

## **PVAHA/USA HOCKEY BACKGROUND SCREENING PROGRAM**

Dear PVAHA/USA Hockey Volunteer;

Several years ago USA Hockey instituted a Background Screening Program to protect child-members from abuse. Local affiliates are responsible for managing this program within their jurisdictions. PVAHA is responsible for program administration in Maryland, Virginia and District of Columbia.

PVAHA requires volunteers (i.e. coaches, team managers, etc.) who participate in member ice hockey programs based within its boundaries to submit a completed Background Screening Application & Disclosure Statement. This form requests personal information concerning applicants. The obtained information will be used to perform criminal history checks within strict parameters to identify individuals who have, based on their past histories, a future potential for child abuse. Collected information will only be used for the above stated purpose; it will not be shared with anyone, nor will it be used for any other purpose. The seven-screened criteria include:

1. Convictions (including crimes the record of which has been expunged and pleas of “no contest”) of a crime of child abuse, sexual abuse of a minor, physical abuse, causing a child’s death, neglect of a child, murder, manslaughter, felony assault or any assault against a minor, kidnapping, arson, criminal sexual conduct, prostitution related crimes, or controlled substance crimes;
2. Adjudged liable for civil penalties or damage involving sexual or physical abuse of children;
3. Any court order involving any sexual or physical abuse of a minor, including, but not limited to domestic order or protection;
4. Parental rights termination;
5. A history with another organization (volunteer, employment, etc.) of complaints of sexual or physical abuse of minors;
6. Resignation, termination or request to resign from a position, whether paid or unpaid, due to a complaint(s) of sexual or physical abuse of minors; and
7. Other behavior that indicates a person may be a threat to children in PVAHA member programs.

Failure to submit or to timely return a completed form may result in a volunteer being declared ineligible to participate due to “Incomplete Registration Materials”. The volunteer and any program(s) that the volunteer participate(s) with will be advised of the volunteer’s ineligibility to participate.

Volunteers with a positive screening check will be advised of the result and their appeal rights. If an appeal does not resolve administrator’s concerns the clubs that the volunteer participates with will be advised that the volunteer is ineligible to participate because of “Incomplete Registration Materials”.

Please contact the program administrator directly if you have questions, comments or concerns, 443 676-3046 (c) or [screening.pvaha@yahoo.com](mailto:screening.pvaha@yahoo.com). All contacts will be treated as privileged information.

Sincerely,  
Chris Dernetz  
PVAHA Background Screening Administrator

Submit completed signed printed forms to:  
PVAHA Background Check  
1436 Putty Hill Avenue  
Towson, MD21286