

## **Shakopee Youth Hockey Coaches Code of Conduct**

Youth sports are suppose to be fun for the coaches, parents and most importantly for the KIDS that are learning to play the game. Unfortunately, many parents, fans, coaches and other kids don't realize that their actions both verbal and nonverbal have a lasting effect on young athletes. Unfortunately, kids are leaving sport activities because the fun has been taken out of the game.

The mission of the Shakopee Youth Hockey Association is to teach youth to learn and play the game of hockey while developing good sportsmanship, work ethic and friendships along the way. Therefore as a coach in this association, it is imperative that you help build both the hockey player and the youth that plays hockey. That is why the Shakopee Youth Hockey Association has developed this **Coaches Code of Conduct**

### **Coaches Responsibilities to the Game**

Coaches are role models and therefore must conduct themselves in a way that maintains the highest principles, integrity and dignity of the game. Coaches are responsible for knowing, understanding and following all rules of the game that have been given by the USA Hockey, Minnesota Hockey, and the Shakopee Area Hockey Association. It is also the coach's responsibility to make sure all players understand and follow these rules.

Hockey Officials are a part of the overall game of hockey; therefore the coaches shall neither exhibit nor tolerate any behavior from anyone associated with their team that will reflect poorly on the game officials. This includes but is not limited to excessive argument concerning a judgment call that incites players or fans against the official. Coaches are prohibited from physically, emotionally or psychologically abusing any player, parent, game official or director.

### **Coaches Responsibility to the Youth Hockey Player**

Coaches are educators! The coach's main objective is to teach the game of hockey to every player on the team and to teach the TEAM how to play hockey. The rink is the classroom. Practices are opportunities to teach and practice skill development, and game situations provide an opportunity to test the skills of the team. Coaches should never place the value of winning over the objective of instilling the highest ideals and character traits in every player on their team.

Teach every youth to practice a strong work ethic to improve their hockey skills. By improving skills of each player, every member of the team will become a better hockey player and make contributions to the better play of the team. Coaches should never teach tactics or skills that would undermine the rules of fair play. These rules exist to protect the players and provide a common standard by which final results of play will be determined. Coaches will not teach players to break rules to take unfair advantage of an opponent.

Coaches must be prepared for every practice, scrimmage and game. A coach must make every attempt to be at every practice scrimmage and game. If a coach is unable to be present a qualified and suitable substitute will be present and prepared. Coaches cannot use tobacco, alcohol, or other controlled substance within ANY facility that SYHA is using where youth players are present.

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players at practice and at game situations. Whenever players exhibit unsportsmanlike behavior to an opponent, a teammate, or another SYHA player it is the responsibility of the coach to immediately address that behavior and end it. Coaches will inform respective parents of any physical or emotional harassment by one party (player, coach etc.) immediately. A member of the coaching staff or designated parent is required to be in the locker room from the time the first player arrives until the last player has left the locker room. Coaches will make sure all players have safely left the arena area before leaving themselves.

Every Coach must have one team meeting before the start of the season to communicate team expectations and coaching philosophies and at least one other mid-season meeting.

All teams must have one Minnesota Certified head coach and at least one certified assistant coach. There must be at least one certified coach on the bench or on the ice at all times.

Coaches are encouraged to promote academic excellence in all players. Encouraging good study habits in addition to athletic activities is vital in building the youth hockey player. Therefore if at any time a player is deemed academically ineligible by a parent or guardian for poor academic progress, the coach will meet privately with the player and parent(s)/guardian for notification and terms of reestablishing athletic participation. (See Parents Code of Conduct for responsibilities related to academic standards)

“Fair” play should be the guide for coaches. This means that players should have comparable playing time; however, it is understood that certain situations could limit this practice. Coaches should make every effort to comply with the fair play rule. Coaches should also use discretion to keep practices and games in good proportion.

## A Coach's Pledge

1. I will enforce the Code of conduct for Players and Parents.
2. I will teach character and sportsmanship to all players.
3. I will teach and demonstrate respect for teammates, opposing players, coaches and officials.
4. I will teach playing by the rules.
5. I will set a good example at all times.
6. I will never instruct a player to deliberately injure another player.
7. I will speak privately to a player whenever a problem occurs.
8. I will agree to attend and obtain the necessary certifications required by Minnesota Hockey and SYHA.
9. I will abide by the "Fair" play policy of SYHA.
10. I will not be under the influence of alcohol while at any team practice, scrimmage, game, or tournament.
11. I will not use any tobacco products while in an arena.
12. I will place the emotional and physical well being of the players ahead of any personal desire to win.
13. I will do my very best to provide a safe playing environment for my players.
14. I understand that I, or a team representative, need to be present in the locker rooms at all times that players are in the rooms.
15. I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all players.
16. I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players.
17. I will ensure that I am knowledgeable about the rules and techniques of hockey and that I will teach these to the players.
18. I will use coaching techniques that are appropriate for each of the skills I teach.
19. I will remember that I am a youth coach and that the game is for children to have fun.

I hereby plead to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my players participating in youth sports by following the Coaches Code of Conduct. I understand that violating this code may result in a meeting with the SYHA Coaching Committee Board Members and possible removal from your coaching assignment.

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

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