

WHS Boys Hockey Team Handbook 2026- 2027

Player Expectations

1. Attend all practices, games, and team functions, including team lifts is expected.
2. If you inexcusably miss a meeting, practice, game, team lift or other team function, you may miss all or part of a game and possibly lose your current spot in the lineup.
3. Be early to everything and prepared. If you are injured or ill and can't participate, notify any of the coaches immediately by text.
4. If you cannot participate in a meeting or game due to an injury, you are still expected to attend the event.
5. Injured players must work with our team trainer receive treatment and to do any necessary physical therapy. Players will not be cleared to return until cleared by the team's trainer.
6. You represent the White Hawk boys hockey team, even away from the rink. Act accordingly.
7. Be respectful to others, including your teammates.
8. Harassment or bullying of your teammates or others will not be tolerated.
9. Get good grades. Failing grades will affect your eligibility as is standard with all HS athletes. WHS policy requires that any student athlete who ends a quarter or semester with a failing grade must sit out at least two weeks or two games, whichever is longer.
10. Get to school and class on time. If you're tardy or have an unexcused absence, even from one class, you are ineligible for practice and games on 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.
11. By school policy, any player who has an F as a final grade for either a quarter or a semester will be suspended from the team for two games or two weeks, whichever is longer.
12. Do not vape or use alcohol, drugs, or tobacco. Any vaping or use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco WILL result in a suspension from the team.
13. Live a healthy lifestyle for peak performance. Do your best to get enough sleep and to eat well.
14. Players, if you have a concern, question, or a frustration, please talk to a coach at an appropriate time. Our door is always open to our players.
15. We will all dress the same on game days.
16. On home game days, players will always wear dress pants, button up shirt and tie. A suit jacket or blazer is optional. Away game dress code will be team issued joggers, warm-ups, team coats and winter caps. No baseball caps or non-team beanies. Captains will set the dress code at school on game days.
17. Players are expected to wear team issued athletic wear for pre-game, off ice warmups.
18. No inappropriate language in the music played in the locker room or on the bus.
19. Be respectful of the referees. Expect officials to make calls you do not agree with. This is part of the game and part of the adversity we will face.
20. Follow team rules, WHS rules, and MSHSL rules.
21. Cell phones and smart watches may not be used in the locker room. They must be placed in the team cell phone holder whenever you are in our team locker room at Thaler.
22. Cell phone use is strictly prohibited during games once on ice warmups start.
23. One player may use a cell phone to play music for the rest of the team in the locker room.
24. DO NOT DO ANYTHING DETRIMENTAL TO YOURSELF OR YOUR TEAM.

Parent Expectations - Conduct

1. Treat every player, coach, official, parent, rink personnel with respect.
2. Display appropriate behavior. Parents, like players, represent the White Hawk boys HS hockey program.
3. Parents, like players, should support the officials, and display good sportsmanship. Officials do the best they can. They do not get rich officiating HS hockey games. Coaches will teach their players that "bad" calls are part of the adversity that they will consistently face, just like goals against. Verbally abusing officials undermines this message.
4. Support team rules and the coaches. We have a dedicated coaching staff. While you may not agree with some of the decisions they make, coaching decisions are not be made lightly or arbitrarily by the coaching staff and can be something on which reasonable, objective minds may differ. Undermining the coaches will, in the end, only serve to harm your son who will have to accept coaching decisions.

5. Non-coach parents should not instruct their child during practices and games. Please refrain from yelling and/or directing your child before, during, and after practices and games.
6. Please DO inform coaches of any off-ice matters that may be affecting your son.

Parent Expectations - Conflict Resolution

High School student athletes are transitioning from childhood to adulthood. They should be encouraged to discuss issues directly with their coaches. Our coaching staff has an open-door policy for all players. We will be available to all players who want to discuss any issues or frustrations they may be having.

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 onto college or a career. It will be 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 agree. As much as coaches want to help each individual player, our overall responsibility is to the team. As coaches, we may have to put team needs above player desires when making decisions in these areas.

Calls, emails, and texts to coaches from parents regarding hockey related issues are discouraged and will not be returned or responded to.

If a conflict persists after a player has discussed the situation with coaches, there may be times when a meeting with coaches, player, parent(s) and possibly the athletic director is appropriate, but this will occur only in exceptional circumstances.

Communication

Information including schedule changes, will be sent to all parents and players via email using the TeamSnap app and website. Please be sure your email is up to date on our TeamSnap website.

GroupMe will be used for communications to players and coaches only.

Schedule

Our "official" team schedule can be found on the team's TeamSnap page. All activities, including meetings, team lifts, meals, and bus departures will all be on this schedule. This will be our up-to-the minute schedule. Please link to it. If you think something should be included on this calendar, please contact the head coach.

Players, coaches, and managers are expected to be fully packed and ready to board the bus fifteen minutes prior to departure for away games. The bus will leave promptly at the time designated.

Players who are playing in the JV game are expected to be at the rink one hour prior to the start of home games (e.g., 4:00 for a 5:00 face-off).

Players who are playing on the Varsity game are expected to be at the rink at least an hour and half before the start of home games (e.g., 5:30 for 7:00 face-off).

Players who are late may lose ice time.

Mentoring/Community Service Program

1. During our season, we encourage all our HS players to do five hours of community service with our youth hockey association, though players may also do other forms of community service.
2. Inform Jessica Rashleger (jrashleger@gmail.com) of your hours
3. Community service participation will be considered as part of our year end award process.
4. Be on your best behavior as you are representing our program.
5. Text your team's head coach before going to practices.
6. Wear your helmet with full facemask and gloves on the ice.
7. Wear only White Hawk high school approved apparel on the ice.
8. Do not bring your cell phone on the ice.
9. Sunday night skill sessions are great sessions for you to participate. You are encouraged to attend these sessions.

Varsity Lettering

To be eligible to receive a varsity letter at the end of the season, a player must be in good standing and have participated (skated, not just dressed) in at least 50% of varsity games. The coaching staff may award a varsity letter to players who made a significant contribution to the varsity team even if they did not meet the minimum game participation requirement.

2026-27 Coaching Staff

Jeff DeGree
Varsity Head Coach
mwhshockeycaoch@gmail.com
612-750-2986

Garrit Otten
Varsity Assistant Coach
garritotten@gmail.com
832-387-7256

Eric Hodell
Varsity Assistant Coach
ericthomashodell@gmail.com
920-460-7264

Pete McGovern
JV Head Coach
mcpe0301@gmail.com
612-245-0834