Remember that we are all volunteers – please respect the contribution of others as they do of yours.

# THUNDER BAY KINGS AAA STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2028



## VISION

A premier AAA hockey organization developing exceptional athletes and well rounded individuals.



## MISSION

To provide a high quality hockey program offering on and off ice training, quality coaching, supports and exposure.



## VALUES

- ✓ Pursuit of excellence
- ✓ Accountability
- ✓ Discipline
- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Respect
- ✓ Engagement



## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. PREMIER AAA HOCKEY ORGANIZATION
2. HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM
3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION
4. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025 SEASON

<b>President</b>	Brent Rau
<b>Vice- President</b>	Donna Smith
<b>Treasurer</b>	Murray Wiebe
<b>Secretary</b>	Rob Miault
<b>Director</b>	Lonny Bohonos
<b>Director</b>	Shelley Graham
<b>Director</b>	Duncan MacGillivray
<b>Director</b>	Dave Olynick
<b>Director</b>	Neal Purdon

The Thunder Bay Kings AAA Hockey Association is a not for profit organization that is managed by a Board of Directors that are elected annually.

The Board meets monthly to decide on operational issues of the organization. There are a number of key portfolios, positions and committees that work together to manage both day to day matters and plan future activities and development.

If you are interested in working with us on a sub-committee, please let us know.



## **TEAM LIAISONS**

At the start of each hockey season a Board Member will be assigned as team liaison to each team. If you have any questions pertaining to the organization or team policies please contact your liaison.

**U13 Liaison**            **Lonny Bohonos**

**U15 Liaison**            **Rob Miault**

**U16 Liaison**            **Dave Olynick**

**U18 Liaison**            **Neal Purdon**

When uncertainty arises around team decisions, always consult the designated team liaison.

## **PLAYER SELECTION**

All players are invited to attend the Thunder Bay Kings AAA Hockey Association tryouts. Tryouts are advertised annually on our website.

Player selection is conducted by the designated coaching staff with assistance from the Kings Hockey Operations Board Members.

## **HOCKEY PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Thunder Bay Kings AAA Hockey Association is comprised of four teams representing U13, U15, U16, and U18 AAA hockey in Thunder Bay.

The Thunder Bay Kings AAA Hockey Association focuses on player development within a framework of discipline and hard work. The Kings take pride in developing players on and off the ice so that players gain life skills for long term success in all aspects of life.

Overall, the program provides more than 130 hours of on-ice practice sessions and 90 plus hours of off-ice training including dryland and video to all AAA hockey players. The program also provides opportunities for players to play more than 50 games in a year. The program includes individual player evaluations and education sessions.



## **REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE AND GAMES**

Teams may have additional tournaments throughout the season. All teams start practicing once the team is made and conclude with provincial, regional or national tournaments in March or April.

During the 2024 – 2025 season, the teams will be playing as follows:

U13	TBMHA
U15	GTHL
U16	TBMHA
U18	GTHL

## **PLAYER REGISTRATION AND FEE SCHEDULE**

Each year team managers are requested to submit a draft team budget no later than September 8th to be reviewed and approved by the Board.

Registration costs and fee schedules are determined and approved by the Board of Directors in conjunction with the team manager.

All player registration fees must be paid in full by January 10th of each year. Failure to do so may result in suspension from all team activities at the discretion of the Board of Directors and the Team Manager.

Fees should be paid as follows:

20%	by September 30
40%	by October 20
60%	by November 20
80%	by December 20
100%	by January 10



## **REFUNDS**

Generally, once a season has begun no refunds are allowed. In exceptional situations, an appeal process will be established for review if approved by the Board.

## **PARENT AND PLAYER FUNDRAISING OBLIGATIONS**

Fundraising is a vital part of our AAA Hockey program. It helps cover costs such as tournament fees, travel expenses, and team equipment, ensuring a positive experience for our players. We encourage all families to actively participate in our fundraising activities, both organizational and team, throughout the season. Your support and involvement are crucial in helping our organization achieve its goals both on and off the ice. Together we can provide our players with the best opportunities to grow and succeed in their hockey journey.

All parents are expected to participate in team and organization fundraising activities.

All team fundraising activities and special events must be approved in advance by the Board of Directors. Most fundraising activities will be approved that align with the Kings values' and where safety of all participants is prioritized.

All fundraising and special events must adhere to all policies and insurance requirements of HNO and Hockey Canada.

All funds raised by Kings' teams are done so in the name of the Thunder Bay Kings AAA Hockey club and are the property of the organization. Funds raised by the teams will be allocated to the teams, while organization lead fundraising may be allocated to cover both organizational and team costs.

