



PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

WYHA families are expected to review and adhere to the WYHA Code of Conduct. The code of conduct forms can be found on the associations website and/or members will receive a copy to be signed at the team meeting at the start of the season. The WYHA Disciplinary Committee works with managers and coaches and oversees the code of conduct for the Association. It is expected that our members comply with the rules set forth by this committee.

Purpose

It is the goal of the Walker Youth Hockey (WYHA) to provide a safe and fun youth hockey program that gives our participants the chance to develop hockey skills and promotes good sportsmanship, leadership and teamwork. Board members, coaches and parents will lead by example to help our skaters develop good judgment and take pride in themselves and their teammates. All association members will treat each other with mutual respect.

Core Values of USA Hockey - The following Core Values of USA Hockey are adopted to guide the association's members in their planning, programming and play, both now and in the future.

Sportsmanship

Foremost of all values is to learn a sense of fair play. Be humble in victory, gracious in defeat. We will foster friendship with teammates and opponents alike.

Respect for the Individual

Treat all others as you expect to be treated. Develop respect for coaches, referees, other players and self that promotes discipline, increasing maturity and a good association reputation.

Integrity

We seek to foster honesty and fair play beyond mere strict interpretation of the rules and regulations of the game.

Pursuit of Excellence at the Individual, Team and Organizational Levels

Each member of the organization, whether player, volunteer or staff, should seek to perform each aspect of the game to the highest level of his or her ability.

Enjoyment

It is important for the hockey experience to be fun, satisfying and rewarding for all participants.

Loyalty

We aspire to teach loyalty to the ideals and fellow members of the sport of hockey.

Teamwork

We value the strength of learning to work together. The use of teamwork is reinforced and rewarded by success in the hockey experience.

Fair and Equitable Opportunities

We believe that all players, regardless of age, gender and skill level, should have a fair and equitable opportunity to play and enjoy the game of hockey.

Fun

We believe that in order for players to enjoy the game of hockey, build lifelong friendships, and create long lasting memories, they have to have fun while participating in the game.

Safety

We believe that in order to have a safe experience, players need to have appropriate equipment, be coached and supervised by trusted adults who have passed strict background screenings and be trained in an environment that helps them learn the game, improve their skills, and builds character.

While these core values are directed at our youths that play hockey, it must also be implemented by adult volunteers. Coaches, parents and administrators must all do their part to ensure that these core values and policies are upheld.

Disciplinary Committee

This committee is comprised of WYHA Association Board members. The committee's purpose will be to monitor behavior and penalties associated with any possible disciplinary action. The committee's review will include the player, parents, coaches and any other individuals who may be involved.

Player Code of Conduct - The following Code of Conduct will govern the actions of our board members, coaches, parents, and players.

On and Off Ice Behavior

Players are representatives of the WYHA Association and should conduct themselves with pride and dignity. Players should dress appropriately before and after games. Off ice behavior at any hockey related function whether at the home rink or away must also promote a positive image. Players may be asked to stop any undesirable behavior and/or leave the game or hockey function.

Players are expected to attend all practices on time and be ready to listen, participate, and work. Absences must be communicated to the coach prior to the missed practice in order to be considered as excused. Individual coaches may determine a policy for their own team to deal with late arrivals and unexcused absences. These may be handled on an individual player basis.

The head coach is responsible for enforcing the Code of Conduct and must do so fairly and without exception. If he or she does not fulfill this responsibility, the disciplinary committee will intervene. Coaches are required to submit to the Disciplinary Committee copies of all score sheets pertaining to infractions that may result in disciplinary action within 48 hours of all games for review of behavior and penalties. Coaches are to write comments on any penalties they felt were especially flagrant or on penalties they felt were miscalled.

The WYHA Association has agreed to abide by all USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey rules and will apply to ALL games, practices, scrimmages and other sanctioned hockey events whether home or away.

Any of the following will result in disciplinary consequences:

- Fighting before, during or after games or practices.
- Repeated unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Any use of vulgarity in language, gestures or insinuations of any kind.

- Failure to follow rules as set down by WYHA coaches and/or team associate.
- Intent to injure or injury causing penalties (Major Penalty or Gross Misconduct).
- Any disrespect shown to any coach, team manager, locker room monitor or parent. Back talk or any other displays of disrespect will not be tolerated.
- Any destruction of WYHA property.
- Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs by players is prohibited.
- Non-compliance of the WYHA COVID policies.

Violations of these rules will result in the following disciplinary consequences. An offense is defined as any of the above violations. Second and Third offenses are for any combination of the above. Any suspensions given will affect each team for which a player skates.

1st Offense:

- One full game suspension. May be issued by Head Coach or the Disciplinary Committee and will be enforced by the Head Coach. The head coach must report the incident to the Disciplinary Committee.

2nd Offense:

- An appearance before the Disciplinary Committee by the player, parents, coach, or any others involved.
- The committee has the option to select Suspension from all team activities up to 25% of remaining season.

3rd Offense:

- An appearance before the Disciplinary Committee by the player, parent, coach and any others involved.
- The committee has the option to select Suspension from all team activities from 50% up to 100% of remaining season.

Depending on the severity of the offense, the Disciplinary Committee has the discretion to initiate more severe disciplinary measures as deemed appropriate.

APPEALS:

Any objections to any disciplinary actions must be made in writing and given to the association president within one week after the disciplinary committee recommendation is delivered to the player, parent and coach. If an appeal is made, the subject player shall not skate until the appeal process is concluded. The President will schedule a meeting within one week to review the written appeal. After the President has reviewed the written appeal, the disciplinary process, and the recommended discipline, the decision will be made in writing within 3 days to the player, parents, and coach. All decisions are final.

Parent Code of Conduct

Parents are expected to conduct themselves according to high standards of social and ethical behavior. This includes showing the utmost respect for players, coaches, referees, and the opposing players and coaches. WYHA recognizes that differences of opinion on a range of matters can exist and parents are encouraged to convey their thoughts and feelings in an adult manner following proper protocol of the association.

WYHA places a high value on sportsmanship. Parents are expected to lead by example and follow the Core Values of USA Hockey. They shall teach our youth respect for themselves and others, fair play, and teamwork. Parents will agree to teach their players that fighting, swearing or arguing with coaches, officials and other teammates are unacceptable.

Do not force your children to participate in sports but support their desires to play their chosen sports. 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. 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 volunteer.

Parent Disciplinary Matters

Parents will be held to the same expectations as their skater as outlined above. Parents participating in unwanted or unacceptable behavior will be asked to stop and may be asked to leave a hockey game or function.

The coaches/team manager should bring any parent behavior issues promptly to the Disciplinary Committee before they are allowed to escalate into larger problems. Depending upon the circumstances or severity of the issue, the committee will investigate the facts and a recommendation for a remedy. Depending upon the nature of the violation and if disputes exist, the alleged violator may be asked or can request to appear before the Committee as part of the investigation. A member's level of cooperation during an investigation may be used in the Committee's ultimate decision. If the association member fails to cooperate during the investigation process, this would be considered immediate cause to issue a penalty of the Committee's choosing. If the Committee decides that an infraction has occurred, penalties may range from written warnings to expulsion from the Association with all disciplinary decisions being final.