

Parents Code of Conduct

Parents can take the fun out of hockey by continually yelling or screaming from the stands.

Parents should enjoy the game and applaud good plays. The stands are not a place from which parents should try to personally coach their kids. Kids often mirror the actions of their parents; if they see mom or dad losing their cool in the stands, they will probably do the same on the ice.

IN THE CAR AND AT HOME

Some parents not only spoil the fun for their kids at the ice rink, but also in the car, believing this is the perfect place for instruction. Parents should try to keep things in perspective. There's more to life than hockey, and the car and home are not places to coach. Parents need to remember that they are not the coach, and the most difficult kind of parent is the one who coaches against the real coach. It is unfair to put children in a position of having to decide who to listen to their parents or the coach.

AT PRACTICE

Parents have to remember that if a child wants to improve, they have to practice not just play. Even if a child is not the star player for a team, practice stresses the importance of teamwork, establishing goals, discipline, and learning to control your emotions, all of which are important lessons children can use both in and away from sports. Remember that the kids are depending on you to get them to the rink.

AT THE RINK

Hockey parents can help create a fun environment by making certain their children are wearing properly fitted equipment. Parents also need to stress fair play and risk management to help eliminate injuries. Always be positive. Parents serve as role models for their children, who often look to adults for advice, direction, and approval. Never lose sight of the fact that you are a role model and strive to be a positive role model; as a parent, one of the most important things you can do is show good sportsmanship at all times to the coach, referees, opponents and team members. Issues at the rink will be addressed by the Disciplinary Board.

LET THE COACH COACH

Avoid placing an exaggerated emphasis on winning. A recent survey indicated 72% of children would rather play for a losing team than ride the bench for a winner. The most important aspect of your child's youth hockey experience is for them to have fun while developing physical and emotional skills that will serve them in life. A healthy, risk free environment that emphasizes the importance of fair play, good sportsmanship, discipline, and most importantly, fun will be invaluable for your child as he or she continues to develop a positive self-image.

USA HOCKEY INITIATION PROGRAM

The USA Hockey Initiation Program has been developed to make certain that a child's first experience with hockey is positive, safe, and fun. Parents should avoid pressuring or placing unreasonable expectations on their children, particularly at the Initiation level. No matter what happens on the ice, children need support, so always strive to be positive.

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

There are many benefits that are derived from playing youth hockey. Boys and girls learn good sportsmanship and self discipline. They learn to work together, how to sacrifice for the good of the team, how to enjoy winning, and how to handle defeat. In the process, they learn important lessons about physical fitness and personal health. The degree to which your child benefits from his or her youth hockey experience is as much your responsibility as it is theirs. In order for your child to get the most out of a youth hockey program, it is important for you to show support and offer encouragement while maintaining a genuine interest in the team.

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

The best way to help children achieve goals and reduce their natural fear of failure is through positive reinforcement. After all, no one likes to make mistakes. If your child does make a mistake -- and they will (remember, they're just kids) -- keep in mind that mistakes are an important part of the overall learning process. Strive to be supportive and point out the things that they do well. Make your child feel like a winner.

Parent Code of Conduct – Parents of WCYHA players are expected to model appropriate behavior according to at least the following:

1. I will strive to have fun learning and watching the game of ice hockey.
2. I will support my child's team and coaches; encouraging him/her to get along with their teammates. I will not criticize my child's teammates or coaches.
3. I will display good sportsmanship and discipline during games and practices, including with team families and opponents, team coaches and game officials.
4. I will assist my child to be on time for all team activities and will notify the coach or manager if my child will miss the activity or not be on time.
5. I will learn the rules of the game.
6. I will never argue with an official's decision.
7. I will show respect for the facilities used by the team.
8. I will refrain from taunting opponents and using foul language towards opponents, officials, coaches or other spectators.

Disciplinary Procedures

The following disciplinary procedure will be implemented:

Parent Behavioral instances:

1st Step – coach/parent meeting – documentation on file obtained and filed w/ level director

2nd Step – coach/parent/level director/Coaches Committee meeting

3rd Step – coach/parent/Level Director/VP On ice meeting

Final Step will be formal request and hearing with the Disciplinary Board.

Suspensions and/or disciplinary actions will be on an individual case basis. Depending on the severity of the incident/action, steps may be combined. Examples of a major violation include intentionally threatening a fan, player, coach or official.

If there is a conflict of interest with any of the parties involved in the process, the WCYHA

President will substitute or find a substitution for the open position(s).

Print name here: _____

Sign name here: _____