

# DALLAS STARS SELECTS

AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION OF NORTH TEXAS  
Member of USA Hockey and Texas Amateur Hockey Association  
www.dallasstarsselects.com

## PARTICIPANT GUIDE 2008-2009



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### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Amateur Hockey Association of North Texas, (AHANT), is to administer an amateur hockey program based upon the core values of USA Hockey and the Texas Amateur Hockey Association (TAHA) and to emphasize to youth hockey players the goals of mastering skills, having fun and developing a lifelong interest in hockey. As a part of the AHANT, the Dallas Stars Selects Program is the 2008-2009 official travel team programs for the Dr Pepper StarCenter Farmers Branch. The Program serves participants who demonstrate the dedication, work ethic, and desire to further develop the skills required for progression to more advanced levels of elite hockey.

### **PHILOSOPHY**

The philosophy of the Dallas Stars Selects (DSS) Hockey Program rests on the firm foundation of three principles: **teamwork, positive attitude and skill development**. It is by emphasizing these principles that we hope to assist parents in teaching their children important lessons about values, commitment, respect for authority and the rewards of a job well done without limiting the measure of success to the scoreboard.

#### **TEAMWORK**

Each player's first priority will be to set and achieve goals as a team. By becoming a team player that knows and plays by the rules, individuals will be rewarded the pleasure of learning that teamwork provides greater strength and success.

#### **POSITIVE ATTITUDE**

The character of a team will be reflected by players who maintain a positive attitude whether celebrating victory or accepting defeat. This requires that Stars teams demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times, whether on the ice, in the dressing room or relaxing in the common areas during tournament play, realizing that you are an ambassador not only for your association, but also, for the sport of hockey.

#### **SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

A well-organized, structured and positive environment will enhance skill development through healthy competition. Participants will invest the attention and hard work required to improve and develop his/her skills such that each athlete will perform the game to the highest of his/her ability. In this way, each player will develop improved self-esteem through his/her personal accomplishments, which ultimately manifests as a stronger team player.

## GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

### **PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS**

As part of the Amateur Hockey Association of North Texas, the Dallas Stars Selects Program is a member of the Rocky Mountain District of USA Hockey and of the Texas Amateur Hockey Association (TAHA). Teams will apply to participate in the *North Texas Hockey League (NTXHL)*. *Mites could participate in a league established by the Dr Pepper Stars Centers.*

### **SELECT TEAM TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS**

All Dallas Stars Selects Team participants will travel to all games within the Dallas / Fort Worth Metroplex and/or the State of Texas and Oklahoma that represents the geographical boundaries of the NTXHL. Any Select Team may choose to travel to invitational tournaments outside the aforementioned geographical area during the season. Tournaments should be decided upon through a diplomatic process, and not at the sole discretion of the coach and team manager. Any travel outside North America must be presented to the AHANT Board for approval, with proof of ample fundraising, chaperones for player safety, and documented parental approval for the trip.

### **DALLAS STARS SELECTS TEAM DIVISIONS**

USA Hockey League Playing Divisions - **Every effort will be made to ensure that the level of competition is appropriate for each team.**

### **DALLAS STARS SELECTS TEAM COACHES**

In an effort to provide the best coaching staff available, all Dallas Stars Selects Team Coaches and Assistant Coaches shall be required to be USA Hockey certified. Coaches and Assistant Coaches shall submit full résumés and references, which shall be screened by the VP of Hockey Operations and presented to the AHANT Executive Committee for approval. Background checks shall be performed on all Select Team Coaches and Assistant Coaches.

### **INSURANCE INFORMATION**

All Dallas Stars Selects Team players are required to register with USA Hockey, at their own expense, and as such are automatically provided with the USA Hockey General Liability, Excess Accident and Catastrophic coverage while participating as a member of a registered ice hockey team during a USA Hockey-sanctioned activity; certain deductibles apply. Additional insurance coverage is the responsibility of the individual participant. Detailed USA Hockey insurance information is available from the VP of Finance or the USA Hockey website, [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com).

