



DCHS Boys Hockey Team Handbook 2024-2025

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Dodge County Wildcats Boys Hockey Players and Parents

Welcome to the Wildcat Hockey Team! The executive team members of the Blue Line Club are excited for the upcoming hockey season. We look forward to getting to know your family and supporting the team throughout the season. Given we are a volunteer led program, we encourage all parents to participate in the events and volunteer opportunities throughout the year to help make this a successful season!

The Blue Line Club supports the team in various ways throughout the season. Our primary responsibilities include coordinating the following:

- Preseason fundraising (the primary source of fundraising for the season)
 - Sponsorship program
- Fall captain's practices
- Additional fundraising throughout the season
 - Driveway stencils
 - 50/50 raffle at games
 - Pancake Breakfast
- Team Meals
- Pre-game meals
- Team gear and clothing
- Game events (Stick it to Cancer, Teacher Appreciation, Youth Night, and Senior Night)

We are all very excited to start the hockey season! We know the players and coaches have been spending time in the off season preparing to have a great year! We are also looking forward to working with a great group of parents, and hope to have many successes with your support!

We hope the team handbook provides you a guide for the high school hockey season, and you are able to find a variety of opportunities to actively participate in. We would like to thank those that have already given of their time and talents and encourage all to positively support our hockey team and coaching staff.

Go Wildcats!

The Blue Line Club Executive Team

President - Anne Ludvigsen

Vice President - Tracy Coshenet

Treasurer - Katy McNeilus

Secretary - Kate Brossard

Coaches Goals

We coach this team to develop these boys into successful young men on and off the ice, preparing them for the real world through discipline, accountability, and hard work.

- Learn to overcome adversity
- Learn to advocate for yourself

Expectations

1. Don't do anything that's detrimental to yourself. If it's detrimental to you, it'll be detrimental to our program and to our high schools.
2. We will conduct ourselves with class both on and off the ice.
3. We will be respectful to officials on and off the ice.
4. As a staff we are looking for the following attributes in our hockey players:

- Character & Attitude
- Competitiveness & Work Ethic
- Hockey Skills

Team Placement

Initially, your placement is determined by your tryout evaluation. We will hold two tryout days . After the second tryout, we will hold individual player meetings to let players know if they made varsity, JV or dismissal. We will keep around 32 skaters and 4 goalies. Any more than this will not provide the necessary amount of practice and game time for the selected players.

A senior must be projected to play on the top 3 forward lines or as a top 5 defenseman, as they will not exclusively play junior varsity. Coaches reserve the right to make exceptions to this rule based on numbers in the organization for any given year.

As the season moves along, your placement is also based on:

- What is best for the team and program
- Performance in practice and in games
- Effort, attitude, and behavior
- Ability to be a team player
- Hockey sense and executing what is taught
- Follow rules established by the MSHSL, the high schools, and coaches

Playing time is earned and will not be equal. Our goal is to develop all players in practice, but having success on the ice during games is important for our program. The players who give us the best chance for success will play more often in all situations. These decisions are collectively determined by the coaching staff.

Playing Time Additional:

- At times, select players may play in both JV and Varsity on a given night
- Players are allowed to play 4 non-consecutive periods.

Student Athlete Behavior & Academic Policy

School is #1 priority. Players must be able to schedule their time in order to accommodate school and hockey. Players must also be positive role models to the entire Dodge County Community. Players are expected to set an example for everyone in their schools. If students are not showing positive behavior, they will not participate in the games until they improve. If a player has an unexcused absence at school, he will not participate in hockey that day. Improvement is monitored and judged by the athletic director, coaches, teachers, and administrators.

Behavior

- First Complaint: verbal apology and loss playing time (1-2 periods).
- Second Complaint: verbal and written apology (one paragraph length that is approved by a coach/ person involved), and not playing for entirety of the following game.
- Third Complaint: verbal and written apology (one paragraph length that is approved by the coach/ person involved), and not playing for the entirety of the following game. The athletes and parents will also be required to meet with the AD and coach to discuss

whether the player shall remain on the team.

- Fourth Complaint: the athlete is asked to hand in their jersey and leave the team.

