



Parent and Spectator Code of Conduct - 2026-2027 Season

GYHA Mission Statement: The Geauga Youth Hockey Association (GYHA), a 501(c)(3) exists to give every child the chance to play the sport the love in a positive, family-centered environment. Our mission is to build strong, confident kids through the game of hockey by teaching teamwork, dedication, respect, and perseverance through high quality athletic programming and community engagement. We believe hockey is more than a sport - it's a foundation for life. Through scholarship and aid-based programming, GYHA removed financial barriers to participation, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to benefit from the lifelong personal, social and development impact of youth sports.

Parents play the most important role in influencing their athletes to display good sportsmanship and conduct. The adult spectators at our games, whether they are parents, grandparents, family, or friends, are role models for appropriate conduct towards coaches, other athletes and parents, opposing teams' athletes, coaches, and spectators, referees, and arena faculty. This code of conduct establishes a policy and provides resources to bring a level of mutual respect to this great game and to our organization. Every parent affiliated with the organization is required to review, sign, and return this document PRIOR to your athlete taking the ice as a Geauga Maple Leaf. Athletes will not be able to participate in organization activities until this document has been signed and returned.

As parents, we must acknowledge and respect that we are the primary role models for our children, and we are collectively agreeing, as an organization that we will conduct ourselves in a manner that allows the team and organization to succeed, which will in turn create a healthy happy environment for our children to develop and thrive.

Any actions that are violations of this document will be addressed with the appropriate responses as outlined later in this document.

Code of Conduct:

1. Above all, treat others as you wish to be treated.
2. The coaches do the coaching: Every parent is provided the opportunity to be a coach on their athletes team. There are proper training and certifications done by each coach in order to be on the ice. If you do not wish to coach, do not give your athlete instructions that counter that of the coach and do not interfere with coaching activities.
3. Attend team meetings to fully understand season expectations, guidelines, coaching philosophy, etc. Communicate with your coach and support their efforts to lead a successful season by ensuring your athlete that their coach is acting in the team's best interests.
4. At GYHA, our organization feedback has prioritized what is most important to consider a successful season and parents are expected to share this mindset and approach to their athletes' season.
 - a. Love of the game
 - i. Athletes enjoy showing up and playing hockey
 - ii. There is long-term passion and retention
 - iii. Create a positive rink environment
 - b. Athletic skill development
 - i. Structured improvement
 - ii. Quality coaching
 - iii. Year-over-year growth
 - c. Friendship & Teamwork
 - i. Strong team culture
 - ii. Character development
 - iii. Positive locker room experiences
 - d. Experiences (Travel & Tournaments)
 - i. Memorable shared experiences
 - ii. Exposure & team bonding
 - e. Winning
 - i. important but not the primary driver
 - ii. viewed as an outcome of development and culture
5. Abide by GYHA's zero tolerance conditions
 - a. No parent shall publicly criticize athletes, coaches, referees, volunteers, or other parents.
 - b. No use of profane, insulting, demeaning, harassing, or otherwise offensive language.
6. Understand that team performance goals take precedence over individual efforts.
7. Treat opponents and officials with respect regardless of outcome of a game, and encourage your athlete to do the same.
8. The coach has the discretion to allow or not allow parents in the locker room prior to or after a game/practice. Every locker room will have a designated locker room monitor assigned in accordance with USA Hockey guidelines.
9. Discuss any and all concerns with respect and in alignment with the GYHA complaint pathway.

Penalties for Violations:

A parent who is found in violation of any of the conditions of the Code of Conduct will receive a penalty as outlined below. In addition to the Code of Conduct, any parent or associated spectator that receives an in-game sanction (removal or team assessed penalty) by game officials will automatically be found in violation of the Code of Conduct and immediately assessed a 1-game suspension for the NEXT game for both the parent and associated athlete.

Penalties will be assessed to parents based on severity of the violation at their coaching staff's discretion. Any appeals or complaints should be issued to the GYHA Member Advocacy Committee.

Tier 1 Penalty - Minor infractions

- Verbal communication to parent from Coaching staff
- Expectations clarified
- Written summary documented and distributed to parties involved and kept on record by team manager

Tier 2 Penalty - Formal Warning (Moderate violations or continued minor infractions)

- Formal written warning from Coaching staff
- Required corrective action plan
- Mandatory meeting with GYHA Member Advocacy Committee representative
- Single or two game suspension of Parent and Athlete

Tier 3 Penalty - Probationary Status (Serious conduct concerns)

- Immediate suspension of Parent and athlete from team activities until further notice
- Formal GYHA Member Advocacy Committee review with entire GYHA Board present
- Written improvement contract signed by Parent(s) involved.

Tier 4 Penalty - Removal from organization

- Immediate permanent removal of Parent(s) and athlete from GYHA
- Formal review by GYHA board and vote on refund of dues (if any).
- Board review and vote on future eligibility to return to GYHA.

By signing below, I agree to the GYHA Code of Conduct and understand that by accepting the conditions stated above I agree to comply with them. I further acknowledge that the penalty for violating the Code of Conduct will be determined by the organization based on how often the violations have occurred and the nature of my conduct at the time of the violations.

Parent 1 Signature:_____ **Date:**_____

Parent 2 Signature:_____ **Date:**_____

My Athlete:_____ **Team:**_____



GYHA Complaint Pathway

The goal of the GYHA Complaint pathway is to provide a clear, efficient pathway for any member of the organization to voice any concern respectfully and appropriately.

STEP 1: 24hr Debrief - If a situation arises where you'd like to initiate a complaint, wait 24 hours until after the event has occurred. At that time, re-evaluate the scenario and how you would like to proceed. If you would like to move forward, reach out to your team manager and discuss the situation. The team manager will help clarify any issue and determine if escalation is necessary.

STEP 2: Coach Escalation - Concern is escalated to Head Coach. The Head Coach will schedule a conversation with you and the Team Manager. There will be clear expectations and next steps communicated while keeping in mind the primary focus remains on player development and team standards. If a resolution is unclear a follow-up conversation with the Head Coach is encouraged.

STEP 3: MAC Submission - If your issue remains unresolved with your Head Coach, or there are serious conduct concerns, a formal submission should be made to the Member Advocacy Committee (MAC). This complaint should be submitted in writing. The MAC will review the complaint and have an internal discussion with follow-up interviews with relevant parties. The committee will determine their findings and recommend appropriate action.

Resolution & Outcome - The decision by the MAC will be clearly communicated to all involved parties. Corrective action will be taken if necessary with formal documentation recorded for accountability. The MAC may inform the full board if policy or governance action is required.