### **REFUND POLICY**

All participants should fully understand the Stars policies and procedures prior to signing and submitting a Letter of Commitment thus ensuring that the maximum opportunity exists for appropriate matching of players and programs. Any request for a refund of registration fees by parties who have signed and submitted a Letter of Commitment following tryouts shall be reviewed and ruled upon by the AHANT Executive Committee on a case-by-case basis. No refund will be given if a player is removed from the Program as a result of a Code of Conduct violation. In general, "season ending" injuries will not result in a refund, as the Association's expenses are based on the number of teams and the ice costs involved. All decisions of the AHANT Executive Committee are final.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Throughout the year there are many options and opportunities, through volunteer efforts, for the families of players to become more involved in the enhancement of each child's experience. The diversity and flexibility of positions available make it possible for each family to participate as a volunteer at some level in the program. If you are interested in volunteering please contact your team manager, head coach or a member of the Executive Committee. The AHANT Executive Committee fully anticipates exuberant participation from the families of our players and is gratified to celebrate and thank each of you in advance for your participation, which is vital to the success of the Dallas Stars Selects Program.

### **FUNDRAISING POLICY**

Each individual Stars Team may seek sponsorships or raise funds provided that all such activities have received prior approval from the AHANT Executive Committee through the VP of Finance. Each team is highly encouraged to seek sponsorship or raise funds to insure that all players have an equal opportunity to participate in travel tournaments. All moneys and/or compensation shall be made payable to the AHANT or the appropriate DSS Team and deposited in the team's bank account set up by the VP of Finance. These funds shall be used by the team to cover approved team expenses. Teams may also have the opportunity to participate in fundraisers that benefit the entire organization. The Team Managers will distribute details regarding these programs to Select Team members during the first team meeting. Details may be found on the website. Forms for approval of fundraising activities or sponsorships are also available on the DSS website ([dallasstarsselects.com](http://dallasstarsselects.com)). Funds raised but not spent by the end of the season (April 30<sup>th</sup>) will become the property of AHANT/DSS and distribution will be governed by AHANT/DSS Executive Committee.

## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

All Dallas Stars Selects Program rules, regulations, policies and procedures shall be developed and administered by the AHANT Executive Committee of the Board of Directors whose specific duties are defined in the By-laws.

The Board of Directors comprises the following:

#### **Executive Committee**

President  
VP- Hockey Operations  
VP- Administration  
VP- Finance  
VP- Communications & Marketing  
Immediate Past President

#### **Officers**

Secretary  
Registrar  
Scheduler  
Team Manager Chairperson  
Fundraising Chairperson

All Officers of the Board of Directors shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

## **SELECT TEAM MANAGERS**

Each Dallas Stars Selects Team shall have a Team Manager who is appointed by the Team's Coaching Staff and approved by the Executive Committee. The Team Managers are the primary liaison between the Team and the Executive Committee. The Team Managers duties include but shall not be limited to, conveying issues of concern from participants and their families to the Team Coach, reporting receipts and disbursements in the team bank account to the VP Finance, and representing their team on the Disciplinary Council when necessary.

## **DISCIPLINARY COUNCIL**

The Disciplinary Council shall be called into session when necessary to address concerns not resolved at the team level. At such sessions, the President of AHANT shall preside, and other members of the council shall be the VP of Hockey Operations of AHANT and the chair of the Team Manager group. Possible attendees for a Disciplinary Council meeting would include the parties involved in the dispute, the Select Team Manager and the Coach (es) for the team(s). If the President, VP of Hockey Operations or Chairperson of the Team Manager group should excuse him/herself from presiding/attending due to an obvious conflict of interest, any other member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall serve in his/her stead. All AHANT Disciplinary Council decisions are final.

## **MEETINGS**

### **SELECT TEAM PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING**

Individual Select Team Orientation Meetings shall be held, typically coinciding with the first practice session, where a presentation of the Positive Parents Program will take place. Participation of team parents, or their representative, at this meeting is mandatory and further participation of the player in Team activities may not be permitted until this program has been completed.

### **INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEETINGS**

These meetings will be scheduled and conducted at the discretion of the Team Coaching Staff and Team Manager.