Grades Requirements:

- A player must maintain at least a 'C-' average or 1.667 or higher per quarter.
- Students receiving an incomplete will be ineligible until the incomplete is made up. If the incomplete isn't made up within two weeks of the end of the quarter, it will become an 'F'.
- Students with an 'F' or and 'I' are automatically ineligible.
- Effort grades for students with handicapping conditions will be used to determine the 'C-' average for eligibility, if they have no 'F's' or incompletes.

Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco Violations: Please see the KM Activities handbook for details on MSHSL Rules regarding drug, alcohol, and tobacco violations.

In addition to the standard MSHSL penalties, the DCHS Boys Hockey coaching staff will impose the following additional penalties on athletes that violate any MSHSL Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco rules:

- The athlete can't letter in the season of the offense if the offense happens in-season or in the upcoming season if the offense happens out of season.
- The athlete can't be a captain in the upcoming season if the offense happens out of season or in the following season if the offense happens in-season. So, an offense that happens for an athlete during their junior season would disqualify them from being a captain during their senior season.
- If the athlete is already a captain for a current or upcoming season when the offense occurs, their captainship for the current or upcoming season will be removed.
- The athlete will not be allowed to sit on the team bench for games during the ineligibility period.

Attendance & Tardiness

A 100% commitment is expected. Attend all practices, games, and team functions. Be early to everything and prepared. If you are injured, ill and can't participate, notify any of the coaches immediately. If you are not able to participate in a practice or a game due to an injury, you are still expected to attend the event.

Get to school and class on time. If you're tardy or have an unexcused absence, you are ineligible for practice and games that day. If you are on the ineligible list for any reason, you are responsible for clearing your name if there has been a mistake.

No player will be absent or tardy the day after a game including long away games. Exceptions may occur due to illness or family circumstances and need to be approved with the coaching staff.

Practice

If you inexcusably miss a practice or game, you will miss all or part of a game and possibly your current spot in the lineup. Excusable: Illness or family emergency; Inexcusable: Vacation, homework, make-up work. If you miss because of illness, there is no guarantee you will have your same spot in the lineup when you return. As a general rule, the number of practices missed will equal the number of games missed.

- The coaching staff will discuss all instances that occur and will have the final say on the consequences for the particular situation.
- Players who miss a practice or game for any reason must contact a member of the coaching staff prior to 12:00 noon on the day of occurrence or earlier.

Mistakes (they are going to happen!!)

- Mistakes are inevitable and must occur for learning to happen. The most important part is how players respond to mistakes and the consequences that may come from them.
- The coaching staff will work to help players learn from mistakes and move forward as a hockey player.
- Blame and excuses are not a part of learning from mistakes and are detrimental to the development of players. We will work to move past these natural reactions in order to learn and improve from mistakes.

Injury

- All players will need clearance to play from a doctor or an athletic trainer to let coaches know of any restrictions or limitations.
- Players that are injured or not dressing are expected to show up to the games and assist with the game management.

Stealing

- Stealing from teammates in the locker room or in any team affiliated functions will not be tolerated. You will be removed from the team.

Locker Room Cleanliness

As a team we have the benefit of dressing in an outstanding locker room. We will keep our locker room clean at all times.

- 1st Offense - Kicked out of locker room 1-3 days
- 2nd Offense - Kicked out of locker room for 1-2 weeks
- 3rd Offense - Kicked out of locker room for rest of season

Cell Phones

Must be turned off at all times in the locker room. This is a MSHSL rule that must be followed. A violation of this will be the confiscation of the phone.

Lettering Criteria

- A player must play in at least 8 games and must successfully complete the entire season.
- Players must also complete 8 hours of volunteer work with the youth hockey program during the season and at least 2 hours of other, off-ice volunteer work.
- The coaching staff reserves the right to letter athletes that do not meet this standard due to certain circumstances such as injury.

Parent Expectations- Conflict Resolution

- Main role is to support and encourage your player and the Dodge County Hockey Team. • Keep feedback positive. Allow coaches to coach and players to play.

When a conflict arises, empower your child to be and advocate for himself and talk with a coach. If the conflict persists, please reach out to our athletic director, Broc Threinen.

Throughout the course of a season certain areas can often trigger conflict and frustration:

- Playing time
- Positions
- Lines
- Rewards/ Consequences

As parents, you can help your child when any frustrations arise by encouraging your son to speak with a coach. In a very short time, your son will be done with school and into college or a career. It will be a valuable experience for your son to learn how to advocate for himself and speak to adults to resolve conflict.

