



Welcome to the 2022-2023 BYHA Season and the GREAT game of hockey. As a parent, part of enjoying your children's participation in sports and recreation is watching them enjoy themselves, learning skills, making friends, improving their performance and having fun. However, some parents can get too caught up in the excitement of the action. They forget that the sport is for their child's benefit, not the parents' entertainment. This letter provides you with information on what to watch for in your performance as a parent so that your child can continue to have fun and play his or her own game.

Everyone has heard of, or worse yet, seen the loud, obnoxious parent on the sidelines or in the stands at a youth sports event. Whether the incident takes place at a gym, rink or field is irrelevant. This parent has it in for the referee, the coach, or possibly even the other parents. Every call, decision, and play is sure to evoke some response. Most parents are not like this. However, one or a few parents can make it difficult for the rest. They affect the ability of the coaches and officials to do their jobs. They embarrass the children, steal their fun and maybe, without realizing it, train children to act or react poorly in certain circumstances as well. In short, unruly parents are not setting a good example - and most kids learn from example. Whether it's by their friends, teammates or parents, those around our children have a tremendous influence on their behavior. That's why it's important for parents and other adults to act appropriately at all Biddeford Youth Hockey events, at home or away.

By agreeing to this code of conduct, parents are acknowledging that their child's activity is for his or her enjoyment, not theirs. It is the expectation of the Biddeford Youth Hockey Association that each parent lives by the agreement and models it for their children and others. Should a parent deliberately ignore their responsibilities as outlined in the agreement, disciplinary action, such as asking the parent to leave the event or banning the parent from attending future games, may be imposed.

We look forward to another successful season of youth ice hockey.

THE BIDDEFORD YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- I will remember that my child plays sports for his or her enjoyment, not for mine.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
- I will inform the coach of any disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I will insure that my child treats other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good players' performances by both my child's team and their opponents.
- I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sporting activities.
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
- I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning.
- I will stress the importance of academics first and foremost in the overall development experience, understanding that sports participation is a privilege, not an excuse for classroom obligations.
- I will attend organizational meetings and learn the expectations for participation in athletics.
- I will respect the coaches and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the rink. If needed, I will request time to speak with the coaches at an agreed upon time and place 24 hours after the event.
- I will help create a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from the use of these at all sporting events.

- I will leave the coaching to coaches, ensuring not to publicly criticize them, their strategies or the team; nor pressure my student-athlete or coaches about practices, playing time and performance.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, BYHA Board of Directors, and/or BYHA President
- Written warning from BYHA Board of Directors
- Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organizations involved
- Parental season suspension

I Agree to Play Fair: _____ Date: _____

(Signature of parent or legal guardian)

Printed Name: _____