## **SELECTION OF SELECT TEAM PLAYERS**

After each season open tryouts will be held for all Dallas Stars Selects Team positions. Performance at specific team "skater" positions (Center, Winger, and Defense) **will** be part of the evaluation process for all candidates including goalies. Direct contact by any candidate or the family and friends of any candidate with the DSS Coaching Staff during tryouts is prohibited. Details regarding the tryout process and applications for the tryouts may be found on the DSS website or in the registration materials, which may be found at Dr Pepper StarCenters.

### **REGISTRATION/FEEES**

Registration materials shall be distributed through Dallas Stars Selects Board Members or Coaching Staff. The first installment of the fees is due when a player has been offered a position on a team and must be paid when submitting the Letter of Commitment or the player will not be allowed on the ice for practices and/or games. Any player with an outstanding balance from the previous season that is listed on the "not in good standing list" will not be allowed to tryout until the balance owed is paid. Any player selected after the completion of the tryout sessions will not receive a reduction in registration or other fees. Fees may be paid by cash, check or credit card. All fees paid to AHANT/DSS become the property of the Association and will be governed by the Executive Committee. Any player family that does not meet the financial payment schedule may be released during the season. The player family released will be placed into a "not in good standing" status until the financial commitment to AHANT/DSS is satisfied. At the end of the current season, any player family remaining in the "not in good standing" status, will be reported to the North Texas Hockey League, High School Hockey, and the Dr. Pepper StarCenters. These "not in good standing" player families will not be allowed to participate in future hockey seasons by these entities. Any team not meeting the number of players fees budgeted for level will be responsible for paying the difference in team fees.

### **SELECT TEAM COMPOSITION**

As a general rule, Dallas Stars Selects Teams comprise the following:

Mite/Squirt:	13 skaters/ 2 Goalies	Peewee:	15 skaters/ 2 goalies
Bantam:	16 skaters/ 2 Goalies	Midget Minor	16 Skaters/2 Goalies
		Midget Major:	18 skaters/ 2 Goalies

### **SELECTION PACKAGES**

All Dallas Stars Selects Tryout participants who are selected will receive an official Selection package. This package will contain all necessary forms and documentation, which must be completed and returned with payment of the first installment of fees immediately upon completion of the selection process and notification of your player's success. Failure to return the completed forms and documentation within the specified time period will be viewed as a rejection of our offer of placement on one of the Select Teams and your player's selection will become null and void. **Once players have signed a letter of commitment to the AHANT/DSS Program for the 2008-09 season (the projected dates for the season are August 18, 2008 – April 15, 2009) they are not permitted to play for any other ice hockey team (including but not limited to all types of High School teams (Varsity / JV) and/or ice hockey associations without written approval from the AHANT Executive Committee or the Team's Head Coach.** Players are permitted to play in the local house and summer leagues and summer camps from June, 2008 – August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 without written approval from the AHANT. Violation of this policy will be cause for release from the Dallas Stars Select Program and the Executive Committee has the right to demand complete payment of all fees due the Association before a release is granted.

### **PLAYER RELEASES**

The AHANT Executive Committee shall grant releases, when requested, to players who are in good standing with the program. All items of concern, including any unpaid fees, must be resolved prior to a player release being issued. Any participant who has signed overlapping commitments to another USA Hockey organization, or who is not a citizen of the United States, must secure a player release from that association or hockey federation prior to participation in a Dallas Stars Selects Program tryout session.

# THE SELECT TEAM SEASON

The official season for all Stars Teams begins upon Selection and terminates on April 15 of the following year. Rosters are final on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current season.

## **POSITIVE PARENTS PROGRAM**

Prior to any player taking part in any on-ice events of the Stars Team, all parents, parent representatives or guardians are required to attend the Positive Parents Program, which includes information regarding the impact of parent behavior upon the players. The program will be presented during the Select Team Orientation meeting and possibly again in January.