When helping your child, please respect coaching decisions even though you may not totally agree. As much as coaches want to help each individual player, our overall responsibility is to the team. As coaches, we will put team needs above player desires when making decisions in these areas. Please understand that different perspectives motivate these decisions.

Please seek first to understand the situation before reacting; your son will know why decisions are made, please ask them. Allow at least a 48-hour period of time to cool down before trying to resolve the issue. There are always two perspectives- from that of the player (or parent) and from that of the coach. Be sure you and your son have all the facts before reacting.

Take the opportunity to teach your child how to present their concern to the coach. Coaches are always available before and after practice. Conflict and frustration can affect an athlete's performance on the ice as well as team performance. The coaches want conflicts or frustrations to be addressed so the individual and the team can perform at the highest level.

Players don't hesitate to ask a coach to meet if you have any concerns that may affect your performance or playing time.

1-2 times a month we will be holding individual player conversations with coaches. This is a great time to also address any concerns you may have as a player.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

The Blue Line Club encourages parents to be involved in at least one of the volunteer activities throughout the season.

- **Photography** - This has been traditionally fulfilled by a former Wildcat parent, however we always welcome any photography taken of players and families in action with Wildcat Hockey events. Any photos taken throughout the season can be forwarded to the dcwildcatsboyshshockey@gmail.com and will be compiled to use in rink banners, social media, and senior events.

- **Game day meal coordination** - We currently provide families with the opportunity to order game day meals for their player via Jimmy Johns. These are purchased by the player's family. The game day meal coordinator(s) will be responsible for picking up the meal order from Jimmy Johns on game day and delivering them to the bus for the players prior to bus departure.
- **Game day program coordinator** - The game day program is one of the advertising opportunities provided to our team sponsors. This person will be responsible for compiling the business cards and electronic business logos and ensuring all logos are accounted for (including those reused from previous years), and forwarding to the printing company. This role's responsibilities are primarily completed prior and around the October 1 sponsorship deadline.
- **Sign Up Genius** - There are multiple opportunities for parents to sign up for volunteer roles throughout the year. These are coordinated via Sign Up Genius. This person will create these sign up geniuses. These include (but are not limited to): burger nights, game day duties, team meals, pancake breakfast, and learn to skate volunteers. The Blue Line Club has created a sign up genius account to use for these events.
- **Social Media Updates** - The Wildcats have Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. This person would be provided the log-in information and be in charge of managing and sharing the events the Wildcats participate in throughout the season. This would include the events the team participates in (burger nights, fundraising, volunteer opportunities, team bonding events, etc) as well as game day preparation and team highlights.
- **Game Day Sandwich Board** - The Wildcats have a sandwich board that is placed along the highway advertising game days. This person is responsible for putting the sandwich board out the day of games.
- **Stick it to Cancer game** - Each year, the Wildcats select one game to be their Stick it to Cancer Game. The group volunteering for this will be responsible for planning the events (silent auction, raffles, etc). The proceeds from this will be donated to the Eagles Cancer Telethon.
- **Teacher Appreciation Night** - One game during the season will be selected for Teacher Appreciation Night. Those coordinating this will be responsible for having the players select a teacher to recognize, write something about the teacher, and invite them to the game for recognition. They will also select a small token of recognition for the teacher.
- **Senior Night** - One game will be selected for Senior Night. This is typically coordinated by junior parents. The coordinating team will be responsible for senior gifts, photos, etc.
- **Flag Bearer** - Each home game will have a youth player as a flag bearer. This person is the liaison between the youth and high school program to request volunteer players to be the flag bearer and coordinate this on game day.

- **Apparel** - Each year the players and parents will have the opportunity to order Wildcat gear. This person will work with our current vendor (Letterman's) to have the player gear selected as well as fan gear. They will also be responsible for distributing the orders.
- **End of the Year Banquet** - At the end of each season, the team, coaches, and parents have a recognition banquet. This group is responsible for selecting the location, menu, gifts, etc.
- **Rink Photo Case** - This group is responsible for decorating the boys' photo case at the rink, maintaining it, and turning the lights on and off on game days.
- **Parent Ambassador for Coop Schools** - These individuals are responsible for being the liaison between the school officials and the Blue Line Club. They will communicate any events the team is participating in to the schools for additional advertising. They may also help to find singers for the national anthem at home games.
- **Pancake Breakfast Committee** - This group is responsible for coordinating the pancake breakfast, usually held in December. They will be responsible for garnering donations, coordinating volunteers, and hosting the event.
- **Roadside Clean Up** - The team currently has a section of road they are responsible for cleaning up 3 times per year. This group will be responsible for coordinating a date, gathering volunteers and supervising the clean up.