## **PERMISSION TO SKATE AND PLAYER RELEASE**

Permission to skate and player release must be requested through the Thunder Bay Minor Hockey Association for any player who is registered with the Thunder Bay Kings AAA Hockey Association.

A player release is issued by Thunder Bay Minor Hockey Association and requires consultation with the Thunder Bay Kings AAA Hockey Association prior to the approval of a player release.





## **PLAYER AFFILIATION**

All teams and players must follow player affiliation rules set out by the Thunder Bay Minor Hockey Association.

Kings teams are permitted to affiliate players and will be expected to do so as required. All affiliations terminate at the end of the playing season.

League affiliation agreements for access to Thunder Bay Kings AAA players must be negotiated through Thunder Bay Minor Hockey Association on behalf of the Thunder Bay Kings AAA Hockey Association and must be approved by the Board of Directors.

For special player affiliations see Hockey Northwestern Ontario and Hockey Canada bylaws and regulations.

## **BILLETING FOR OUT OF TOWN PLAYERS**

Parents/guardians of out of town players are fully responsible for all costs and liability of billeting their child in Thunder Bay.

Billeting charges to parents for boarding players is negotiated by the player's family and the host family.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

All members (including parents) of the organization when attending team functions or representing the Thunder Bay Kings Hockey AAA Association at any public event will conduct themselves with dignity, modesty, respectfully and in a professional manner.

At a minimum, all Hockey Canada, Thunder Bay Minor Hockey Association and Greater Toronto Hockey League rules apply with respect to behaviour on and off the rink. The Kings Board reserves the right to review such behaviour and it may result in further disciplinary action and may include suspension and/or dismissal from the program.

- All coaches, volunteers, players and spectators are expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner at all games. All coaches, volunteers, players and spectators shall refrain from comments or behaviours that show disrespect toward any participant because of their sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender identity, skin colour, religion, weight, appearance, disability, nationality or other things that are perceived to make them "different". There will be no toleration for behaviour that constitutes harassment or abuse or bullying.
- Any act of physical violence (other than physical acts that are part of the game of hockey), or threatened physical violence, by any player, Team Official, parent, volunteer, or



spectator against any other person, will not be tolerated, whether such act or threat occurs on or off the ice. For the purpose of clarity, physical violence includes, but is not limited to: "locker boxing" and hazing or other initiation practices.

- All coaches, volunteers, players and spectators will be respectful of their surroundings, not causing damage or harm to facilities, including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, buses, coach, airplane and arenas. Should such an event occur, any costs related to damages will be incurred on the player, or their guardian/parent, or other person who may have caused the damage.
- All matters of a personal nature pertaining to the players, teams and organization are not to be discussed outside the organization.
- All coaches, volunteers, players and spectators will be respectful of their surroundings, not causing damage or harm to facilities, including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, buses, coach, airplane and arenas. Should such an event occur, any costs related to damages will be incurred on the player, or their guardian/parent, or other person who may have caused the damage.
- At no time will any member of the organization accept any items of a financial or personal nature in exchange for any King's sponsorship, coaching or endorsement of products.
- The coaching staff of all teams in the Thunder Bay Kings Hockey AAA Association will abstain from tobacco, alcohol and drugs while in the presence of their team.
- All coaches, volunteers, players and spectators will be respectful of their surroundings, not causing damage or harm to facilities, including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, buses, coach, airplane and arenas. Should such an event occur, any costs related to damages will be incurred on the player, or their guardian/parent, or other person who may have caused the damage.
- No alcohol or drugs are permitted at any time on motor coaches or other vehicles rented by the Kings organization.
- All players will abstain from tobacco, alcohol and drug use as a member of the Thunder Bay Kings MA Hockey Association. Any violation of this rule will result in disciplinary action and may include suspension and/or dismissal from the program.
- At no time will any use of cell phones, cameras, video equipment (unless authorized by the Thunder Bay Kings Board) be used within any of the Thunder Bay Kings dressing rooms. Once past the main door you are in a NO CELL PHONE area.
- The Thunder Bay AAA Kings Organization promotes mutual respect for the Game Officials (referee, linesmen, timekeepers), and fellow competing coaches.
- Civil behaviour goes further than disrespect. The referees' change room, and timekeepers box are off-limits for voicing dissatisfaction. Do not approach officials beyond the ice surface.
- Dress codes will apply to all Thunder Bay AAA Kings teams and are determined in consultation with the team managers and parents.



## **EDUCATION**

All players are expected to maintain good study habits and are requested to interact with their teachers during league play as well as over lost time while away on tournaments.

