

PARENTS' CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

Adopted from USA Hockey
In Conjunction with WCYHA Policy/Procedures

IN THE STANDS

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'll 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's 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 site 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. Your actions and behavior represent WCYHA.

LET THE COACH DO THE COACHING

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. Let the coach handle teaching the hockey. Remember, turning out "perfect" hockey players is not the goal of this organization; our goal is for them to love the sport and learn many lessons in character.

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.

ON/OFF ICE CONCERNS

Any written or verbal complaint correspondence to another association must be approved by the WCYHA Board of Directors.

AGREEMENT STATEMENT

I have read the above code of conduct AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY SAID CONDUCT. I also understand that violations to this agreement could result in removal of my child from participation with WCYHA and USA Hockey. (Both parent's signature required.)

Skater's Name _____ Level _____

Skater's Name _____ Level _____

Skater's Name _____ Level _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date: _____

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