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Game Day Duties

We ask that all families participate in the various game day duties that are required to successfully host home games. These duties will be equally divided by the number of players for the season. Once the roster is set, parents will be asked to sign up for the required number of duties. The Blue Line Club will send an email with the Sign Up Genius, starting with the senior families, then junior families and on down until all spots are filled. A deadline to sign up will be provided for each age group, and if a family has not signed up, duties will be assigned to them. Anyone working a game day duty will not have to purchase a ticket for the game.

****Note** - if you are interested in any of the duties but unsure how to do them (i.e. run the game clock), please reach out and training will be provided.

The duties are as follows:

- Ticket Sales (2 per game, JV and Varsity) - Taking money for tickets or game day passes at the gate.
- Music (1 per game, JV and Varsity) - Play music during any breaks or in between

games.

- Game Clock/Scoreboard (1 per game, JV and Varsity) - Run the clock/scoreboard during the games.
- Announcer (1 per game, JV and Varsity) - Introduce the teams, announce goals, penalties, etc.
- Scorebook (1 per game, JV and Varsity) - Keeps statistics in the game book.
- Visitor and Home Penalty boxes (1 each per game, JV and Varsity) - Run doors in each penalty box.
- Move nets for Zamboni (1 each per game, JV and Varsity) - Prior to the start of the game, get the bucket of practice pucks ready and over by the benches. Then, get game day pucks on ice (in an ice cream bucket with ice from the zamboni). Also, get the net pegs into a bucket of hot water (from the concession stand). After each period, move the nets so the zamboni can run. Keep the net pegs in hot water (from the concession stand) and reset the nets after the zamboni is done.
- 50/50 Raffle (1 for Varsity only) - Sells 50/50 raffle tickets in the stands during the game. Must be an adult only for selling tickets as well as anyone purchasing a ticket. Coordinates the drawing, announcing the winner, and distributing the funds.

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Season Information

Prior to the start of the season:

- Captain's practices begin two weeks prior to the start date of the season.
- Before participating in tryouts, all players must register for Ice Hockey through their home school winter sports sign up.
- All players must have a current sports physical on file with their school.
- Players will complete concussion testing with the trainer. Information will be sent out on the schedule for this from the Blue Line Club.
- Players have the option to purchase a hockey bag for the season with the Wildcats Logo and their name embroidered on them. Emails will be sent prior to the season for those interested in purchasing a bag.

Season Information:

- Once tryouts are completed, your player will receive a uniform, which will include two jerseys (home and away), breezer covers, a practice jersey, and two pairs of game socks. These are all the property of the Blue Line Club/team, and will require a \$100 deposit (will not be cashed unless items are not returned). This will be collected prior to handing out the jerseys. All of these items will be turned in at the end of the season.

- Clothing orders will be sent out at the time of the season starting with a very short turnaround time. Players are asked to purchase 1-2 team items per season. For the 2024-25 season, this will be a team sweatshirt and a team stocking hat. There is also an option to purchase a hockey bag with team logo and name.
- Players are welcome to change their numbers throughout their high school hockey career, however there will be a \$35 fee associated with this (\$15 for the name plate and \$20 for the rink pennant). Players will only be required to pay for the items that need to be replaced.
- Game day meals will be offered for weekday away games from Jimmy Johns. Information will be sent out with specific directions for this. It is purchased by the player/family, and is not required. Those that order sandwiches will have them delivered to the bus prior to departure.

Coaches Contact Information

Name	Position	Email
Andrew Wilcox	Head Coach	Andrew@nexgenmarketingmn.com
Bryce Wilcox	Head Coach	Bryce@nexgenmarketingmn.com
Nick Davidson	Assistant Coach	ndavidson@integratedplanners.com
Jared Oscarson	JV Head Coach	Jboscarson76@icloud.com
Travis Bebee	JV Assistant Coach	

Resources

[Dodge County High School Hockey Website](#)

[Kasson-Mantorville Student Handbook](#)

[Minnesota State High School League](#)