All King players are encouraged to maintain a "B" average in their studies.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Thunder Bay Kings AAA Hockey Association follows the guidelines set by Hockey Canada, Hockey Northwestern Ontario and the Thunder Bay Minor Hockey Association to minimize risks to our members.

The Thunder Bay Kings AAA Hockey Association complies with the guidelines set in handbook entitled "Hockey Canada's Risk Management Resources; Safety Requires Teamwork and Safety for All."

## **RESPECT IN SPORT & SPEAK OUT PROGRAM**

All coaching staff members and volunteers who are in direct contact with players must have "Speak Out" certification as stipulated by Hockey Canada.

The Speak Out program was established in 1997 to help prevent bullying, harassment and abuse in hockey across Canada.

All team personnel selected to coach the Thunder Bay Kings team must complete the Respect in Sport Coaches Module prior to the start of the season.

## **REPORTING PLAYER INJURIES**

Any on-ice injury resulting in a player leaving the game and going to the dressing room early must be recorded on an injury report.

Any off ice injury resulting from dry land and team building activities must be also be recorded on an injury or incident report.

An injury may not seem serious at the time, but future complications may arise.

It is the responsibility of the team trainer & manager to out an injured player report at the time of the incident



A copy of the report must be completed by the team trainer in full and sent to the Thunder Bay Minor and Hockey Northwestern Ontario office. Injury reporting templates can be received from your team manager or accessed on the HNO website.

## **INCIDENT REPORTING**

The Thunder Bay Kings AAA Hockey Association strongly endorses the reporting of any/all incidents of harassment, abuse and bullying as defined by Hockey Canada, Hockey Northwestern Ontario and the Thunder Bay Minor Hockey Association.

The reporting of an incident must be made in writing and in a timely fashion. Complaints will be addressed according to the severity, resources and safety for participants. A copy of the complaint must be submitted to Thunder Bay Minor Hockey Association.

The Thunder Bay Kings AAA Hockey Association cannot guarantee complete confidentiality and the contents of the document may be shared in an effort to resolve this complaint here within. By completing the form, it is agreed that H.N.O. may share some or all of the information in the process of resolving the complaint.

## **INSURANCE**

Through the Thunder Bay Minor Hockey Association, the Kings pay a fee for the Hockey Canada insurance to cover coaches, managers, trainers and minor hockey executive, gatekeepers, timekeepers and all other volunteers as deemed necessary.

Volunteers representing the Thunder Bay Kings Hockey Association that are not included in TBMHA bylaws and policies must be recognized and placed on a list by the manager of each team and submitted to Hockey Northwestern Ontario for approval.

## **OUT OF COUNTRY TRAVEL INSURANCE**

When travelling and participating in practices, games and tournaments outside of Canada, all King staff, carded players and affiliates are covered by medical insurance of up to \$5,000 through Hockey Canada.

It is strongly recommended that players, parents and coaches obtain additional coverage to cover costs over and above the \$5,000 limit.

Any expenses incurred over and above this coverage are the responsibility of the individual and/or their family or guardian.



## **ON AND OFF ICE ACTIVITIES**

All on and off ice activities must be approved by the Board of Directors.

Player/parent games are not permitted under Hockey Canada insurance requirements.

## **HOCKEY CANADA CO-ED DRESSING ROOM POLICY**

Hockey Canada Co-ed Dressing Room Policy will automatically be in effect when female players are registered with any of the Thunder Bay Kings hockey teams.

It is the responsibility of the team manager, coaching staff and players to adhere to the co-ed dressing room policy.

Every effort should be made to ensure that this policy is respected and integrated into all hockey activities on and off the ice.

## **EQUIPMENT**

CSA Hockey Helmets must be worn by all on-ice members of the Thunder Bay Kings members during practices. This requirement will apply to all coaches, assistant coaches, instructors, trainers, players and helpers during all on ice practices.

## **MANDATORY USE OF NECK GUARDS**

By regulation, the use of a neck guard by Hockey Canada players will be mandatory during practice and games.

A player failing to properly wear a neck guard during warm-ups and games shall be assessed a Misconduct Penalty. Warnings may not be given.

Individual player equipment is the responsibility of the parents/players unless stated by the team manager.



## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

Throughout the year, the games will be covered on the Kings' website and social media and sometimes through news outlets.

**Each Kings player/parent will be requested to complete a Freedom of Information form to permit the use of player information for media/hockey purposes.**

## **BANQUET AND AWARDS**

At the end of the season, players and parents are invited to attend the annual year end banquet held each year. Each player receives a ticket as the cost is included in the player registration fee.

Thunder Bay Kings do not present individual player awards.

Acknowledgement and thanks for individual player sponsorships is the responsibility of the parent.

Thunder Bay Kings does not issue thank you plaques for individual player sponsors.