



CODE OF CONDUCT

For all players, parents, coaches, officials and volunteers

The purpose of this document is to clearly state the expectations of parents and participants for the season ahead. Our purpose is to communicate the philosophy to have a safe hockey season. We encourage open dialog with all parents and players should any issue arise throughout the season. Please remember why we are all here and most importantly why children participate in sports. Take some time to review this document with your child to ensure that everybody involved fully understands his or hers responsibilities on the team. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the season, don't hesitate to ask.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Good Sportsmanship is expected and required of all players, coaches, parents and spectators. All league, association and Hockey Canada rules will be strictly enforced. All players will treat their own teammates and their opponents with respect. Players will not criticize their teammates, but they will be courteous, supportive and cheer them on in a positive manner. Parents will not focus solely on winning or losing, but rather the growth and development of their player.

APPROPRIATE CONDUCT / ALCOHOL

There should be no consumption of alcohol in any arena. Any person affiliated with the team who appears intoxicated at any team function, game or practice, will be asked to leave the facility, the police will be notified and parents will be asked to arrange alternative transportation for their player. Parents should remember that there is a time and a place for everything. Minor hockey and alcohol don't mix.

ICE RESURFACING

When the ice is being resurfaced between skating sessions, no player shall step on the ice until the resurfacing machine has left the ice and the doors to the machine storage area doors are closed. No players are allowed to enter the ice surface until they are supervised by a team official who is present or on the ice. At the conclusion of a practice or game players are expected to leave the ice surface in an appropriate and organized manner. No pushing, shoving, verbal abuse or slamming of sticks will be tolerated.

ARRIVAL TIMES

Tournaments: TBA

From time to time we understand that daily schedules do not always run according to plan, and parents do their best to have players on time. If you're going to be late for a game or practice, please communicate to the coach or manager prior to or on arrival at the rink. The parents of players who habitually arrive late maybe asked to meet with team officials to resolve the situation. If the problem persists, the player in question can be removed from the team, with the approval of the association's executive.

PLANNED ABSENCE FROM PRACTICE, GAME OR TEAM EVENT

The team manager or head coach shall be notified as soon as the parent/player knows they are unable to attend any game, practice or team function. Players suspected of not being able to participate in games, shall notify the team 24 hours prior to the scheduled game. From time to time there will be specific events that are mandatory that all team players attend. These events could be but not limited to: Practices, Games, Skills Sessions, Power Skating, Fundraising events or Team Building sessions.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

Incidents of violence and abuse are on the rise in our hockey rinks. Not with players on the ice, but parents in the stands. In order to establish a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone, parents are expected to follow the IMHA's code of conduct. If you disagree with the team's philosophy, development or coaching techniques, contact the team parent liaison/manager, in a professional and proactive manner. Negative and unfounded rumours towards coaches or players create an air of discomfort for everyone.

- Enjoy your player's participation in sport.
- Do not force your player to participate in hockey if they don't want to.
- Respect your player's identity and let them live their own successes.
- Ask your player about highlights rather than performance.
- Encourage your player to participate, work hard and listen to coaches.
- Do not pressure your player beyond his capabilities, instead promote that doing your best is as important as winning.
- Support the coaches and communicate any concerns directly and professionally to the team parent liaison/manager.
- Be involved for the good of the team.
- Be respectful of the referees, coaches, all players, parents and spectators at the rink.
- Ensure you son/daughter has the proper equipment.
- Never abuse a player or coach physically or verbally.
- Never discipline you son/daughter in the presence of the team.
- Never ridicule or yell at your player for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Be a full time spectator with positive cheers only in victory and defeat.
- Do not coach or shout directions from the stands.
- Do not use Profanity.
- Show appreciation for the volunteers who give their time to support hockey for your player.

EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS

- Remember that participants play hockey for their enjoyment. They are not playing to entertain you.
- Do not have unrealistic expectations. Remember that the players are not professionals and cannot be judged by professional standards.
- Respect official's decisions and encourage participants to do the same.
- Never ridicule a player for making a mistake during a game. Give positive comments that motivate and encourage a continued effort on and off the ice.
- Do not use bad language or harass players, officials, coaches or other spectators. Refrain from yelling directions to players, coaches or officials.
- Cheer in a positive manner, especially for exciting plays, individual efforts or team accomplishments.

