

## **Grand Rapids Amateur Hockey Association**

### **Player Code of Conduct**

The intent of the Grand Rapids Amateur Hockey Association (GRAHA) Player Code of Conduct policy is to adhere to the USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy and the SafeSport Handbook and make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants. As a GRAHA hockey player I want to help create a fun and positive environment and become the best player and person that I can be. Therefore, I agree:

1. All players will engage in good sportsmanship and will represent GRAHA in a positive manner.
2. All Players will take pride in their team and contribute to the team's unity. Players will adhere to the coach's rules and be supportive of the coach's practice plans, game plans, and other decisions. Players will be at the rink by the appointed time as set by the coach; participate in all games and practices unless properly excused; and notify the coach or manager in advance when the player will be absent.
3. No player shall criticize another teammate's play or demean, threaten, or harass a teammate. Hockey is recognized as a team sport; as such the interests of the team shall take precedence over individual achievements. GRAHA has adopted the USA Hockey and SafeSport policies for, among other things, bullying, harassment, and misconduct. There is zero tolerance for abusive behavior (including social media) intended to demean or harass a teammate.
4. No player shall criticize another GRAHA member's play or demean, threaten, or harass another GRAHA member. GRAHA has adopted the USA Hockey and SafeSport policies for, among other things, bullying, harassment, and misconduct. There is zero tolerance for abusive behavior (including social media) intended to demean or harass another GRAHA member. This section also applies to conduct and interactions with players from other associations.
5. No player shall criticize referees. The only individuals who may speak to officials are the coaches and/or designated captains under the instructions of their coaches. Players will not openly dispute or argue any decision by an official and will not use obscene or vulgar language or gestures at any time. There is zero tolerance for disrespectful conduct toward referees and officials.
6. All players are expected to conduct themselves in a respectable manner. All players are expected to be attentive when coaches explain practice drills, game strategies, or pass along other information or instructions; and to be respectful to coaches. Demeaning, divisive and/or disruptive behavior in the locker room and/or before, during, or after a game or practice, will not be tolerated.
7. Behavior identified in paragraphs 1 through 6 is subject to the specifics of the First, Second, and Third offense guidelines listed below under the Player Behavior Discipline Guidelines. The

Girls/Boys PDC has the right to enforce a more strict punishment depending on severity regardless what offense it is (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>), as these are merely guidelines. Level Directors have the authority to escalate any situation to the appropriate level dependent on the severity of the incident.

8. No attempt should be made to deliberately injure another player(s). Any player incurring a MATCH PENALTY for "Attempt to Injure" or other offense deemed equally serious by the coach shall be subject to suspension beyond the USA HOCKEY rules as deemed appropriate by the Boys/Girls PDC (Player Development Committee). The level director will be notified as soon as possible of the incident.
9. All players will adhere to the GRAHA policies regarding Alcohol, Substance Use and Weapons.
10. All players will adhere to the GRAHA and SafeSport policies regarding social media. Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, are not permitted to be used in the locker rooms.

### **Player Behavior Discipline Guidelines**

GRAHA was created to promote competition and good sportsmanship for all children wanting to play hockey. The discipline policies contained in this Code of Conduct conform to USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey Rules. In some cases, stronger rules may exist within GRAHA.

GRAHA adopts USA Hockey and SafeSport's zero tolerance against physical and emotional misconduct, abusive behavior, bullying, threats, and harassment. Additionally, obscene language or gestures, and other detrimental behavior directed toward teammates, coaches, other GRAHA members, referees, opponents, or spectators will not be tolerated and will have the following consequences:

First Offense: The player will be verbally warned by the coach with the parent/guardian present. The level director will document the action with an email sent to the parent/guardian and the GRAHA Board and the PDC (Player Development Committee).

Second Offense: The player will be removed from the game, practice or other team event. In the case of a game or practice the player will be required to sit in the stands until a parent/guardian arrives. The level director will be notified as soon as possible and will document the incident with an email sent to the parent/guardian and the GRAHA Board and the PDC (Player Development Committee).

Third Offense: The player will be removed from the team following resolution of a Code of Conduct hearing. Penalties will range from a three game suspension to removal from the team for the remainder of the season. Any player misconduct not specifically addressed above will be dealt with on an individual basis by the GRAHA Board and the PDC (Player Development Committee).

All conduct deemed to be in violation of the Player Code of Conduct, and resulting sanctions will, to the extent possible, be maintained in confidence by the GRAHA Board of Directors and the PDC (Player Development Committee) and be cumulative throughout the families' participation in GRAHA. If

appropriate, all sanctions will be forwarded to Minnesota Hockey and District 12 for enforcement at any away games and tournaments.

Players agree to abide by all the rules set forth by USA Hockey, Minnesota Hockey, District 12 and the Grand Rapids Amateur Hockey Association. Violations will be sanctioned by the GRAHA Board of Directors and the PDC (Player Development Committee) in accordance with the Player Behavior Discipline Guidelines.

The GRAHA Board of Directors, the PDC (Player Development Committee) or any committee appointed by the GRAHA Board of Directors, will enforce all violations and notify the individual(s) in writing, after any applicable disciplinary hearing, outlining the sanction that is being set forth. This will be done in a timely manner.

Any GRAHA member witnessing or involved in a violation of the GRAHA Player Code of Conduct can bring the issue forward, after the 24 hour rule, to the PDC (Player Development Committee) by emailing the Level Director, Vice-President and/or President. Issues can also be brought to the monthly scheduled board meeting. In situations involving safety concerns, or the need to report issues of abuse, harassment, bullying, or other misconduct, including possible SafeSport violations, the 24 hour rule does not apply and PDC (Player Development Committee), the Level Director, Vice-President, or President should be contacted immediately.

Failure to sign and follow the code of conduct will result in an incomplete registration status for tryouts and the start of the season.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_