



## St Louis Park Hockey Association

### Parent Code of Conduct

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#### **Hockey Parents Make the Difference**

Keep in mind that, above all, the motivating factor for most children who enter an organized youth sports program is their desire to have fun. This is particularly true with young children, many of whom are newcomers to the youth sports scene. With a supportive attitude and a fundamental understanding of the "basics" of hockey, everyone will come away from their youth sports experience with a positive feeling.

#### **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 for both teams. 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.

#### **Car and 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. Parents also need to stress fair play and risk management to help eliminate injuries.

#### **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 also 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.

#### **Always Be Positive**

Parents serve as role models for their children, who often look to adults for advice, direction and approval. Never lose sight 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 coaches, referees, opponents and teammates. Remember that your children are PLAYING hockey. It is important to allow them to establish their own goals and play the game for themselves. Be careful not to impose your own standards or objectives.



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#### Let the Coach Coach

Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are very important to the development of your child and the sport. 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, sportsmanship, discipline and, most importantly, fun will be invaluable for your child as he or she continues to develop a positive self-image.

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and game officials.
- I will place the physical and emotional well-being of my child and the other children in the organization ahead of my personal desire to win.
- If I feel my child is not playing in a safe and positive environment, I will contact a club official and have them look into the matter and not take matters into my own hands. This includes but not limited to players, coaches, officials and other parents.
- I will provide only positive support for the coaches working with my child to ensure a positive, enjoyable and fun experience.
- I will always remember that the game is for the children and not the adults.
- I will support the organization's rules and regulations that will be set forth by the organization at the beginning of the season. This includes but is not limited to missed practices and games, profanity, on and off ice actions and suspensions of my child.
- I will not pretend that I know more than the certified officials do. I will refrain from making calls from the stands.
- I will demand that my child play by the rules as set forth by USA Hockey and the St. Louis Park Hockey.
- I will not embarrass my child, team or coaches by yelling in a negative manner at other players, coaches or parents.
- I will refrain from discussing game situations with coaches and club officials for 24 hours after game time.

#### Order of Complaint

Parent concerns pertaining to the operations of a team will first be discussed with the head coach. If no acceptable understanding is reached, the level coordinator will be contacted. If the point of contention continues unanswered, the Board of Directors and/or the Grievance Committee will become involved.



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#### Agreement

I/we agree to abide by these principles with the understanding that if I/we do not follow them, I/we may be asked to leave any practice, game, or event. Repeated disregard for these principles may result in permanent suspension from all team events, or ineligibility for my player

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Parent/Guardian #1

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Date

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Parent/Guardian #2

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Date