

Code of Conduct – Team Official

The athlete/coach relationship is a privileged one. Coaches play a critical role in the personal as well as athletic development of their athletes. They must understand and respect the inherent power imbalance that exists in this relationship and must be extremely careful not to abuse it. Coaches must also recognize that they are conduits through which the values and goals of a sport organization are channeled. Thus how an athlete regards his/her sport is often dependent on the behavior of the coach. The following Code of Conduct has been developed to aid coaches in achieving a level of behavior which will aid their athletes in becoming well-rounded, self-confident and productive human beings.

Although this code is directed toward coaching conduct it equally applies to other members of the "Team Leadership" such as assistant coaches and managers. It is assumed that these people act in cooperation with one another to construct a suitable environment for the athlete.

Coaches have the responsibility to:

- Treat everyone fairly within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, color, or economic status.
- Be reasonable, remembering that players have other interests and obligations.
- Teach players to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.
- Remember that participants need a coach they can respect. Set a good example.
- Ensure that each team member gets equal instruction, support time, and a fair and honest chance to play.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities are safe.
- Direct comments or criticism at the performance rather than the athlete. Do not ridicule or yell at a player for making mistakes or for performing poorly. Give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort. Remember players play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
- Consistently display high personal standards and project a favorable image of the sport and coaching.
- Refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches, athletes, officials and volunteers.
- Respect the officials' decisions and encourage participants to do the same.
- Refrain from use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of his/her duties. Ensure that the activity being undertaken is suitable for the age, experience, ability and fitness.
- Ensure the activity being undertaken is suitable for the age, experience, ability and fitness level of the athletes and educate athletes as to their responsibilities in contributing to a safe environment.
- Treat opponents and officials with due respect, both in victory and defeat and encourage athletes to act accordingly. Show respect for the teams' opponents, because without them there would be no game.
- Actively encourage athletes to uphold the rules of their sport and the spirit of such rules.
- Foster regular and effective communications with the parent.
- Be a certified coach with the hockey canada coaching program before applying for a coaching position with MMHA or be committed to obtaining the appropriate certifications within the prescribed timeframe.
- Notify a MMHA Executive member if an incident where a player displays an extreme attitude or behavior occurs.

Remember that it is a privilege not a right, to be a coach.

Endeavor to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all players involved.

*** By accepting the coaching position you are acknowledging that failure to obtain the appropriate coaching certifications as set out by Hockey Canada, Saskatchewan Hockey Association and/or Martensville Minor Hockey Association will result in fines being imposed on the offending coach and those fines are to be paid without delay as advised by the Secretary of MMHA.**

Coach/Team Official name:

Team:

Signature:

