



## **Hoffman Estates Park District Wolf Pack, Coyote, Wolverine Code of Conduct Policy**

In an effort to promote healthy youth hockey and ensure compliance with league rules AHAI, the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois, has directed every club to increase its emphasis on the code of conduct policy. We are now publishing, reviewing, and distributing these guidelines to ensure that every Wolf Pack, Coyote and Wolverines participant fully understands the code of conduct policy. It's important to remember that the actions of each and every one of us reflect upon the whole organization. We're proud of the Wolf Pack organization and especially proud of our players, coaches and families. Let's work to build our reputation as one of the best youth hockey organizations in the state.

The code of conduct policy simply explains that no inappropriate behavior will be tolerated at any time by anyone associated with youth hockey, and disciplinary action will be taken to enforce this policy. All players, coaches and spectators, are required to conduct themselves appropriately in order to promote the values of good sportsmanship and make ice hockey a desirable and rewarding experience for all participants. The Hoffman Estates Park District (HE Parks Hockey) Hockey Program will take action to ensure that no participant is abusive to officials or other participants. Any inappropriate conduct could result in ejection from the rink, a team suspension, and/or game forfeiture. In addition, violators may be required to appear before the Hoffman Estates Park District HE Parks Hockey Rules and Ethics Committee and the Rules and Conduct committees of NWHL, NIHL, CUHL or AHAI and subject to additional suspension or other action. The Hoffman Estates Park District Hockey Program can institute disciplinary action even if no penalty is called by the referee.

AHAI is instructing officials to implement the following actions relating to what is termed as Zero-Tolerance:

## **PLAYERS**

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero-Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

- Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official
- Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
- Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision.

Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.

## **COACHES**

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero-Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

- Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official
- Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision including standing on the boards or standing in the bench doorway with the intent of inciting the officials, players or spectators.

Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

## **OFFICIALS**

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited. On-ice officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this in mind.

## **SPECTATORS/PARENTS**

On-ice officials will stop the game when the spectators/parents 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 the spectators/parents 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 HE Parks Hockey, the NWHL, NIHL, AHAI and other authorities. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include, but is not limited to:

- 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 physical violence.
- Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, player's bench, penalty box or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.
- Harassment of players, coaches, officials or other spectators.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

The HE Parks Hockey and the Wolf Pack, Coyotes and Wolverines have a firm commitment to the health and well-being of its athletes. We believe that the sport of hockey is an avenue by which an individual can realize his or her potential and experience personal growth. In keeping with this commitment, the HE Parks Hockey believes that their athletes should be role models. HE Parks Hockey believes that the consumption, use, or abuse of a controlled and or non-controlled substance is detrimental to the health, state of mind, body, and spirit of an athlete. Therefore, discovery of any violation of this policy will result in an immediate suspension of the athlete from participation in any HE Parks Hockey program until members of the Rules & Ethics Committee and HE Parks Hockey management complete a review hearing. Further disciplinary action could result.

Controlled and non-controlled substances shall be defined to include, but not limited to the following:

- Intoxicating beverages, including, but not limited to alcohol
- Non-prescription, prescription or prescribed controlled and non-controlled substances when used in excess or in violation of doctor's orders to produce a state of intoxication
- All forms of tobacco by a minor
- Steroids or any illegal performance enhancing substance.
- Sale or distribution of the above

## **24 HOUR POLICY**

There shall be no contact with any member of the coaching staff regarding an Issue of Concern for a 24-hour period following the occurrence of an Issue of Concern.

Should there be an Issue of Concern after the 24-hour period has passed, the parent shall contact the Team Manager, if perceived necessary and a meeting shall be scheduled, documented, and attended by the Team Manager and the coaching staff. Such documentation shall be submitted to the HE Parks Hockey Rules and Ethics Committee within seventy-two (72) hours of the conclusion of the meeting.

Should this **Twenty-Four (24) Hour** policy be violated, the offending party may be subject to a suspension or, in severe situations, expulsion from the HE Parks Hockey. The severity of the suspension shall be determined by the HE Parks Hockey Rules and Ethics Committee on a case by case basis.

## **HAZING**

It is the policy of the HE Parks Hockey that there shall be no hazing of any participant involved in any of HE Parks Hockey -sanctioned programs, training camps, clinics or events by any employee, volunteer, participant or independent contractor.

Hazing shall be defined as any conduct which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, offensive, or physically harmful to any other player or member of the HE Parks Hockey. Any player, team official, coach, or participant in the HE Parks Hockey having been party to, or having witnessed any degrading activity, hazing, or initiation rite, without reporting it or taking action, shall be subject to appropriate discipline as set forth by the HE Parks Hockey Rules and Ethics Committee.

## **PHYSICAL ABUSE**

It is the policy of the HE Parks Hockey that there shall be no physical abuse of any person participating in, or associated with, HE Parks Hockey -sanctioned programs, tournaments, or events.

Physical abuse means physical contact with a participant that intentionally causes the participant to sustain bodily harm or personal injury. Physical abuse also includes physical contact with a participant that intentionally creates a threat of immediate bodily harm or personal injury. Physical abuse does not include physical contact that is reasonably designed to coach, teach or demonstrate a hockey skill. Permitted physical conduct may include, but is not limited to shooting pucks at a goaltender, demonstrating checking and other hockey skills and communication with or directing participants during the course of a game or practice by touching them in a non-threatening, non-sexual manner.

## **VERBAL ABUSE**

It is the policy of the HE Parks Hockey that there shall be no verbal abuse of any person participating in, or associated with, HE Parks Hockey -sanctioned programs, tournaments, or events.

### Definition:

Verbal abuse means any threat of physical contact with a participant that intentionally causes the participant to have fear of bodily harm or personal injury. Verbal abuse also includes any insults directed at a person solely designed to belittle, intimidate or embarrass such person.

## **SEXUAL ABUSE**

It is the policy of the HE Parks Hockey that there shall be no sexual abuse of any person participating in, or associated with, HE Parks Hockey -sanctioned programs, tournaments, or events.

### Definition:

Sexual abuse of a minor occurs when an employee, volunteer or independent contractor touches a minor participant for the purpose of causing the sexual arousal or gratification of either the minor participant or the employee, volunteer or independent contractor.

## **POLICY VIOLATION/REMEDIATION**

Should any policy be violated, the offending party may be subject to a suspension or, in severe situations, expulsion from the HE Parks Hockey. The severity of the suspension shall be determined by the HE Parks Hockey Rules and Ethics Committee on a case by case basis. Further, the violation shall be immediately reported to AHAJ for possible further disciplinary action.