EXPECTATIONS OF COACHES AND TEAM OFFICIALS

Coaches and Team Officials are role models for our players and are entrusted with leadership, care and control of the team. They must be properly certified where applicable, and are held to the highest standards. Coaches and Team Officials are expected to observe and follow IMHA policies, and observe confidentiality where appropriate. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action as listed below.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE COACHES

Parents shall not approach the coaches before, during or after games or practices for a period of 24 hours to discuss issues about their player. Congratulations and other general remarks are appropriate but DO NOT discuss negative issues when emotions are high. The coaching staff endorses the code of conduct and encourages all parents to utilize the proper procedures when dealing with sensitive issues. All parents, coaches and players are expected to communicate in a positive professional manner. Parents are reminded that it is a coach's job to coach, and his or hers decisions are done for the best interest of the team.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Fighting of any kind will not be tolerated on or off the ice. Any breach of the Code of Conduct, abusive language, violent conduct, disrespect of coaches, officials and peers will not be tolerated. The coach, with support from the parent liaison/manager, will handle such problems with the players/parents directly but if the problem continues, the coach may request a meeting with the player/parents, team officials and league representative. It is the intention of team officials to find amicable resolutions to all problems that may arise, but some issues may be resolved by disciplinary actions such as, suspensions, loss of playing time or removal from the team. Parents that directly interfere with the running of the team or the team's philosophy, or refuse to abide by IMHA's Code of Conduct will be considered problematic, and requested to meet with team officials or association executive. Any personal attack verbal or physical on any team official will not be tolerated and the parent and/or player involved will be removed from the team.

TEAM CONCERNS

Hockey is highly competitive, exciting and fast. One minute you're up a goal and the next you're short-handed and down by one. Coaches must have some latitude to make decisions for the best interest of the team without fear of reprisals from parents. Every team will always have players that perform higher than others. If the players are aware of the coaching policies, and the coach is upfront and honest, there should be no issues over ice time. The coach has the responsibility of running his or her bench and should never feel pressured by parents on ice time allotments. Ice time is based on a season, not one game. If you have a concern or problem with your player, put it in writing and deliver it to the team manager. No problems will be addressed unless they are received in writing first.

Step One: Adhere to the 24-hour rule.

Step Two: Put it in writing and deliver it to the team parent liaison/manager after 24 hours.

Resolution, or

Step Three: Meeting with the team parent liaison/manager and coaching staff.

Resolution, or

Step Four: Meeting with the team parent liaison/manager, coach staff, and Club officials.

Resolution, or

Step Five: Meeting with the team parent liaison/manager, coaching staff, Club officials and League officials.

Resolution.

The following issues are sensitive and should not be discussed in a negative or counter-productive manner among parents or team officials.

- The team's philosophy.
- Coaching strategies, tactics and styles.
- Line combinations.
- Individual play of any player.
- Ice time during games.

Final Note:

Remember that your child is participating in sports for: fun, to excel, to learn, for thrills, to meet friends, exercise, become a team player, to develop their skills. Children playing minor hockey should have the chance to participate in the great game of hockey, free of politics, negativity, abuse and harassment.

Pressure from parents is the most taxing issue for minor hockey coaches. Parents often focus on their own child excelling, and the team winning hockey games. Wins and losses are far less important to players. Children don't abuse officials, or show a lack of respect until they see their parents and peers doing it. Parents and coaches need to work together to inspire our children to achieve their highest possible level both on and off the ice. Keep in mind that a coach has 20 players and 40 parents all with different personalities to deal with. Coaches and team volunteers dedicate their time for your children.

The experience of hockey should be thrilling, full of life lessons and most of all fun. Remember every time you walk into an arena that your child plays hockey for his/hers enjoyment, not yours. If you are getting a solid effort from your child, and they are having fun, you should be happy.

Interlake Minor Hockey Association
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