## **ATTENDANCE/SCHOLASTICS**

Hockey is a team sport and as such **all players are required to attend all practices and games**. Each player will respect the time commitment of his/her teammates and coaches by being punctual for games, practices and clinics. Participants must contact the Select Team Coach or Team Manager prior to the scheduled ice session to receive an excused absence. The AHANT Executive Committee strongly encourages parents to closely monitor their player's academic performance. If a participant is having difficulty academically, parents are encouraged to consult the Select Team Coach early on to devise an equitable solution. A player may be released from AHANT/DSS due to missing practices or games if this becomes an issue with the team.

## **SCHEDULES**

All Dallas Stars Selects Team schedules shall be posted on the website - [www.dallasstarsselects.com](http://www.dallasstarsselects.com)

## **PRACTICES**

All DSS teams shall receive a minimum of 48 full sheet practices during the season. Practice duration shall not be less than one hour. Every effort will be made to conduct practices that equate to ice times allotted to league games. 75 minutes for the Squirts and 75-90 minutes for the Peewees, Bantams and Midgets.

## **GAMES**

Select Teams will play a *North Texas Hockey League* formatted schedule.

## **TOURNAMENTS**

All Select Teams will participate in the Association's Texas Shootout (Labor Day weekend) and the Fall Round-Up (Thanksgiving weekend) Tournaments. In addition to this tournament, individual Select Teams may chose to participate in/travel to invitational tournaments. All travel expenses, including transportation, food, lodging, coaches' expenses, and tournament fees are the responsibility of the team parents and are not included in your registration fees. When traveling outside the Dallas/Fort Worth area the team will be responsible for reimbursement of the Head Coaches' expenses including 100% of his air fare (coach fare) and/or ground transportation (rental car fee for a "standard or "mid-size" automobile and/or gas receipts...mileage will only be paid if the coach uses his personal automobile and initiates and concludes the trip in Dallas), and lodging expenses at the team hotel. The team will also be responsible to reimburse up to two (2) Assistant Coaches for 50% of all air fare (coach fare) and/or ground transportation (rental car fee for a "standard or "mid-size" automobile and/or gas receipts...mileage will only be paid if the coach uses his personal automobile and initiates and concludes the trip in Dallas), and lodging expenses at the team hotel. All coaches will be responsible for their meals while traveling with the team and these expenses are not reimbursable. Additional travel opportunities will be evaluated and agreed upon by the Head Coach and the Team Manager before a formal vote can take place among the team parents. No Select Team may travel without their Head Coach unless they receive written permission from the AHANT Executive Committee. At any point during the season and/or at the conclusion of the season teams' members may be assessed additional fees by the Association. Additional fees may include but are not limited to the following: tournament entry fees, travel expenses, additional ice, coach's expenses, and other items determined to be a team expense by the AHANT Executive Committee.

## **PLAYER EQUIPMENT**

USA Hockey requires the use of specific hockey equipment. Players are responsible for the care and well-being of their own equipment and shall provide all hockey equipment other than items mentioned in Team Uniforms section below.

The following items are required:

USA Hockey approved Black helmet and facemasks

Colored mouth guard - Required at all times when on the ice

Neck guards - Required for Mite and Squirts; recommended for all age classifications

Shoulder pads, Elbow pads, Gloves, Skates, Black hockey pants, Cup and supporter, Shin guards, Sticks – 2 (minimum)

## **TEAM UNIFORMS**

All teams will receive an official Dallas Stars replica home and away jersey with the player's number and last name professionally applied, and one pair each of home and away socks, which shall be worn as a set. Participants who are AHANT Alumni have seniority over a jersey number. The Stars player that has worn a particular number the longest, in consecutive years, has the right to continue wearing that number when a conflict arises. If one or more players have equal years in the Association and have worn that number each year, a coin toss will determine who has the rights to the number. First year players to the program that are in their second year of an age classification will have priority over first year players when choosing his/her player number and will keep the same number as long as the participant plays for the Stars Program. If a player leaves the Stars Program for a season, then his/her number becomes available for selection by other players. If the player then returns to the Stars Program, the previously used number is reclaimable only if no one has selected it in the player's time away. The jersey will be the player's to keep, but must be maintained in excellent "like new" condition, clear of mold, fading, holes, tears and stains, during the season. Coaches will decide if the jerseys are wearable from season to season and rebates shall be applied to player fees, if applicable. Socks that become torn must be replaced at the participant's expense. All player helmets shall be black in color and display only official Dallas Stars Selects Program helmet decals and player number. Goalie helmets may have customized paint schemes; the Select Team decal is not required.

