



Hermantown Amateur Hockey Association Parent Code of Conduct

Revised and approved on

Parent Responsibilities and Rights

Responsibilities:

- Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desires to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, make it fun.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
- Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit.
- Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- Know and study the rules of the game, and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.
- Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat, and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice – it is destructive. Work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.
- If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about hockey and help educate other fans and spectators of appropriate behaviors.
- Don't compare your child with other players. Be honest with yourself when it comes to your child's capabilities.
- Take care of your financial responsibilities.
- Volunteer.

Rights:

- Have your player treated fairly and with respect.
- Have your player playing and practicing in a safe and healthy environment.
- Have your player coached by an effective and qualified adult leader.
- Have your player engaged in playing and practicing activity that increases his/her skill and enjoyment of the sport.
- Know what is expected of your player from the coach.

Parent / Spectator Behavior

In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, USA Hockey has instituted a program of **Zero Tolerance** for parental and fan behavior that has been



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adopted by HAHA. Referees, at their discretion, may have parents/spectators removed from the arena. HAHA supports this program and requests that all parents be supportive of the team, the players AND the OFFICIALS. Players and officials all strive to perform at the highest possible level and deserve our support.

Process during a game should an infraction occur:

On-ice officials will stop the game when the parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The on-ice officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the HAHA. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

- Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or act.
- Throwing of any object in the spectator's viewing area, player's bench, penalty box or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

Parent Code of Conduct Consequences

Violation of the Parent Code of Conduct is detrimental to the team and may be brought forward to the HAHA Policy and Procedure Committee by either the team's coach, manager, or a parent on the same team. A meeting with the HAHA Policy and Procedure Committee will occur as soon as possible.

The HAHA Policy and Procedure Committee and HAHA Board may set forth a penalty ranging from a verbal warning up to suspending a parent from all team functions for one week to the duration of the season. Continual abuse of conduct may result in permanent removal from the Hermantown Amateur Hockey Association.

During the sanction, the parent will not be allowed in any facility during a youth hockey event, regardless if that parent has another child on a different team.



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Grievance Procedure

HAHA provides an orderly procedure for the discussion and resolution of all problems, concerns and formal grievances. The objective is to resolve issues at the most immediate level. The key criteria and any resolution of an issue is what is best for the respective player, his or her team and what is in the best interest of HAHA.

1. Problems or concerns that have to do with the coaching of the team, such as playing time, positions, practices, etc. will be communicated to the coach or team manager of the respective team via email. **This initial contact MUST BE MADE VIA EMAIL. Email must be used even to schedule a face-to-face meeting or phone conversation. Coaches do not need to acknowledge any requests or engage in discussions until they have been documented in an email.**

2. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, the appropriate team level coordinator should be contacted.

3. Problems or concerns that have to do with any other team issue that cannot be resolved by the coordinator, or is a broader issue, should be directed to the HAHA policy and procedure committee.

4. Specific violations of HAHA Code of Conduct expectations are to be handled in the manner outlined in the Parent Handbook.

Before any grievance is presented to a coach, team manager or coordinator, the 24 hour rule must be observed.

Following the guidelines set out in the Parent's Responsibilities and Rights, as well as in the Parent/Spectator Behavior Section of the handbook, parents are required to sign a Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct at the beginning of each new season. **A separate Code of Conduct must be completed for each child playing in the Hermantown Amateur Hockey Association.**



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Parent Code of Conduct Form (to be turned into your Team Manager)

As a parent with a youth hockey player: _____(player name)

I understand that:

- It is a privilege, not a right, for my child to play youth hockey.
- Sportsmanship and fair play are essential to the sport of hockey and are important skills that our children learn from youth hockey.
- Our children learn from our example, and we as parents need to exemplify the highest level of sportsmanship by supporting all players, coaches, team managers, referees and parents.

Therefore, I agree to the following Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct:

- ☐ I will never use abusive behavior towards anyone involved in youth hockey.
- ☐ I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, fans, volunteers and referees at every game.
- ☐ I will not create a public display of anger toward coaches, players, and/or spectators in any arena or via email, letter, and/or phone calls to the team.
- ☐ I agree to the 24 hour rule which states "no parent in a fit of frustration or anger over their player's playing time, position or coaching will contact the coach in any manner until 24 hours has passed." (No phone calls, texts, or emails will be sent to a coach within 24 hours of the last game or practice.)
- ☐ I will respect and adhere to all rules and Code of Conduct of the HAHA, District 11, Minnesota Hockey and USA Hockey.
- ☐ I will express any concern through the grievance policy process outlined above in a respectful manner.
- ☐ I understand that any parent who cannot abide by these rules or violates them will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the HAHA handbook.

Signed / Date : _____ (Parent/Guardian #1)

Signed / Date: _____ (Parent/Guardian #2)

This signed Code of Conduct must be submitted to your child's team manager. The team manager must submit all conduct forms to the Registrar in order for your team to be registered for the season. Noncompliance may result in ineligibility for your player."