

## **Grand Rapids Amateur Hockey Association**

### **Parent Code of Conduct**

As a parent or legal guardian of a Grand Rapids Amateur Hockey Association (GRAHA) youth hockey player, I agree:

- A.** Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, and I need to help make it fun;
- B.** I will support and promote a positive environment by encouraging my child to play by the rules with good sportsmanship, and ensuring that my child treats his teammates, other players, coaches, and referees with respect;
- C.** I will provide support for coaches and officials working with my child to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all;
- D.** That sportsmanship, teamwork, and fair play are the most important skills that children can gain from youth hockey; and
- E.** That because our children learn from our example, we as parents/guardians need to exemplify the highest level of sportsmanship; support all players, coaches, team managers, referees, and parents; and represent GRAHA in a positive manner.

THEREFORE, I agree to the following GRAHA Parent Code of Conduct Policy:

- 1. 24 HOUR RULE:** GRAHA has established a 24-hour waiting period for discussing certain problems or concerns that occur during the season.

No parent/legal guardian or other relative of any GRAHA player, in a fit of frustration or anger, shall contact the Coach, Assistant Coaches, Level Director, PDC (Player Development Committee), or any member of the GRAHA Board of Directors, regarding a player's ice time, position, game time or practice time, discipline, coach's strategy, decisions regarding a player, and/or a player's team selection/status during try-outs, until 24 hours have expired from the incident in question.

This 24-hour waiting period applies to any communication whether in-person, or via email, phone call, text message, written/typed letter, or any means of social media.

After 24 hours has passed from the conclusion of said event or incident, the parent/legal guardian is to contact the Coach with the issue if the parent/legal guardian so decides. If communication with the Coach is not possible, or not advisable due to extenuating circumstances, contact with the appropriate Level Director or the PDC (Player Development Committee) is advised. If such an event or incident occurs, and the 24-hour rule is not followed by the parent/legal guardian, the parent/legal guardian will be sanctioned by the PDC (Player Development Committee) and/or GRAHA Board of Directors in accordance with the Leveled Discipline Policy in Section 5. 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.

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 the PDC (Player Development Committee) should be contacted immediately.

2. Parents/Guardians who are ejected from any arena will be sanctioned by the PDC (Player Development Committee) and/or the GRAHA Board of Directors in accordance with the Leveled Discipline Policy in Section 5. 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.
3. Parents/Guardians who create public displays of anger toward coaches via in-person communication, or via email, phone call, text messages, written/typed letters or other means of social media, including any verbal abuse, profane or disparaging language, threats of physical violence, actual physical violence, or any other conduct determined to be detrimental to GRAHA will be sanctioned by the PDC (Player Development Committee) and/or the GRAHA Board of Directors in accordance with the Leveled Discipline Policy in Section 5. 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.
4. Parents/Guardians who create public displays of anger toward referees, or the players, parents, or spectators of GRAHA teams, or any opposing teams, or arena officials or employees, via in-person communication, or via email, phone call, text messages, written/typed letters or other means of social media, including any verbal abuse, profane or disparaging language, threats of physical violence, actual physical violence, or any other conduct determined to be detrimental to GRAHA will be sanctioned by the PDC (Player Development Committee) and/or the GRAHA Board of Directors in accordance with the Leveled Discipline Policy in Section 5. 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.
5. **LEVELED DISCIPLINE POLICY:** If any occurrence takes place as detailed above in sections 1-4, the sanctions will be as follows:

FIRST OFFENSE: will be a MINIMUM one-week suspension from all GRAHA events, including team events, home and away practices, games and tournaments.

SECOND OFFENSE: will result in a MINIMUM one month suspension from all GRAHA events, including team events, home and away practices, games and tournaments.

THIRD OFFENSE: will result in the parent/guardian and/or players being considered “a member not in good standing.”

At any time, due to the severity of the said offenses, the disciplinary action can be elevated from the leveled discipline matrix in this section.

Any suspension will start as quickly as possible after a discussion between the appropriate PDC (Player Development Committee) and the involved parent(s) or guardian(s) and/or after any applicable hearing process is completed.

6. All conduct determined to be in violation of the Parent Code of Conduct, and resulting sanctions will, to the extent possible, be maintained in confidence by the PDC (Player Development Committee) and the GRAHA Board of Directors 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.
7. Parents/Guardians 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 PDC and/or the GRAHA Board of Directors in accordance with the Leveled Discipline Policy in section 5.
8. The PDC (Player Development Committee), the GRAHA Board of Directors, 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.
9. Any GRAHA member witnessing or involved in a violation of the GRAHA Parent Code of Conduct can bring the issue forward, after the 24-hour rule, to the PDC (Player Development Committee) by emailing the PDC, 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 the Level Director, PDC, 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.

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Parent / Guardian #1 Printed Name

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Parent / Guardian #1 Signature

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

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Parent / Guardian #2 Printed Name

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Parent / Guardian #2 Signature

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