## **TEAM APPAREL/BOOSTER ITEMS**

All Select Teams will be issued an official travel uniform as part of their registration fees. No other Select Team travel uniform is allowed. AHANT will design the Association's pin that each team will be required to purchase and use during appropriate times. Team Managers will coordinate with the VP of Marketing/Communication for purchases of other booster items in an effort to get the best possible prices and to maintain the quality of the Dallas Stars Selects Program logo and brand.

## **DRESSING ROOM PROCEDURES**

An adult representative of each Select Team will supervise their team's dressing room. Parents/guardians of players are not allowed in dressing room 30 minutes prior to and 15 minutes after any scheduled ice session. At their own discretion, Mite and Squirt Select Team Head Coaches may give specific permission to parents/guardians allowing deviation from this policy. Acts of hazing and/or initiation defined as acts of physical or mental mistreatment intended to intimidate or segregate players by age, ability, or otherwise, will not be tolerated and any person(s) participating in such acts will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from AHANT. Decisions of the Executive Committee of AHANT will be final.

## **TEAM DISCIPLINE**

Dallas Stars Selects Team Coaches have the authority to issue in writing, to team participants and their parents, Select Team rules and disciplinary actions, which have received prior approval from the Executive Committee. Parents and players will acknowledge receipt of these rules and sign a contract agreeing to abide by these parameters.

## **CONCERNS/GRIEVANCES**

Most concerns or grievances involve the team and as such, the Select Team Manager should be the first point of contact in order to provide the best opportunity to resolve the issue within the team structure. Involved parties must adhere to all policies, procedures, rules and regulations of USA Hockey, TAHA and the AHANT in attempting to resolve these issues. **A 24-hour cooling off period shall be observed before any grievance or concern is brought forward to the Team Manager and if the issue cannot be resolved at the team level, the issue will be presented to the AHANT Disciplinary Council.**

## **PLAYER FEES**

**All player fees paid to AHANT are subject to the management decisions of the Executive Committee. A player is considered in "good standing" when his/her total financial obligation to the AHANT for a season has been satisfied. A list of Players not in "good standing" with AHANT will be circulated to all area Associations, The North Texas Hockey League, High School Hockey, and Dr. Pepper StarCenters preventing this player from playing for another Association or league until that player is released in "good standing". All items of concern, including any unpaid fees, must be resolved prior to a player being released in "good standing". At any point during the season and/or at the conclusion of the season team members may be assessed additional fees by the Association. Additional fees may include but are not limited to the following: tournament entry fees, travel expenses, additional ice, coach(s) expenses, and any other items that are determined to be an expense by the AHANT Executive Committee.**



**FINE PRINT:** The Amateur Hockey Association of North Texas (AHANT) Participant Guide is intended to serve as a basic guide for all AHANT members. These policies and procedures are the rules, which the Executive Committee, Officers, Directors, Committee chairpersons, Parents and Players are expected to follow. As any organization expands in size and function, such policies are needed to insure that each person is treated fairly and equitably. No rules or procedures contained in this Participant Guide or in any other AHANT memorandum or publication may be construed as contractual in nature, nor do such policies give rise to any contractual rights of any kind. This guide is intended only as a guideline for the Executive Committee, Officer, Board, Volunteers, Parents and Players. AHANT reserves the right to change, modify, add or eliminate any provision within this guide at any time without notice. Any grievance requiring legal action, all legal fees will be paid by the participant. These fees include any fees incurred by Dallas Stars Select no matter the outcome of the legal action. Any participant in Dallas Stars Selects will hold harmless the Executive Committee, Officers, Board and Volunteers of The Amateur Hockey Association of North Texas.