

## **MISSOURI HOCKEY INC., SCREENING POLICY**

Child abuse is a significant social problem we face today. Recent public opinion polls rank the problem second only to drug use as a national concern. Missouri Hockey recognizes the potential for such abuse to exist within our organization. Consequently, the Missouri Hockey Board of Directors has adopted a screening program to minimize the possibilities for such abuse to take place. You and your Association's participation and support of these policies reflect your concern about our children's safety in our hockey programs as well as your willingness to take steps toward preventing child abuse and its detrimental effects.

The new online screening program includes but is not limited to all coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, team managers, on ice officials, billeting families of players, and anyone with routine access to children in USA Hockey programs.

The following instructions, together with the online instructions and prompts provided by the Axiom Information Security Services (Axiom) website, will guide you through the Missouri Hockey online background screening process. Sample website screens and directions are available by clicking the link below.

Under federal law, volunteer organizations must secure a signed consent/release form from each individual on whom a background check is to be requested. All questionnaires are confidential and answers are confidential. All questionnaires will be submitted for a background record checks. When you have successfully completed all phases, your name will be added to the list of people eligible. Our plans are to post this list on the Missouri Hockey website at [www.mohockey.org](http://www.mohockey.org). When this process is successfully completed you are eligible to be a coach, assistant coach, trainer, on-ice official, billeting family, or team manager.

To maintain confidentiality Missouri Hockey utilizes an outside online firm, Axiom Information Security Services, process the background checks. Should an applicant's background check indicate an infraction they will receive an email from Axiom and given the opportunity to review the information. The review process will consider the severity of the infraction, the applicant's answer, the time passed since the infraction, and any other pertinent facts. The outside firm to protect the applicant's confidentiality will do this review. An appointed committee will review the information gathered and any recommendations prior to rendering a decision. The ruling of the committee shall be in force from the time of its ruling.

The Missouri Hockey Board of Directors, or a committee appointed by them, will hear any appeal of the committee's ruling. The appellant must appear in person before the Board of Directors, or their appointees, and state all the facts to be considered. The ruling of the Board of Directors, or their appointees, will be final and not subject to further appeal to Missouri Hockey or USA Hockey.

Thank you for your assistance and support in making ice hockey a safer and more enjoyable sport for all youth.